

State Farm Women hold convention, elect president

BY DEBBIE KOONTZ

FARM SHOW — The annual Farm Show in Harrisburg means not only hustle and bustle and a week full of activities for show people and consumers, but also a chance for farm organizations to gather, and evaluate old and new business.

One such group, meeting for their 63rd annual convention this year, was the Society of Farm Women of Pennsylvania who met Monday and Tuesday for elections, business meetings and a banquet.

This year was a special year for the Farm Women because they elected a new president who will serve for a three-year term. Marie Baughman of Franklin County was chosen to fill this spot after having served as first vice president for the past three years. She will fill the shoes of outgoing president Helen Hess of Lancaster County who termed her stay in office, as "one she will never forget" and "the chance of a lifetime."

"I have traveled over 9000 miles and attended every county convention but two. It wasn't really time spent, but time invested and enjoyed," she said.

In response to this warm farewell, the officers of the various Societies presented Mrs. Hess with a silver serving dish, a 'past president' pen and, twice, a standing ovation.

Following adjournment of the meeting, the newly elected president said she has plans to compile a memorial book during her term in office listing the names

of deceased members. She also admitted to looking forward to the Societies' annual Spring Rally, scheduled for May 19.

Mrs. Baughman describes her life on the farm as "doing the typical farmer's wife's duties: tending children, driving tractor and running to town for the what-you-ma-call-it-thing-a-ma-jig."

Among her accomplishments are titles of charter president, county president, state treasurer, Sunday school teacher (35 years), and member of the Ridge Church of the Brethern.

Also elected into office at Tuesday morning's business meeting was Naomi Bupp of York County, who moved into the position of first vice president from second vice president.

Mrs. Bupp is a member of York Society II and has served as county president. She is a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and sings in the choir.

Elected to the office of second vice president was Edith Diehl of Cumberland County.

Four new state directors join the list this year also. They are: Jane Rode of Dauphin County, Arlene Witman of Lancaster County, Carolyn Nesbitt of Fulton County, and Elinor Edison of Chester County.

This year Franklin County was honored for having added a new Society to their membership, and Adams County was recognized for a ten percent increase in membership.

These honors and special project



Past state president Helen Hess, left, hands the gavel over to newly-elected president vice president Naomi Bupp and second vice president Edith Diehl.

awards, were distributed Monday during the morning and afternoon session.

Special guests to these sessions were Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell and State Dairy Princess Charlene Rohrer.

"We consider you one of the more important farm organizations so I'm honored to be here to address you this morning," Hallowell told the Societies.

When Charlene's turn at the podium came, she expounded on the merits of - what else but milk? "Get involved in dairy promotion and work with the dairy princesses in your county. When someone calls you up to help a princess or to just chaperone, say yes," she told the Farm Women. "And when you use your recipes and hand them out to friends, tell them to use only real dairy products."

During Monday evening's banquet, attended by 525 members, speaker Dorothy Glessner told the audience, "Women, we have promises to keep. We have promises to ourselves, and resolutions, and plans for the future we must keep."

Glessner also told the audience that there are new and better reasons for women to be volunteers today; not because it is expected, but because women chose to. She said, when deciding to volunteer, follow these rules: 1. make a promise to become a dependable volunteer, 2. watch for burnout, 3. don't hide behind trivial but begin to think big, 4. take a look



at your talent, and 5. avoid fear of mistrust and the unknown.

During the Tuesday morning business session, several state committee chairwomen delivered reports. Included among these was the Scholarship Committee which payed recognition to the 1981 scholarship winners. They are Jean Jordan of Felton, a senior at Indiana University of Pennsylvania; Tamela Rode of Halifax, also a senior at Indiana University; Nancy Yarnall, Oxford, freshman at University of Delaware; and Katherine Drahowsky of Cleona, freshman at

Mansfield State College. The scholarship, the Flora Black Scholarship Fund in the field of home economics, was established in 1960 for children of members living or deceased, of the Society of Farm Women.

Another committee to report on progress was the special and youth project committee. They distributed small ceramic thimbles to each winner of the quilting project.

Following the closing of Tuesday's session, members had free time to tour the Farm Show.

Scenes from Farm Show



Helen Hess received a silver serving platter for her years as state president, "It wasn't really time spent," Helen said, "but time invested."



Joining the rank of state directors were these four members: 1 to r, Jane Rode of Dauphin County, Arlene Witman of Lancaster County, Carolyn Nesbitt of Fulton County and Elinor Edison of Chester County.



Farm Show director Horace Mann gives some guidance on how to get around the vast Farm Show complex to a bewildered exhibitor.