

Hallowell interview

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Hallowell said he had changed the orientation of the Department of Rural Affairs without making any big organizational change.

He noted the goal to have an agricultural promotion in every county in Pennsylvania within the next six to eight months.

He said they were making an on-going evaluation of the mall promotions. Hallowell also said research would be done on the farm logo to establish its degree of effectiveness.

He said he chose his deputy secretaries because he had confidence in them rather than because one man was from the Grange, one from Pennsylvania Farmers' Association.

Luther Snyder is former Master of the Grange, Chet Heim directed PFA's legislative affairs.

"We tried to hire people who had the combination of ability, ag experience, and some desire to work for farmers and the Thornburgh administration," he said.

Hallowell said he thought the upcoming Farm Equipment Expo would be a success.

He pointed out a number of changes would be made this year in the Expo. These will include addition of a tractor pull, livestock, and some sales.

An energy conservation theme will be used at this year's show, he said.

There are about the same number of exhibitors this year as last, he said, but they have sold more square feet.

He said the farmers' fun night would be scrapped but a Young Farmer volleyball contest would be added.

Switching to legislation, Hallowell said the Governor's close ties to the farm community were obvious from the Governor's legislative package.

He pointed out two bills, the \$25 alcohol license production act and the land condemnation board, both were passed.

Milk security fund legislation is the outstanding Capitol Hill topic among farmers.

So much controversy surrounds the various proposals that many legislators seem afraid to get involved in the turmoil.

"We have tried to take a

strong stand to push for legislation this year. We tried to get it passed last year, but we couldn't come close to a consensus between farm co-ops, farm organizations, and individual farmers.

"Those three groups still are not all at the same point," he said.

Referring to his proposal he said, "It's a good bill. It would help farmers. It probably would hurt dealers a little bit. And they have made their point clear with many legislators.

"Cooperatives, in the marketplace, are their own enemies as well as dealers. Co-ops have done some unethical things in marketing milk, trying to get customers. They take them from each other by making a deal of sorts," he said.

"They are able to do things the milk dealers are not. The Milk Dealers Association points that out," he said.

He said the old one cent payment by dealers matched by one cent by farmers seemed fair to him, and still does. But it was not accepted by farm organizations or dealers.

He noted PFA had that proposal as its policy but the co-ops did a good job of getting members to PFA annual meeting and changing PFA policy.

"They did their homework pretty well," he conceded.

"It is still my opinion and that of enough legislators we are talking to who we have to get to introduce, support and pass a bill, that the two cent proposal might pass.

"So, I've tempered the message I get from farmers with the message I get from legislators," he said.

He noted the impact on consumers and dealers had to be considered even though his prime concern was farmers.

He said he had access to confidential Milk Marketing Board statistics from which he could figure who would participate at the two cent rate and how many more would contribute at one cent.

He said building the fund would depend more on the amount of milk assessed than on the rate of charge.

He said the two cent proposal may give rise to unfair advantage for



Penrose Hallowell

neighboring states. He noted a one cent rate would be less than New York pays, and therefore Pennsylvania farmers would retain a relative advantage.

"I haven't heard anyone say they did not want to be included in a security bill. Even co-op members value their milk checks as much as farmer selling directly to a dealer," he said.

He said the cost probably would be recovered by dealers through the Milk Marketing Board.

"I think there probably are feelings underneath the surface we are not aware of.

"Some people, it seems, as soon as it looks like there is a consensus, want something more, like they are almost trying to avoid consensus," he said.

"We are making every effort to have a security fund bill introduced in the near future.

"I hope, if the bill is generally beneficial to Pennsylvania farmers and Pennsylvania milk marketing, that everyone will support it, at least enough to let the legislators get credit for passing something instead of various groups being critical because it doesn't have feature they may have wanted," Hallowell said.

He noted the Governor and his wife stayed close to

because the Governor helps put the pressure on the legislature to get something passed."

