

# Farm And Home

(Continued from Page A1)  
for \$1,000 scholarships to be applied toward agricultural and family living degrees.

Scholarship money is generated by the scholarship trust set up by the late Elmer L. Esbenshade and the late Levi H. Brubaker. To date, 331 scholarships have been awarded with a total value of \$240,300.

## Opportunities in Albania

Three members of the Foundation told the audience about the opportunities that they found in other countries to establish 4-H and agriculture programs.

Jay Irwin, retired extension director, reported on his work in Albania, considered the most backward country in Europe. Although it is 80 percent mountains, the country has some of the best farm land in Europe. Irwin showed slides of people planting one seed at a time with homemade hoes. Donkeys and small horses were used to haul supplies.

"Albania looks a lot like it is in the 15th century," Irwin said.

It is plagued with 80 percent unemployment and average incomes of \$20 a month. Because the country had been ruled by a tight dictatorship until 1991, many of the older people are skeptical of Americans, unlike the younger generation who is eager to learn all they can from them. Part of the reason for the fear results from a dictator who convinced the people that Americans would invade Albania. To protect it, he had 360,000 bunkers built. These are almost everywhere and would be useless in face

of an actual war. While there, Irwin worked with VOCA to teach programs about organizing farmer's co-operatives.

It does not rain in July and August, so the land must be irrigated. While Irwin and his team were in Albania, they could find no water to purchase and running water was seldom available in the city. The team needed to brush their teeth in Pepsi.

The people, Irwin said, were friendly and pleaded for Americans to come help their country.

## Poland

Connie Rutt reported on her work in helping set up 4-H programs in Poland for three weeks. Although Zoann Parker, 4-H Extension agent and other Penn State extension workers have worked in Poland, Connie was the first volunteer leader to work with students and teachers.

It was hard to change the ideas of the older generation because they have been oppressed and the country has been demolished so often, Connie said. One big difference between Poland and the U.S. is that students, when finished with primary school, choose a career they would like to work in and then attend technical boarding schools to be trained academically but not with hands-on activities.

Connie spent five days each with several different schools to teach the students about free enterprise, western style cooperatives, and marketing skills. She and her team stressed leadership and decision skills and had the students practice parliamentary procedure.

Although cows were milked



The seven newly-elected directors of the Farm and Home Foundation include, front, Mary Jane Bomberger and Richard Haas. Back, from left: Harold Rohrer, Larry Weaver, Robert Zook, Edward Hess, and Kenneth Rutt.

twice a day, the team drank no fresh milk during their stay because the milk sets out for hours without refrigeration. Farmers receive only 10 cents per liter of milk so they find it more economical to feed the milk to pigs.

"There is a big necessity for the people to learn how to care for milk," Connie said.

At the farms Connie visited, the pigs ran loose and the cows were tied by their horns. The cows are black and white but appear to be a cross between beef cattle and a cow rather than a Holstein.

## Russia

John Wolgemuth went with a team of five to help set up a model farm in Russia. To their chagrin, when they arrived, they were offered a 30,000 acre farm, which they refused.

During the stay, the team toured an experimental farm and a feed mill, which had 480 employees. Wolgemuth estimated that a mill of that operation should have employed only 50 people.

"The main thing I learned during my visit is that it doesn't need to make sense," Wolgemuth said of Russia's methods of doing things. "Everything is subsidized."

He was alarmed to hear that only 30 percent of the food produced in Russia reaches the consumer; the other 70 percent is wasted.

According to Wolgemuth, the government seems unstable at this point, and the team was advised not to invest any money until the government is stabilized.

Wolgemuth found that professors and leaders were eager to discuss biblical teachings.

A professor told Wolgemuth, "What you're offering with Jesus Christ and biblical values is what we need. We need to know how to live."

Newly-elected officers include the following: Mrs. Martha Jane Bomberger, Elm; Richard Haas,

Lancaster; Edward Hess, Leola; Harold Rohrer, Lancaster; Larry R. Weaver, New Holland; Kenneth Rutt, Quarryville; and Robert Zook, Lancaster.

In addition to Rutt, who is president, other officers include Robert Zook, vice president; Lilli Ann Kopp, secretary; and Richard Haas, treasurer.

In other business, treasurer Richard Haas reported a net income of \$16,553 for the Foundation. He noted that 1992 was the first full year the Farm and Home Center has been heated by gas. It cost \$26,000 compared to \$35,000 in 1991 and \$40,000 in 1990.

Landscape renovations are completed. A landscape open house last year attracted 300 persons. Due to the interest, a pansy open house is planned for the spring and a perennial and annuals open house in the fall.



From left, John Wolgemuth and Connie Rutt laugh with Jay Irwin as they share their impressions of opportunities for 4-H and agriculture services in Russia, Poland, and Albania.

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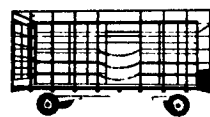
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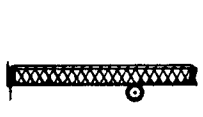
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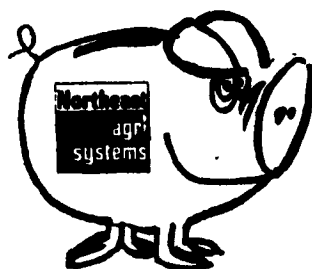
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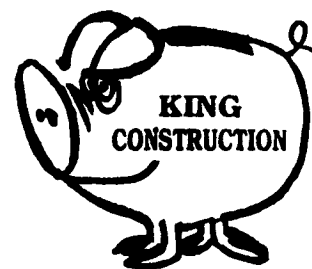
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