

Berks tour

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by 1982. In 1983 the line was reopened by the Blue Mountain and Reading Railroad company who immediately began renovations and construction of a station and train yard. The Blue Mountain and Reading Railroad also began purchasing steam and diesel locomotives, freight and passenger cars, and rail diesel cars. Extensive efforts at restoring and painting them to their original condition were made by the new owners.

Today, with a start towards their goals, but far from finished, according to Madeira, the Blue Mountain and Reading Railroad has formed the beginnings of a lucrative freight business while promoting their tourist rail tours and continuing their restoration efforts. Plans for the future include extending the rail line into Hamburg, the erection of additional stations at Leesport, Shoemakersville, and Hamburg, the ongoing restoration of passenger cars and equipment, and the restoration of the Schuylkill canal to allow mule drawn canal packets to navigate as they did in the 19th century.

Completed plans also include walkways, picnic groves, and rest areas along the historical canal.

On the tour, the conservation group viewed the present day Schuylkill canal and listened to the preliminary plans of the Blue Mountain and Reading Railroad from Madeira. Wood and brush cutting on the canal began in May of 1984, and the earthen bank aqueduct in the canal system was also cleared. The aqueduct is believed to be the only one in existence on the canal system. County businesses, highways, homes and farmland were also viewed by the group from the train.

After the rail tour, the group met at a local restaurant to talk to Madeira and conclude their meeting with lunch.

Sponsored each year by the Berks County Soil Conservation District and its cooperating agencies, the annual tour seeks to educate countians on conservation efforts and practices throughout the state. The all but forgotten railroad and canal system of Berks County may have reminded conservationists of a heritage also deserving of preservation efforts.

HARRISBURG — Wallace (Wally) Dunlap of York received the Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Cooperatives (PAFC) Distinguished Service Award at the association's recent annual meeting, capping the evening banquet, according to President Robert Reich.

Outgoing PAFC President J. Ward Cooper, in making the presentation, cited Dunlap for a "lifelong career in farmer cooperatives which was climaxed by his tenure as PAFC ad-

ministrative director 1984-1985."

Other awards presented at the banquet included the 1985 Master Educator Award and recognition of a retiring board member.

Don Robinson, East Lancaster County School District, received the Educator award. In its past, PAFC had recognized both vocational agriculture teachers and extension agents. This new award is designed to recognize "any person who has contributed to cooperative education," according to Cooper.

Enos Heisey, Agway, retired from the PAFC Board of Directors after serving 21 years. During that time, Heisey "served PAFC in various leadership roles during the long-range planning period and during the transition to a full-service trade association."

Cooper noted that the awards committee had "no problem identifying deserving recipients" for the Distinguished Service Award. However, the committee recommended Dunlap, a man characterized as "quick to laugh and chock full of enthusiasm."

Dunlap went to work for Eastern States Farmers Exchange (now Agway) after completing his bachelor of science degree in agronomy from the Pennsylvania State University. He retired from Agway January 1, 1984.

He and his wife Kip have four children and one grandchild.

Heifer sells for \$3,750

A Canadian bred heifer sired by a Warden bull was both the grand champion and the top selling animal at the Green Dragon Livestock Show and Sale.

Consigned by Matt Carson and Walter Risser, the animal was purchased by Stonehurst Farms for \$3,750.

The reserve grand champion, a 5-year-old consigned by Kelly Bouser, was purchased by Alfred Albright for \$1,900.

A pure-bred Red and White Holstein consigned by J. Robert Kennedy was purchased by Stonehurst Farms for \$2,350.

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Raymond R. Weaver (right) with (L to R) John Moose, Vice President, Agri-Finance Department, Merritt Marks, Senior Vice President and Regional Administrator for the Lebanon Region, and Bob Koch, Marketing Manager at Richland. Raymond owns and operates a 60,000 bird layer operation near Newmanstown.



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