

Berks Countians 'Hoe-Down' At 4-H Jamboree

CONNIE LEINBACH
Berks Co. Correspondent
READING (Berks Co.) — There may have been a lot of puzzled faces, but every one of the Berks Countians who tried hoe-down dancing was smiling last Saturday night at the 4-H "Raise the Roof Jamboree."

The event, held in the 4-H building at the Berks County Agricultural Center, marked the kickoff of the the last phase of a fund-raising campaign to build a 10,000 square foot pole barn beside the show ring.

Rick Kauffman, Penn State extension agent and 4-H coordinator, was pleased with the big turnout. There were about 300 advanced ticket sales, he said, and about 125 showed up at the door.

"It went beyond our expectations," he said, adding that Saturday evening was so much fun that the 4-H advisory committee would like to have another hoe down. "People are really hungry for it," he said about the wholesome, family fun.

The Blue Marsh Jiggers began the hoe-down with a demonstration, clicking their tap-shoe clad feet to the rhythms plucked by the Blue Mountain Gang.

Caller Keith Brintzenhoff took the jiggers through an intricate series of steps, much to the delight of the crowd.

Then, Brintzenhoff called on the spectators to form squares so that

they could begin dancing.

"How many of you have done this before?" he asked. There was a show of hands. "Then we'll start out with an easy one and take you through it first," he said.

Couples went through the steps for the figure eight dance, and after the music began, there was a lot of laughter as the dancers tried to comply with the instructor.

One square of dancers toward the back of the dance floor just stood there swaying to the beat of the music, sometime swinging each other around, but mostly looking to the stage.

"We're lost," said Kenneth Leiby, one of the members of that group, with a grin and a laugh.

Leiby, a general auctioneer from Hamburg R.D. 2, was the volunteer auctioneer for the evening of the many items gathered by volunteers for sale at the jamboree.

For sale were feed, farm implements, Winross trucks, an autographed pennant from the Hershey

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Kenneth Leiby, auctioneer; Ruth Hartman, 4-H development board member; and Mike Firestone and Mary Ann Keith, of Lebanon Valley National Bank, get ready for the auction at the 4-H Raise the Roof Jamboree in the 4-H Building of the Berks County Agriculture Center.

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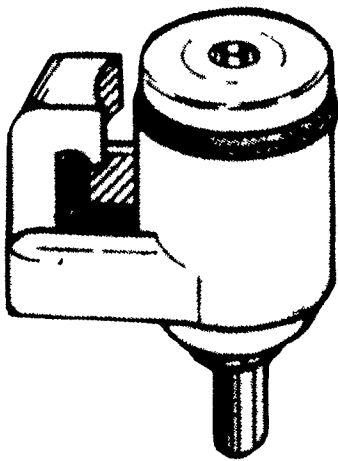
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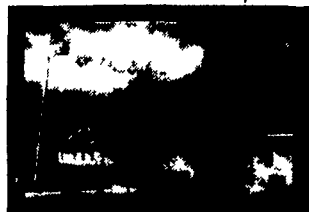
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