

York Farm Women aid injured dairyman

BY JOYCE BUPP
Staff Correspondent

YORK — In an unplanned highlight of the York County Farm women's convention Nov. 1, the nearly 300 members and guests attending responded to their theme "sharing love and fellowship," with a love offering of \$450 for a young county dairy farm family.

The impromptu giving climaxed the group's annual meeting, held at Wisehaven Hall, with members responding to the invitation from president Arlene Miller to join in supporting the Gary Thoman family, Dallastown dairy farmers.

Thoman's arm was severely injured recently when a falling forage wagon elevator knocked him into a silage blower. His wife Gail is a member of York Society #18.

Farm women generosity also culminated in the presentation of a \$515 check to the York County Mental Health Association. That contribution to the work of the mental health group represented the county farm women's ways and means project for 1984.

Accepting the contribution was Marta Peck, executive director of the Mental Health Association, and featured speaker for the convention's morning program.

Ms. Peck outlined a brief history of the county's mental health programs, beginning in 1951 with the founding of the fledgling organization. She related how mental health patients at that time were held in jail until they were admitted to the State Hospital at Harrisburg.

According to current statistics, 20 percent of society, or 1 in every 5 persons, will at some point in their lives be affected by a mental health problem. Anxiety is the most common, says Ms. Peck, with about eight percent of mental health patients suffering impaired function due to anxiety.

"Contrary to popularly held beliefs, the mentally ill are less likely to be violent than 'normal' people," she added. "Instead, they become isolated, and avoid social contacts, withdrawing into themselves."

One pressing concern of mental health leaders is the mushrooming numbers of teenage suicides.

"The teen suicide rate has tripled in 30 years, and is the second high killer of young adults," Ms. Peck told the farm women. Among the factors believed to be contributing are child abuse and increasing numbers of children, especially in single parent households, who rarely see a parent with whom they can discuss their growing-up problems. She related how even school nurses are finding it necessary to stock their offices with food for children arriving for classes, having had no breakfasts.

Volunteers continue to be the backbone of the mental health association's ability to work in the community on limited budgets, and Ms. Peck praised the Farm Women societies for their continuing support of such programs as Operation Reindeer. This holiday gift drive supplies Christmas gifts to mental health clients and families in both the state hospital and the community. In 1983, over 900 people were remembered through Operation Reindeer.

"They are grateful for such little things, perhaps something as simple as a flannel shirt," she related. "We have a large demand for flannel shirts."

The mental health staffers also spend large blocks of time working with advocacy programs, such as effecting legislation in support of mental health needs and at legal hearings for clients.

State Farm Women president, Marie Baughman of Franklin



Marta Peck, left, director of the York Mental Health Association, accepted a check for \$515 from York County farm women president Arlene Miller. The donation represented the group's annual county ways and means project for 1984.

County, related upcoming events and shared a note from the state's first lady Ginny Thornburgh, thanking the state society for a commodity basket presented to the Governor's family during a recent signing of the Oct. 14 Farm Women's day proclamation.

Spring Rally will be hosted by president Baughman's home Franklin County group, at the Hagerstown Ramada Inn, Hagerstown, Maryland, on May 22, 1986. In 1986, the spring meeting will return to York County. Plans are already underway for the group's 75th anniversary celebration in 1989, to be hosted in Somerset County, where the Farm Women's first society organized in 1914.

In an election for the office of county treasurer, Miriam Young was returned to another term. Other officers completing the second half of their two year terms are Arlene Miller, president, Ruth

Santiago, vice-president, Susan Lehman, 2nd vice-president, and Hazel Lighty, secretary.

Nine members received special recognition and gifts as Farm Women 80-year-olds. They are Mary Wise, Carrie Saylor, Viola Leiphart, Emma Myers, Arzula Bose, Lulu Rennoll, Kathryn Hoover, Grace Perry and Sarah Myers.

In special ceremonies, eight past members who died during the past year were memorialized. Those remembered were Romaine Keener, Alverta Hale, Mabel Lehman, Clara Plitt, Rebecca Warner, Charlotte Kimmel, Helen Beard and Margaret Keller.

Rounding out the day-long program was the musical group "Spirit," from Dallastown High School, and York dairy princess Judy Perry with her promotion skit and a reminder on the importance of milk in preventing osteoporosis.

Wayne Co. names Outstanding 4-H'ers

HONESDALE — Wayne Mang, R3 Honesdale, has been selected as Outstanding 4-H Boy in Wayne County and Karen Lupyak, R3 Honesdale, is the Outstanding 4-H Girl.

A member of the Bethany 4-H Club, Wayne has been a 4-H member for eight years and has been active in 4-H project work that includes market lambs, breeding sheep, vegetable gardening, outdoor flowers, crafts, hobby projects and tractor safety.

He has been active in his 4-H club, holding the offices of news reporter, secretary, treasurer and president. He is also a member of the Wayne County 4-H County Council.

Wayne has been active on the Wayne County Livestock Judging Team that competed at Penn State. He also judged livestock and dairy at the Wayne County Fair Youth Judging Contests.

He is currently a senior student at the Wayne Highlands High School and plans to attend college after graduation.

Karen is a 10-year member of the Cold Springs 4-H Ag Club. During her 4-H career, she has taken the following 4-H projects: market lambs, breeding sheep, vegetable gardening, melon projects, flowers, onions, potatoes, dairy, market beef steer, rabbits, sewing, photography and strawberries.

She has been active in the Cold Springs club, holding the offices of treasurer, news reporter and vice president. She has been a 4-H Teen Leader in her club and is also a member of the Wayne County 4-H County Council.

Karen has attended 4-H Teen Retreat and has been a member of the Wayne County 4-H Livestock and 4-H Dairy Judging teams.

She is a 1984 graduate of Wayne Highlands High School and is currently pursuing a nursing degree at Elizabethtown College.

She was also named a co-winner of the 1984 Isabel Loesch-Wayne County 4-H Development Fund along with Randy Campbell of R3 Honesdale.

A nine-year member of the Bethany 4-H Club, Randy has taken the following 4-H projects: handyman, rocketry, forestry, crafts, small engines, riflery, self-determined projects, bicycle, gardening, wood science and photography.

Randy has been active in the Bethany 4-H club, holding the offices of secretary, vice president and president. He is a 4-H Teen Leader and is currently a member of the Wayne County 4-H County Council.

Randy is a 1984 graduate of the Wayne Highlands High School and is pursuing a degree in computer science at King's College.

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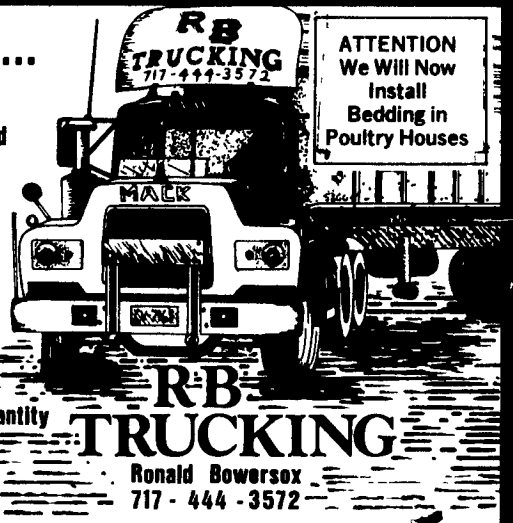
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