

Del. 4-H Agent Retires

NEWARK, Del. — When Marion MacDonald came to Delaware in 1953, she didn't expect to stay long. Her husband, Ronald, had to be here temporarily on business, and she mainly came along for the ride.

But all that changed when she met Dr. Samuel Gwinn, director of the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension Service. He had been looking for an enthusiastic young 4-H agent for Kent County, and was impressed when he met MacDonald. The daughter of an Extension plant pathologist, she had earned a B.S. in home economics two years previously at Oregon State University. After that she had worked as an Oregon Extension home demonstration agent with 4-H responsibilities.

MacDonald accepted the job in Delaware, and her husband found work here, too. She filled the position for the next 30 years, until her retirement in December. In all those years, she never lost the enthusiasm that first won her the job.

MacDonald says her 12th trip to the National 4-H Congress in Chicago was every bit as exciting as the first, because she was always able to experience it through the wide eyes of the Delaware teens who had never been there before. She also never tired of watching timid youngsters blossom at Delaware State 4-H Camp.

When MacDonald joined the University of Delaware Extension service, she was the only female 4-H agent in the state, and from a non-farm background to boot.

Though agricultural production was not her strongest suit, when that sort of work needed doing she



Marion MacDonald

pitched right in and learned on the job. At the same time, she expanded the Kent County 4-H program to embrace non-farm youngsters and non-agricultural activities. Under her leadership the number of youngsters participating in public speaking contests and the annual fashion revue grew considerably.

Two generations of youngsters enjoyed MacDonald's humorous poems and learned all manner of handicrafts under her wing. Many grew up to be volunteer 4-H leaders.

MacDonald's unstinting efforts on behalf of youth have not gone unrecognized. In 1971 she was the first woman in the nation to receive the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Extension Agricultural Agents. In 1976 she was given a similar award by the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents. In 1980 she was presented with the Community Citizen Award by the Capital Grange of Dover.

Now that she has retired, MacDonald has no thought of going back to the West Coast. "Delaware has made a home for us," she says. "We love it here and plan to stay."

She is looking forward to relaxing, doing needlework, working with ceramics and other crafts, and spending more time with her husband. But her fellow Extension professionals will not let her sit idle for long. Already they're pushing her to become a 4-H volunteer. As everyone knows — including MacDonald herself — she won't be able to stay away for long.

State Master to Visit 8 Counties

HARRISBURG — State Grange Master Charles Wismer and several State Grange officers will meet with local Grange members in southeastern and southcentral Pennsylvania Jan. 30 - Feb. 2 for county membership meetings.

Carrying the theme "Pennsylvania Grange — We Serve You," the round of meetings are for the purpose of discussing membership drives, Grange services, legislative involvement, the Junior Grange program for young children and youth activities. Sandy Westover, state junior director; Fred Suloff, state membership director; Warren Harnish, representative for the PA Grange Insurance Agency; and a youth representative will accompany the State Master at all meetings.

Wismer said the State Grange this year has realized a net gain in membership for the first time in many years and has initiated five new subordinate chapters. A key topic of discussion at county

meetings will be the conducting of a statewide membership drive in the spring with specific goals set for each county.

With a membership totaling 42,000, the State Grange is the largest rural farm organization in the state. Local granges can be found in every rural county in Pennsylvania.

Dates, times and locations for county meetings are listed below:

Bucks County Jan. 30, 1 p.m. Tyco Grange Hall.

Lehigh County, Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m. Memorial Hall, Germansville.

Berks/Schuylkill, Jan. 31, 1 p.m., Shartlesville Grange.

Montgomery County, Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m., Keystone Grange.

Chester County, Feb. 1, 1 p.m., E. Lynn Grange.

Lancaster County, Feb. 1, 7 p.m., Willow St. Restaurant (intersection of routes 272 & 222).

York County, Feb. 2, 1 p.m., Red Lion Grange.

Perry County, Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m., Rose Glen Methodist Church.

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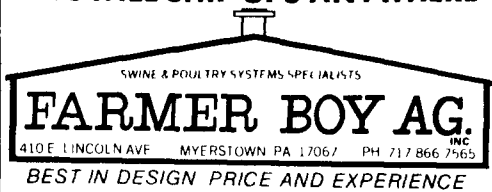
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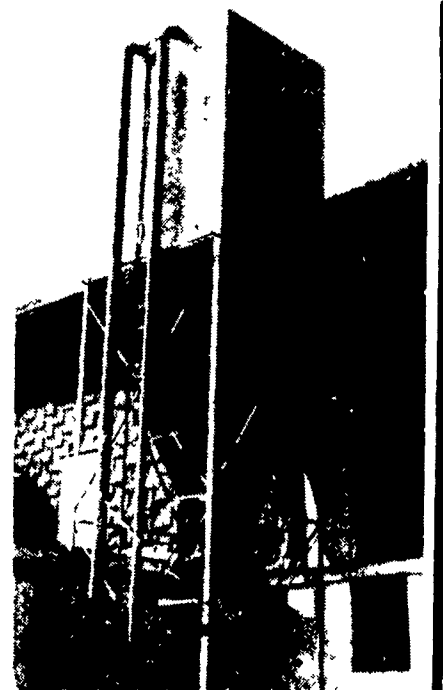


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