

Punch, pretzels and potted mums at \$432,500 farm sale.

LITITZ — A large striped circus-type tent, outdoor carpeting spilling off a raised stage, potted mums, a 50-silver-dollar guessing contest, coffee, punch and stick pretzels characterized the sale of another near half-million-dollar Lancaster County farm on Friday, Oct. 3.

Winning bid on the 69-acre Henry E. Martin farm, about a mile west of Lititz, was \$6,260 an acre, for a total sale price of \$432,500. It was purchased by turf farmer Robert Hummer, of Manheim.

Auctioneer J. Omar Landis "set the stage" for the opening of the sale at 2 p.m. by introducing several visiting dignitaries, out-of-state auctioneers and ringmen attending the antique and classic car auction held at Dutch Wonderland over the weekend.

As the last of the approximately 200 persons attending submitted their estimates of the sale price, Landis opened the bidding with five offers that immediately pushed the price from \$3500 an acre to \$5,000.

Bidding moved only to \$5300 when a recess was called for auctioneers, attorney M. Elvin Byler and the three beneficiary sons to huddle for the customary conference.

Landis comments: "Figure the price out on 70 acres and get a rebate."

(Total size was 69.2 acres.) "There comes another (Turn to Page C15)



At a near half-million-dollar sale it's best to keep your hands hidden from view if you're not interested in bidding.



Large striped tent stands on front lawn awaiting start of farm auction.



Attorney M. Elvin Byler explains terms of sale while auctioneers J. Omar Landis and Jay Witman stand by.

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