

Merlinda Tercha Named National Grange Outstanding Female Agriculturalist of the Year

MERTZTOWN (Berks Co.) — Melinda Tercha was named National Grange Outstanding Female Agriculturalist of the Year at the National Grange Convention held recently at Burlington, Vermont.

Melinda Tercha of Mertztown and her husband, Robert, are members of Pioneer Grange #1777 in Topton. Chosen from contestants representing various parts of the United States, the award is given for active involvement in Community Service, personal achievements, and commitment to the grange and agriculture. Besides all the active involvement in these areas, each contestant is also required to write a 700-word essay on "My Contribution to the Agricultural Industry."

Melinda has been a busy member of Pioneer Grange since 1975. She has served on the Community Service committee helping needy families, Longswamp Days, fundraising projects, and in various offices throughout the past 16 years.

Melinda and Robert attend Bowers UCC Church where Melinda currently serves on the choir and also as a deacon on church

council. Melinda currently fills the office of reporter for the Kutztown Area Young Farmers Chapter. She has been active on the state level by attending conventions and serving on spokesperson and photography committees.

Melinda has achieved many awards in her favorite hobby of photography. She enters competition in local fairs, state and national grange, and various farm publication contests. Her photos have won money, appeared on magazine covers, and won a trip. In addition to photography, she has won awards in poetry, short stories, and all types of crafts. In 1987, Melinda and Robert were awarded the Granger of the Year Award in their local Grange.

Melinda and Robert are in partnership with Robert's parents on a 500-acre grain operation. Crops planted on the acreage include corn, wheat, alfalfa and soybeans. Melinda is currently attending Lehigh County Community College to receive an associate degree in early childhood education. Melinda is well known for her promotion of agriculture and for her interest in preservation of the family farm.



Named National Grange Outstanding Female Agriculturalist of the Year, Merlinda Tercha shows off one of her many talents for which she has been nationally recognized.



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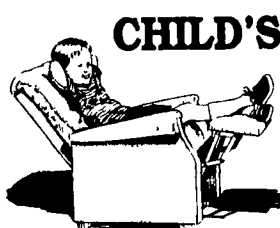
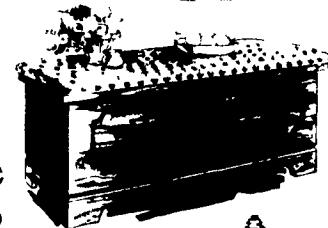
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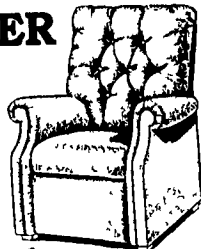
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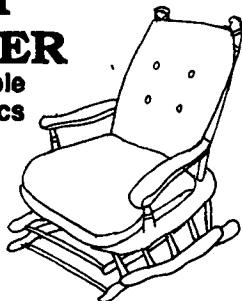
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