

# Holstein Association President

(Continued from Page A1)

were initially sown at the February 1986, Pennsylvania Holstein convention in Pittsburgh by state members disgruntled with the present USDA indexing system of evaluating cattle on computer formula "numbers."

Baxter also praised the state's staff, calling it "a good, congenial group to work with."

The biggest challenge of the year for the staff, Baxter is quick to add, was an order for approximately 1,000 heifers for Brazil. Problems encountered in the release and exchange for the payment funds for those animals created delays in shipment of the cattle.

A large pole-barn addition to the PHA farm at Middletown was another highlight of the year.

"I don't know how we would have managed without it," says the PHA president.

With a year of experience behind him, the Mercer County dairyman eyes 1987 as a year of renewed emphasis on programs for junior members of the association and

continuing challenges to the dairy industry.

"Maybe we should be helping the kids do a few more things than in the past," Baxter suggests.

Over-order pricing is also an item on his wish list. Baxter emphasizes that he'd like to see dairy farmers stand together to make over-order pricing a reality.

Another issue on the back burner is the possibility of an addition to the information currently available to members through Pennsylvania's Dairy Herd Improvement Association.

Wisconsin and Ohio already have in place a column on their DHIA sheets which rate animals in comparison to their own farm herdmates only, and not solely on index. Animals in the top 25 percent for milk, fat and protein, for instance, get top ratings, ranked by a system of letter values.

"It offers a relative value of an animal against her own herdmates on production," Baxter explains. "Under the present system, a group of heifers by a homebred sire, no matter how well they do, gets no index. This additional

program would rate them fairly on production against herdmate heifers sired by high-proven bulls. Often the highest-indexed in-

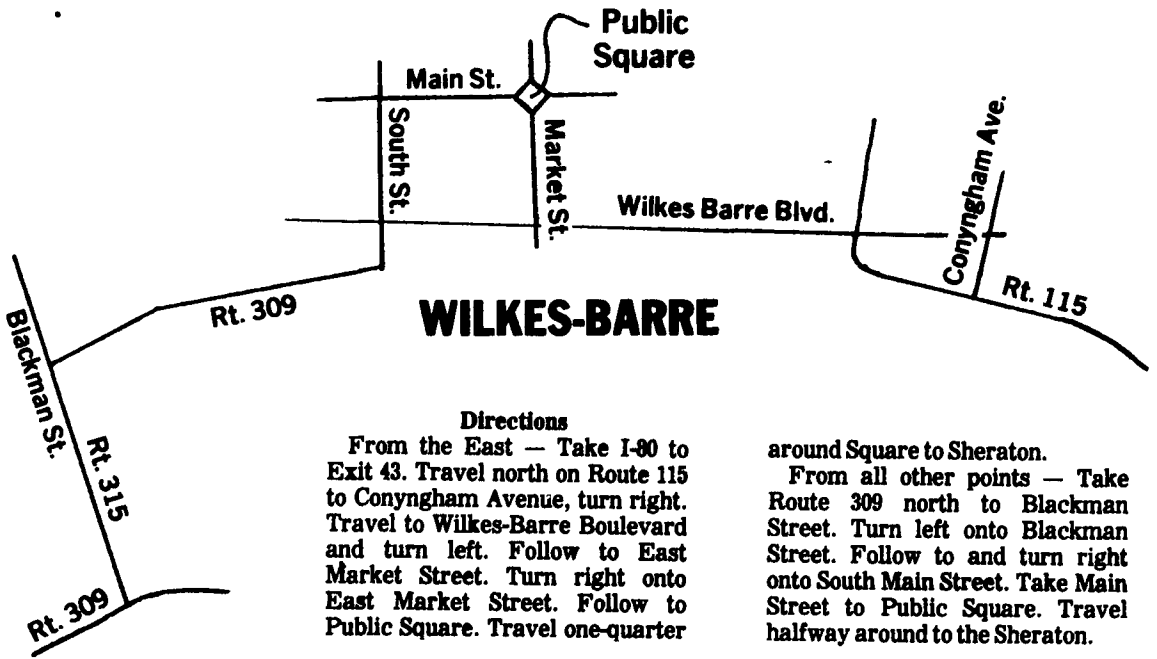
dividual is not the herd's best moneymaker."

Baxter says he understands that, as Pennsylvania's DHIA system moves into computerization, such a program could be added with relative ease, if demand warrants it.

Introduction of the idea to PHA members at the state convention this week by the Policy Development and Evaluation committee is expected by Baxter.

"It's something for us to look forward to in the future, another tool the breeder could use."

## Directions To The Holstein Convention



### Directions

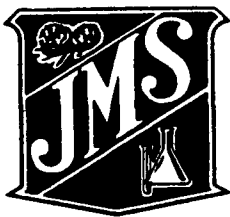
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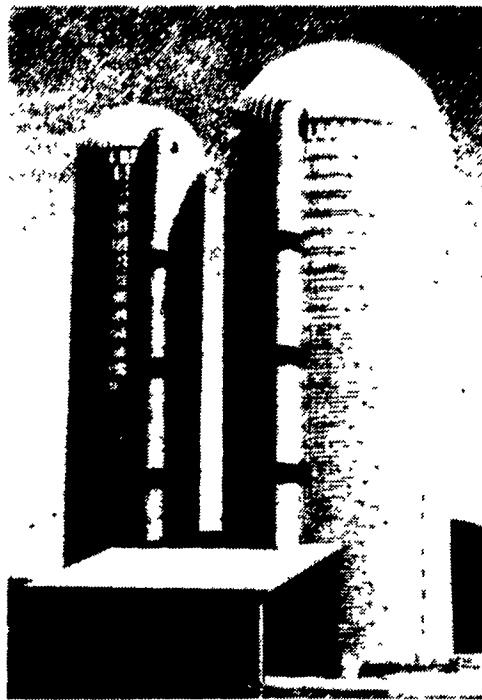
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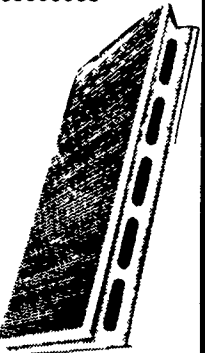
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