



Country Outings



By Debbie Koontz

and other brief escapes

All aboard to Paradise

For those of you who are endlessly searching for the road to Paradise, it may come as a surprise to learn that it is just east of Lancaster and in the form of a railroad track.

Well, though it may be an exaggerated and more tangible form of the famous 'road to Paradise' we all dream of finding, it is indeed a thoroughfare and it does lead to Paradise... Paradise, Pa., that is.

This 150-year-old right of way of the Strasburg Rail Road journeys through the heart of Lancaster County's Amish country, and could be a fun way to spend an afternoon with your family on a little country outing.

Only a tank of gas away for most of southern Pennsylvania and northern Maryland, it offers the adventure-seeker the opportunity to ride a train which has been authentically restored to its turn-of-the-century fame; complete with pot belly stoves, oil lamps, and plush seats.

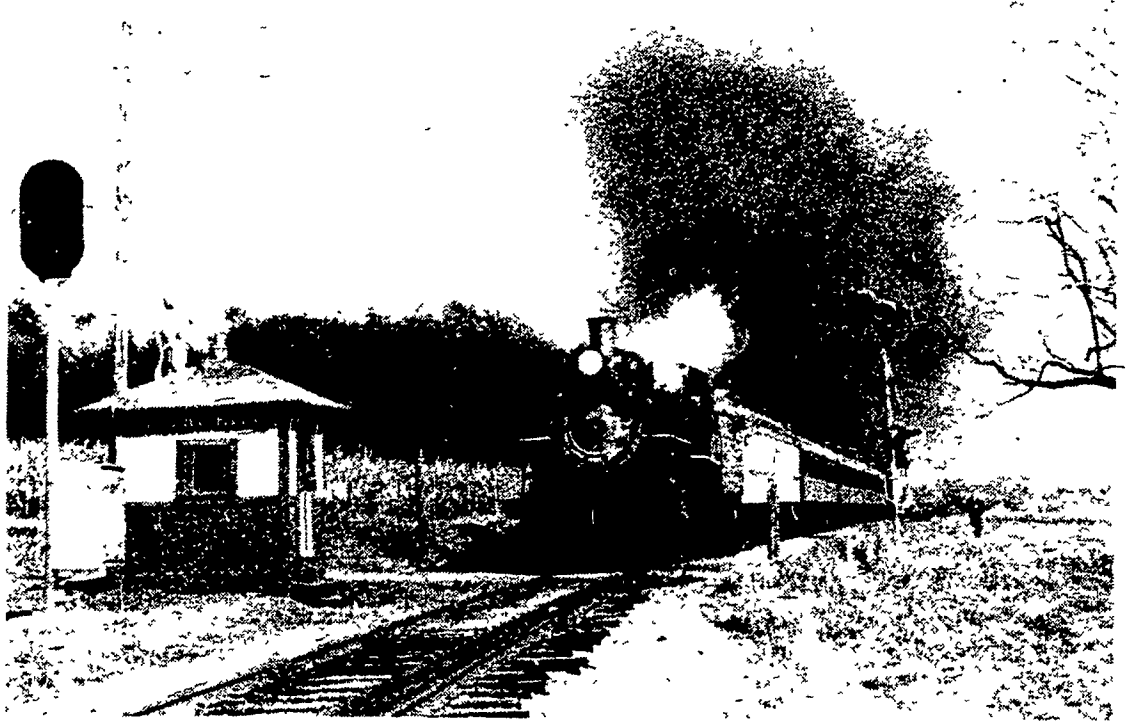
Not only does the train offer to

children the chance to ride on one of our fastest dying modes of transportation, but it offers the farmer a bit of nostalgia, also. For years, in its earlier days, this historic railroad connected the community of Strasburg with the nation's rail system providing freight service for the goods produced by local farmers.

If you're a movie buff, you could choose to ride in the open-observation coach which was used in filming 20th Century Fox's film, "Hello Dolly," starring Barbra Streisand.

Your tour will leave the Strasburg station and will ramble for 45 minutes, round trip, to the farming neighborhood of Paradise, passing through open lush green fields marred only by the farms that protect and operate them.

I would describe the trip as fun and a great way for the family to spend an afternoon together, though the cost may be the only deterrent to enjoying the ride; for adults (12 years and older) the



This eastbound train, known as Number 89, hauls tourists from the famous train station in Strasburg to Paradise, 4½ miles away, every day on the hour. For a farmer, the wide-eyed child, and the train buff, the ride offers a trip back into yesterday in 19th century coaches.

price of this quick trip is \$3.25 and for children, \$1.50.

