

Court dismisses conspiracy case

PITTSBURGH — A Pittsburgh judge last week dismissed charges of conspiracy brought against the Pennsylvania Association of Milk Dealers and the State Milk Marketing Board.

The conspiracy charges were leveled by Jeanne Terrence, Pittsburgh, whose work as a consumer advocate includes testifying at PMMB price hearings.

Named in the action was Henry R. Geisinger, executive secretary of the Milk Dealers Association and the Association itself.

Also named both as individuals and as members of

PMMB were Board Chairman George Brumbaugh, Huntingdon County; and Donald E. Lanus, York County.

The charges involving the Milk Dealers were heard first.

The Association requested a change of venue, or relocation of the trial, citing the distance between the Pittsburgh trial site and their Harrisburg offices and other complications.

Following several exchanges between attorneys for both sides, it was agreed to drop the case against the milk dealers and Geisinger

The agreement was made "without prejudice."

As a result, the milk dealers can not come back and counter-sue for defense costs and Terrence has agreed not to reopen the case.

The judge then reviewed the legal briefs and decided there was no case for Terrence without the alleged involvement of the Dealers Association.

Terrence had charged PMMB and the dealers with violating her First and Fourth Amendment rights. She said the defendants had conspired to

deprive her of her right to free speech and to keep her from doing her job as consumer advocate.

The action dated back to an early December 1980 Pittsburgh milk price hearing. Two days after the hearing PMMB voted to move the consumer affairs office from Pittsburgh to Harrisburg. Terrence, who is married, said PMMB knew it would be impossible for her to move.

She cited a private memo from Geisinger to members of the Dealers Association which called for PMMB to

centralize its offices in Harrisburg.

Geisinger termed the timing of the memo and move an unfortunate coincidence.

Apparently, the courts agreed.

Without Dealers Association complicity there could be no conspiracy, the judge ruled.

So, the entire case against all defendants was dismissed.—CH

Chester County names Conservation Directors

WEST CHESTER — Pownall Jones was recently re-elected Chairman of the Chester County Conservation District Board of

Directors. This year, Pownall, a mushroom farmer from Toughkenamon, will dedicate his 25th year of service to the Conservation District.

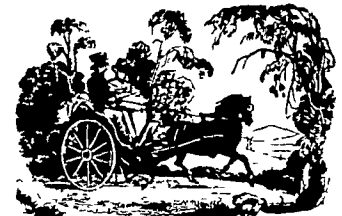
Also, Bob Hodge of Highland Orchards, West Chester, was reappointed as a District Director by County Commissioners and was elected by fellow directors as this year's Vice-Chairman.

Bob Struble Jr of the Brandywine Valley Association will again serve as Secretary-Treasurer for the District.

Other directors of the Conservation District include Harold Kulp, Pottstown; Ralph Heister, Malvern; Frank McBerty, Oxford; Jenny Russell, Lewistown, and Commissioner-Director Earl Baker.

Protection of private property through soil and water conservation, promotion of environmental alternatives, and assistance to farmers and other landowners are principal objectives of the Chester Conservation District.

District Director meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. in the District office at 235 W. Market Street, West Chester. For more information call the District office at 215/696-5126.

