

Grim's Greenhouses, a growing enterprise

BY TRISH WILLIAMS

MAXATAWNY — Dale Grim likes to grow things, since he was a boy growing up on his father's farm he has been raising livestock and crops. Through the years, his love of gardening has helped supply fresh vegetables for the family and sparked an interest in growing plants in his children. So it seems quite natural for this interest to lead the Grim's to build a small greenhouse to start plants

for their garden and flower beds. Knowing Grim's hard working and persistent nature, it's no surprise that the first year's plants grew extremely well under his care. What is remarkable is how this little enterprise grew from one 11 X 15 foot greenhouse used to grow plants for the family garden to a profitable wholesale and retail bedding sale operation that involves the whole family.

The first greenhouse was built in

1960, as a hobby, and with no vision of it growing into a business. Then, as now, Dale was working full-time for his father on the family's grain farm. The greenhouse was built at the home, he and his wife, Naomi, share with her parents, Floyd and Bertha Reichert.

The Reichert's own the farm where the two families live. At that time they had over 2000 laying hens and field crops of hay and small grains. But in the evenings, members of the family enjoyed working in the greenhouse, nurturing the plants along. They did such a good job that neighbors wanted to buy the healthy plants for their gardens.

Demand for the plants the very first year out stripped the production capacity of the greenhouse. So the next year a second greenhouse was added. Demand continued to increase as satisfied neighbor-customers spread the word about the good plants. Over the years the cycle has continued to spiral upwards with demand.

The Grim's two children, Joshua and Ruth, have become involved in the operation and enjoy working in the greenhouses. Their interest has helped the growth of the business. There are now four greenhouses with over ten times the area under glass as the original greenhouse.

"The whole family works together," said Mrs. Grim. "Everyone enjoys the work, but I think Joshua has the greatest interest. Joshua turned 16 on April 28, on April 30 he started working for Agway in the garden center, he couldn't wait to start working"

Dale has fostered an interest in horticulture in Joshua. Joshua is now studying floraculture at his vo-tech school and hopes to continue with it as a career.

A local Agway representative who knew Grim and the quality of the plants he grew, convinced Grim to grow plants for Agway's garden center from Agway seeds. Now the Grim's supply to local Agway garden centers with bedding plants. Other retail markets, such as dairies are also supplied. About 75 percent of their market is wholesale, the remainder is sold from the greenhouse.

Mrs. Grim handles most of the retail sales from the greenhouse, and takes many wholesale orders over the phone.

Still with all work that comes

with a greenhouse operation, all the family members are active in organizational work. Mrs. Grim is a 4-H clothing project leader. Both Ruth and Joshua are active in 4-H, Joshua is a member of the vegetable judging team and has a flock management project with Hampshire sheep.

Ruth prefers Dorset sheep and is a member of the livestock judging team, and carries projects in canning, cooking and gardening, as well as being a member of teen council. Also a member of Explorers, she is presently in an

Explorer post at Air Products, as a secretarial assistant. She plans to pursue a career as a secretary after she graduates.

Joshua and his father serve the community as members of the local fire company. Their common interests add strength to the family structure.

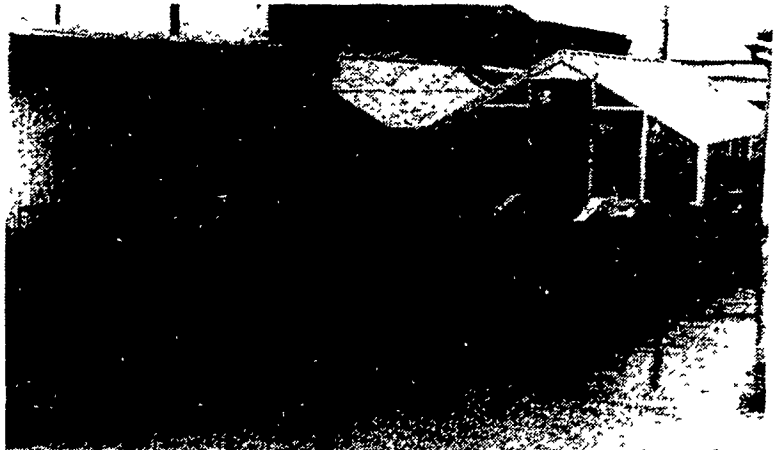
There is no doubt that Joshua and Ruth come from good seed and have been nurtured well. The greenhouse enterprise will likely continue to grow in new dimensions as he comes on with his interests in floraculture.



Everyone in the family works to make the business flourish. Dale proudly displays a bedding plant as his father-in-law, Floyd Reichert, looks on.



Joshua and Ruth take an active interest in the operation and put a lot of time into working in the greenhouses.



Increased volume of sales each year from the sales room located in an old shed on the left has fostered the growth and addition of small greenhouse units.



Naomi Grim keeps watch over the operation during the day while Dale is at work and the children at school. Many orders are taken over the phone.



Ruth and Joshua, active 4-H members, have a flock of sheep they enjoy working with and showing.



This small 11 x 15 foot greenhouse was the original one the Grim's built for growing their own vegetable plants.

Acid rain hearings planned

HARRISBURG — The largest coalition formed in Pennsylvania since the 1960's announced its intentions this week to hold open hearings on Acid Rain this summer.

The Pennsylvania Acid Rain Education Task Force presented plans for citizen hearings to be held simultaneously in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia on the evening of July 7, at 7:30 p.m. "By planning these hearings at either end of the

state, we're hoping to channel the immediate concern of thousands of our citizens into constructive action to solve the acid rain problem in our state. Increased knowledge is the best way to find sane solutions to our problem," said Julius Uhlein of the PA AFL-CIO.

"Because the damage done by acid rain affects all segments of our society, this task force represents labor, civic and environmental and conservation

groups," stated Larry Schweiger of the National Wildlife Federation. Included in the sponsoring organizations are the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO, League of Women Voters, American Lung Association, National Audubon Society, Sierra Club, and the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. "Between now and the time of the hearings, group members will be meeting, planning testimony, and encouraging local participation in acid rain projects throughout the state. Involvement is expected in all levels of state, regional and community organizations. This is truly a state-wide effort," Schweiger concluded.

Acid rain is caused by sulfur and nitrogen oxides emitted into the air, usually by power producing plants. These emissions mix with the air, and eventually come back to earth in the form of nitric and sulfuric acids in snow, fog, and most often rain. "While all the causes of acid rain might not yet be accepted by all members of the scientific and industrial community, the problem is here. The Acid Rain Task Force is a positive effort at solving that problem," commented Walter Pomeroy, Vice President for the National Audubon Society.

Red Rose Alliance auction June 11

GOODVILLE — The Red Rose Alliance will hold its Second Annual Auction on Saturday, June 11 at 10 a.m. at the Goodville Fire Hall, Route 23 in Goodville.

Offered for sale are many handmade quilts, a 1976 Plymouth station wagon, a 1975 Volkswagon Rabbit, a handmade Penn State

sweater, an iron dinner bell, a Fraktur, a cast-iron pump trough, an American Empire bureau over 100 years old with bow front columns of mahogany wood, and many other items too numerous to mention.

For information or to donate items, call Don at (717) 354-5483.

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