

Farm & Home Board Warned Of Nation's Struggle

BY SALLY BAIR

Lancaster Co. Correspondent
LANCASTER — Four incumbents and three new directors were elected to serve on Board of the Lancaster County Farm and Home Foundation at its annual meeting last Thursday.

Re-elected were: J. Everett Kreider, R.D. 2, Quarryville; Jay E. Landis, Short Lane, Lancaster; Mrs. Bonnie Miller, Landis Valley Road, Lancaster; and Larry H. Skromme, Landis Valley Road, Lancaster.

Newly elected are: Mrs. Carol Henkel, Stively Road, Strasburg; Mrs. Joan Hershey, R.D. 1, Mount Joy; and Mrs. Lilli Ann Kopp, R.D. 3, Mount Joy.

Don and Cheryl Eberly, Lancaster County natives, spoke to the group about their experiences living and working in Washington, D.C. Cheryl, the daughter of David and Mary Buckwalter, worked for three years as an aide to Mrs. Ronald Reagan, and continues working on a "pictorial history" of Mrs. Reagan's years in the White House with the National Archives.

Traveling to Washington occasionally to share her elaborate scrapbooks with Mrs. Reagan, Cheryl says this job "gives this mother at home just the glamour she needs." She and her husband have a pre-school son and daughter.

Working in the East Wing as Deputy Projects Director for the First Lady, Cheryl called her work "exquisite agony."

She explained that it was exquisite in that she was "really feeling the heartbeat of the White House." She had the experience of traveling on Air Force planes, meeting foreign leaders and traveling in limousines as part of motorcades.

The agony was the "enormous workload," and the knowledge that every detail is scrutinized closely. Part of Cheryl's job was helping to answer some of the 100 letters a day that come to Mrs. Reagan. The President, Cheryl said, gets 15,000 letters a day. Mrs. Reagan reads as many of the letters as she can, according to Cheryl, showing a special interest in letters concerning her project on drugs.

Now living in East Hempfield Township in Lancaster County, Don says they both feel that it is "an island of health." The son of John and Pearl Eberly, Don served on the communications staff at the White House, was an aide to Representative Robert Walker, was a member of Jack Kemp's think tank to form the Presidential candidate's policy. Recently finished with a year of study at Harvard, Don is now president of the Commonwealth Foundation, designed to study public policy in Pennsylvania.

In a more serious tone, Don said he feels there is a "contest between two starkly different sets of values" in this country. He said the Judeo-Christian values upon which this country was founded have "come under extreme test in the middle of this century."

Criticizing the trend toward being "value neutral," Don said many have ceased to believe. He also said that the founding fathers felt there should be a free market of competition while men showed self-reliance. Now, he says, the trend is to control the market and show no personal responsibility.

Eberly said further that poverty has been directly related to families not forming, either through single parent families or families



Newly elected directors of the Farm and Home Foundation of Lancaster County include: Seated- Carol Henkel, Strasburg (left), and Bonnie Miller, Lancaster. Standing- Joan Hershey, Mount Joy; Larry Skromme, Lancaster; Jay Landis, Lancaster; and Lilli Ann Kopp, Mount Joy.

breaking up. He said, "Family strength is the surest route to independence." He cited studies that show that fewer than one percent of those who graduate from high school, get a job, and get married, live in poverty.

Eberly credits the eight years of Reagan's leadership to showing a strengthening of values and ideals.

He said, further, that totalitarianism is in retreat around the world. He added that "the hunger of freedom is often felt most keenly by those who don't have it," citing the Berlin Wall as the most powerful symbol in the world of lack of freedom.

He said that the future greatness



Farm and Home Board President Darvin Boyd, right, chats with Don and Cheryl Eberly, Lancaster County natives, who related their experiences working in Washington, D.C. and the White House. They now reside in East Hempfield Township in Lancaster County.

of the United States depends on whose set of values prevails.

County Agent Jay Irwin reported that 267 scholarships totaling \$176,300 have been awarded by the Foundation, and in 1988 there will be 12 scholarships

offered at \$1,000 each to students majoring in home economics and agriculture.

President Darvin Boyd thanked former Directors Sally Bair, Evelyn Crider and Ruth Nissley who chose not to run for re-election.

Lancaster Extension

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Management of U.S.D.A., serving under the supervision of "superintendent of Agricultural Extension" at The Pennsylvania State College. The Pennsylvania legislature passed a bill allowing county commissioners to authorize funds up to \$1500 for Agricultural Extension work in 1913, and it was in 1914 that the Smith-Lever Act was passed, providing funds on a national level.