"I hope some of those who are leaders of co-operatives who think I have not supported their proposal as much as I should have being a co-op member and dairy farmer realize I conducted myself and the Department in a manner to get the most suitable security bill passed.

"There are times I have to play the role of the bad guy a little bit," he noted.

He has done some other laudable things on his own.

Hallowell, although assigned a driver, doesn't use him. In another break with tradition, he's driving a higher mileage car—a Skylark equipped with CB—than the Secretary previously had.

He said he used his driver only about three times on

occasions when he used the car as a mobile desk. The driver generally is assigned to other tasks.

"It's a luxury the public doesn't want to afford," he said.

Sad to note, the new car was hit the second day he had it.

Thirty other cars were eliminated from the Department fleet.

The phone bill was cut, too. They got a \$5000 check back from Bell Telephone one month.

"We're just trying to do the little things every other family in this country has to do as the bills go up," he said.

"We're bragging we're going to make Agriculture Number 1 in '81. Pennsylvania Agriculture, we're growing better... that where we're going," he concluded.—CH

Travel series to host lecture

LITITZ — The next program in the Travel and Adventure Series sponsored by the Paradise Rotary Club will be held Saturday, February 16, 7:30 p.m., at the Conestoga Valley High School.

Photographer-Narrator will be Chris Borden, in a presentation entitled, "Sparkling Switzerland".

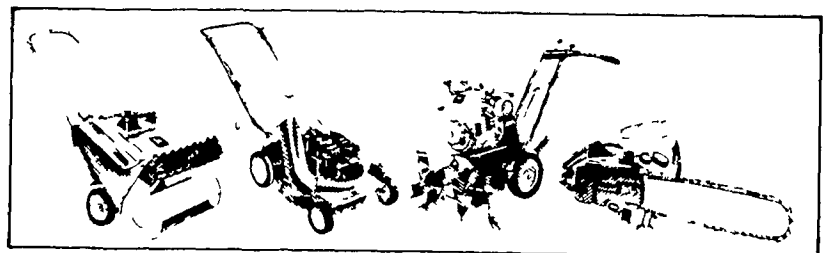
Borden describes Zurich, Geneva, Interlaken, and the Swiss Riviera as some of the attractions in Switzerland. You will see a political anachronism, an economic paradox, and everyone's favorite dot on the map.

Tickets for the program will be available at the door at Conestoga Valley High School.

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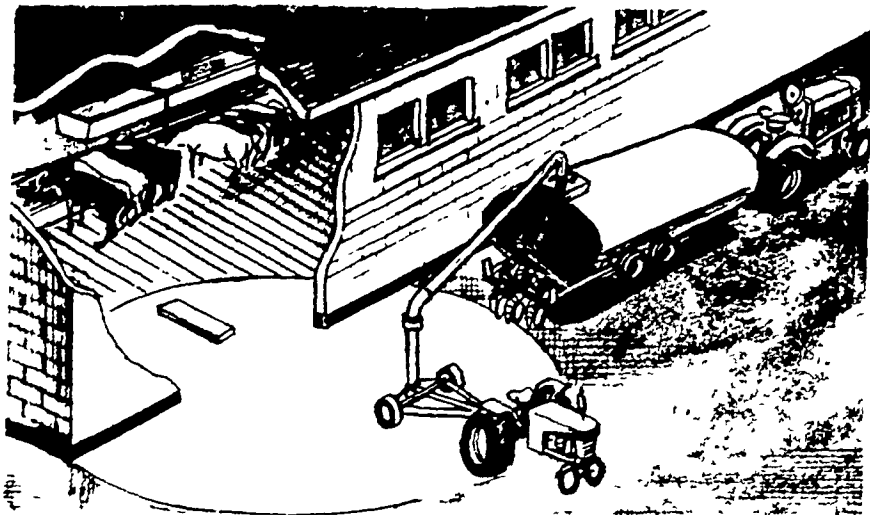


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