



Three generations of McClintocks hosted the Sullivan County Twilight Meeting. From left are Earl McClintock, son Wayne and his wife, Helen, and their daughter Sally, the 1987 Sullivan County dairy princess.

Twilight Meeting Introduces Nonfarm People To Farming Life

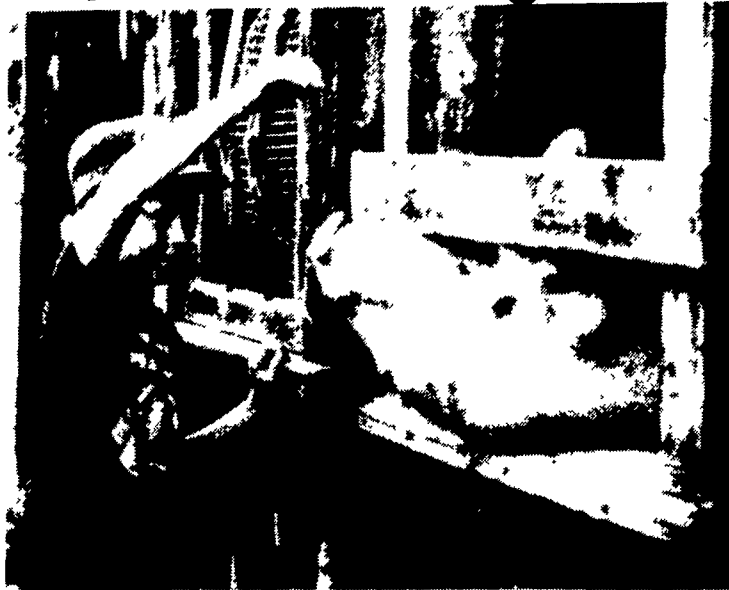
BY BARBARA MILLER
Lycoming Co. Correspondent
MUNCY VALLEY (Sullivan)
— It was twilight and the smell of freshly mown hay scented the air the evening of June 14 at the Wayne McClintock farm near Muncy Valley. The annual Sullivan County Twilight Meeting, sponsored by the June Dairy Festival Committee and Sire Power, was in progress.

The 65 guests were seated outside on hay bales arranged in semi-circles around a microphone perched atop two hay bales positioned in front of a wire corn crib. To the rear, providing the younger set with additional seating, was a half-filled hay wagon. Speakers talked, but were not always heard above the mooing of the cows, bawling of the calves, or the noise of passing traffic.

According to Mary Lambert, a member of the Dairy Festival Committee, for the past 20 years it has been a custom in Sullivan County to have a twilight meeting at the farm of the current dairy princess. Sally McClintock, McClintock's daughter, is this year's Sullivan County dairy princess.

The purpose of the twilight meeting, is to introduce nonfarm people to farming life as well as give the farming community a chance to get a closer look at an area farm, and, of course, to promote the dairy industry.

Before everyone settled down on the hay bales for the evening's program, ample time was given to explore the barn and cast a vote in various contests such as cattle judging and guessing the weight of a calf.



Frank Sperry, son of Roy Sperry from Muncer Valley, cautiously attempts to pet a pig.

Featured speaker for the evening was Paul Nichols, industry relations manager of the American Dairy Association (ADA), who just recently returned from a trip to Holland and Switzerland. In a short speech he noted it was appropriate that the twilight meeting was held on Flag Day. In this country, he said, we have the freedom to enjoy agriculture and dairy farming and although we have some restrictions, we are not hampered by a lot of regulations.

Here, he said, farmers can make decisions about the number of animals they keep and the amount of milk they can get their cows to produce. Whereas in Holland he visited a farm where the barn was only half full of cows because the government places quotas on the amount of manure they can spread per acre.

This is necessary, he explained, because the Netherlands is a low country and well saturated with water and doesn't absorb material very well. But, he added, farmers are definitely hampered by it.

In conclusion, he noted that ADA is a program of advertising and nutrition education and commended the dairy princess program "because these young ladies have opened many doors and reached young people whereas others of us could not."

Next to take the podium was host and his family, which included his father, Earl, wife, Helen, and daughter, Sally. It is tradition at the twilight meeting for the host farmer to tell a little about his farm and field questions about farming from the audience.

According to McClintock the farm has been in their family for five generations. Although not officially listed as a century farm, the place was settled more than a hundred years ago by Wayne's great grandfather Lafayette McClintock. They keep a herd of 46 Holsteins and milk about 28 according to McClintock and farm about 200 acres of rented and owned land. McClintock also runs a construction business.

In answer to a question about how long they've been selling milk, the elder McClintock shared his memories on the evolution of storing milk on a dairy farm. He replied he could remember when they had a cement trough in the milk house and put up ice to cool the milk with. Later they pur-



Leanne Hennip and her mother, Mrs. Gary Hennip of Springville, consider petting the pigs.

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