

N.J. 4-H doings noted

FLEMINGTON, N.J. - The Hunterdon County 4-H Beekeeping Club met on April 28, at the home of the Foster's, club leader.

Mr. Ditson suggested that everyone should set up an observation hive because it would be good experience, he also told the club that we should store honey in an old refrigerator and keep it from 80° - 100° F. with a thermostat on a heater.

He showed the club plans for a solar separator to separate honey from wax. The club then went outside and split a beehive to start a new one. The next meeting will be at the Ditson's home in Asbury on May 19th at 2 p.m. The topic will be "Queen Grafting and rearing".

The Country Cooks 4-H Club has been very active lately, reports Laurie Harrington. Ten members met on Tuesday, April 10 at the home of the club leader, Mrs. Louisa Cole in Three Bridges. The club made chocolate covered coconut cream eggs and cookies.

During the business meeting each member reported on their demonstration results. Aubrey and Gladden Adam - chocolate chip cookies received very good. Donna Cole and Shari Bush - saucerpan brownies received an excellent. Jill Cole and Kelly Fredericks - cinnamon toast received an excellent. Sonja Cole - quick sticky buns received an excellent and Patty Edsoren - how to measure Brown Sugar received an excellent. Laurie Harrington - lemon bars received an excellent and Sharon Opdyke - snickerdoodles received an excellent.

The Club met again on

Friday, April 13, to make 54 Easter Baskets from pint berry containers. The members filled the baskets and took them to the Foothill Acres Nursing Home where they were distributed to the guests.

On April 17, the club started work on their window display for the County Contest. The title was "Recipe for 4-H'ers". The display was placed in Wilson's Quality Market in Three Bridges. Each member was assigned an item to make for the display. Members returned on April 24th to put together the display.

The Hunterdon County Kids is a newly formed 4-H goat club in Hunterdon County. The last meeting took place at the home of Mrs. Peck in Bloomsbury on May 4th. The topic of discussion was how to get others interested in the club. The club now has three members. Those interested persons living in the North West section of Hunterdon County, including Bloomsbury, Jutland, Pittstown, Milford, Appa and others, please contact Mrs. Peck at 479-6028. You do not have to have a goat to join this club. Call in the evenings or on weekends.

The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Peck on June 1 at 8 p.m. Record books will be distributed and club members will be informed on how to use them. Officers will be elected.

The Sifting Stitchers 4-H Club met recently at the Sergeantsville Methodist Church and elected officers: President Barbara Vandenburg; Vice President Margie VanDuyne; Secretary Terri Rynearson;

Treasurer Tammi Bird; and Reporter Wendy VanDuyne. The club is organized around three project groups: sewing, cooking and arts and crafts.

At the April meeting, members made needlepoint bracelets, bicycle bands, and wax candles.

Wendy VanDuyne won third place for her carrot cake in this year's Bake-Off.

The project for the arts and crafts was making paper weights using sea shells or tiny dried flowers.

The club's business meeting and arts and crafts groups meet every second Tuesday of the month notes Wendy VanDuyne, club reporter. The next meeting will be June 12 at 7 p.m.

The Round Valley Riders 4-H Horse Club will hold their next meeting on June 4, 7:30 p.m. at the Staton Grange.

Linda Miller gave a report on the health workshop held

Housing market cut by high interest rates

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The single-family housing market seems to be responding to higher mortgage interest rates, with home sales showing only the slightest of gains over sales in February according to the National Association of Realtors monthly home sales report:

on May 3rd by the 4-H Twirlettes.

Members who attended work weekend told of the activities which took place at Stokes State Forest 4-H Camp.

Plans were finalized for 4-H Day at the Mall; club members will sell popcorn and caramel apples.

The group routine was practiced for Family Night. The next meeting will be on May 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Extension Center reports Jennifer Blemings, club reporter.

The report indicates March sales of existing single-family homes at a projected annual rate of 3,650,000 units, up only one percent over February sales of 3,620,000.

"Evidently, high mortgage interest rates are beginning to have a dampening effect on housing markets," Donald I. Hovde, president of the association said. "In March, as the figures show, sales of existing homes edged upward a bit from their winter slump, but the increase must be considered anemic."

Hovde added that although the current level of market activity is respectable, sales are subdued when compared to the accelerated rate of transactions recorded during the second half of 1978.

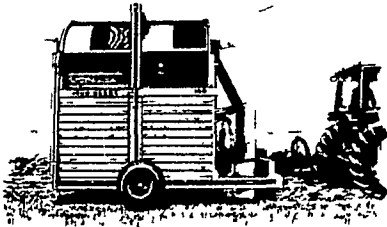
"At that time," he said, "sales were proceeding at a seasonally-adjusted annual

rate in excess of 4,000,000 units."

This amounts to a reduced level of transactions over the previous year but has not, however, resulted in any reduction in home prices which continued their upward spiral. The median March sales price of an existing single-family home reached \$53,800 or \$1,900 higher than the preceding month and \$7,300 (15.7 percent) above the same month a year ago.

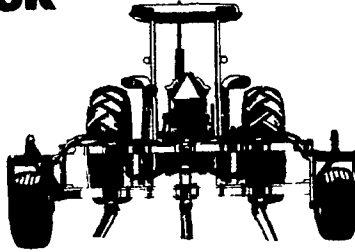
Figures show that rapidly growing areas in the sunbelt states have been experiencing the greatest price jumps. At their current levels, home prices in the West are 17.7 per cent higher than a year ago. For the same period of time, resale prices in the South rose 15.4 per cent followed by the North Central region with 14.7 per cent and the Northeast region with an annual price rise of 7.6 per cent.

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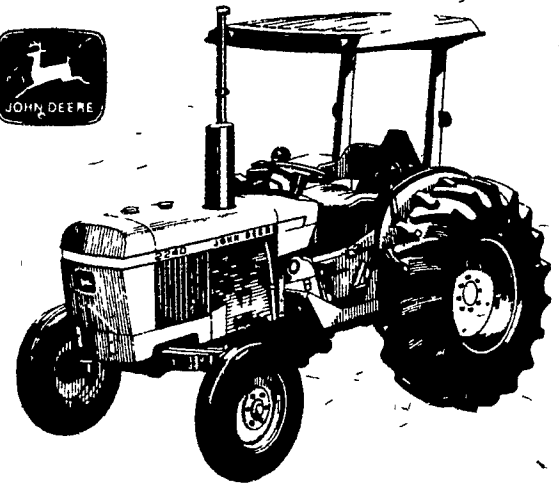
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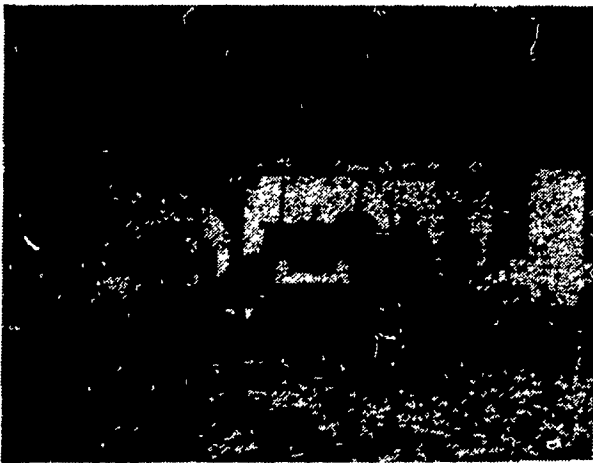
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