The train leaves the station every hour from 10 a.m. through 7 p.m. on weekdays and Saturdays. On Sundays, hours are noon to 7 p.m. After Labor Day, the rides end at 3 p.m. weekdays, and 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

When you return to the Strasburg station and you finally realize that only 45 minutes have passed, you may want, for another fee of \$1.50, to visit the state operated Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania located next to the Strasburg Rail Road. The large museum houses huge locomotives and passenger cars from all over Pennsylvania — with the majority coming from Altoona and Chambersburg.

Or you may want to plan, beforehand, on extending the trip into a couple hours by packing a lunch and eating at Groff's Picnic Grove. This grove is only accessible by train, and is equipped with picnic tables, fireplaces, and drinking water. The train stops on its return trip each time, so if you

decide to picnic here, you can simply catch the next train back to Strasburg.

Parking is free; and the company takes reservations for visiting groups. The station assures tourists that groups arriving 30 minutes prior to train

time can almost always be accommodated without reservations.

If you're interested you can contact the Strasburg Rail Road Business office at F.O. Box 96, Strasburg, PA 17570. Phone (717) 687-7522.

'Alllll' aboard for Paradise!

IMPCO picnic-goers hear support price update

HOLTWOOD — Many dairy farmers still haven't reduced their herds, according to James Honan, Secretary and General Manager of Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative.

Speaking at the Lancaster area annual district picnic on Tuesday, Honan stated that the cooperative anticipates a 2.5 to 5 percent increase in the volume of milk marketed next year.

He indicated that farmers are not yet willing to cut production despite the surplus. Honan urged Inter-State members to contact their representative and senators to support the National Milk Producers Federation-sponsored Dairy Stabilization Plan, which is being debated in the U.S. House.

"We still feel that the Federation plan is a sound one," Honan said, adding that the NMFF plan will freeze supports at \$13.10, where other proposals lower support to \$12 per hundredweight.

Upon passage, the NMFF bill will move into the Senate Conference Committee.

Honan also stressed the importance of continued dairy ad-



James E. Honan

vertising in order to meet the demands of the dairy surplus and fight the battle against imitation products.

About 500 people attended the picnic, held at Muddy Run State Park. Inter-State provided milk, cheese and ice cream. In addition, members' children were treated to a variety of games.

Oats eligible for reserve

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The 1981 and 1982 crops of oats now are eligible for immediate entry into the farmer-owned grain reserve because oat prices have fallen below a previously established level.

Everett Rank, administrator of the USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, said Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block last January authorized entry of 1982 crop feed grains into the reserve when national average market prices were at or below established levels.

Reserve regulations provide that a commodity may be placed in the reserve when the market price is below its reserve trigger release

level. That level for oats is \$1.65 per bushel, Rank said.

Farmers with 1981 crop oats under Commodity Credit Corporation loan and who place this grain in the reserve are eligible for a 7 cents-per-bushel higher loan rate and an advance 20 cents-per-bushel storage payment.

Producers of 1982 crop oats who place their grain in the reserve are eligible for an 18-cents-per-bushel higher loan as well as the 20 cents storage payment, he added.

The CCC Pennsylvania loan rate for 1981-crop oats is \$1.42 per bushel. When this commodity is placed in the reserve, the loan rate is \$1.49 per bushel.

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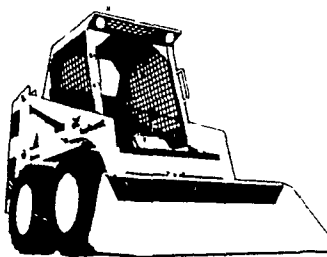
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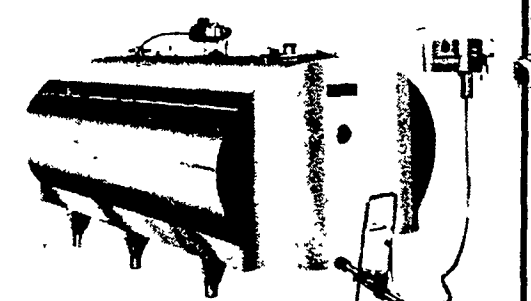


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