

Pa. plans new Farm Show exhibit hall

HARRISBURG — Gov. Dick Thornburgh's 1983-84 Capital Budget, if passed by the General Assembly this year, will allocate over \$3.8 million for improvements to the State Farm Show Complex, including a new multi-purpose exhibition hall.

Secretary Hallowell said the new exhibition hall was among many changes now scheduled to improve the complex, both for visitors and

for potential exhibitors and shows. "Governor Thornburgh asked the Farm Show Commission to evaluate the needs of the complex to make it thoroughly competitive with exposition centers in other East Coast cities," he said. "The improvements we have planned will be a big step in that direction."

According to Hallowell, the new exhibition building would have 72,000 square feet of floor space which would provide exhibition space, a new livestock washroom a storage area and office area. "With a building this size, the Farm Show will be more attractive to prospective shows. It will also pick up the exhibition space lost when the fire corridors were built into the main hall several years ago, giving us more freedom in entries to large shows like the Farm Show."

"The initial investment in the building will be returned through the revenues from more shows at the complex, and the contributions the complex makes to the Central Pennsylvania economy," Hallowell said.

The Farm Show Complex is also scheduled to get a new hot water zoned heating system. "The current heating system operates on a 46 percent efficiency level, and requires heating the entire 14-acre complex even if only one section is in use," Hallowell explained. "The new system should

save us thousands of dollars each year, from the \$216,000 paid for heating last year."

Hallowell said other improvements in the complex include repairs in rest room and shower areas for farm youth, new bed linens, new paint in youth dormitories and indoor-outdoor carpeting for the area. Funds for these improvements have come from Farm Youth Benefit Night concerts during the 1982 and 1983 Farm Shows.

The Agriculture Secretary said that additional plans for improved parking facilities are underway already. Work will begin this spring on paving the middle section of the 45-acre parking lot and a larger tract which was leveled last year. Better lighting and painted parking spaces will also help improve the parking facility.

"We are also looking at other alternatives to improve the parking situation, including widening access roads and expanding the lot to the opposite side of Cameron Street," Hallowell said.

"The Farm Show Complex is important to the agricultural community, and to the economy of the Central Pennsylvania area," he noted. "The improvements now planned and scheduled will help keep the complex a true 'showplace for agriculture.'"

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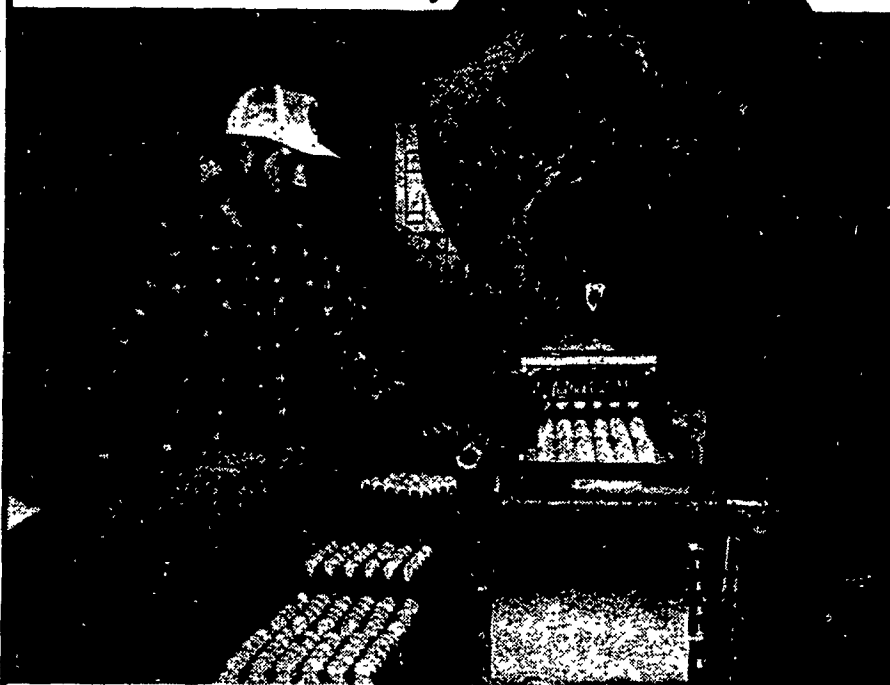


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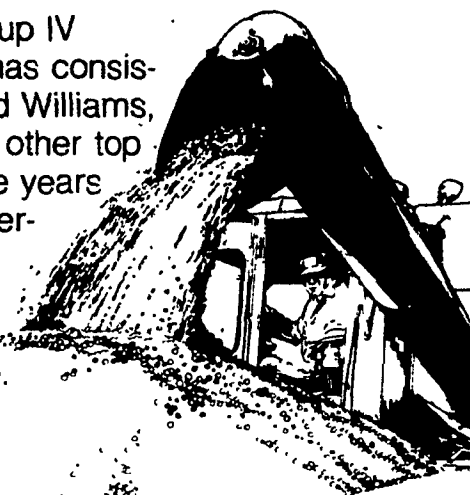
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