

## IFYE honors Moon after 35 years service

BY SALLY BAIR  
Staff Correspondent

HARRISBURG — "I'm overwhelmed," Henry Moon said simply as he accepted an award by the Pennsylvania International Farm Youth Exchange (IFYE) Alumni Association recently in Harrisburg.

Moon, formerly assistant state 4-H leader and assistant professor of agriculture extension at Penn State, has retired after 35 years of service. In his last 15 years with the University, Moon's duties included working with IFYE delegates and exchangees and other aspects of international program.

Moon supervised the international adventures of 96 young people in the IFYE and 4-H Teen Caravan program. It was an experience which left a deep impression on him.

"I enjoyed every minute of it. It brought me a lot of happiness. I cannot express what it has meant to me in my life," Henry told the group of thirty-five alumni who gathered to honor him. "I owe many moments of happiness to the program and I appreciate what you've done for me."

The Association presented Moon with an engraved silver plate and a framed picture featuring the IFYE emblem surrounded by

paintings of nationals from ten countries.

Moon is understandably enthusiastic about the benefits of this international program. "For those who participate," Moon states, "They experience personality growth and gain a depth of understanding about the family and role expectations. It is a great contribution to them in getting ready for life."

He said there is a "deep emotional impact" on the delegates and their hosts in another culture.

In the IFYE exchange program, young people travel to another country and live with farm families there in an effort to gain better understanding of that country's way of life.

Henry added, "The acceptance of a child-parent relationship must have a solid effect on the depth of international understanding achieved."

Over the years, Moon says, "The value to the individual has remained the same. They really learn to understand another way of life by living it."

Some changes have occurred, however. The name of the program has changed from International Farm Youth Exchange to International 4-H Exchange, reflecting the fact that more and more 4-H'ers are non-rural.

The Teen Caravan program has been developed as an opportunity for younger 4-H'ers to experience an international exchange on a shorter, smaller scale. Further more, Henry notes, there are now speciality interest groups which travel behind the iron Curtain countries of Poland, Hungary and Russia.

More developing countries are participating through the Youth Development program in which young people travel as advisers who work with youth in their host country. Henry noted additionally that relations with some Latin American countries have become strained as governments change.

The program held its first exchange in 1948 and someone from Lehigh County in Pennsylvania was among the first eight young people to travel abroad in an effort to create a better international understanding which might prevent another war such as the one the world had just experienced.

It has grown and continued to offer hundreds of young people the opportunity to live with host families abroad. In Pennsylvania a total of 136 young people have participated in the program as delegates.

Moon has also been responsible for the exchangees who come to Pennsylvania to live with farm families in this state, and at times, it has provided both challenge and humor. The opportunity for the exchangees is unique.

Moon states, "The exchangees get a more honest and accurate opinion of the American family life. They see a contrast with the television shows, wild west programs and movies which are often offered in other countries to portray the American way of life."

"I have had the constant feeling that exchangees are overawed to find that the American farmer works and American kids work. Many of them come from a class system in which they don't work. They have learned to appreciate the American approach to the work ethic."

He added, "Exchangees often go home saying, 'Americas don't have time to relax'."



Officers of the Pennsylvania International Farm Youth Exchange Alumni Association present retiring Assistant State 4-H Leader with an award honoring his work with the exchange program. From left, Davida Waters, former vice-president; Douglas Pierson, president; Henry Moon and wife Bunny.

Moon notes he often finds the first host family is the one with which the strongest bond is made because it is there that the language is the biggest problem.

"Delegates are so frequently endeared to the first family that they want to return and show off what they have learned."

Moon said he has appreciated all the letters he gets from exchangees when they return home, adding, "Welcoming home IFYE's means so much to me."

He said his work with the program has "built a whole family of contacts. The IFYE program is a hard thing to leave."

Moon is married to the former Bunny Ely. They are the parents of four married children and have five grandchildren.

## Dauphin Co. 4-H dancers win blue at Farm Show

HARRISBURG — One of the highlights of the Pennsylvania Farm Show is the Folk and Square Dance Contest, according to Frederick Rudy, Extension Agent - 4-H Youth, in Dauphin County. This year the Dauphin County 4-H Clubs entered two sets in the competition.

This was the first year of competition for these 16 4-H'ers. These 4-Hers danced three dances to determine the white ribbon placings and one additional dance to determine the red and blue ribbon placings.

The set entered in the under 17 class won a blue

ribbon. This set consisted of eight 4-H'ers. They were: Brenda Hensley, Brenda Fisher, Shelly Fetterhoff, Cindy Baker, Greg Taylor, Kurt Hess, Eric Kreider, and Calvin Dimpsey.

The second set won a white ribbon. These eight were: Tina Taylor, Wendy Wiestling, Lisa Yohn, Barbara Baker, Rick Baker, Todd Kohr, Doug Shope, and Scott Rummel.

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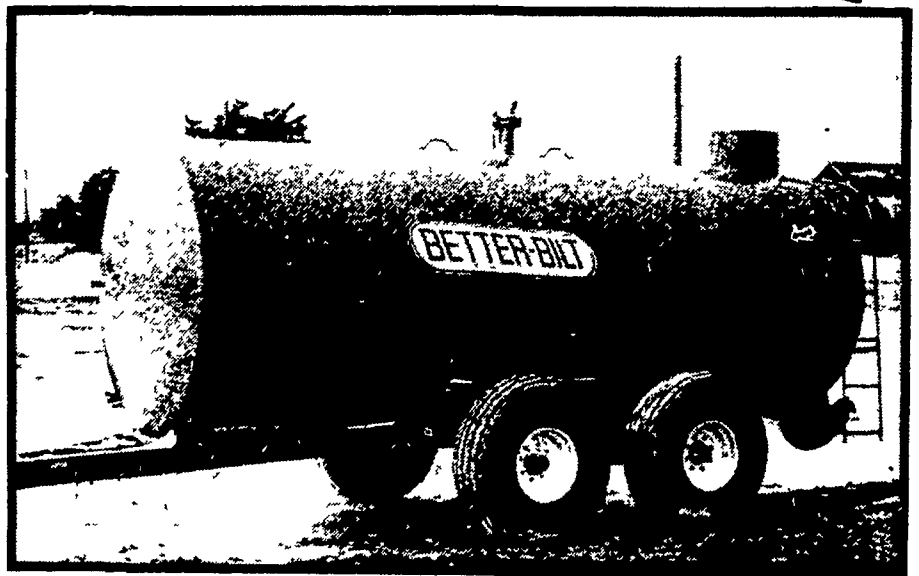
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