

Lancaster Farm & Home Foundation elects directors

BY SALLY BAIR
Staff Correspondent

LANCASTER — Seven countians were elected to three-year terms as directors of the Farm and Home Foundation of Lancaster County at its annual meeting Thursday at the Farm and Home Center.

Re-elected were: Mrs. Orpah Graybill, 391 Newport Road, Lititz, secretary-treasurer for Graybill Machine Company and a homemaker; Robert E. Gregory, 721 E. 28th Division Highway, Lititz, manager of the Lancaster Soil Conservation District; Mrs. Evelyn Hess, 817 Waterfront Drive, a homemaker and currently vice-president of the Board of Directors; and George M. Lewis, 606 Stoney Battery Road, Landisville, representative of Farmers First Bank and currently treasurer of the Board.

Newly elected were: Darvin E. Boyd, 39 Knollwood Drive, Akron, vice president and director of the agricultural finance department of Hamilton Bank; Robert C. Groff, Camargo Road, Quarryville, dairy and poultry farmer; and Kenneth M. Rutt, Edgefield Road, Quarryville, dairyman and newly selected Master Farmer.

Speaker for the evening was John Graham, chaplain for the Lancaster County Prison. Born in England, Graham is now a naturalized citizen of the United States and was ordained in the Presbyterian Church.

Graham said that idleness is the number one problem facing those incarcerated. "With idleness comes a discontented prison population. How can we enforce discipline when there is nothing to do?"

He said that prisoners become angry and frustrated because of



Farm and Home Foundation president Larry Skromme, left, thanks John Graham, chaplain at Lancaster County Prison, speaker at Foundation's annual meeting.

the "wastefulness of time,"; and this anger often is a factor in their becoming repeat offenders.

Graham noted that of the 1500 persons incarcerated in the past year, 660 were repeat offenders. He pointed out that 30 percent of the prison population cannot read or write. He also noted that just three percent of the population are there for crimes of violence with the remainder there for burglaries, thefts, non-payment of support probation violations and other non-violent crimes.

Graham told the audience that the United States has the third highest rate of incarceration in the world, behind the USSR and South Africa. He used a quote which he

acknowledged was not his own, saying "There is nothing corrective about the corrective system." The primary purpose of prisons in this country, he said is to keep individuals from committing further crimes and to satisfy the public's need to punish.

He feels more emphasis needs to be placed on restitution to victims and positive reconciliation of those who are breaking the law. Pointing to examples of sentences in other states which involve putting offenders in public service, Graham said alternative sentences would mean thousands of dollars of services to the public while saving millions of dollars for the cost of incarceration.

Graham said of the 1500 people who had been incarcerated in Lancaster County prisons, "In essence they're our neighbors." He said there needs to be a massive involvement of volunteers to change the emphasis. "To simply incarcerate is not the answer." With involvement he noted, "These human lives could be encouraged and renewed and given dignity as a child of God."

He cited positive work that is being done at the prison with volunteers groups, but feels there is much more need for volunteer

involvement. "These lives are our neighbors."

In other business President Larry Skromme thanked retiring directors Robert Bucher, John Henkel and Melvin Stoltzfus for their years of service to the Board. The group also observed a moment of silence in remembrance of the late Raymond Stoner, a former member of the Board.

Musical entertainment was provided by Dawn & Rich Winey. Chairman of the annual meeting committee was Jay E. Landis.

Wayne to hold meeting series

HONESDALE — Attorney Lee Krause will be the first speaker at a series of three sessions for local government officials on Wednesday, Feb. 1 at 8 p.m. conducted by the Wayne County Cooperative Extension Service in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs and the Wayne County Association of Township Officials.

Attorney Krause will describe how the municipal codes provide power to run local government as well as providing limits to power. Also to be discussed will be the Sunshine Law, role of the public at public meetings, keeping of public records, and adoption of ordinances.

These sessions, according to John Creighton, County Extension Director, are planned to be especially useful to newly elected officials. Experienced officials should also find the sessions a

ditional sessions will be held Wednesday, Feb. 8 and 15, all at the Cooperative Extension Offices in the Courthouse.

At the second session, William Douglass, Wayne County Planning Director, and Joseph Macialek, Penn State Extension Community Development Agent, will discuss adoption of ordinances, and administration of some of the commonly adopted ordinances. Of special interest will be a discussion of the use of a road encroachment ordinance to help avoid improperly designed intersections of public road and new private driveways.

At the third session Walter Beck, Wayne County Chief Assessor, will discuss taxation. Beck will cover such topics as taxation powers, tax limits, role of the assessor, assessment ratio, taxation calendar, and the relationship of assessed value to municipal budget.

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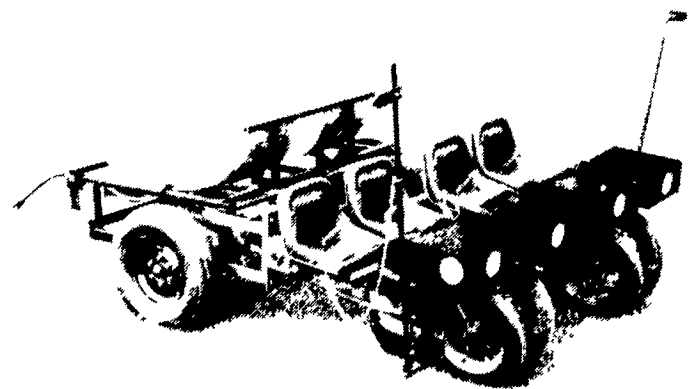
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