94-Year-Old Remembers Fairs Of Yesterday

LINDA WILLIAMS **Bedford Co. Correspondent** BEDFORD (Bedford Co.) ---Elmer Hillegass, 94, has been attending the Bedford County Fair for about 80 years.

"I can remember when the night before going to the fair was the longest night of the year," says this now retired farmer.

Elmer remembers when he used to ride to the train station near Manns Choice in a wagon pulled by a team of horses. There, he would catch an old "iron horse,"

Food For Folks Over 55

WEST CHESTER (Chester Co.) --- Food for Folks Over 55 will be presented Wednesday, September 23, 7:00-9:00 p.m. by Penn State Cooperative Extension's Health & Nutrition Agent, Marlene O. Nash, Registered Dictitian, at Henderson High School, Lincoln & Montgomery Avenues, West Chester, as part of the Chester County Adult School-Night. This class will look at the nutritional needs of older adults, provide a nutritional assessment

and cover topics including food safety, cooking for one or two, and modified diets. Low-fat refreshments will be served. This program will also be held on Wednesday, October 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m., as part of the Unionville Evening School. For further information, contact the Chester County Adult School-Night, P.O. Box 235, West Chester, PA 19380 or Unionville Evening School, 740 Unionville Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348. for Bedford and the big fair. "The whole procedure took

about three hours," he remembers. "But, it was the most exciting day of the year."

He also remembers Heckerman's Drug Store. The local pharmacy had a monkey in the window and he and his brother used to sneak off to look at it.

Elmer continued going to the fair until he was old enough to take his girl friend along, still traveling by carriage to the train, and then into Bedford.

"I hauled her around for 10 years before I decided to marry her," he smiles. They were married for 40 years and have two daughters.

"Everything was about the same then as it is now," he smiles. "There was plenty to eat and lots of animals and displays. There weren't as many rides. But, there was a merry-go-round and a ferris wheel."

"A whole family could go to the fair for a couple of dollars," Hillegass recalls.

Hillegass has lived and farmed most of his life in Bedford County.

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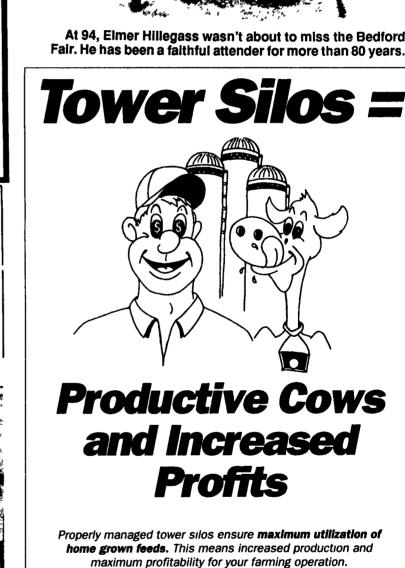
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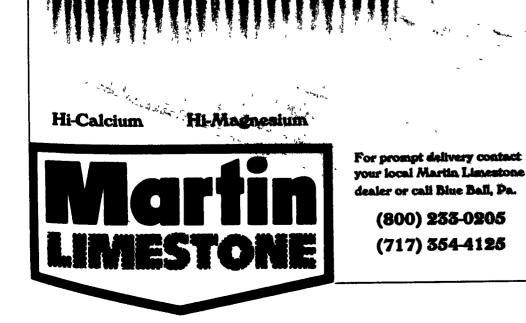
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At 94, Elmer Hillegass wasn't about to miss the Bedford Fair. He has been a faithful attender for more than 80 years.



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