Rescue mission

(Continued from Page B10)

speaking, we're quite happy with it."

Nobody claims to have the final word on preservation, and nobody knows what will be done after the shelf life of deacidified books expires in a few hundred years.

The person overseeing the whole preservation effort at the Library of Congress is Deputy Librarian William J. Welsh. In 1980, dissatisfied with the library's lack of a specific program, he met a friend, William O. Baker, then board chairman of Bell Laboratories, at a building dedication.

"Bill, stop what you're doing now and take a look at this technology," Baker advised Welsh. "It holds great promise."

After receiving that advice,

Welsh appointed several committees. "The problem was that we were going to lose our cultural heritage, our cultural record," he says. "We had the advantage over anybody else, because we have a large preservation activity — over 100 people involved in this preservation in various stages.'

Two-Pronged Attack Welsh decided to attack the problem in two ways: through the mass deacidification program for books and through an optical-disk program that uses sophisticated laser technology to miniaturize and preserve other data, from periodicals and newspapers to works of art.

Of the optical-disk technology, Welsh says, "I suspect that in due course it will replace microfilm" and eventually will be used to preserve books.

Welsh reaches for a Louis L'Amour paperback, autographed

Dairy Sculpture Contest planned at Willow Valley Mall

sculpture contest will be held at Willow Valley Mall June 13 to 14 in conjunction with the Lancaster County dairy princess pageant.

Entries should be at the mall between 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. on June 13. Prizes will be awarded at 9 p.m. that day. Entries should be picked up between 3 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. June 14. The mall is located

for him by the author, a prolific writer of Western novels. "This is not going to last 20 years, not even this personal inscription," Welsh complains.

But, he says, looking fondly at the yellowing novel, "I think books will continue forever and ever and ever "

Sculptures entered in the contest may not exceed 6 feet high or 4 feet wide. The sculpture must be constructed from containers that contained REAL dairy products. Those not conforming will be disqualified.

Sculptures will be judged in three categories — under 10, 10 to 16 years, and over 16. First prize in each category is \$25, second price,

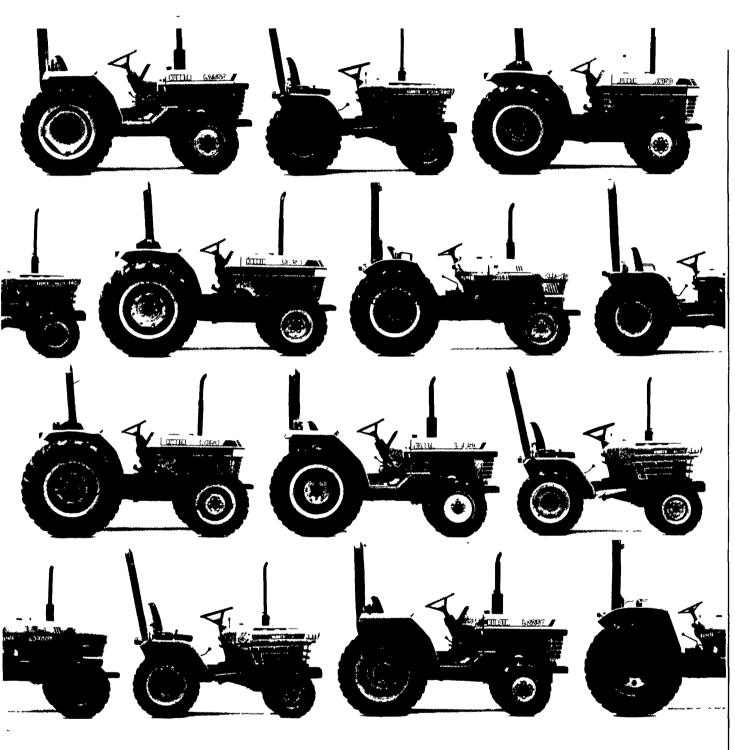
\$15, and third prize \$10.

An overall grand champion will be named and the winning sculptures will be displayed at the dairy princess pageant at the Farm and Home Center on June 21.

Applications can be sent to: Dairy Sculpture Contest, 258 N. Fulton Street, Strasburg, PA 17579, before May 21.



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