

# Mike King shares his story with Lancaster Farm and Home Foundation

BY SALLY BAIR  
Staff Correspondent

LANCASTER — It was a Challenge of a Lifetime for Mike King when he began the 5,606 mile trip by wheelchair from Fairbanks, Ala., to Washington, D.C. last summer. The trip is now successfully behind him, but he says, "The challenge has actually just begun."

Speaking to a record 240 people attending the 22nd annual meeting of the Farm and Home Foundation of Lancaster County, Mike King, who grew up on a dairy farm in Chester County, brought the inspirational story of his dramatic response to a motorcycle accident which left him paralyzed in 1978.

King's story was told in song, in a talk and through slides of the trek from Alaska. Throughout, King emphasizes the role that God has played in his recovery and subsequent commitment to encouraging other disabled people. King said, "I'm only as handicapped as I let myself be." In fact, he said he prefers the word disabled. He added that he doesn't think of his disability until he comes upon a physical or architectural barrier which reminds him.

Stressing that everyone has some handicap, King said, "Mine may be obvious, but each of us has something that makes the day harder to get through."

He said it was encouragement from family, friends and acquaintances which helped him continue, and he wants to give others similar support. The dramatic trip from Alaska incorporated many visits to rehabilitation centers to meet with disabled people.

King said he traveled from 30 to 80 miles daily on the trip, and usually went about 10 miles per hour. Once he went 70 miles per hour traveling downhill, but usually didn't go over 45. He was on the road for 105 days, and had scheduled 15 rest days into the trip. During that time there were five days of rain and one of snow. The trip included 200 miles of gravel highway in Alaska.

Through various efforts the trip raised \$70,000 for Hope for Life, the non-profit agency which supported his trip. That money will be divided among five rehabilitation organizations across the country, King said.

King admitted that after the accident he thought his life was over. "It was pretty devastating." He now is working on his master's degree in social work at the University of Pennsylvania, and hopes to work in hospital rehabilitation.

Seven directors were elected during the business meeting. Newly elected were Mark Nestleroth, a hog farmer from



Seven directors were elected to three-year terms of the Farm and Home Foundation of Lancaster County. From left are: Mark Nestleroth, Manheim R5, swine breeder; Mary Martin, New Holland, R2, farm woman and homemaker; J. Clayton Charles, Lancaster R2, dairyman; Elam Bollinger, Manheim, R7, dairyman; Henry Reist, Mount Joy, R3, owner of Reist Seed Company; and Raymond Witmer, Willow Street, R1, dairyman. Also elected was Richard Kreider, Manheim, R5, of Kreider Farms. Nestleroth and Kreider are beginning their first terms; the others were re-elected.

Manheim R1, and Richard Kreider, Kreider Farms, Manheim R5.

Re-elected were Elam Bollinger, dairyman from Manheim R7; J. Clayton Charles, dairyman, Lancaster R2; Mary Martin, homemaker, New Holland R9;

Henry Reist, Reist Seed Co., Mount Joy, R3; and Raymond Witmer, dairyman, Willow Street, R1. All directors will serve a three-year term.

President Evelyn Hess thanked retiring directors Roy Brubaker, Lititz, and Clarence Keener,

Manheim, for their service to the Board.

She also announced that a \$3,155 contribution from Lancaster County's Farm Women Societies will be used to purchase new drapes for the auditorium.



Mike King is welcomed by some who attended the Farm and Home Foundation annual meeting this week. He sang, gave a talk and showed slides.

## Grain, forage show slated

FLEMINGTON, NJ — A program of outstanding speakers and commercial and educational exhibits will highlight the upcoming "Grain and Forage Producers' Conference and Trade Show," scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 12.

The event will begin at 10:00 a.m., though the exhibit area will be open at 8:30, says Fred Clucas, Oldwick grain farmer and member of the planning committee. The place is the spacious National Guard Armory, Eggerts' Crossing Rd., north of Trenton. It's easily accessible from I-95, routes 31, 206, and 1.

Speakers include O. Elwood Hatley, Agronomist at Penn State University. His topic will be "The

Economics of Grain Production." Gill Griffith, a representative of the American Soybean Assn., will discuss grain marketing from the growers point of view.

Other topics are "An Up-date on Crop Research at Rutgers," by Dr. Stephen Kleinschuster, Cook College Dean; "Changes in DEP Regulations," Mark Robson, Research Scientist with DEP.

Fred Clucas will discuss the formation of a new farm organization, The Grain and

Forage Producers' Assn. of N.J., and seek support from grain and forage farmers present.

Tickets are \$2 each and includes a box lunch. Agri-businesses serving the area have been generous in supporting the project, says Clucas, underwriting much of the expense.

Brochures describing the program and tickets are available in the county Extension offices in the state and from many agri-businesses. Ticket sale deadline is Wednesday, February 5.

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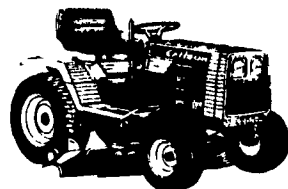
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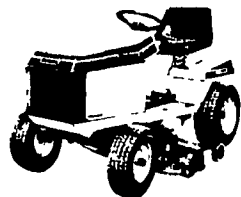
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