

Crawford Honors Good Stewards Of The Land

BY
CAROLYN HILSDON
GILLES

MEADVILLE — After a tureen dinner on Tuesday, November 17, at the Community and Convention Center in Meadville, Robert G. Agnew, Chairman of the Conservation District Directors, called the Annual Meeting to order.

The first presentation of the evening was made by Agnew to honor the Farmer of the Year. The 1987 award, which exists "to honor farmers who are good stewards of the land," was given to Russell and Richard Vosburgh for employing conservation practices in the management of their 420 acre farm

in Oil Creek Township. Accepting the award for himself and his brother, Russell Vosburgh stated that they have always been interested in conservation. According to Vosburgh, former County Extension Agent Russ Mollenauer laid out their first strips and, since then, they have continued to use conservation methods such as contour strips, crop rotations and rye grass for cover on corn. The Vosburgh farm was described as "a showcase and an inspiration."

County Commissioner David Glenn next presented the Teacher of the Year Award to Gerald Knickerbocker of Titusville Area School. The award is made each

year to a teacher who, "in promoting conservation, strives to leave an inheritance of rich natural resources to the next generation." Knickerbocker's efforts have affected 4,000 sixth grade students in an entire school district for a period of 16 years. His program, "Wilderness Quest," is held every fall over a three-week period, during which all sixth grade students in the district are given four days and three nights of outdoor education, including a hunter safety course and speakers from the Forestry Service and Fish Commission.

Knickerbocker accepted the award for outstanding teaching in conservation on behalf of the entire Titusville School District, stating that he was, "grateful to be a part of such a forward looking administration and Board of Directors." Also attending was Titusville Area School Principal John Reagle who commended Knickerbocker's dedication and enthusiasm and stated that recognition for the conservation education project was "long overdue." Ted Perdus of the PA Bureau of Forestry, one of Knickerbocker's resources for the project, testified that there was "no other program like this in the state of Pennsylvania." In an unsolicited testimonial, student Mac Knapp, stood and said of Knickerbocker, "He's good! I had him in sixth grade."

Conservation District Public Director C. Sherman Allen recognized this year's Future Farmers of America students who had placed highly in regional competitions in natural resource categories. Janice

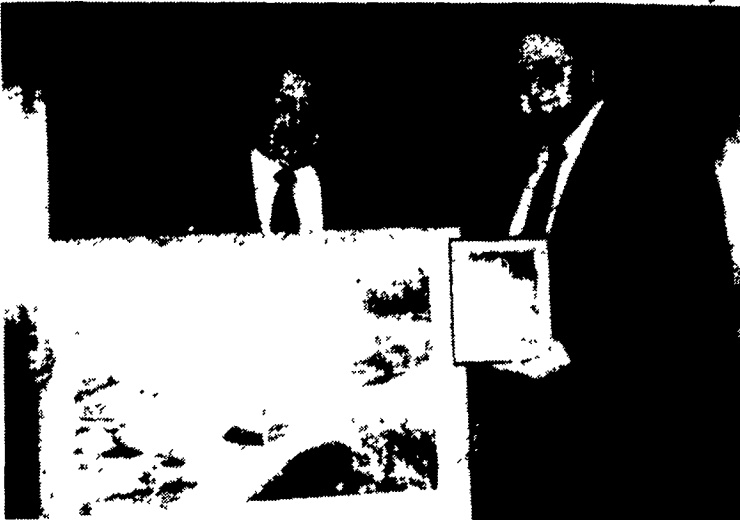
(Turn to Page D28)



Teacher Mary Lou Parry, from left, and student Janice Von Loewe of Conneaut Valley High School were recognized by Conservation District Public Director Sherman Allen for Loewe's placing in the state forestry competition. Absent for the picture, but also honored, was Conneaut Valley Student Lisa Stoneman.



Crawford County Commissioner David Glenn, left, presents the award to Gerald Knickerbocker, Teacher of the Year, for outstanding teaching in conservation. Knickerbocker's program, "Wilderness Quest," has been experienced by 4,000 Titusville sixth grade students over the last 16 years.



Russell Vosburgh, left, accepts the Farmer of the Year Award on his and brother Richard's behalf from Robert G. Agnew, Chairman of the Conservation District Directors. The Vosburghs were honored for conservation practices in the management of their 420 acre farm in Oil Creek Township.

Franklin Coal Sales, Inc.

Spittler Road

Ravine, PA 17966

Exclusive Sales Of Blaschak Coal

PREMIUM

BLASCHAK
COAL CORP.

COMPETITIVE

ANTHRACITE

PRICES



Saint Nicholas
MAHANoy CITY, PA.

For Efficient And Reliable Service

Contact Your Local Hauler Or

CALL (717) 345-8486

New Hours: Mon.-Fri.: 7 AM - 4:30 PM; Saturday: 7 AM-12 Noon