

Initial response

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Hallowell's new plan has left the Grange as the only farm organization favoring contribution by producers. PFA spokesmen said only that they would be working to enact organization policy. PFA policy asks for a two

cent contribution, all from dealers.

As with Hallowell's plan, PFA would accept bonding as a substitute for participation in the plan.

PFA said it parallels Hallowell in its stand for a security fund.

It also favors the concept of dealer contributions.

The Milk Dealers were cautious about taking any stand.

Like many other organization leaders, Henry Geisinger, Executive Vice President of the Dealers Association, said he felt the Secretary's proposal was vague.

He said he does not feel a program will work where the burden is put on dealers alone.

He said the 90 percent proposal, where farmers absorb the first 10 percent of any loss, would make the farmer selective about where he sold his milk.

But Geisinger said he felt any proposal which does not require processing co-ops to pay into the fund would be unfair.

It would be unfair if

operations near state borders are not required to get covered in Pennsylvania when their operations cross state lines, he said.

He said the milk processing industry was run on margins of a fraction of a cent.

He predicted many dealers would look out of state for milk rather than buy Pennsylvania milk if they were able to avoid the security fund payment by doing so.

Tewksbury was not at all impressed by the idea of the farmer absorbing any of a potential loss.

"Why should Pennsylvania farmers settle for 90 percent coverage when New York farmers can get 100 percent coverage?" he asked.

"Why is Pennsylvania scared to copy the New York plan? That plan is working and it gives farmers full protection," the co-op leader said.

He also took exception to the problem of having dealers foot the bill.

He pointed out the dealers have the use of the farmer's

milk, and money, for as much as 55 days.

"Do you mean to tell me they can't wiggle out two cents to cover the use of that money?" he asked.

All of the organizations seemed unfamiliar with the ins and outs of the Secretary's security proposal.

Tewksbury said he felt the cooperatives resented not being kept informed of details when the Department of Agriculture was preparing to make a major policy statement.

"The wrath of the organizations is up," Tewksbury said.

"If the Secretary does not do something soon there will be an all-out war between the agricultural organizations and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture," he predicted.

A number of organizations seemed to feel the problem could be better handled by ironing out differences before the Secretary submitted his proposals to the legislature to become law.

Most would seem to agree with Geisinger on one point, at least.

"We all see a big problem," he said. "It's going to be tough to come up with a proper answer."

Hallowell said he hopes to see the Department's security fund enacted into law by sometime in the Spring of 1980.

Between now and then, he will need a number of converts, it seems. And the early resistance is not on the Hill in Harrisburg but rests with the very farmers and farm groups the bill will seek to serve.

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Goat Gang elects officers

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — The last meeting of the Goat Gang 4-H Club was on November 16 at the home of Denise and Jeremy Robbi.

The club elected officers for the 1979-1980 4-H year. The following officers will take over their new positions at the next meeting. President, Jack Lesniewski; Vice President, Chris Peck; Secretary, Margie Van-Duyn; and Treasurer, Jeff Peck.

The club discussed the Goat Christmas Party to be held on Friday, December 14 at the Extension Center at 7 p.m. There will be a covered dish dinner followed by games from each goat club.

Members discussed the possibility of having a Buck

Auction before Easter. A Goal Bowl was also discussed, where members from other clubs would compete in answering questions about goats.

Following the business meeting, refreshments were served.

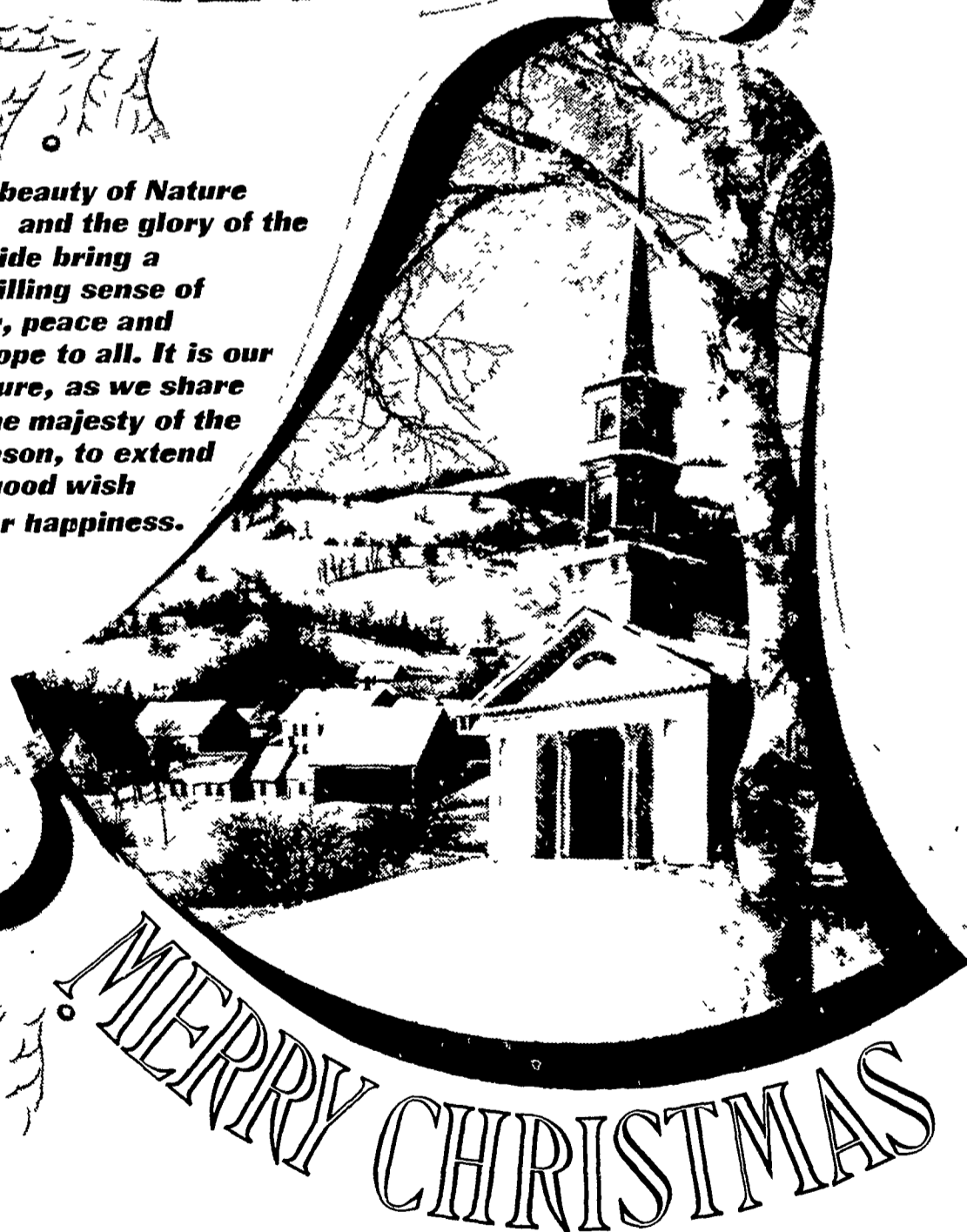
The next meeting will be held on January 18, 1980 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Hartman, Club Leader.

Reported by Denise Robbi Club Reporter.



GREETINGS

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