

Over 300 attend initial Berks Farm-City Banquet

BY ROBIN PHILLIPS
Staff Correspondent

LEESPORT—Berks County's first annual Farm-City Banquet proved very successful as over 300 farmers and city friends turned out for a night of sharing experiences, animal and produce judging, and good food. Held on Wednesday, Nov. 15, at the 4-H Community Center, Leesport, the banquet was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce Ag-Business Committee and the Berks County Farmers and Friends.

Pennsylvania Dutch hors d'oeuvres, including fried mushrooms and a variety of cheeses were enjoyed by the crowd as they judged Holstein cows, supplied by Reu-Hel Farms; poultry provided by Muard, Naugle, Berks County Poultry Fanciers Association, and apples provided by Ontelaunee Orchards. Everyone attending received a free hat donated by many county businesses, and the 4-H Center was filled with "hats" as farm and city friends became acquainted during

the pre-banquet social hour.

"Green tags" were farmers and "red tags" were the city people and seating instructions for the banquet cautioned one color not to sit alone or the meal would not be served. The atmosphere remained jubilant throughout the Pennsylvania Dutch meal as the cows in the back of the room provided the animal sounds straight from the farm.

Dr. Ruffer, president of Albright College, summed up the purpose of Farm-City Week, "to develop and sensitize the understandings of each other." He spoke on his experiences in the farmer-businessman exchange program in October. Ruffer spent a day on the beef farm of Dennis Manbeck. Manbeck then finished the exchange with a day at Albright College.

"A farm is a large number of skills," Ruffer continued. "It's a family enterprize ... involved people ... an entire business."

When Manbeck spoke, he compared their two jobs, "we both



Dairy farmer Ernest Miller, of Virginville, serves as Berks Farm-City Master of Ceremonies.

ship'em in and ship'em out ... and try to make them gain as much as we can."

The President of Metropolitan Edison, Floyd Smith, also participated in the exchange and spent a day on the dairy farm of Clarence Sattazahn, R1, Womelsdorf. "I never realized that a farm family is really a corporation all by itself," he stated.

Clarence Sattazahn agreed, but added, "he had quite a few vice presidents. At home we have one, and she has all three titles." Sattazahn enjoyed his visit and tour of the Met-Ed offices and training sites.

Radio personality, Charles Adams, exchanged a day with swine producer, Mike Moore. "A lot of money can be circumvented by their skills," Adams observed about farmers after his day at Moore's. "Those people on the farms are just as talented as we'll ever be," he continued. His greatest realization came as he related how much he appreciates Friday's and weekends to relax. "I

(Turn to Page A26)



Tony Grimm, left, Berks County Chamber of Commerce, receives honor for starting Chamber's Ag-Business Committee, from Ernest Miller, dairy farmer.



City dwellers try their hands at cow judging in Berks Farm-City program.



Apples from Ontelaunee Orchards, Leesport, are judged by farm and city Berks Countians at first annual Farm-City Banquet.



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