

# In lifetime of mixing politics and pears, at 73, h

BY JOYCE BUPP  
Staff Correspondent  
DALLASTOWN — Stepping into

the retail sales market at Raab Farms is like taking a stroll through a giant harvest-season

cornucopia.

In one corner are rows of baskets, red and green with apples. Containers sit, filled with pears, in another direction. Fat peaches hang over the edges of cartons lining the sales stand. While customers depart lugging bags of tomatoes, cantaloupes, peppers, squash.

Traffic outside the complex of buildings flows constantly, as produce buyers mix with

wholesalers' trucks, while work crews haul in loads of filled baskets and head back over the hill with a stack of empties for the next trip.

Calling the plays, off in the background of this fruitful fiefdom of activity, in an office surrounded by packers and sorters, fruit boxes and horticultural equipment, is P. Joseph Raab — on the telephone again.

Joe Raab, long time fruitgrower,

community activist and former county commissioner, tackles the horticulture business with an energetic enthusiasm and optimism that has won him a host of friends among both agriculture and business.

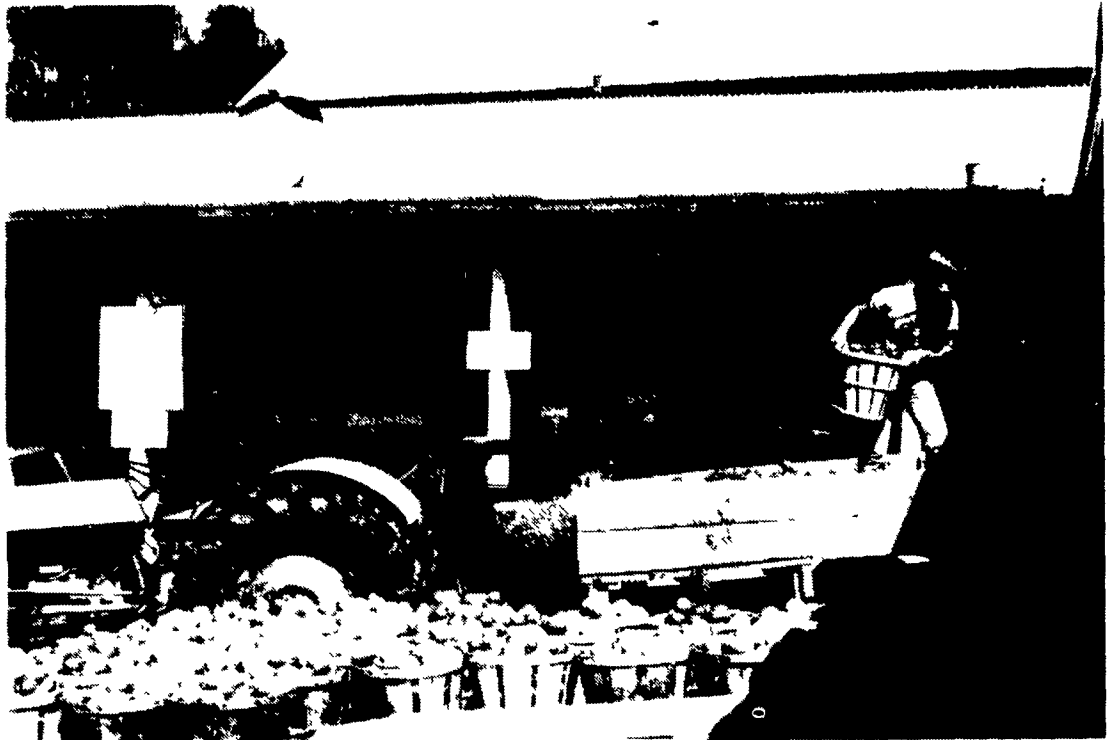
Affectionately dubbed the "Jolly Green Giant" by some of his closest friends, Raab leaves the phone, whizzes out of the office, directs a wagonful of bell peppers toward the loading dock, hails a

*'If farmers would only...'*



In the midst of the seasonal crush to market fresh produce, Joe Raab grabs a minute from his full schedule to take a look at the Red Bartlett pears in the orchard.

*Raab's Market is busy place*

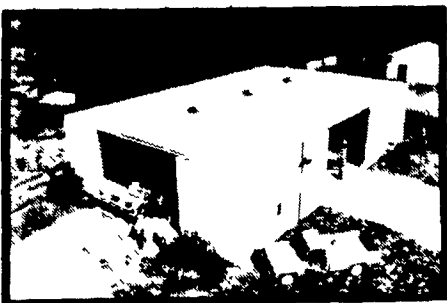


Raab's Farm market's tastefully arranged displays, quality produce and pick-your-own crops keeps a following of faithful customers stopping by frequently for fresh fruits and vegetables year round.

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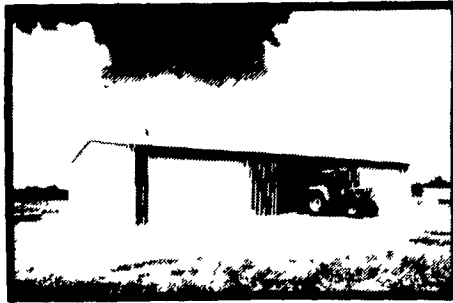
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