

Berks Ag Expo opens with V.I.P.'s

BY LAUREL SCHAEFFER
Staff Correspondent

WYOMISSING — This week, the second annual Berks County Agricultural Expo was kicked-off with a formal ribbon cutting ceremony and dinner at Wanamaker's Restaurant here at the Berkshire Mall.

Reading City Mayor Karen Miller, Pennsylvania Farmers' Association Administrative Secretary, Richard Newpher, and Master of the Pennsylvania Grange, Charles Wismer, were on hand for the special ceremonies.

Expressing the honor she felt in being asked to speak during the occasion, Miller mentioned her distant farm background and the similar concerns shared by the urban and rural residents of Berks County, like land use.

"We can work together for the good of both the city and farm land," the Mayor told

her farm neighbors. "We want the development of housing and industry in our city while you want to preserve your beautiful countryside."

After seeing how fertile land was lost to development in a part of Illinois where she was raised, Miller emphasized her concern that this same thing wouldn't happen to Berks County.

"The high quality, fresh farm products available here is a major selling point for our city," she related. "The beautiful countryside surrounding Reading helps to draw people and industry into the city."

Miller mentioned her friends in other cities look forward to the "care packages" sent to them containing Berks meats and produce.

Calling Berks County one of the top counties in the Pennsylvania Farmers'

Association, Richard Newpher commented on the first class style in which the Expo was being held.

He explained that the state office of the association does not make it a policy to get involved in local events, but it supports the public relations efforts such events promote between the city and farm people.

"Consumers need to know how and where their food comes from, and that farmers need to be able to make a profit to survive," he said.

Charles Wismer reminded the Expo listeners that agriculture is the nation's number one employer and exporter, playing a very important role in the economy. He stressed the right of the individual — one of the major goals of the Pa. Grange.

"If milk and egg prices rose with other costs such as transportation over the last twenty years they would cost the consumer almost \$4.50 per gallon of milk and \$3.40 a dozen eggs," he concluded.

Virginville Grange marks dairy month

VIRGINVILLE — At the Virginville Grange's recent dairy supper the Berks County Dairy Princess Debbie Sunday was the featured speaker.

The open house meeting featured a dairy supper in addition to the dairy month activities.

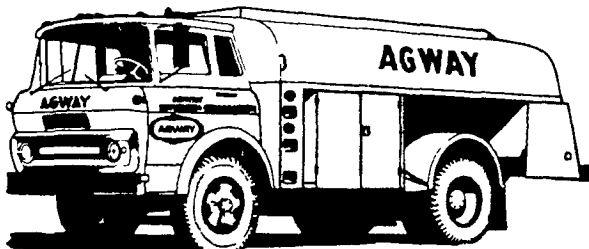
Kathy Garman, a nutrition consultant for the Dairy Council, presented a film entitled "A Nation on the Run"

In addition, the group presented two individual awards for bowling. Cited were Dennis Wagner and Jeffrey Dreibelbis.

Members are planning several meetings and events in the coming month, including State youth camp July 11 through 13; a youth sandwich sale on July 23; and work on the float and fair project beginning on July 7.

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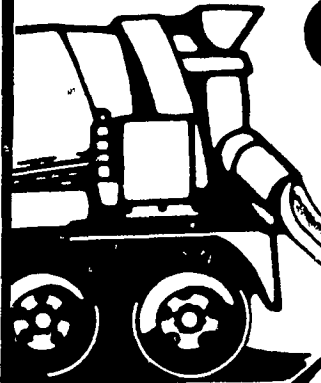


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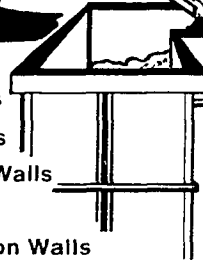
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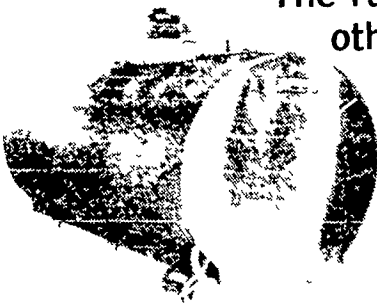
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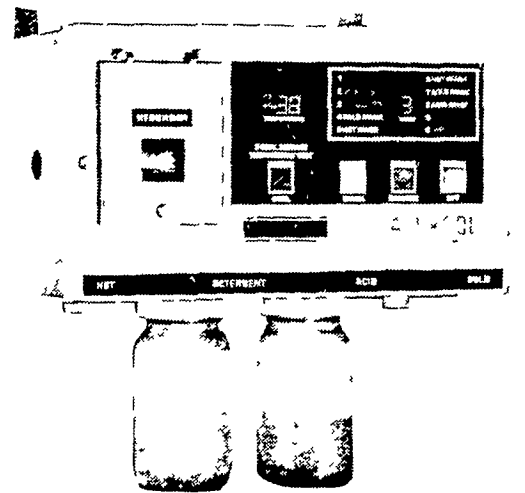


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