

Lackawanna Extension agent leaving for Lycoming

SCRANTON — John H. Carr, Lackawanna County Extension agent on Penn State's Cooperative Extension Service staff, will transfer February 1 to a similar position in Lycoming County where he will conduct educational programs for both youth and adults. A native of Clearfield County, Carr was named to



John H. Carr

the Lackawanna County staff in 1969. He received a bachelor of science degree from Penn State majoring in agricultural education and has done graduate work in Extension education, also at Penn State.

Under Carr's direction as 4-H coordinator in Lackawanna County, club enrollment more than doubled in the last 11 years. He established a countywide 4-H sheep club and developed the county's 4-H fair.

Carr helped establish the Eastern Pennsylvania Camping Association and served as chairman or vice chairman of the organization since its formation. He also was director of the three-county 4-H camp and teen counselor training program

at Camp Shehaqua.

The Extension agent helped set up the first regional 4-H Local Government Day. He also served as regional transportation director for state and national 4-H events the last six years.

Carr worked closely with the Lackawanna County Beekeepers Association since 1969. He assisted in organizing several regional beekeeping workshops with audiences ranging from 40 to 225 persons.

Each spring the Extension agent conducted a series of home horticulture meetings for county residents. He also held on-site workshops on landscape planting and pruning trees and shrubs.

This past year he developed seminar for

garden center operators and employees to help them answer common home horticulture questions.

Carr was active in creating a better farm-city understanding, staging an agricultural promotion campaign at a local mall. He also presented talks on safe wood stove installation and on aspects of energy conservation.

He is a member of the Pennsylvania and National Associations of Extension 4-H Agents, Pennsylvania and National Associations of County Agricultural Agents, Epsilon Sigma Phi Society, Grange, and Clarks Summit United Methodist Church.

Carr is married to the former Connie Marie Johnson, of R 3, Bellefonte, a teacher.

Brief answers to short questions
Sheila's Shorts
By Sheila Miller

Anybody's Guess

Here's a question from a reader that's quite democratic because the answers I received on it, from those "in-the-know", will allow her to choose any answer she likes.

The question: "Why was Farm Show held the second week in January rather than the first week like last year?"

To try to get some enlightenment on the subject, I quizzed the Acting Farm Show Director, Horace Mann, a veteran of numerous Farm Shows.

It came as no surprise that there was a long pause on the other end of the telephone connection after I relayed the question to Mann.

Mann asked me to hold on, and a few moments later he clicked back in with this answer:

"The main reason is it's the second full week in January."

He said he'd check into whether there was any other possible reason and get back to me later.

Still not completely satisfied, I called the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Information Department. I heard a lot of chuckling from their spokesman before I received the following reason for delaying Farm Show 1981 one week:

"The decision to hold Farm Show from January 11-17 was made during the show last year. They didn't want to start the show on New Year's Weekend."

"This was no great policy change. It's been held during the second week before — next year's Farm Show is

scheduled for January 10-15."

My next query was to one of the Farm Show Commissioners. He pondered the question a moment and said "It's a matter of scheduling."

"We need the Harrisburg Area Community College parking lot — the students are on winter break (Aren't they on break during the first week of January rather than the second?)"

"The General Assembly isn't in session, so they can participate in the show (Lukewise)."

"Holding Farm Show the first week in January would have meant state employees would have been working a holiday weekend. Paying their compensatory time would have driven up the costs of Farm Show (Now, it's making more sense)."

"Eventually, the Farm Show will go back to the first week in January" (Just when, he wasn't sure).

I tried one more source and got the most sensible reason behind the change in weeks:

He said the Farm Show was first moved up to the first week in January after the June, 1972 Agnes flood.

He recalled that flood victims were housed in trailers parked on the Farm Show grounds. As a result, packing in the hoards of cars around the complex was in a state of dilemma.

In order to provide the demanded space, the HACC parking lot came to the rescue. The students were on break and didn't need the area that week, he said.

Three years later the area

was struck with another flood, but eventually the trailers were relocated, along with the flood victims.

And, finally this year the Farm Show went back to its normal week, according to the source.

When Horace Mann called back, he still stuck with the story that it's because Farm Show falls during the second full week, which may be affected during inauguration years when it may be moved ahead again (wasn't President Reagan inaugurated on Tuesday, the week after Farm Show 1981?).

Mann also eluded to the need for the HACC parking lot. And pointed out he checked the Farm Show schedule for the next several years and found it to be planned for the second full week in January except of one year.

So, there it is. Take your pick of answers — which ever one you like the best.

And, if you have a preference to when Farm Show is held, let your thoughts be known to those who can make the schedule changes — PDA, Farm Show Director, and Farm Show Commission.

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