

## Young farmers attend vo-education meeting

HARRISBURG — Jerry Olson, the new State Director of Vocational Education in Pennsylvania, held a hearing last Wednesday in the Pennsylvania Department of Education Building in Harrisburg.

The purpose of the hearing was to explore the needs of vocational education in agriculture, both secondary

and adult, as perceived by agriculture teachers, regional vocational consultants, and other interested persons.

Four representatives of The Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association were present at the meeting.

State President Caleb Williams, Region I Vice-President Philip Gorda, both

of Wellsboro, State Treasurer George Musser of New Bethlehem, and State Newsletter Co-Editor Terry Martin of Chambersburg, attended the two hour session in Harrisburg. State President Williams was asked for input.

Along with educating youngsters in agriculture, Williams stated there needs to be follow-up and continuing education. The Young Farmer Program provides an opportunity for active farmers to participate in continuing education programs and to learn leadership roles through direct participation.

Farmers, especially dairy farmers, simply do not have the time needed to travel to schools. Therefore, educational opportunities

need to be brought to them. Through the direct participation of local agriculture teachers, local school boards, and support from state and federal governments, Young Farmer Programs provide these needed opportunities.

After the meeting, State President Williams asked Olson to be the featured speaker at The Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association Convention luncheon on February 10, 1981 at the Hershey Motel & Convention Center in Hershey.

"The reason for holding our state convention in Hershey" Williams explained, "is to acquaint our members with the facility so that they can be better hosts

for the 2500 Young Farmers who will be coming to Pennsylvania in December 1981 for the National Young Farmers Educational Institute. All of Pennsylvania's agriculture and agricultural education will be on display then and we need aggressive leadership from the State

Department of Education," Williams concluded.

Olson responded by promising a new look at the Ag Ed program in the state by doing a "needs assessment" to determine where the Department's energies could most profitably be directed.

### Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



This article marks the 10th Anniversary of my writing for Lancaster Farming newspaper. That is over 500 articles in which I've shared my life with the readers.

Sometimes people ask how I can find material to write about. So far my schedule has been busy as our children grew from elementary students to high school and college students in these ten years. We have added acres to our farm and many cows to our herd. And, we've added a few grey hairs to our heads.

Besides experiences in my daily life, I've also used reminiscences as a comparison to the present day world. I also keep a fat file of clippings of historical items or things that I feel might be researched and used someday. And I keep a pad on which I write down ideas when I have them.

I hope my daily farm life relates to other farm women, although quite a few men tell me that they regularly read my articles too. I try to write material that will relate to all people as our emotions are pretty

much the same. We all have our sorrows and joys, our worries and our pains. We all laugh and cry.

Somehow, I've always managed to meet the deadlines despite anything that happens. The weeks do fly by quickly and then it is time to write my article again.

In these years my father and sister have died and my mother has been moved to a retirement community. Two of our children have married and we have a grandson. Still there is time to keep holidays and take small vacations.

Also I do love my surroundings. Nature is always presenting a new face to be admired and enjoyed. I grew up on a farm and the country environment is of great interest to me.

I really enjoy writing this column. When others tell me that they like to read it, then I am satisfied. Occasionally I get letters from readers who can relate to certain things that I describe. So I hope that I can continue to write columns that are entertaining and helpful.

### Lancaster Co. Executive Board

The Lancaster County Executive Board of the Society of Farm Women met recently at the home of Mrs. Noah Krieder Sr., Manheim.

County president Opal Ruhl presided over the meeting. She announced the formation of Society 33. This is the second new society organized in the county this year.

The state farm women project is crocheting. Presidents brought the beautiful items to the meeting. They will be judged and shown at the county convention with the winners going to Harrisburg for the state convention.

This year's youth project is for the grandchildren of members. The categories

are drawing, painting or a craft which they have made this year. They are due December 2 for the Executive Board meeting.

Lancaster County Convention will be held November 1 at the Farm and Home Center. The speaker for the afternoon will be Dawn Sangrey. Her topic will be "In Search of an Ordinary Woman." Tickets are \$5.50. The deadline is October 18.

The State Farm Women Convention is January 12-13 at Harrisburg.

The next Executive Board meeting will be held December 2.



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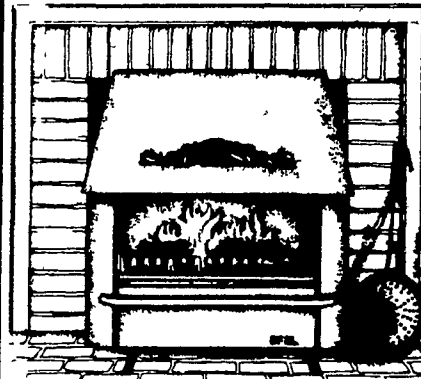
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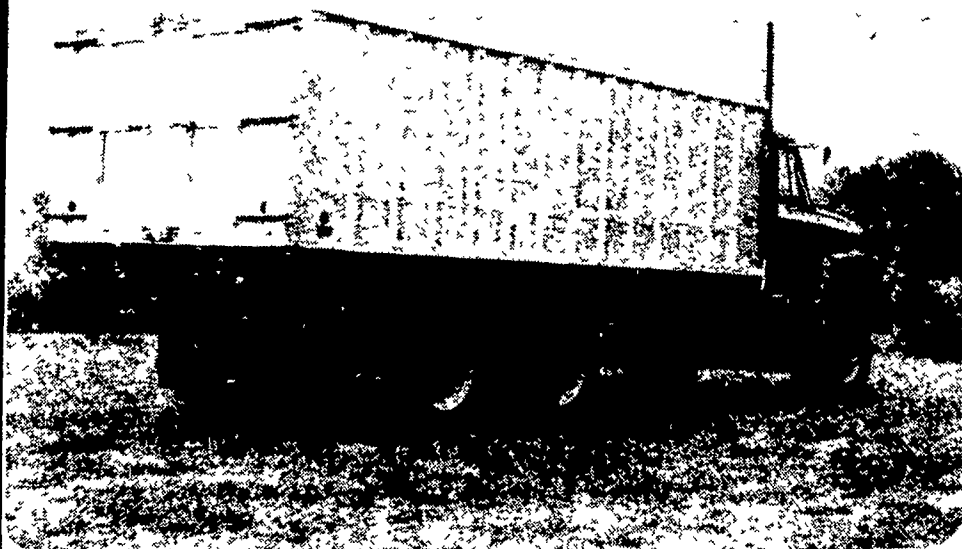
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