## A16—Lancaster Farming, Saturday, April 19, 1980

## **Governor proclaims April 20-26 as Grange Week**

HARRISBURG — To kickoff Pennsylvania Grange Week celebrations occurring throughout the state, Governor Richard Thornburgh signed a proclamation memorializing the contributions of the Grange to rural Pennsylvania, in Harrisburg.

Thornburgh pointed out that "agriculture has been a keystone to progress since our nation began," and that the Pennsylvania State Grange has been vitally interested in the agricultural and rural areas of the Commonwealth for the past 107 years.

Pennsylvania, having the largest rural population in the United States, has 48,000 Grange members in its population in 565 local Granges.

April 20 to 26 marks the 108th year of the Grange's continued "work to improve farming and rural life in the

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interest of all Pennsylvanians."

Throughout the Commonweaith, "local Grangers serve as community centers in small communities across the state."

"They are often the hub of community activity," the Governor said, "used by citizens and officials as a convenient forum for community planning.

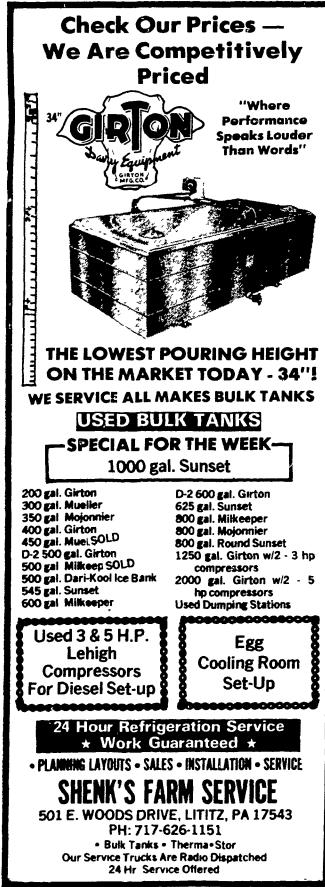
Citing the Grange for taking "an active role in the process of legislation and government," he recalled that it "has participated in numerous community improvement programs."

In conclusion, Thornburgh proclaimed April 20 to 26 as Pennsylvania Grange Week and urged "all Pennsylvanians to recognize the contributions of the Grange in the growth and development of agriculture in the Commonwealth.



Pennsylvania State Grange Leaders watch as Governor Thornburgh signs Grange Week Proclamation. Bottom row, left to right Charles E. Wismer, State Master; Governor Dick Thornburgh; Mary Buffington, State Lecturer. Top row, Carl Deibert, State Secretary; William Reichart, State Overseer; Mrs. Penrose Hallowell, wife of the Secretary of Agriculture; and Clifford Holloway, chairman, executive committee.







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