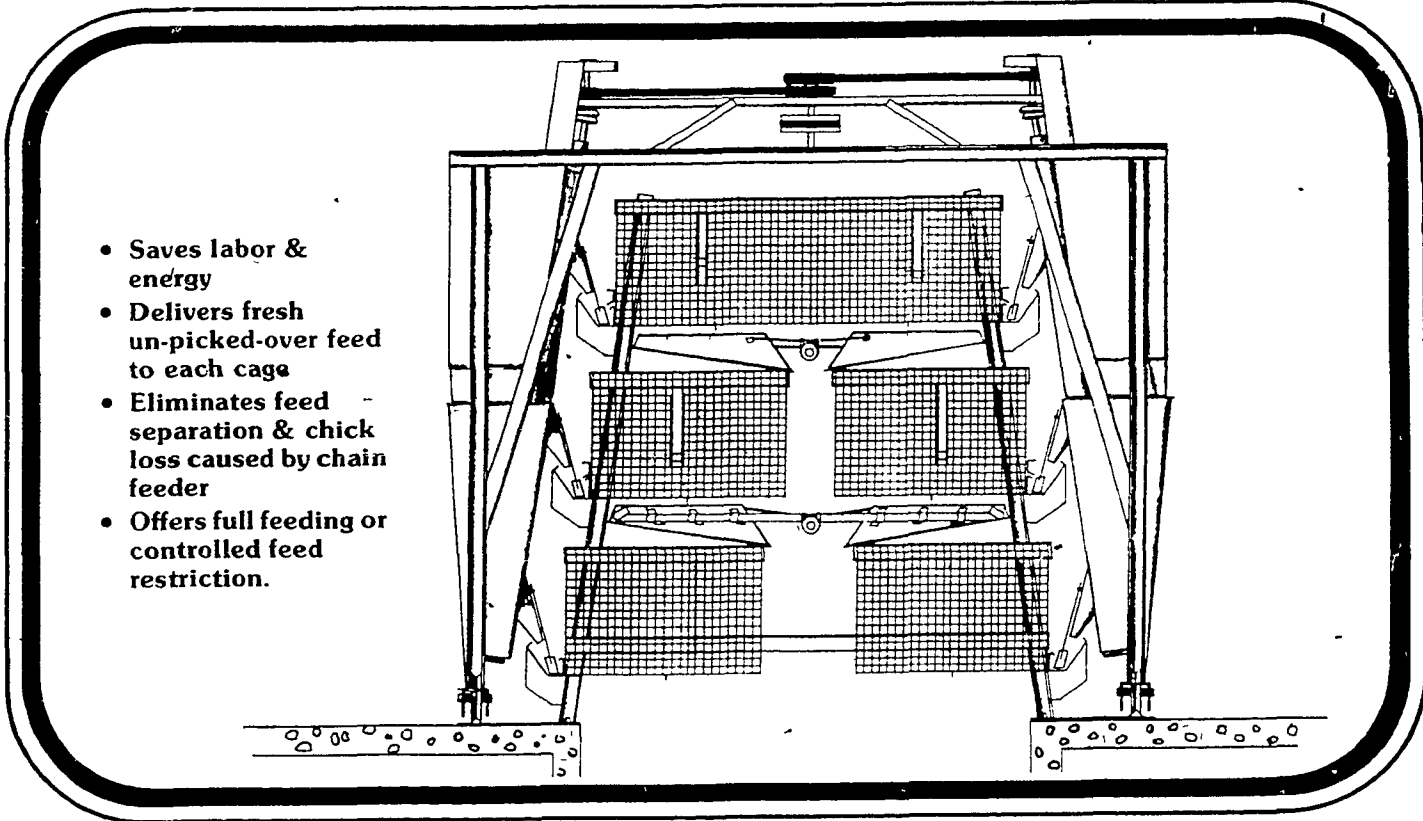


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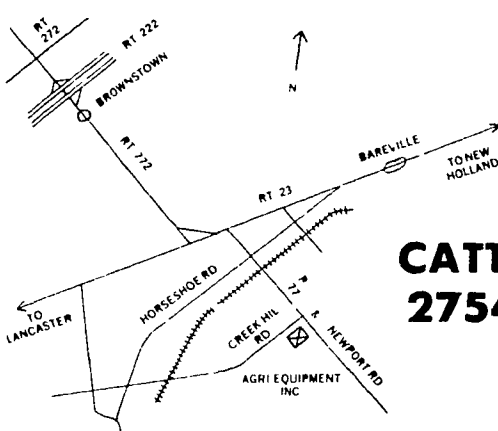
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