

State funds available for crime victims

HARRISBURG — As follow up to a recent *Lancaster Farming* series on rural crime, it is important to know there is help available for victims of crime.

There is an office in state government known as the Crime Victim's Compensation Board, comprised of three members. Lancaster County's Marvin Miller chairs the board, headquartered in Harrisburg as part of the Governor's Office of General Council. Another office is found in Philadelphia.

According to Miller, the Crime Victims Compensation Board replaces losses to victims due to bodily injury suffered during a criminal act. He stated the Board covers the victim's costs for hospital care, doctors, and therapy, along with other services not covered by the victim's insurance.

A victim who loses earnings, or, in the case where death results from the crime, support is lost, is eligible to receive assistance from the Board, Miller explained.

"Let's say the injury suffered by the victim results in his not being able to go back to work for several weeks. He receives public assistance funds in the amount of \$186 dollars, but his actual earning loss amounts to \$400. The difference between the two amounts is funded by the Board."

There is a limit to the state's generosity, even in the case of crime victims, however Miller pointed out there is a \$25,000

maximum on the amount of funds a victim can receive from the Board for both medical attention and loss of earnings or support. The upper limits for loss of earnings and support are \$10,000 and \$15,000 respectively.

Other limitations decide who is eligible to receive payments. Miller chuckled as he explained the victim must be innocent of the crime — their conduct should not have contributed to the injury.

"In other words, we won't cover the costs of injury for someone found after investigation to be a victim of a shooting while passing drugs, or for the town bully who got messed up after looking for and finding a fight," he said.

Miller added victims receiving compensation must cooperate with law enforcement officials and be willing witnesses if the offender is apprehended and charges are levied.

And the victim cannot be related to the offender through common law or otherwise, Miller said. "We don't pay for domestic violence injuries," he observed.

Miller stated victims of crimes which are being investigated by police officers should be given a claim form by the law enforcers. The victim then has a year to file claim for compensation, including all the bills resulting from the crime with the claim form.

"If in the event the police fail to supply the claim forms to a victim, or if for some reason the victim cannot file claim within one year,

the time limit could be extended to two years," Miller noted.

Since the Board's formation in 1977, over \$2.5 million have been awarded to victims of assault, robberies, homicide, reckless endangerment, etc., reported Miller.

"In theory, this program hasn't cost the Pennsylvania taxpayer a single nickel," Miller stressed.

"Since the Board's creation, criminals convicted of committing crimes such as those covered by the Crime Compensation Board must pay to the court a \$10 imposed cost. This money goes directly into the State Treasury which funds our program."

Miller said during the 1980 Fiscal year, it cost \$1,311,000 to run the entire Crime Compensation Board — \$253,000 for administration costs with the remainder being paid out in compensation. The Board Chairman added the \$10 fees collected from similar crimes amounted to \$1,829,000.

Miller conceded most of the money paid out in compensations went to areas in the state with high population densities, however he observed there had been 15 cases in both Lancaster and York

Counties and 12 cases in Lebanon County.

"Our biggest problem is making sure victims are notified about the program," Miller concluded —SM

Penn State sells bull

HARRISBURG — P S Instant Replay 021 was the top-selling bull at the Pennsylvania Angus on Parade Sale held Thursday evening at the Farm Show complex.

The April 10, 1980 calf brought \$6400 from Glenkerry Farm, Greenwood, S.C. He was consigned by Penn State.

The top-seller is the son of P S Power Play, Supreme Champion at the All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity. Replay's birth weight was 83 pounds, and his adjusted weaning weight was 579 pounds.

The ten bulls consigned in

Thursday's sale brought an average of \$1943.

The remainder of the 67 lots were females, averaging \$1160 a head.

The top selling female was a heifer by Rishels Edlyn Farm, Glen Rock. She brought \$3000 and will be heading south to J & R Angus, Florida.

The total sale netted \$85,480, an average of \$1276 for the 67 lots.

Auctioneers for the sale were Tommy Williams, Colmar, Ill. and Harry Bachman, Annville. Sale chairman was Bob Miller of Pleasant Valley Farm, Lebanon. Thirty-three farms consigned animals to the sale, sponsored by the Pa. Angus Assoc.

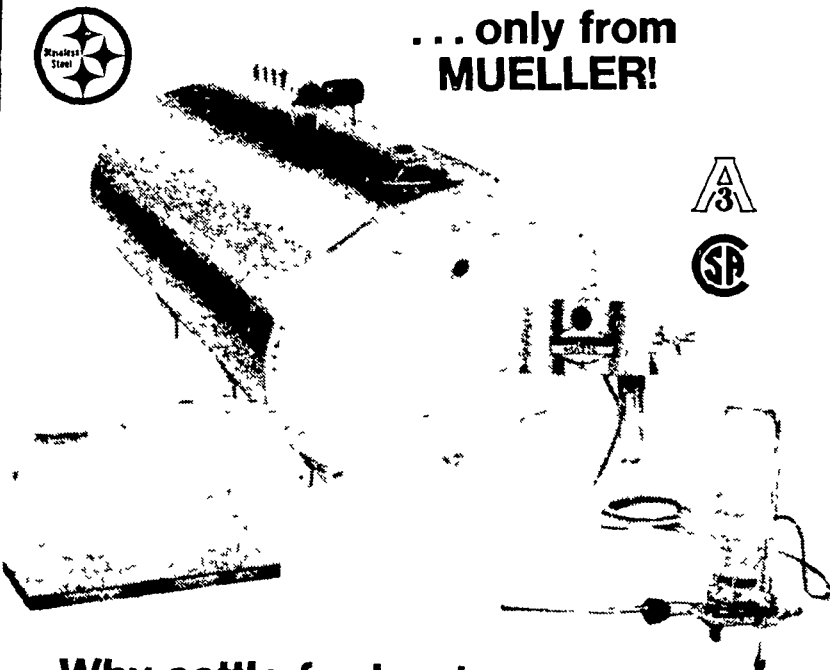
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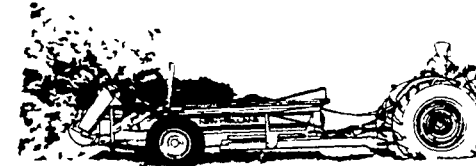
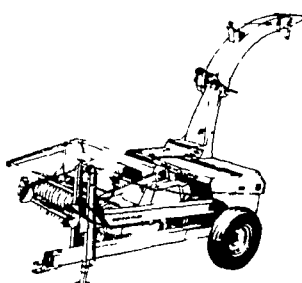
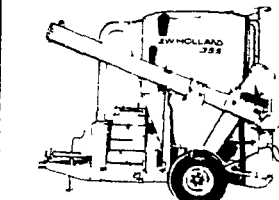
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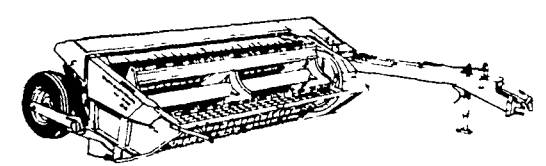
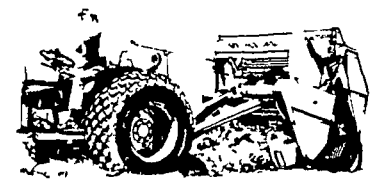
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