

Cattle rustlers active in York County

SHREWSBURY - An epidemic of cattle rustling has again broken out in southern York County. Sometime early Monday morning, between 12:30 a.m. and daybreak, thieves brazenly walked into the dairy tie-stall barn of Ray Keeney, New Freedom R2, and stole the first cow inside the back barn door.

Having parked their getaway truck almost a quarter mile away, on the storage and equipment lot of PennDot, located at Exit 1 of Interstate 83, the culprits then dragged the mature cow that far to load her up.

Apparently, she didn't go meekly. Abundant tracks and evidence in the damp soil of the fields showed her valiant struggles, including attempts at breaking away from the farm lane and falling to her knees in resistance.

Keeney and his son spent Monday checking and calling area livestock auctions. At the Lancaster Stockyards, he was directed to a representative of the state's Department of Agriculture, who listed the cow's eartag number on a computer list. Any attempt at applying for health charts to sell the animal would result in a computer pinpoint of the thieves.

That was only the latest incident in at least three livestock thefts in the last two weeks occurring within a few miles of each other.

Wednesday, July 25, Glen Rock R1 dairymen Carl Close had a heifer freshen out in the heifer pasture. He found the calf. The heifer was gone.

Close also spent the next two days checking area livestock auctions and alerting his neighbors to be

on the lookout. Friday night, to the family's amazement, the heifer was returned to the pasture. The hide on her tail had been rubbed raw and clean of hair, which Close figures came from the tailgate of a truck.

And, just a few days previous, during the very early hours of Sunday, July 22, livestock dealer and feedlot operator Clarence Warner was also hit.

Warner operates Century Livestock, located just inside Pennsylvania at the Mason-Dixon line crossing at Lineboro, Md.

Six 1000-pound ready-for-market steers were loaded up right at the feedlot chute from a pen containing eleven head. Warner added that the thieves loaded the tamest of the steers and left the wilder animals behind, gate standing open. Four head greeted him at feeding time the next morning; the fifth

has been seen but remains at large.

"They could have done it in three minutes flat," observed Warner.

He speculates that stolen animals are whisked immediately to an illicit slaughterhouse operation, skinned out and ground up into hamburger by morning. Hamburger is the lone meat

product that can be sold without a government inspection and grade stamp.

Numerous rustling incidents have taken place in this rolling rural section of York County during the last twelve months. While both dairy and beef animals are involved, there are similarities in the thefts: most have been fairly ac-

cessible to hard roads, some with the added attraction of a "back lane" getaway. So far, most of the rustling also seems to be taking place on very late Saturday or Sunday evenings.

Anyone with information on possible cattle rustling or questionable meat sales is urged to contact the York Barracks of the State Police.

Plant propagation course offered

UNIVERSITY PARK - For a new Fall project, one may want to propagate some of his favorite evergreen ornamentals.

Yews, junipers, rhododendrons, firethorns, euonymus, and pachysandra are some of the evergreen or semi-evergreen plants suited to Autumn propagation, according to a correspondence course from Penn State on the propagation of plants.

One should take cuttings of terminal shoots six inches long. The foliage is stripped from the basal two-thirds of the stems. A person should dust the base of the cuttings lightly with rooting hormone and insert in rooting media. Sand or sand and peat moss

are good. One moistens the media and places the cuttings, with container, in a large plastic bag in a well lighted (not full sun) spot over bottom heat. The plastic allows exchange of air but retains moisture.

In coldframe propagation, one should take cuttings in early Autumn. Roots do not form until the following spring or early summer. Do not transplant the rooted plants for growth until late Summer or the second Spring. Two or three growing seasons are needed for the plants to be large enough to have ornamental value. Evergreen cutting propagation requires patience. It is, however, a source of satisfaction to

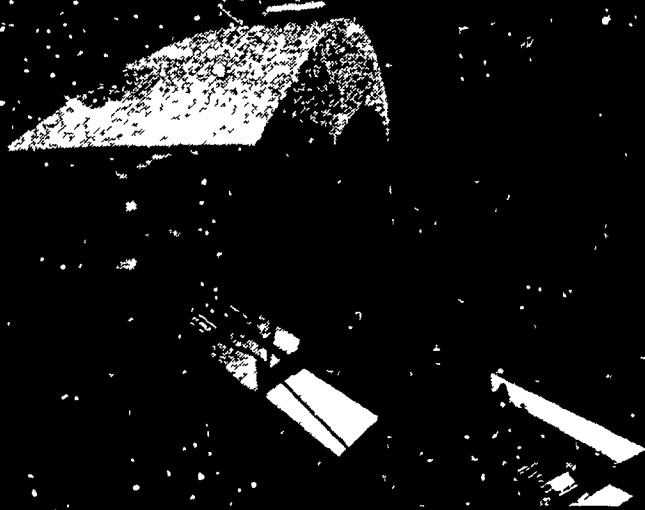
watch a 6-inch piece of stem grow into a valuable shrub.

To learn more about how to increase one's plants, a person can send for Penn State's course. One gets the complete course by sending \$5.50 plus 25 cents postage to Plant Propagation, Box 5000, University Park, Pa. 16802. One should make check payable to Penn State.



