

Wyoming Co. dairy family spruces up

BY JANE BRESEE
Staff Correspondent

TUNKHANNOCK — Tom and Judy McCarty and their three small sons recently welcomed Governor Richard Thornburgh for a visit of their farm in Sugar Run near Wyalusing. Their 220-acre farm was chosen as a convenient supper-time stop for the Governor and his party before he was scheduled to ride in a 1928 fire engine during a parade in Tunkhannock, Wyoming County. The parade was to climax an afternoon tour of Bradford County.

The McCarty's were notified just six short days before they were to host the affair, and neighbors and friends rallied to help the young couple "spruce up". The picturesque farm nestled in a creek valley between two high hills, was readied complete with a buffet supper arranged for the 40 invited farmers and spouses from Bradford and four adjacent counties. On hand to greet the governor and his wife, Ginny, were Secretary and Mrs. Penrose Hollowell; Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Chester Heim; Mr. and Mrs. Russell Gunton, regional director of agriculture, Tunkhannock; Orville Yoder, Bradford County Extension agent, commissioners from Bradford and Sullivan Counties, and local

Republican party dignitaries.

The McCarty's escorted the Thornburghs through the 160-cow stanchion barn as the three hired helpers were finishing the evening milking. The modern barn, flanked by three silos, is complete with pipeline and a 200-gallon bulk tank. A short distance from the cow barn is another structure housing about 120 calves and heifers.

The governor admitted he had never been persuaded to milk a cow yet, but posed for pictures with one of the men beside a cow.

Following the buffet supper completed with a homemade cake decorated with the state seal, the governor spoke briefly on the importance of the family farm, "the backbone of our agricultural family." He pointed out it was Secretary Hollowell who had helped him gain his reputation as an advocate of agriculture.

When asked what he considered to be his administrations greatest contributions to agriculture, the governor mentioned his efforts in obtaining a milk security fund, amendments to the Clean and Green Act, and others. He cited town meetings as his best method for keeping in touch with farmers in the state.

Inflation and high interest rates are the farmers' biggest problem, Thornburgh stressed and noted the

Rural Development Council which boasts Secretary Hollowell as a member is moving in the direction of the Industrial Development Agency and will, hopefully, make more money available to farming and agricultural projects.

Asked about abating the threat of radioactive and toxic wastes in rural areas, the governor referred to the "Hazardous Waste Law, and that "for the first time there is a law with some teeth in it". He said the next task is to locate secure (dump) sites in the state, adding that hauling Pennsylvania Wastes to neighboring states "can't go on forever".

Howard Smith, Jr., treasurer of the Bradford County Republican Party organization, presented the governor with a letter of appreciation signed by state legislators of the region: Representative Siriani, and

Senators Frank O'Connell and Henry Hager. Bradford County Commissioner Francis Douglas also presented a letter signed by the commissioners which praised the governor for his efforts in the field of agriculture.

After the governor and his party had departed, many stayed to visit with McCarty family.

Tom and Judy McCarty, both teachers, gave up their teaching careers about ten years ago to go into farming. Tom said he decided he would rather be a farmer and has since worked to modernize his father's farm. He rents several hundred acres of cropland from neighbors and milks one of the largest dairy herds in the county. They were highly honored, they said, to be chosen to host the Governor.

Their boys, ranging in ages from 4 to 11, thought it was one grand

party, but would rather have been playing little league ball. But someday, they too, will be telling their children and grandchildren about the time Governor and Mrs. Thornburgh dropped in for supper!



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