



Conspiracy charges filed

Against PMMB, dealers

BY CURT HARLER
PITTSBURGH — A hearing has been set in conspiracy charges leveled by a state employee against members of the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board and the state Association of Milk Dealers. Named in the suit both as individuals and as members of PMMB are Board Chairman George Brum-

baugh of Huntingdon County; and Donald E. Lanius, York County. Also named is Henry R. Geisinger, executive secretary of the Milk Dealers Association, and the Association itself. The action was brought by Jeanne Terrence, Pittsburgh, whose work as a consumer advocate includes testifying at PMMB milk

price hearings. A hearing, slated for Monday, December 29, has been postponed until January 21. Terrence is charging the group with violation of her rights under the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution and asking a minimum of \$10,000 plus costs in the case. She says the defendants conspired to deprive her of her right to free speech and to keep her from doing her job as consumer advocate. The action traces back to the December 8 price increase given Pittsburgh area milk dealers by PMMB. With strong consumer backing, the Mayor of Pittsburgh challenged the increase

New ag secretary to use food as a weapon

WASHINGTON, D.C. — John R. Block, former Illinois farming official named by President-elect Reagan to be secretary of agriculture earlier this week, says he plans to use food as a weapon to promote peace in the world.

Former Illinois director of agriculture and owner of a large farm in that state, Block was actually named twice to the nation's top agriculture post. On Monday, Reagan let the appointment slip in talking with reporters in California before the named had been officially made in the nation's capitol. Then, on Tuesday, the appointment became official as Block fielded questions at a news conference.

At the news conference, Block defined food as "the greatest weapon we have over the next 20 years" in dealing with other countries. "The best way to use that food is to tie countries to us," he said. They become dependent on us. They can't help it. They need our food. They're going to buy it." Thus, the secretary of agriculture-designate appeared to be shaping a food

vs. crude (oil) competition for the future. "As the countries become more dependent," Block said, "they're going to be far more reluctant to upset us, to get themselves into trouble with us for fear not only will they lose food, they'll lose everything else as we deal with them. Food is a great weapon to keep the peace in the world, as I see it."

The hard-talking farming official also had comments

(Turn to Page A30)

Two days later, the PMMB board members met and voted two-to-one to change the location of the consumer affairs division from Pittsburgh to Harrisburg.

Supporters of Terrence charged the action was taken by the board members since they knew full well Terrence is married and would be unable to relocate. Thus, a person the dealer interests might see as a pest would be eliminated from the scene, they say

(Turn to Page A33)



Record numbers apply for ASCS disaster loans

BY VIVIAN PAUL
Staff Correspondent
NAZARETH — Nearly 500 farmers in Northampton County have applied for low

yield crop loans with the local ASCS office, and \$125,000 has already been paid out. The deluge of applications is a result of a devastating drought which wiped out as estimated 80 percent of the county's potato, corn, alfalfa and soybean crops. Judith Noyales, director of the county office, said five

additional staff members were added to process the applications and about 200 farmers have already been paid. An additional 35 farmers have applied for the feed grain grant and some 10 applications have been approved. "We are hoping to get

(Turn to Page A13)

Quarryville, Kirk's bridges top road users repair list

REFTON — Almost 200 farmers and truckers packed the Refton Fire Hall Monday night to let the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation know what they think about the condition of highway bridges in Southern Lancaster County.

In a session often interrupted by explosions of noise or laughter, both PennDOT's Deputy

Secretary for Administration James I. Scheiner and the local road users made several points. A priority list for repairs was drawn up by the truckers, farmers, and haulers at the meeting. Top on the list is the Conrail Bridge East of Quarryville on Rt. 372. Next is the Kirk's Bridge on Rt. 272 over the Octoraro Creek at the Chester-

Lancaster County line. While actually a Chester County Bridge, those at the meeting included it as a top priority. Also receiving attention were the bridges at Gap and the Nottingham Bridge. Scheiner, and Rep. Gibson E. Armstrong who organized the meeting, agreed to place those bridges at the top of their priority list for repairs or replacement.

(Turn to Page A25)

In this Issue

- SECTION A:** Editorials, 10; Poinsettia power steams along, 16; Round hog housing, 18; Three-times milking, 20; Gingerbread village, 26; State seedsmen meet, 34; World ag output, 35.
- SECTION B:** Research grant, 2; Angus youth, 4; Bankers talk egg situation, 8; Dwarf soybeans, 9; Rural weatherizing funds available, 11.
- SECTION C:** Santa Claus, 2; Home on range, 6; Joyce Bupp, 10; Dauphin DHIA, 12; Adams DHIA, 15; York DHIA, 19; Berks DHIA, 24; Mifflin DHIA, 27; Milk Check, 30; Farm talk, 35; Ag scholarships, 37.

Rural crime, a nightmare on the rise

BY SHEILA MILLER

LITITZ — It's late Saturday evening as the car gears down and silently turns into the farm lane. The headlights switch off as the carload of teenagers creep slowly toward the sleeping farmstead. Looking for a dynamite way to top off their beer-drinking Halloween party, the group of guys and gals have decided it would be fun to turn some cows out for a romp through the pumpkin patch. As the car drifts to a halt near the barnyard gate, the teenagers pour out of the doors, trying to hold in their excitement and stay sober enough to prove they're up to the dare. The first boy reaches the gate and gives the latch a yank. It doesn't budge. With a bewildered look, he tries

again — by this time the commotion has set off the farmer's dog. Startled and worried, the rest of the group begins to back towards the car. Suddenly an overhead floodlight ignites the barnyard with light and the kids dash for the car. Not concerned about stealth and quiet any longer, the engine roars and the car speeds back out the farm lane, only after having made a ditch-digging U-turn through the farmer's wheat field. Peering after the car in the moonlight, the farmer curses under his breath for being disturbed. He checks the locks on the gate and the barn doors, and wanders back to

the house to catch a few more hours of sleep before milking. Was this just one more of Farmer Brown's nightmares? Unfortunately, rural crime is becoming more and more of a reality for people living in the country these days than ever before, whether their name is Brown, Kuhn, or Martin. The fear of burglary, arson, and vandalism is not just a bad dream for many farmers throughout the U.S. The problem of crime in the country has become such a problem that several universities, including Penn State and Ohio State, have devoted time and money researching

(Turn to Page A14)