

## Tribute to Dutch Bucher

REAMSTOWN — Floyd S. "Dutch" Bucher, Lancaster County's first extension agent and the rugged individual likely most responsible for today's modern and diversified agricultural industry in the county, died this week.

Although Dutch officially retired in 1949 after 36 years as agent, he continued to serve the land and its people he admired and respected.

His trademark was the motorcycle he used to get from farm to farm. Actually, he wore out more than 40 of the vehicles and estimated he logged more than 1½ million miles.

Six days a week, Dutch and his cycle would visit farms. On the afternoon of the seventh day, he would ride 100 to 150 miles over back roads to take in the quiet countryside and to avoid the fumes on the main roads.

Many were his achievements — starting the artificial breeding program in the county, getting farmers to adopt soil conservation and personally collecting seed samples, which led to the development of Lancaster Surecrop seed corn — one of the 18 original corn hybrid ancestors.

He relished telling this story about artificial breeding in the early days:

"I visited one county farm and talked my head off (in Dutch naturally) for two hours before the farmer said he would give it a try. But first he had to ask his wife if it was alright. Finally, they came out and the wife spoke:

"We've talked this whole thing over, Dutch Bucher, and we've decided we'll go along with it only if you'll promise it will be kept just to the cows."

Once in his hometown, a public auction was being held to sell a four-room school building. Some community-minded citizens wanted to buy it as a recreation center, but the bidding soon got beyond their means.

A recess was called. When bidding was resumed, their was a new bidder. It was Dutch Bucher. He didn't stop

nodding his head resolutely until he bought that building for \$6,260. The deed was legally enacted in the name of the trustees of the adjoining community park.

Dutch was a hard-headed Dutchman when he wanted to be.

But he always had the land, its people and Lancaster County at heart.



Dutch Bucher — a very informal servant of the land and its people.

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## Cites other options

## Grange leader pessimistic about mushroom relief

FLEETWOOD — At a meeting with a group of approximately 50 Berks County mushroom growers, Robert Frederick, Legislative Director of the National Grange, expressed "doubt" that President Carter would come to the aid of the domestic mushroom grower by placing import restrictions on mushrooms.

"Even if Carter adopted the minority opinion of the International Trade Commission," Frederick said, "the restrictions would only last five years. What you growers need is permanent protection."

The minority opinion was advanced by Commissioner Moore, who suggested imports be limited to 78 million pounds for the next two years, then 86 million pounds the following year, 94 million pounds the next year, and 103 million pounds the final year.

The majority opinion of the Trade Commission called for the restrictions of the final three years of the Moore proposal. This plan would only extend for three years.

Frederick reported to the growers it was the opinion of the Special Trade Representative's Office that growers use this "grace period" to make their industry more efficient so they might be able to compete.

He went on to say there were other alternatives if

satisfaction could not be gained from the President.

"There are three alternatives we are looking into at the present time: price supports, marketing orders, and permanent legislative restrictions.

If mushrooms were under a price support program, Frederick noted, Section 22 of the Agriculture Act would require them to be protected by import restrictions. Also under this plan, domestic growers would be guaranteed a minimum price for their product."

Marketing orders was another alternative being studied by National Grange. "We still don't know if that idea will work or not."

Under the legislative restriction alternative, Frederick cautioned the Berks County group of "possible protectionist action from other commodity groups" who might be concerned about possible retaliations.

Rod Fisher, representing Congressman Yatron's office, stated that the proposals on marketing orders and price supports

were "unique". He later pledged Congressman Yatron's "total support in finding a solution for the domestic mushroom problem."

Representative Lester Fryer, who also was in attendance, noted that the United States was being "very careless about its own industries". He compared the mushroom industry to the steel and automobile industries, saying the United States could no longer afford to ignore what foreign products were doing to domestic markets.

State Grange Master, Charles Wismer, who opened the Fleetwood meeting, revealed the fact that the United States government had created this situation. "The way these people across the ocean got started in this business was with U.S. tax dollars.

"They came to this country, financed by the U.S. government, studied American operations, and took our knowledge home with them. Now it's coming home to roost."

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