

Farm-City Activities

(Continued from Page A30)

princesses and kings, 4-H and FFA displays, Lebanon County Farm Women's Society bake sale, dog power display, Farm-City balloons, coloring contest, dairy promotion, pork cutting demonstration, an antique tractor display, Mister and Miss Farm-City contest, a cow patty drop contest with funds to go to the adopted Midwest flood-stricken community Chelsea, Iowa, etc.

There was also, on Nov. 15, a senior citizens toure of farming operations in the county, visiting the Eastern Land and Cattle Company, a steer operation run by Lee and Elene Hitz, the James Light poultry farm, and the Ricki and Roberta Bashore dairy farm.

A farmer's tour of businesses, focusing on environmental concerns that businesses in the county have to consider, was done especially in light of the state passing Nutrient Management Act.

The tour took 40 farmers to the Lebanon Valley College, then to the Fort Indiantown Gap military reserve, where the general talked to the group, explaining the function of the facility, its environmental concerns, and then a tour of the post.

The group got to see upclose, the post's multi-million dollar tankwash operation with its recycled water and oil separation system; the fuel handling techniques used for gassing up aircraft, etc.

Then the group, guided by William Freis, park manager for both Memorial State Park, located near the Gap, and the Swatara State Park, which is to be the site of a proposed impoundment of the Swatara Creek.

Freis discussed the size of the

park, its characteristics, highlights and natural wonders, such as fossil sites, and the proposed dam site and what it would inundate.

The trip was capped by a talk by state Sen. David "Chip" Brightbill, R-Palmyra, for whom the proposed dam project has been a dream, going back to when it was first proposed, and he and his father had built a boat that they were to use on the lake.

Brightbill still has the boat, though its been years since it was built, and he said he would like to

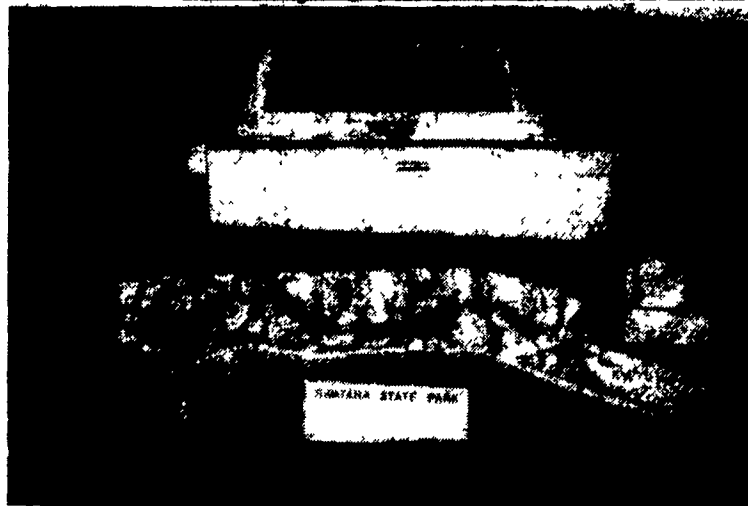
see the dam become reality.

There was also a businessman's tour of farms, going to Hershey Bare's dairy operation, located north of the Lebanon city, then to Wengert's Dairy, a local well-known fluid milk and butter processor.

And also this year, Gerald and Connie Hoffer, of Anville, had donated the use of a cornfield for a project by the Lebanon Valley College to make a large maze. Local and regional media had given the project a lot of coverage



From the right, Barbara Grumbine presents a Century Farm Award to Mr. and Mrs. Grant Krall, as part of the Lebanon County Farm-City Banquet.



From the left, Bill Fries, park manager for Memorial and Swatara state parks, talks with state Sen. David Brightbill about the proposed project. The map in the foreground is a three-dimensional model of how the proposed park will appear.

earlier in the year, and when it came time to provide a Farm-City tour for school children, the maze was one of the stops.

Numerous agricultural businesses helped, numerous nonagricultural businesses also provided support for the annual events.

The culmination, of Farm-City Week is the county's banquet, during which those involved in the work-exchange projects tell of their experiences to the crowd — what they learned, how they felt, the respect they gained, and the new friends that they made.

In addition to the Wagners' experience, Dennis and Karen Shalters, who run an insurance and investment firm, exchanged jobs with Cliff and Fay Berger, of Fredericksburg.

Farm-City Week is annually scheduled to lead into Thanksgiving, in order to bring out an awareness of the true meaning of the holiday and to generate an appreciation, and a glue, for the various elements of the community.

However, proponents of Farm-City Week activities say the effort must never stop.

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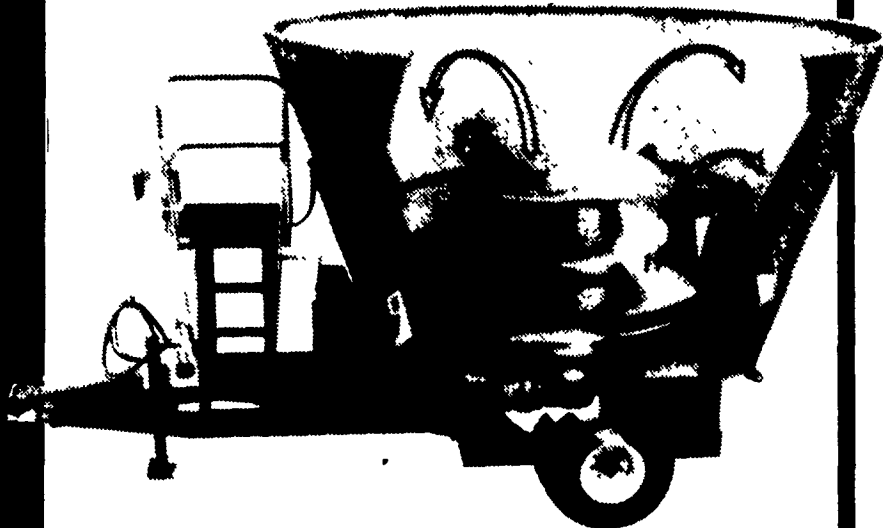
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