

Fayette Leader Dog 4-H Club holds graduation

UNIVERSITY PARK — Eight specially bred German shepherds, quartered in homes of Fayette County 4-H members, completed a one-year training period and were returned to Penn State ending the initial step in becoming leader dogs for the blind.

In this pilot project, as pups, the German Shepherds lived with 4-H families to become familiar with typical home life. They rode in automobiles, met strangers, and went shopping. This socialization phase is a key part of the training program.

The program is funded by Lions Clubs and supervised by the Extension Service.

"These dogs now go to Leader Dogs, Inc., Rochester, Michigan, for intensive training," points out Thomas King, associate dean for extension. "If they successfully complete this training, they will be assigned to blind persons then team-trained."

King notes that the Extension Service and 4-H members plan to train 250 dogs each year for the leader dog program.

Selection for the final training phase is based on sound temperament, structure, appearance, and intelligence. All dogs were born and weaned at facilities at Penn State. They are offspring of pedigreed German shepherds.

Sherre Beal, of RD2, Hopwood, president of the Fayette County 4-H Leader

Dog Club, points out that the entire family became involved in training her dog, Teddy.

Members who took part in the graduation ceremony and were awarded certificates were: Stephanie Stewart, R1 Vanderbilt; Heather Nickle, Ohioyle; Brian Higbee, R1 Dawson; Raymond Thrush, R1, Dunbar; John DeMarchi, R4, Mount Pleasant; Angela Williams, Grindstone; Amy Richardson, R1 Smock; and Sherre Beal.

Virgville Grange meets

VIRGINVILLE — The Virgville Grange met on May 21st. Their guests at the monthly meeting were the members of the Kutztown Grange.

It was announced the farm family committee is made up of David Williams, Helen Epting, and Keith Treichler.

Walter Weinger was welcomed as a new member.

Everyone was reminded of the bus trip to Ocean City on July 26, and of the trip up the Hudson on September 13.

The Virgville youth started their volleyball games on Sunday, May 18. The games, played every Sunday evening, are open to anyone. The youth group will also be meeting on June 3 at the Grange Hall, and the county meeting is scheduled for June 16 at 8 p.m.

Other youth activities include a trip to Hershey park on June 19, a bike-athon on June 14, a ham sandwich sale on July 23, and a trip to Treichler's hunting camp on June 13-15.

The Grange's June 4 meeting will begin with a dairy luncheon at 6:30 p.m. There will be entertainment and a visit from the Berks Co. Dairy Princess, Dorothy Sunday.

It was announced the July 2 meeting would not be held due to the folk festival. A ball game will be played prior to the July 16 meeting, along with a hot dog cook out.



Teddy, a German shepherd who completed the socialization phase of the 4-H Leader Dog pilot project, is checked by Larry Cooper, Penn State Extension 4-H specialist, left: Dr. Thomas King, Penn State associate dean for extension; and Sherre Beal, of R2, Hopwood, of the Fayette County 4-H Leader Dog Club.

Here's summary of state's workmen's compensation

HARRISBURG — The cry for reform of the Pennsylvania workmen's compensation system has been raised by the Grange, Pennsylvania Farmers' Association, PennAg Industries, and other agricultural groups.

The package which seems to have the most likelihood of passing at the moment is J. Doyle Corman's group of Senate Bills 712 to 719 inclusive.

The entire package is aimed at reducing the mess currently used as the Commonwealth's WC program.

Tied in with the WC programs are revisions in the Unemployment Compensation regulations. Pennsylvania's UC fund currently is in debt by \$1.4 billion to the federal government.

SB 712, the first bill in the package, would stagger workmen's compensation and unemployment compensation payments. Basically, any funds paid to a worker through unemployment compensation would be deducted from any potential WC check.

In short, it would eliminate double-dipping from UC and WC.

SB 713 redefines the occupational

diseases which qualify a worker for UC and WC. A heart attack, for instance, just because it happened at work, would not necessarily qualify a worker for payment (as it now does). It would have to be proved that the problem was work-related.

SB 714 requires a panel of licensed medical doctors to review decisions made on UC and WC. At present, there is no requirement to have physicians on the board.

SB 715 would allow private firms, not just municipalities, to self-insure under WC provisions. A somewhat similar bill on the house side, HB 2489, will allow associations, including farmer groups, and local governments to run their own WC program if they can gather a minimum of \$500,000 in premiums.

SB 717 allows both WC and Social Security funds to be collected at the same time. Under current laws, WC is paid first and Social Security is paid second.

The Social Security funds are used to get payments up to 80 percent of the wage earned. This particular bill would put a larger burden on the federal Social Security program to the benefit of the state's Workmen's Compensation fund.

SB 718 deals with insurance company funds.

The last bill of the group, SB 719, would freeze benefits where they now are set. And, instead of an automatic escalator clause, the state would have to vote any increases in program payments.

The Senate Labor and Industry has held five of six hearings slated on the package. The final hearing will be Thursday, June 5.

Considering the number of days left in the session, it's doubtful the package will make it all the way to the Governor's desk before recess. But it may move rapidly. The package has the general support of farm groups and most business interests. — CH

Maryland 4-H alumni winners announced

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Two central Maryland

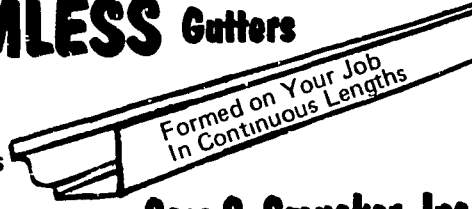
residents have been honored as state 4-H alumni winners for 1980. The award is sponsored each year by the Maryland 4-H Club Foundation.

This year's recipients are Paul S. Stull, Walkersville, Frederick County and Mrs. W. Harvey (Elva D.) Hill, Glenwood, Howard County. They were cited during the annual state 4-H citizenship tour held recently in Allegany County.

Paul, a native of Frederick County, has served since 1975 as high school principal for the Frederick County Vocational-Technical Center north of Frederick. He has continued in a support role by serving as an instructor and judge for 4-H activities and fairs at county and state levels.

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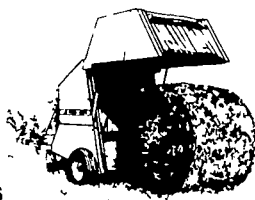
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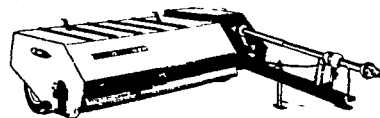
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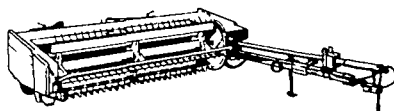
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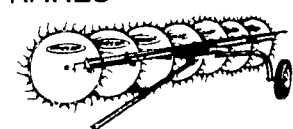
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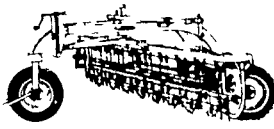
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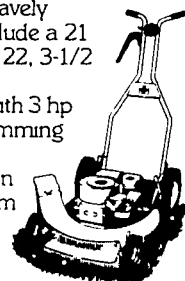
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