

Berks Co. Society 1 celebrates 40th year

BY LAUREL SCHAEFFER
Staff Correspondent
LEESPORT

In celebration of their 40th anniversary, Berks County Society of Farm Women Group 1 hosted an evening of fun and entertainment recently at the Berks County

Agricultural center, here. Approximately 150 guest from other Farm Women groups throughout the county attended. Pauline Longenecker, the first president of the group and charter members, Emma McLean and Sarah Schlegel

were honored with a tribute. The speaker for the affair was Miriam Evans of Bell Laboratories, Philadelphia. Evans presented a program entitled "Science is Not Magic" in which she performed some fascinating experiments to illustrate the kind of research being conducted at Bell Laboratories for better phone service and equipment.

Founded over fifty years ago, Bell Laboratories has devised a new light bulb which last longer and uses less power than conventional types, Evans explained. These lights are used in the touchtone phone system because of the tremendous savings from having to replace blown out bulbs, which used to be used. The touchtone system uses 100 million light bulbs; the speaker continued.

These new lights are a product of chemoluminescence, or light produced from chemicals. Evans illustrated how these lights work by mixing the right proportion of the right chemicals together.

Evans also explained that

light waves can carry more information than radio or sound waves because of the higher frequency. Glass fibers half the thickness of a human hair have been successfully used to transmit 600 simultaneous voice conversations, by light transmission, the speaker told her audience.

Glass fibers are much more economical than copper cables, she explained since their main ingredient is sand. One cable made of glass fibers can carry 4,000 conversations at one time, and these cables have proved to withstand tremendous pressure.

Evans explained that Bell Laboratories is making synthetic quartz to be used in place of natural quartz for communications. She also emphasized that her company has unused equipment recycled to be used again.

The Pottstown High School, "Hilltones" also performed before the large audience. Door prizes, refreshments, and a brief history of Group 1, by Grace Schaeffer were also among the evening program of events.

Welding - butane lighters equal 3 sticks of dynamite

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — The Union Pacific Railroad has had two fatal accidents caused by disposable butane cigarette lighters. These accidents occurred in welding areas while employees were welding, with butane lighters on their persons.

A spark from the welder landed on the butane lighter, burned through, exposing liquid butane which exploded. One lighter was in a shirt pocket and killed the individual instantly. The other employee had a lighter in his pants pocket. The explosion blew the man's leg off; he died a short time later.

There is the same amount of force in a butane lighter when it exploded as there is in approximately three sticks of dynamite. No one should have a disposable butane lighter on their person while in the vicinity of a welding or cutting operation or anywhere near open flames.



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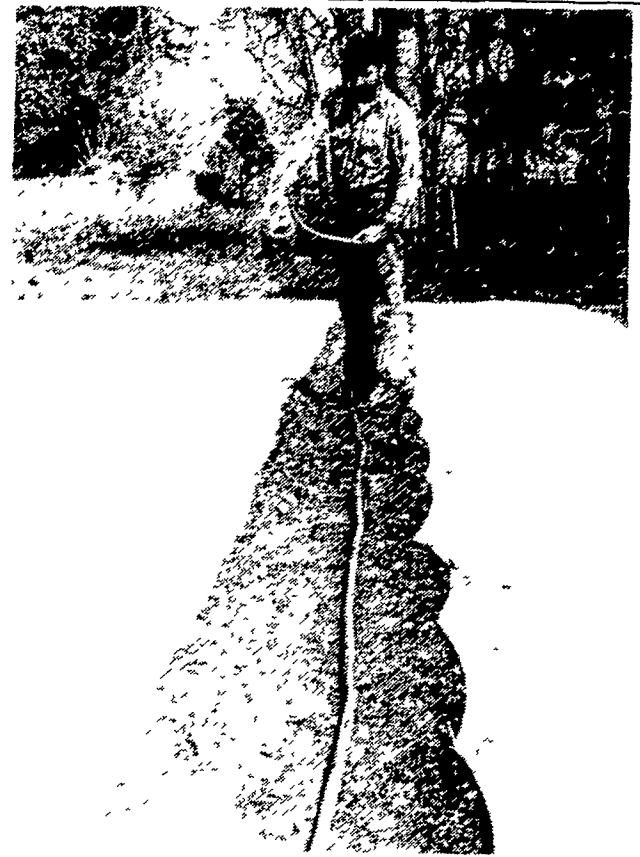
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Tobacco seedbed is sprayed by Charles Hummer, Colebrook Rd., R7 Manheim, to protect small plants against blue mold fungus disease.

Tobacco sprayings

(Continued from Page A1)

Most of the infection originates from the south and is transmitted on wind-borne spores, he said.

Yocum is serving as Pennsylvania coordinator for a national blue mold warning system.

Weekly reports from tobacco growing areas are sent to North Carolina, where they are consolidated and sent back to the areas.

Based on the progress of the disease, Yocum and Arnold G. Lueck, agronomist and county agricultural agent, will keep local growers informed of the disease and preventive measures to be taken.

Seedbed spraying is important, according to Yocum, because growing conditions in beds are ideal for blue mold. Bed coverings, thick growth, shading, lots of moisture and humidity and the cooler temperatures now are conducive to growth of blue mold.

Following transplanting into fields, weather conditions will help determine if additional measures must be taken.

"After tobacco is transplanted, two or three days of cloudy weather with misty rain and temperatures between 60 and 70 degrees would provide ideal conditions for blue mold in the fields," Yocum said.

There is a product, ridomil, which can be sprayed on fields before transplanting and then worked into the ground.

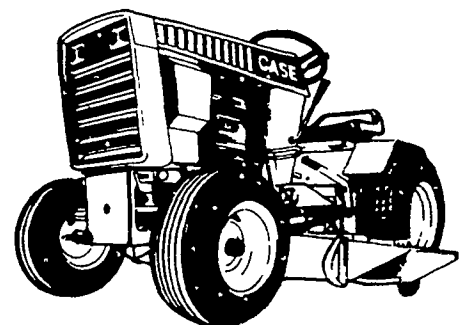
The product is in limited supply and Pennsylvania's allocation would handle less than 4,000 acres.

Blue mold in seedbeds stunts and kills small plants and can wipe out an entire bed.

In the field, it can have a stunting effect where it chokes off the food and water supply to the plant or causes the formation of lesions on a leaf. Lesions can kill the leaf or damage enough tissue to affect the overall yield.

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