

Wisner gets national grange post

HARRISBURG — Charles Wisner, Jr., State Master of the Pennsylvania Grange was elected to the National Grange four-member Executive Committee by delegates at the National Grange convention held last week in San Antonio, Tex.

Wisner will serve a four-year term on the Executive Committee which meets quarterly to oversee the internal workings of the National Grange headquarter's staff. The Committee helps direct decisions on finances and lobbying efforts of the 22-member staff located in Washington, D.C. The 117-year-old Grange is a fraternal farm organization with a national membership of 450,000 consisting of state and local Granges established in 37 states, making it the second largest organization of its type in the U.S.

"It is appropriate that Pennsylvania have a representative on this committee since our state holds approximately 1/10th of the national membership, serving as one of the largest state Granges in the country," Wisner noted.

The Pennsylvania Grange was first established in 1873 and is in the process of seeing a gain in



Charles Wisner Jr.

membership which now stands at 42,000. There are 552 Subordinate (local) Granges set in 64 counties with the state headquarters situated in Harrisburg. The Grange, nationally and in Pennsylvania remains active in its historic lobbying role, fighting for legislation that supports the rural and agricultural well-being of the country, as well as interests for the

well-being of all people.

State Master Wisner was first elected by the Pennsylvania Grange delegation in 1979 and was re-elected last year for another two year term. A dairy farmer from Montgomery County, Wisner has been largely responsible for many legislative victories for the Pennsylvania farmer. During his term as Master, he has also introduced many new services into the Grange, such as a food cooperative, a credit union, and an insurance program all available to members.

In other convention matters, Perry Valley Grange No. 1804, Millerstown, was awarded first place in this year's Community Service Award program sponsored annually by the National Grange.

Perry Valley's 1983 projects included providing Lifeline equipment, sign language courses and a charity dinner to benefit six local charities. Perry Valley also maintains numerous other community service projects which are on-going from year to year. Perry Valley Grange has 145 members and is located in a rural area 30 miles northwest of Harrisburg. Leonard Gochenauer is the Master and Marian Shade, chairman, of the community service committee.

Ridge tillage tested



The Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with Penn State and the Cooperative Extension Service, recently started a program to evaluate the concept of Ridge Tillage in Dauphin County. A Buffalo Ridge Cultivator was used on the Richard Leininger and Dave Coble Farms to form ridges this fall. The equipment was provided by Lynn Hoffman of the Penn State Agronomy Research Farm. The demonstration was coordinated by Joel Myers of the Harrisburg SCS Field Office. This concept is being tested on somewhat poorly drained, heavier soils where no till planting has not proven to be successful. Next Spring, corn will be planted using a no till planter on these ridges.

Grange winners reported

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. — Area winners in contests sponsored by the National Grange were announced during the Grange's annual convention Nov. 14-21.

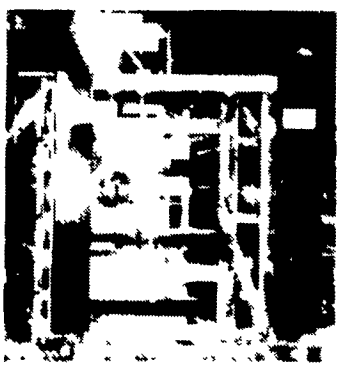
Crowned 1984 Prince, was Michael Pratt, Granville Summit.

Best of show winners in the art contest included (juniors) Mike Beitler, Schnecksville, and photo contest (juniors) Dawn Powell, Medford, N.J.

Taking first place in the talent finals were (instrumental), Leta Blatt, Leesport.

Junior Grangers were also recognized during the convention. Cayuga Lake Junior Grange, Cayuga, N.Y., was selected Junior Grange of the Nation. Thurmont Junior Grange, Thurmont, Md., won first place in publicity.

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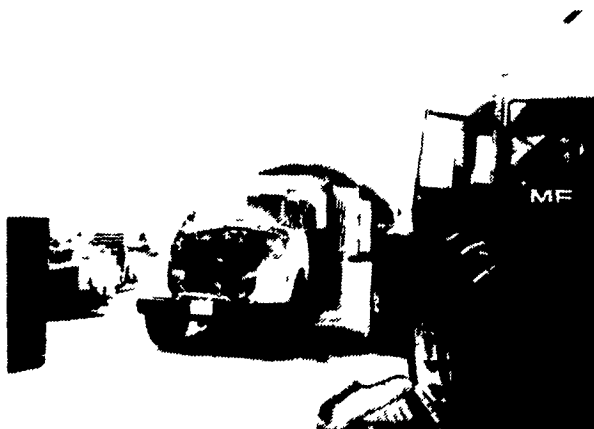
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