

# York Society of Farm Women Observe 50th Anniversary



Past presidents of the York Society of Farm Women were recognized during the group's 50th anniversary convention. Seated, from left, are Genet Sellers, Grace Krout, and Mary Carman. Second row, from left, are Susan Lehman, Nedra Graybeal, Marie Smyser, Anna Mae Snyder, Arlene Miller, and state president Edith Diehl. Back, from left, are Treva Whorl, Mary Hoffman, Ruth Santiago, Pat Sechrist, and Naomi Bupp.



Hazel Lighty, second from left, accepts the president's gavel from Susan Lehman. Officers serving under Mrs. Lighty will be secretary Peggy Spiese, left, and treasurer Anna Reichard, right. Absent from the photo are first and second vice-presidents, Barbara Malehorn and Carolyn Neal.

**BY JOYCE BUPP**

**York Co. Correspondent**  
YORK (York Co.)— York County's Society of Farm Women celebrated its 50th anniversary last week, marking the half-century milestone by continuing what has become a tradition -- helping others.

Highlight of the Farm Women's annual county convention November 2 at Wisheaven Hall was the presentation of three \$1,000 contributions to York area charitable organizations. Recipients of the checks were York Special Olympics, the Margaret Moul Home for the Cerebral Palsied, and York Salvation Army. Checks were presented during the meeting to representatives of the organizations by York Farm Women president Susan Lehman.

In her combined group report, second vice-president Hazel Lighty, reported additional contributions through the past year, totaling more than \$7,700 from the 33 active York Farm Women societies to charities and community organizations.

To mark the society's golden anniversary, 13 of the former county presidents attending the convention briefly reviewed

accomplishments and highlights of their two-year terms. York County's Society of Farm Women was founded on March 6, 1939, by and at the York farm home of Mabel Rishel. Mrs. Rishel, long honored as the "mother" of York County Farm Women, died earlier this year.

Other deceased members of the past year honored during a memorial service were Blanche Sechrist, Group 2; Margaret Weire, Group 3; Mary May, Group 4; Ruth Trout, Group 5; Margaret Baker, Group 8; Helen Beard, Group 10; Romaine Midwig, Group 11; Carrie Chronister, Group 12; Verna Dayhoff, Group 14; and Odessa May Snyder, Group 21.

Tribute was also paid to the 75th anniversary of the Pennsylvania Society of Farm Women, being celebrated this year.

On October 11, 1914, a dozen of Mrs. Black's friends and neighbors met at the Black's Holland Farms home in Somerset County. Largely from German extraction, the Somerset farm women named their fledgling organization "Die Hausfrauen," changed in 1917 to The Society of Farm Women.

Recently, through cooperation

of Somerset area historic groups and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, a highway historic marker commemorating Flora Black's founding of the Society of Farm Women was unveiled. The marker will be placed near the site of that first Farm Women meeting.

Officers of the York County Farm Women for the next two years are Hazel Lighty, president; Barbara Malehorn, first vice-president; Carolyn Neal, second vice-president; Peggy Spiese, secretary; and Anna Reichard, treasurer.

County youth project for the year was a poster contest based on the theme of relating farm life to city neighbors. Winners were Andy Glenn and Erica Webb. Three societies were honored for meeting attendance, with Group 8 placing first; Group 32, second; and Group 11, third.

Edith Diehl, state Farm Women president, announced two recipients of the state Farm Women scholarships. Karen Marteeny, Somerset County, is attending Indiana State University; and Sonja Miller, Dauphin County, is a Penn State student.

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