

# Two Penn Manor families have four Keystone sons



Clyde and Alma Hunt, right, with their four sons, all of whom have won Keystone Farmer degrees, the highest FFA degree on a state level. The sons, left to right, and the year of their awards are:

Ramon, 1980; Randy, 1975; Ron, 1976, and Richard, 1977. Ron went on to win the American Farmer degree, awarded this past November at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City.

**BY DICK WANNER**  
MILLERSVILLE — When Gordon Long and Ramon Hunt pick up their FFA Keystone Farmer degrees next week in Harrisburg, they will be adding one more item to an unusually long list of coincidences.

Gordon, the fourth son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Long, R3 Columbia, is the fourth Long to earn the Keystone degree. He lives with his parents on a small, family owned farm. Both his parents held full-time jobs off the farm. All three of Gordon's brothers work in some phase of agriculture or agribusiness, which is what Gordon plans to do after he graduates from Penn Manor High School. He has been a Penn Manor FFA member since his freshman year.

Gordon's friend, Ramon Hunt, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Hunt, Millersville R1. Other than that, everything so far mentioned about Gordon applies just as well to Ramon.

There are differences of course, both in the new Keystone Farmers and in their families.

The Hunts live on a farm

belonging to Isaac Hunt, Ramon's grandfather. Both Clyde and Alma Hunt work for Lancaster County Farms, the former Clay Reese Co., wholesalers of eggs, butter and cheese.

Ramon's oldest brother, Randy, graduated from Penn Manor in 1975. Randy is now farming on the halves with his grandfather on 130 acres outside Millersville. A new barn, silo and automatic feeder have just been installed that will let Randy feed out 150 steers a year, about double the number he was able to handle before. He'll also be raising 200 feeder pigs to market weight.

Ron Hunt, a 1976 Penn Manor graduate, went a step beyond the Keystone Degree this year when he picked up an American Farmer degree in Kansas City. As a maintenance worker at R&K Agri-Service, the former Royster Co. near Lancaster, Ron helps keep the machinery there in working order. His business sense and his welding and mechanical skills helped earn for him the American Farmer degree.

Rick Hunt, a 1977 Keystone Degree winner, is helping his brother Randy on the farm, and hiring himself out to neighbors. He was also building a business in tractor repairs and repainting when fire earlier this year destroyed the barn where he was working. A new structure, measuring 50'x84' is now being built, and when it's finished, Rick expects to pick up where he left off with the tractor work.

After he graduates in June, Ramon hopes to find work in ag mechanics. Like his brothers, Ramon's FFA projects included hogs, tobacco and corn. Last year he grew 12 acres of corn on

ground that Randy will be using this year to grow feed for the steers.

And, like his brothers, Ramon was an active member of the Penn Manor FFA chapter, where he held a number of offices, including vice-president.

"We never pushed any of the boys into vo-ag or FFA," Ramon's parents said in the living room of their red brick house. "They have all taken

an interest in vo-ag, they've all had excellent teachers and we've tried to give them whatever support and encouragement we were able to.

"It seems to have worked out with all of them."

Those words were nearly echoed in the kitchen of the rambling old farmhouse where the Longs live, by a sharp bend in Franklin Road, outside Columbia.

"I give Gus Birchler a lot of credit for running a good ag department," Howard Long said. "Our four sons did well in vo-ag and FFA, and I don't think they could have gone as far if it hadn't been for the excellent teachers they had at Penn Manor."

Howard Long is a driver for Allied Mills in Lancaster,

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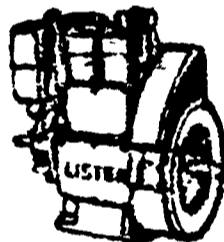
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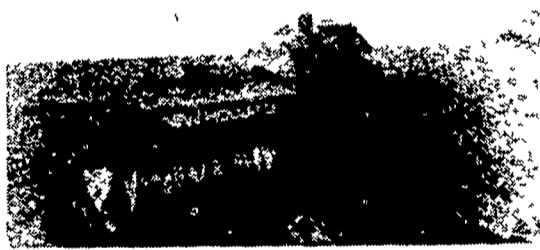
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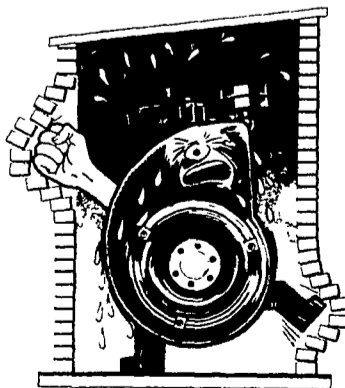


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