

Mortgage burning

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 six percent mortgage seemed reasonable." He then congratulated the group and offered best wishes for continued success.

Biechler was associated with Conestoga National Bank which approved the mortgage after the Farm and Home Board had been turned down elsewhere.

Conestoga then merged with three banks to become Commonwealth.

Others participating in the actual burning were County Extension Director M M Smith, Willis Esbenshade, first president of the Board, Snaveley Garber, second president of the Board; Melvin Stoltzfus, fourth president, Jay Landis, current president, Phares



Newly elected directors of the Farm and Home Foundation include, from left, Robert E. Gregory, John H. Henkel, George Lewis, Orpha Graybill,

Melvin R. Stoltzfus, Evelyn Hess, and Robert P. Bucher.

Risser, former treasurer, George Lewis, current treasurer, Audrey Myer, former secretary, Evelyn Hess, current secretary, and Howard Campbell, Farm and Home Building Manager.

County Agricultural Agent Max Smith called his work with the Farm and Home project a great satisfying experience.

He recalled the early history and early obstacles, including finding that the building foundation was

located on sinkholes. This was corrected by building the whole building on footers reinforced with iron rods.

Smith said he had little doubt the project would go ahead once the tax exemption status was clarified by the Internal Revenue Service. "It was like motherhood," Smith noted. "Nobody objected, the only question was how to pay for it."

Recognizing that over 3000 individuals and businesses contributed to it, Smith said,

"It is a great demonstration of leadership and of working together with agriculture, homemakers and industry. It couldn't have been done without the help of all you great people."

In his report President Jay Landis said, "The excitement of the burning of the mortgage is an event which will be cherished by each of us, but it will be especially cherished by the early people who worked on it. We reached our goals because of gifts and

dedication. It shows what can be accomplished when we have a common goal."

Landis said the Board will continue the challenges of keeping office space rented and maintaining the building to "make it the agricultural community's meeting place it is." He said the Board will expand its educational and scholarship program to serve the community.

Elected directors for three year terms during the

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Turning ever so slowly on its spit, the mortgage document for the Farm and Home Center ceases to exist. The mortgage burning highlighted the Farm and Home Foundation banquet Thursday.

GOING - GOING - GONE

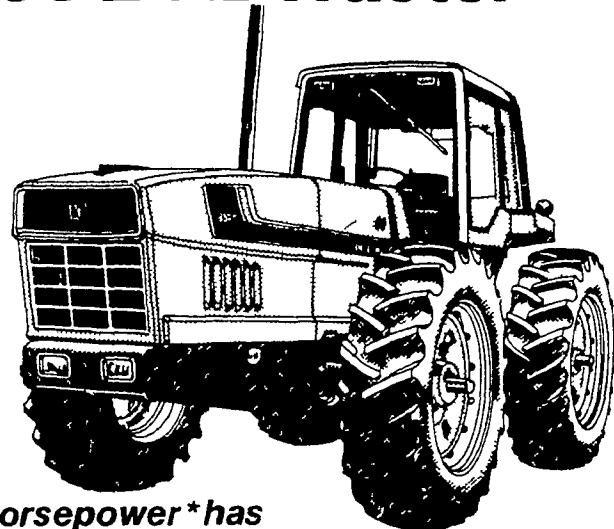
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