

## 1983 Broiler Industryman - Ben Burkholder

GRANTVILLE -- Ben Burkholder of Victor F. Weaver Inc., New Holland, received the 1983 Broiler Industryman of the Year Award from the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation at its banquet Wednesday night.

Making the presentation at the Holiday Inn, Grantville, was Jay Irwin, 1982 Broiler Industryman. Irwin presented Burkholder and his wife, Grace, their plaque and filled in the audience on Burkholder's success.

The old expression "Local Boy makes Good" applies to Burkholder who was one of the first employees of Victor Weaver in 1933, Irwin said. As a young boy of 16, Burkholder spent two days a week dressing chickens, killing and picking them by hand with Victor and Edith Weaver as they prepared for the Philadelphia market in Sharon Hill.

One day, as Irwin explained, they were scalding by hand, and a

traveling salesman passed by, showing them a new contraption to pick the feathers. It was a round drum with rubber fingers and it would clean three chickens at once! This was such a "modern wonder of technology" that before the peddler left, Burkholder was humming happily and watching feathers fly on their new machine, Irwin added.

This new operation helped the Weavers process 200 chickens a week, and when the German town market operation was added, sales rose to 500 chickens on a three day work week.

Except for the period from 1942 to 1946 when he was in the Civilian Public Service in the Virginia Mountains for prevention of forest fires, Burkholder has been with Victor F. Weaver since 1938.

Throughout his years of association with Weaver, Burkholder has worn numerous managerial hats including: plant

manager, manager of Weaver Quality Eggs (mostly wholesale eggs in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania market areas) and director of purchasing (including Supplies, Commodity and Maintenance). He attends courses and seminars on management and training and his ability has led him into many positions, Irwin said.

Burkholder was president of the Pennsylvania Egg Marketing Association for two terms; president of Pennsylvania State Agricultural Advisory Council; is a representative of Victor F. Weaver on the Department of Agriculture; is serving on the Processing Committee for the Poultry and Egg Institute; is active in attendance at the Lancaster Chapter Society for the Advancement of Management; and is now a School Board Director and a Sunday School teacher in his home church.

Currently, Burkholder is vice president of Manufacturing, a



Ben Burkholder, left, the 1983 Broiler Industryman of the Year, and his wife, Grace, receive a plaque from the 1982 winner Jay Irwin.

member of the Corporate Management Group, and a member of the Board of Directors of Victor F. Weaver, Inc. He and

his wife, Grace, have five daughters - Lynette, Brenda, Glenda, Leone, and June.

## 1983 Egg Industryman - Raymond W. Sauder

GRANTVILLE — The 1983 Egg Industryman of the Year Award, presented by the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation Wednesday night, went to Raymond W. Sauder.

Sauder, according to award presenter Bob Bucher, 1982 Egg Industryman, has two names in Pennsylvania - R.W. or Raymond, and is known for his concerns for quality.

Sauder is the son of the late Frank and Susie (Weaver) Sauder. He was born on a farm one mile south of New Holland and is the youngest of nine children. When he was still quite young, the family moved to Farmersville, where he grew up.

Sauder got his introduction to the egg business when at the age of 12 he went with his father to Philadelphia and sold eggs from door to door. This he did for a number of years.

Sauder and Marguerite (Stauffer) were married Oct. 5,

1940. Marguerite comes from the Hammercreek area, and Sauder says he gives a great deal of credit to her for his success in the egg business, Bucher said.

His next venture in the egg business was in January, 1941, in New Holland. In October, 1943, Sauder was drafted during World War II. He served in Civilian Public Service being assigned to the work of the Dairy Herd Improvement Association in Somerset County.

In March, 1947, the family moved to Brownstown and resumed the egg business. Five years later the business was moved to the present location. During April, 1971, Glenn became a partner in the business and in March, 1973, Paul became a partner.

Raymond and Marguerite are the parents of four sons.

Sauder started his business in a facility not larger than a two car garage. Because of his small

stature, Bucher said. Sauder became more difficult to find in the plant as his business grew. But a good friend said "you could always count on him showing up at meal time," Bucher added.

Currently, R.W. Sauder Inc., processes and markets 19,000 to 20,000 cases of local eggs from independent farms. They also raise 150,000 chicks from one day to 20 weeks for their farmers.

Sauder is a member of Hess Mennonite Church and serves on the Board of Lititz Area Mennonite School Board. He is a past president of the Pennsylvania Egg Marketing Association and one of the founders of the Pennsylvania Egg Service Exchange.