MAGNUM FORCE!

Silo Unloaders from VAN DALE.



PERFORMANCE - up to 30 tons of silage an hour
CAPACITY - big 27" impeller - fast delivery
LONG LIFE - stays on the job 4-5 years longer than ordinary unloaders

VAN DALE

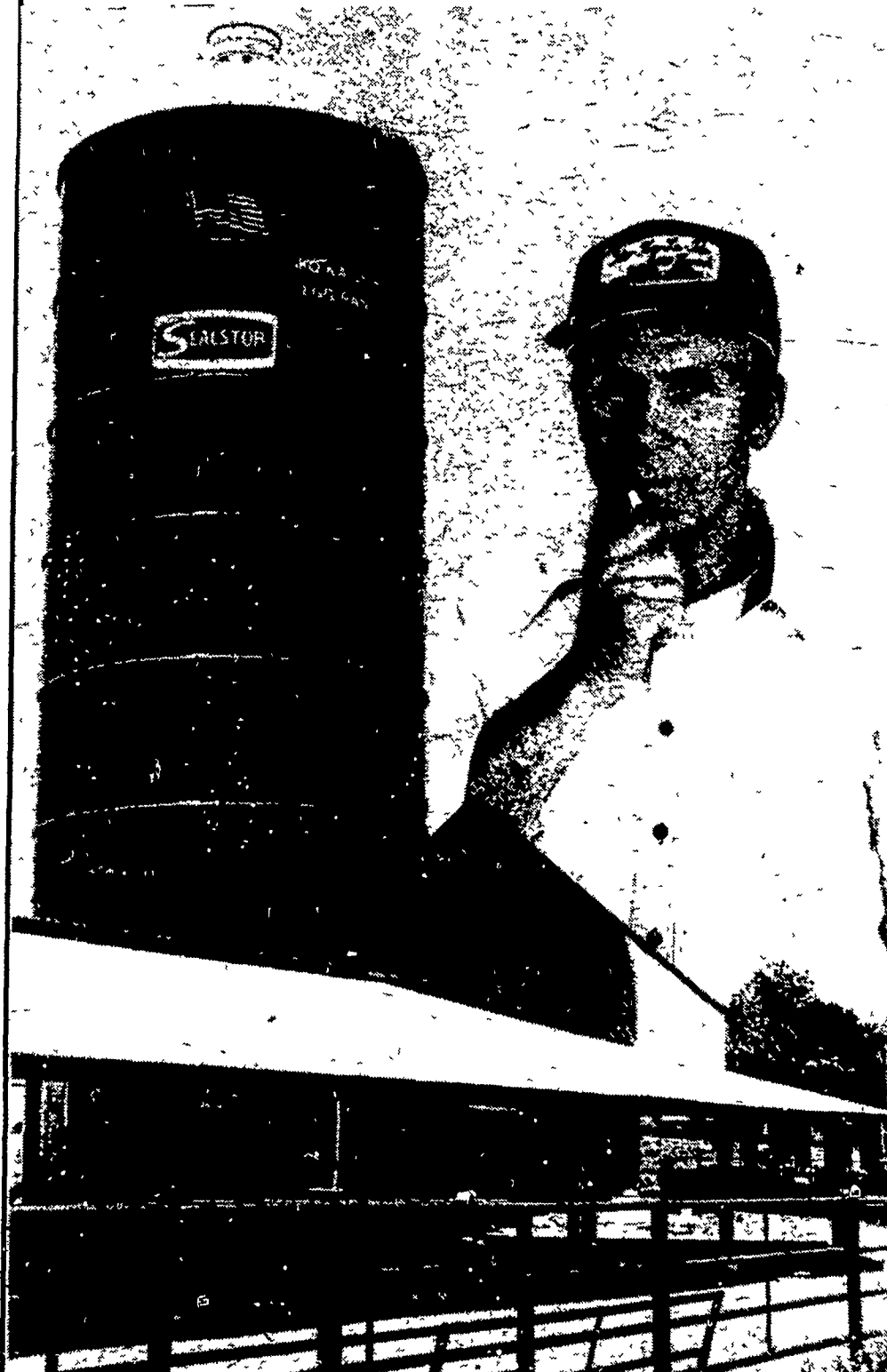
NEED A SILO UNLOADER FOR A NEW SILO?
WANT TO REPLACE A WORN UNLOADER?
SAVE 10% TO 15% ON NEW MAGNUM
SILO UNLOADERS, WILL TRADE!!!!

LARRY HIESTAND

Call Daytime - Office - 717-299-3721
or Evenings - Home - 717-273-7394

SEALSTOR THE NEW BLUE

"I bought
SEALSTOR®
because I got
more for my money"



VERNON J. LEININGER

Owner: KO-KA-LE-KO Beef & Egg Ranch

FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION:
PENN-DUTCH FARM SYSTEMS

2753 CREEK HILL ROAD
LEOLA, PA. 17061

Phone - 717-656-2036
or - 717-393-2390