

# Over 100 Attend NW Auctioneers Seminar

BY CAROLYN GILLES

Crawford Co. Correspondent

**WEST MIDDLESEX** — Auctioneers and their staffs turned out 110 strong for the Spring Seminar conducted on Sunday, May 3, at the Sheraton Inn in West Middlesex by the Northwest Chapter of the Pennsylvania Auctioneers Association.

Highlight of the noon meal was the presentation of checks to three children's hospitals. Every spring the NW Chapter holds an auction at the Sheraton with goods consigned by fellow auctioneers, antique dealers or individuals. According to NW Chapter President Wayne Patterson, this year's auction turned over \$28,000.

Commissions earned are used to support organizations that must rely on the mercy of other organizations and individuals. Three checks for \$200 each were presented to Shriners Hospital, Crippled Children's Hospital and Children's Hospital.

Accepting the donation for Crippled Children's Hospital, Esther Klinge of Mercer County Crippled Children and Adult Society told a story about a man who bought his bird a bell, a mirror, and a ladder but was

surprised when the bird died. It seems that he had never thought to buy birdseed! "You," said Ms. Klinge, "Are our birdseed. You keep us going."

Richard W. Brzuz, Administrator for the Shriners Hospital in Erie, accepted the check on behalf of the Shriners and thanked the group for their support saying that they couldn't continue their philanthropic works without support from this and similar organizations.

A letter was read from Janet Emory, Annual Fund Director from Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh. She thanked the group for helping them to provide health care to the tri-state area.

Ross Porter, State Director for the NW Chapter, stated two main reasons for joining the Auctioneers Association. "The first," said Porter, "is the formal education available through workshops and conferences. The second is the chance to rub shoulders with some of the best auctioneers in the nation, a chance to pick their brains and come up with some new ideas."

State President Don Huck said that although the NW Chapter, with 44 members, was one of the

smallest in the state, it was also one of the most active chapters. He advocated membership in the organization for all auctioneers because the association works as a team to look out for the interests of the auctioneer.

Jim Lewis, State Secretary, commended Karen Patterson as the only chapter secretary in the state to achieve 100 percent renewal of membership. In addition, the NW chapter shows 19 percent growth over last year.

State membership stands at 385, reflecting 8 percent growth. Said Lewis, "We are not a club; we are an organization that benefits you." Lewis cited the work of Association member Mr. Reimold who is also a member of the State Board of Examiners and is working on their behalf to promote issues like the recovery fund for bonding fees.

Ohio Association Vice President Larry Gardner expressed appreciation at being invited to the seminar and introduced Ohio directors David Jones and Denny Eberhart.

Volunteer Carol Morrison was specially honored by Patterson for many hours donated to the spring auction for which she refused any pay.



Richard Brzuz (left), administrator of the Erie Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children accepts check from Bob Reimold, association member on the state board of examiners. NW Chapter President Wayne Patterson presents check to Esther Klinge representing the Mercer County Crippled Children and Adult Society.

During the day-long seminar, sessions were conducted on wood identification, auction law, anti-trust laws and pooling, real estate auctions, IRS 1987 tax law changes, and computers in the auction business.

In addition, participants had the opportunity during breaks to

examine computer programs designed for the auctioneer displayed by Auto Scan Systems of Lancaster and Lectrosound Equipment displayed by John R. Huey and Sons of North Huntingdon and by Bassinger Auction Service of North Lima, Ohio.

Following the seminar, J. Paul Bassinger auctioned off a "Side kick" portable sound system which was bought by Sherman Allen of Nicholls & Allen for \$220. Total proceeds went to the NW Chapter of the Auctioneers Association.

## Bull Enters

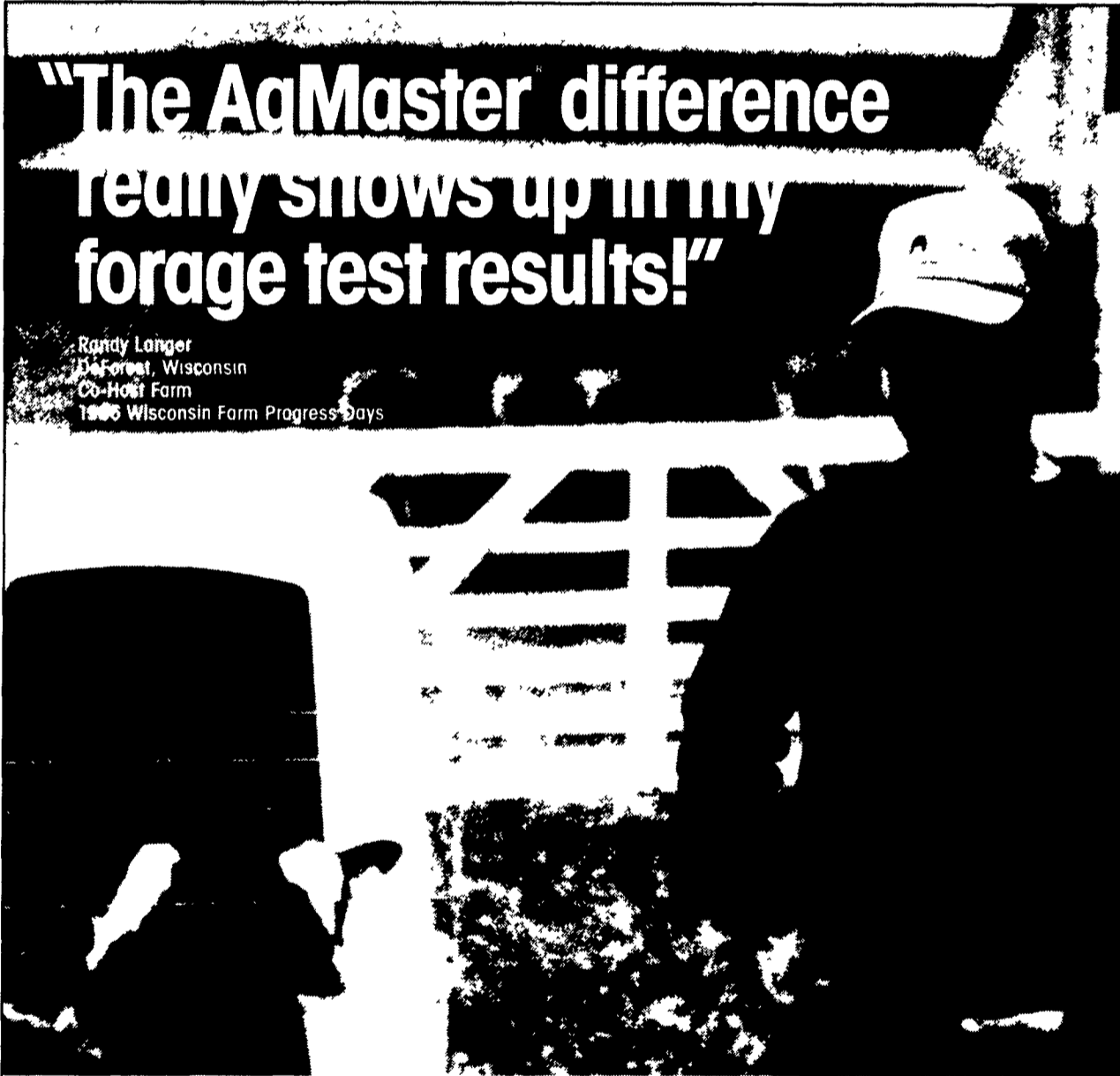
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