

Lancaster Extension Looks Back On 75 Years

BY
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and

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
LANCASTER - It was a time for reminiscing and reflection as the Lancaster County Cooperative Extension Association held its annual meeting Thursday night, celebrating 75 years of providing Extension education to the citizens of Lancaster County.

The most popular part of the program was a slide presentation filled with nostalgic pictures of Extension programs over the years as well as an update on how the modern Extension Service meets the needs of the community.

The 230 people in attendance were clearly impressed by the part of the narration, which included excerpts from tapes of Floyd "Dutch" Bucher, recalling his early years in Lancaster County. Bucher was the first county agent

here, appointed in 1913.

On the tape, now part of the archives at Penn State University, Bucher recalls using the trolley, saddle horses and a bicycle to get around in his first year as a means of keeping down expenses. In 1914, he purchased a motorcycle to help him get around faster, and it was this motorcycle which became a trademark for Bucher. On tape, he admitted that in those early years he sometimes rode his motorcycle through the countryside so that people would see him and think that he was busy and, therefore, had something to offer.

Bucher said he often helped farmers with whatever chore they were doing to show that he was a "dirt farmer" and not just a "book farmer, as they accused me of being."

Bucher also reminisced that he was given \$2,200, which was expected to pay the cost of operating the Extension Service for three years.

Retired county agent Max Smith and county Extension director Jay Irwin also narrated parts of the slide show to show programs now being carried out in agriculture, family living and 4-H.

Dr. Wayne Schutjer, associate director of the Cooperative Extension Service at Penn State, brought greetings from the University, saying, "This is a real treat for me to see the depths of tradition in this county."

Schutjer also thanked the members of the state legislature who helped make possible the additional \$5 million, which Schutjer said will help us "rebuild our Extension

Service." The money will be used to hire more people at the county level, more specialists, offer more

travel budgets and upgrade equipment. Schutjer said, "It provides a (Turn to Page A39)



Representative John Barley (left) presents official commendation to Master Farmer John Brubaker.



Newly-elected directors are (L to R): John Groff, northeast; William Dean Jr., southeast; Connie Rutt, southern and Dale Hershey, northwest.



(L to R) Lilli Ann Kopp, president; Jay Irwin, county agent and Arnold Lueck, retired county agent. Irwin and Lueck received Nittany Lion statuettes in recognition of their service to agriculture.

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