One of the primary reasons for honoring Sauder, Bucher said is his concern for quality. "Sauder has always believed in a quality product and there was a time when he requested state inspection, although not required, to be assured he was getting that quality," Bucher said.



Bob Bucher, right, presents the 1983 Egg Industryman of the Year award to Raymond W. Sauder and his wife, Marguerite.

## Poultry industrymen

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received honorary memberships. These included: George Anthony, a former producer and breeder from Strausstown; Glenn Bressler, a retired Penn State Poultry Science faculty member; George Hauer, former sales manager for C.F. Manbeck Inc.; Russell Latshaw, a former producer and pullet grower and Pennfield employee; Ed Lawless, a 50-year employee of the state Department of Agriculture who also served as an egg inspector; and Dave Lehman, founder of Lehman's Egg Service, Greencastle.

Also: Horace Longacre, founder of Horace W. Longacre Inc.; retired state Senator Clarence Manbeck, former owner of C.F. Manbeck Inc.; Claude Miller and P.H. Seitz, former poultry pathologists at the state Department of Agriculture's labs in Summerdale; Victor F. Weaver, founder of Victor F. Weaver Inc.; and Henk Wentink, Pa. Poultry Federation board member and officer and a leader in the fight concerning eggs and cholesterol.

In other business, John Hoffman, the Federation's executive director, was presented a watch for his 10 years of service to the organization. Also recognized was Dale M. Weaver, out-going chairman of the board of directors, who then introduced new chairman, S. Ricard Moyer.

Moyer told the crowd of 290 people that several tasks await the Federation in the coming year. On a state level, Moyer outlined concerns such as egg promotion, avian diseases, the right to know bill on chemicals, poultry research and the scholarship fund. National

concerns are larvax approval, food safety legislation and imports/exports.

Progress on the scholarship fund was reported by Bill Carlin, who said money is allocated in the budget to the fund. Scholarships are awarded annually at \$1,800 per year, he added.

Carlin said a program has been designed to recognize monetary donors to the fund. A bronze certificate will be awarded to those donating \$500, a silver for donations of \$500 to \$2,000, and a gold for over \$2,000. Donors have until Oct. 26, 1985, to reach their pledge level, Carlin said.

To kick off the scholarship fund drive, the Northeast Pa. Poultry Producers Federation presented a \$1,500 check to Carlin. The check was towards the association's \$7,500 pledge.

The awards banquet was part of the Pa. Poultry Federation's annual convention, Oct. 26 and 27, which included sessions from industry leaders. Topics, which will appear in next week's livestock session, included: the price outlook for broilers, eggs, turkeys and feed; agricultural lending outlook and major financial trends; and agricultural trends and consumer eating trends.

Other topics were the controversial egg issues, given by United Egg Producers president Al Pope, and egg marketing trends and techniques by Dr. Eric Oesterle of Purdue University.

Rounding up the convention's sessions was Bill Monroe of "Meet the Press," who gave an account of his profession as the show's moderator.

## 1983 Turkey Industryman - Tom Bross Jr.

GRANTVILLE — The founder and president of Round Hill Foods, New Oxford, was honored as the 1983 Turkey Industryman of the Year by the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation Wednesday night.

Tom Bross Jr. and his wife, Jean, were introduced by the 1982 Turkey Industryman George Wentz, who then presented them a plaque. Bross has been in the

business for 37 years, and in that time his dedication to his customers never wavered, Wentz said.

Bross started in the business in 1946, after serving in the Air Force during World War II. He purchased a locker plant in New Oxford and converted it into a combination grocery store and butcher shop. By the following

year, Bross' five employees were processing 500 locally grown birds annually.

The rapid growth of Bross' business resulted in construction of a processing plant in 1952, and by now he was concentrating his business on turkey processing, although no orders were refused.

The eagerness to serve his customers was one of Bross' priorities, Wentz said. One time when his supply was short, he bought some turkeys from a grower located on an island in the Susquehanna. He eventually ended up putting live turkeys in a rowboat and rowing them to shore, Wentz said.

By 1961, Bross had added a large freezer building, increasing his capacity to the six-figure level. The 75,000 birds he was growing were now not nearly enough to cover demand, so he began to buy on a large scale from independent growers in surrounding counties.

In 1966, Central Soya Inc., bought the freezer building from Bross and added a 30,000 square foot processing plant. Bross was named general manager of that plant, and under his leadership, Central Soya experienced a rapid and dramatic growth. This initial grow-out started in 1969 with five outside growers. Bross' success earned him the job as turkey sales

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The 1983 Turkey Industryman of the Year Award was presented to Tom Bross Jr., left, and his wife, Jean, by George Wentz, the 1982 Turkey Industryman.