

FFA Leadership Conference

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door skill-development games such as going through a team obstacle course that required team-thinking, cooperation and an understanding of leadership.

Stan Deen, an English, speech and drama instructor at Garden Spot High School, served as a motivational opening speaker. He challenged the youth to get excited, "to dream big dreams," to get involved, and to "soar like eagles" — the last statement being followed with the spreading of arms to indicate flight.

That symbol of flight persisted throughout the three-day conference.

Marci Harnish, daughter of Bob and Marti Harnish, of Manheim, is FFA state vice president. She attended the conference for the first time.

Harnish said that, while defining a "leader" is difficult, she has learned that, "A leader isn't a boss, a leader is a partner."

She said she also learned that anyone can be a leader and that many people are leaders, even though they may not be in the public spotlight.

"I think everybody has the ability to be a leader, they just use it in different ways," Harnish said Tuesday. "Even people who work behind the scenes, they are leaders.

It takes people who are outgoing and saying, 'This is what we want to do,' but it also takes people who are good at organizing, at doing a type of labor, ...

"... in every situation, no matter what type of personality, people have the ability to be a leader, it's just used in different ways."

As a state officer, Harnish said the experience of attending the conference was rewarding in ways other than what was expected.

"I thought it went very well. (The state officers') premier objective was to get members motivated to go back to their chapters and get their members involved, and to let them know about the opportunities that are available in FFA," she said, adding that the event also provided an opportunity for the 1994-95 officers, elected on June 16, to work together for the first time. Harnish said that added to her experience.

"I got to know the students. This was the first official thing (the 1994-95 state officers) did," she said. Through it, Harnish she learned better, "... how we can interact. It gives (me) a better sense of how we are going to be working together."

Harnish said she senses that it will be a good experience.

Jenny Zerby, daughter of Nevin and Isabel Zerby, of Beavertown, is president of the state FFA. It was also her first conference.

"I learned how to interact with the other kids and how to get them to open up and tell me what they like to do. I also saw how other picked up."

Zerby said she saw her role as instructor and participant. She said that she and the officers gave instruction on how to present awards, introduce guests or speak-



Kelli Zeigler, south central FFA vice president, is helped over the wall by team members. Her arms are wide in balance, but also as a symbol the students made during the conference to refer to setting goals and "soaring like eagles."



FFA members try to successfully get their team over the wall.

ers, and also what the officers duties are.

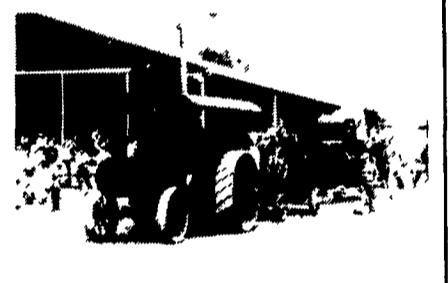
"During the motivational speakers or other speakers, we sat back and listened as they did. We learned the same as they (other FFA members) did," she said. Also, she said that by teaching others, she learned more about herself, what was more effective for her in communicating a message to others.

The leadership conference was coordinated by Clifford Day, a

environmental agriscience teacher at Garden Spot High School, who had the FFA state officers help run some of the workshops, with such topics as responsibilities of FFA officers, goal-setting, motivation, publications, and teamwork.

One of the highlights of the conference, according to several who attended, was an outdoor Action/Socialization Experience (ASE) event, coordinated by John Deasy, instructor at W.B. Saul School of Agricultural Sciences.

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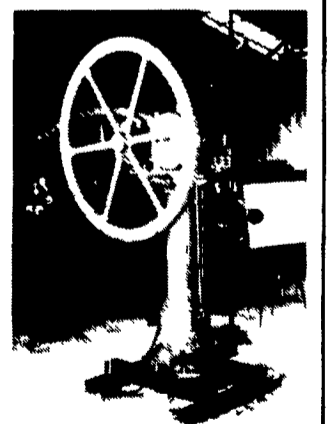
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makers, Flea Market,
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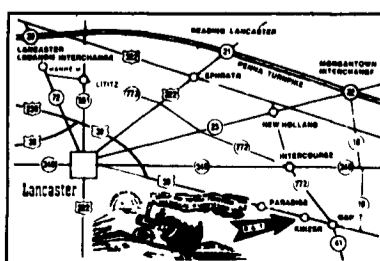
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