That was the beginning of the three-way relationship which makes the "cooperative" Extension Service a unique venture in providing broad-based education. Funding continues to be provided from the state and federal governments through Penn State University, and on a county level through the County Commissioners. It's mission is to get the results of research and education at the University level to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Today the Extension Service in Lancaster County is strongly supported by the County Commissioners, but in 1938 the executive committee decided to ask the Commissioners for \$3500, after they said they would only budget \$2500.

From the beginning, an executive committee was organized in the county to provide leadership to the county agent, and extension work was done through the Farm Bureau. The Farm Bureau - Extension connection continued until 1923. As Farm Bureau became more involved in marketing, it was felt that the strictly educational Extension Service should go its own way.

Minutes show that the executive committee noted that the split was not made because of bad feelings, but for the good of Extension. It was at that time the Lancaster County Cooperative Extension Association was formed. It is that Board of Directors that continues to lead Extension today.

Dutch Bucher had his work cut out for him, as he tried to show that Extension could offer help to everyone. Bucher's knowledge of Pennsylvania Dutch was consid-

ered a great advantage in working with the local farmers.

Reminiscing on his work in 1963, the 50th anniversary of his appointment to Lancaster County, Dutch recalled, "We used to tell farmers how to make two blades of grass where one grew before, but nowadays the young agents have to find what to do with that extra blade."

Getting around the county was not easy, and when Bucher explained the difficulty to the Executive Committee he was advised "to use the trolleys to best advantage and hire a livery team to more remote places." Shortly afterward he purchased a horse for his work, but when an automobile was considered the motion was "deferred to some time later." In 1914, Bucher purchased the motorcycle which became his trademark.

He became a well known sight, speeding around the county on his motorcycle. And he became well respected, and well loved. A comment in the minutes of February 12, 1942, stated, "Mr. Bucher shortened his report considerably but every Lancaster County farmer knows he is virtually an encyclopedia on almost any phase of farm activity."

In October, 1916, Bucher reported to the Board that he has visited 311 farms, held 20 meetings with 2,330 in attendance, gave 9 demonstration meetings and distributed 1125 letters. He also said he traveled 655 miles by rail and 5,412 miles by "motor."

Dutch Bucher set the standard for the many extension agents who would follow him, including Harry Sloat who was hired in 1921 and M. Max Smith, hired in 1937. Eventually, Smith became the longest tenured county agent, by serving 44 years in a county that he came to love.

The minutes reflected agents' attention to problems such as pests and insects, soils, brucellosis and increased production. There was also time spent attracting farmers' interest in a "cow testing association."

Home economist Anne Forbes

was hired in 1922, and proceeded to work with homemakers in helping them with better home management, child development, infant care and nutrition.

Both the agents and the home economists worked at establishing youth activities, and the corn clubs and "round-ups" gained interest from neighboring counties. The corn clubs eventually became 4-H project clubs, and in 1924 Home Economist Forbes reported to the Extension Board that "90 girls were engaged in some kind of club work." She also reported working with kitchen arrangements and home furnishings. One of her interests was promoting safe home water supplies.

Today Extension continues to provide the community with the latest in research, both in agricul-

ture and in family living.

The advent of the computer, and its accessibility to farmers and homemakers alike, has enabled farmers to take an even better look at their operations. Through Pen-Pages, countians are able to link directly with computers at the University to have up-to-the-minute information in a wide variety of fields.

Lancaster County Extension has helped to keep the Garden Spot a leader in agriculture and continues to provide guidance in family living programs and 4-H that are available to all the citizens of the county. It has adapted to tremendous change throughout the twentieth century and continues to face the challenge as it moves toward the twenty-first century, serving all of Lancaster County.

Wolfhope Reigns As Hereford Queen



Tawnya Wolfhope (left) of Schellsburg has been crowned the Pennsylvania Polled Hereford queen for this year and Kristin Pettit, Sycamore, will serve as princess. The two received these honors January 12, at the Pennsylvania Farm Show. Wolfhope, 17, is involved at school with S.A.D.D., F.B.L.A., Library Club, track and is on the year-book staff. She is also a member of the Beef Rustlers 4-H Club. At age 14, Pettit is active in volleyball, girls softball, Beta, Spanish Club and is the girls basketball manager. As a 4-H member, Pettit is on the county 4-H council.