

(Continued from Page A20) note address. He will discuss the board's activities and explain how representatives of dairy farmers effectively and efficiently plan

promotional activities. Board Treasurer Robert Gehman, from Coopersburg, will offer an overview of Pennsylvania Dairy's financial statements.

The meeting will feature the announcement of the 1993 "Promoter of the Year." Promotions' Committee Chairman Harold Shaulis, from Somerset, is to recognize the

winner as well as several finalists for the award. Each year, outstanding volunteer dairy promoters are nominated and considered for this prestigious award.

Reservations for the meeting and buffet luncheon are required. Interested persons should contact Jennifer Dobyns, at Pennsylvania Dairy (717) 787-6903.

## Tree Growers To Honor Family

HALIFAX (Dauphin Co.) — The John Hommer Family, originally from Glasgow, Cambria County, will be honored for more than 50 years of work on behalf of the Christmas tree industry in the commonwealth, at the Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers Association's (PCTGA) annual meeting January 14, in Carlisle.

The award will be presented by Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Boyd E. Wolff and officers of the grower's association. Mrs. John (Genevieve) Hommer, New Cumberland, will accept the award on behalf of the family.

The Hommer family joined the association in 1954 as one of the first members in the then "infant" association which had been formed a few years before. The Hommer's lumber business in Glasgow, Pa., Cambria County, had already been going strong since 1864 when J.H. Hommer purchased 1,000 acres of timber.

The Hommer Family continued the lumber business throughout several family generations and in 1992 planted their first Christmas trees. The first Christmas trees were sold in 1930. At the peak of their Christmas tree business, the family had 10 farms with more than one million Christmas trees planted.

John Hommer (deceased) was elected to the association's board of directors in 1964 and served two three-year terms on the board. Along with his work for the Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers, Hommer served as chairman of the Agricultural Advisory Committee and the Pennsylvania State Council of Farm Organizations.

"In the family's early years of growing Christmas trees, they perfected — through trial and error and much diligent work — the art of growing pines and other varieties for Pennsylvania conditions and helped bring the Christmas tree industry to its high standard of quality," according to Melissa Nelson, PCTGA executive secretary.

Throughout the 1950s to the present, the family demonstrated how to grow trees on reclaimed coal mine areas and how to fertilize Christmas tree varieties for best growth, said Nelson.

The family shared the "how-tos" of Christmas tree growing with many other growers from across the state and helped make Pennsylvania one of the leading producers of top quality trees in the nation. The family hosted the PCTGA summer meeting in 1973 and attended many National Christmas Tree Association meetings.

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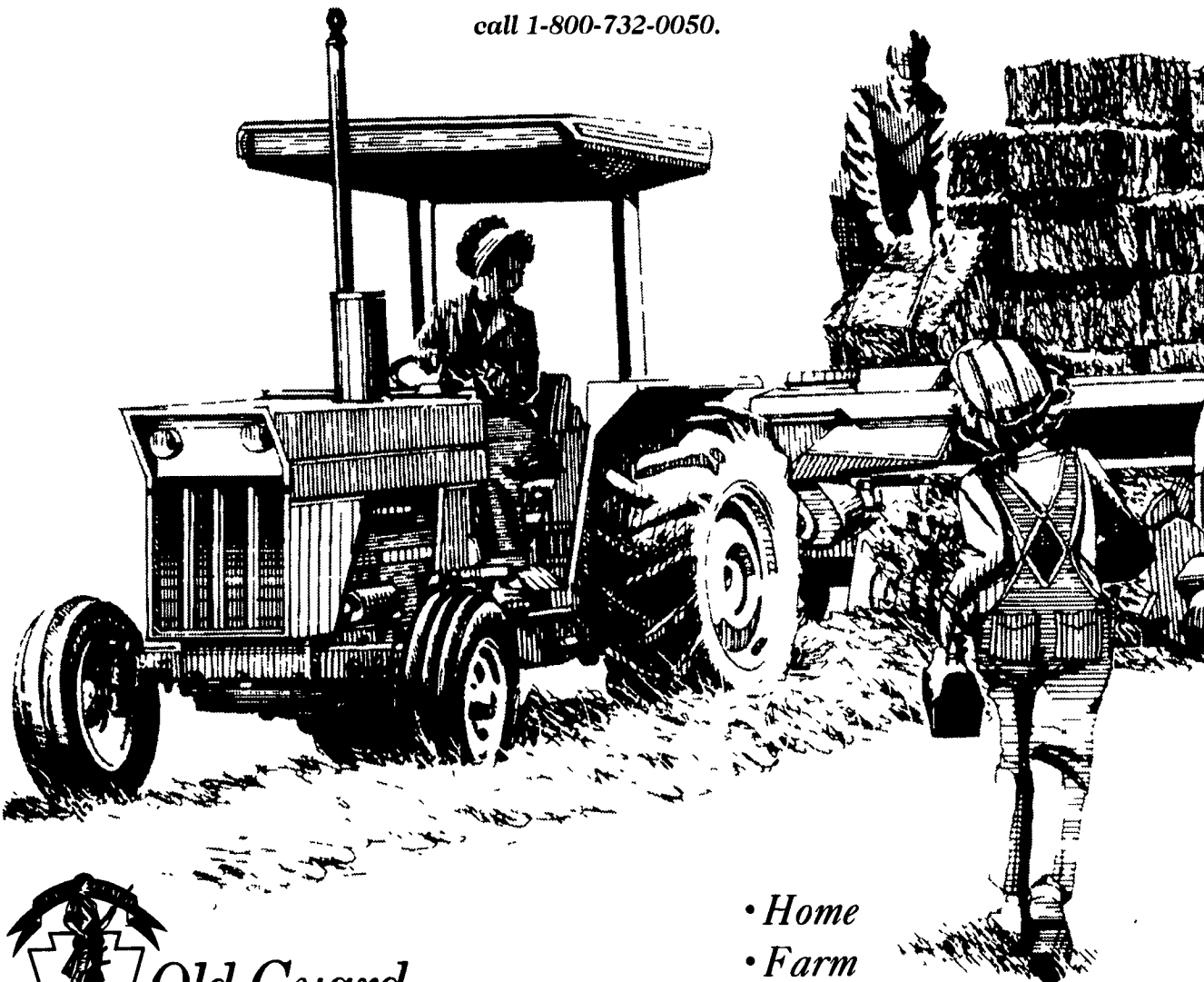
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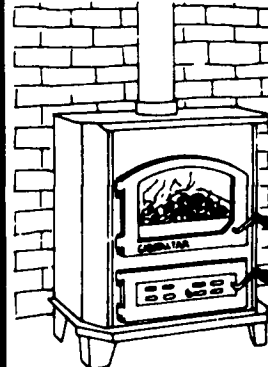
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