

Gehl Breaks Ground In Lebanon

LEBANON (Lebanon Co.)—Land that was used for farming this year will be producing

agricultural equipment by next year's planting season if all goes according to plans for Gehl Com-

pany's new facility. Gehl with headquarters in West Bend, Wisconsin, broke ground here Tuesday

afternoon for a new 170,000 square-foot facility for manufacturing agricultural equipment on 25 acres of land located southeast of Lebanon, off State Drive and north of Route 419. The plant is expected to be operational by mid-1991.

Bernard Nielsen, president and chief executive officer, told the tent full of dignitaries that the ground-breaking marked a new era in the history of the Gehl Company.

"Only five years ago, the agricultural equipment industry was faced with a severe depression," Nielsen said. "At that point, we made a strategic decision to take advantage of the opportunities and invest in the future of agriculture and our business. Over the past five years we have expanded our business from \$39 million in 1985 to a

projected \$175 million this year through the development and acquisition of many new products."

One of those acquisitions was the Hedland Martin Manufacturing Company located in Myerstown. And it was this contact with Pennsylvania and its workforce that eventually brought Gehl to this area.

"The fact that this historic ground breaking is happening here in Lebanon is a real tribute to our Pennsylvania people," Nielsen said. "Quite frankly, Pennsylvania did not initially surface as the best location for our first World Class facility. But with their hard work and dedication, our employees here convinced us that they had what it takes to be World Class and the desire to actively contribute to our success. We are here today because of their efforts."

Nielsen also credited the Governor's Response Team, the State Department of Commerce, Lebanon Valley Economic Development Corporation and other state and local agencies with help.

Participating with Nielsen in the ceremony were: Ray Christman, secretary of commerce and executive director of the Pennsylvania Economic Development Partnership; Bary Blinka, vice president and general manager, Gehl Agricultural Division; Carl Just, general plant manager, Gehl Lebanon Facility; Congressman Robert Walker; Rose Marie Swanger, Lebanon County Commissioner; William Hendrick, Chairman, Lebanon Valley Economic Development Committee; Paul Krause, South Lebanon Township Supervisor; and Michael Heagy, Employee Representative, Gehl Lebanon Facility.



At ground breaking ceremonies for Gehl Company's new 170,000 square-foot facility in Lebanon.

NAME: Darryl Gross
 TITLE: Executive Loan Officer
 Lancaster Branch
 EDUCATION: Ag Business degree from Penn State
 FARMING BACKGROUND: Raised on family dairy farm in Lebanon County
 BANKING BACKGROUND: 10 years experience with Farm Credit in Lebanon and Lancaster Counties



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