

Rural Youth Observe 55th Anniversary

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atheistic country, it's difficult to know where to begin to help them.

Bettie Kile Buckwalter, Lititz, led the group in singing the old familiar folk songs of Rural Youth days, assisted by a group of 10 supportive members.

Martha Stoner and Julia Moore Zahn, West Chester, spoke briefly on "What RYLC Meant to Me". It was mentioned that moral and spiritual values were evident, as well as wholesome recreation.

The Newzette was the monthly newsletter published by the members and mailed to all Rural Youth members. Roy Brubaker reviewed a number of interesting facts about the newsletter. The first one was printed in December 1939. It cost 1¢ to mail the 6-to-8 page Newzette. Each month the front cover

featured a calendar showing the events for that month. There were various clubs — dramatics, craft clubs, photography, discussion clubs, leadership training, and work projects. Rural Youth formed an orchestra that played for various functions, put on plays in area high schools, operated a co-op seed service and grocery store, went on trips, had roller skating parties, box socials, and square dances. Wonderful weekends were spent at Camp Grebel, Lebanon County.

Rural Youth of Lancaster County was in existence from 1937 until 1952 when other interests, such as home and families, claimed members' time and priorities. But members say, while it lasted it was one of the most fulfilling, uplifting, educational, and

fun-filled organizations that ever existed. According to one who has kept records since its inception, 66 people met their spouses through Rural Youth activities, 32 of

whom attended the reunion Saturday night.

The planning committee for the reunion included: Hazel and Henry Reist, Grace Rodman, Jake

Reapsome, Samuel Shenk and Martha Jane and Roy Brubaker. Samuel Shenk was master of ceremonies and the photographer was Donald Reist.



Some of the charter members of Rural Youth of Lancaster County who attended the 55th anniversary are, from left: Lloyd Lefever, East Petersburg; Jacob Reapsome, Lancaster; Milton Brubaker, Lititz; Harold Risser, Mohrsville; Grace Nolt Rodman, Columbia; Martha Jane Reist Brubaker, Lititz; Mark Hess, Lancaster; Roy Brubaker, Lititz.

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