

'Don't Drink And Drive,' Warns Speaker At York Farm Women Convention

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YORK (York Co.) — "I'm handicapped. What's your problem?"

With that self-introduction as his title, Perry County farmer Danny Albright launched his public speaking debut before an audience of more than 200 York County Society of Farm Women members. Before the articulate 30-year-old had finished his "Danny's Story," he generated tears, laughter and earned a standing-ovation from the Farm Women for his spunk and good humor.

Albright was the featured speaker at the York Farm Women's 55th annual convention, held November 4 at Wisehaven Hall. Society members listened spellbound as the wheelchair-bound cattle broker related the chain of events that changed his life forever.

The son of Ralph and Gladys Albright, Landisburg, Danny grew up as an almost constant companion to his grandfather, Alfred. In addition to the family's Alrada herd of registered Holstein cattle, the Albrights operated a well-known cattle dealership.

"I got my first checkbook when I was eight," Danny related, telling how he began buying calves for his grandfather's customers. Until they came to know Danny, cattle auctioneers were initially reluctant to acknowledge bids from a child.

At ten years old, Danny recalls accepting the Lord into his life during services at the family's church, "not knowing the trial's I'd face later."

Active in both 4-H and FFA, Danny was a member of the state 4-H dairy judging team; and in 1981 took third-high individual honor in youth dairy judging at the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin.

He spent two years in California working on a large dairy operation, returning to Perry County in 1989 to continue pursuing the family's cattle dealership business. While that enterprise was growing well, Danny developed personal problems.

"I got involved in drinking and in drugs," he flatly states.

In December of that year, just a few months after buying himself a sporty new car, Danny crashed it on a bitterly-cold night on his way home from partying after a particularly successful cattle deal. Only a mile and a half from his home, Danny lay unconscious at the accident until he was found at 4:30 the next morning. Temperatures had dipped into the teens and hypothermia from hours of exposure had dropped Danny's body temperature to 80 degrees. And the accident had broken his neck.

"I woke up in Harrisburg Hospital hooked to all kinds of machines and people standing around my bed crying," he remembered.

"And I wanted a second opinion," he quipped, displaying the humor and spunk that kept him going through the ensuing six-months of hospitalization and

physical therapy. Initially led to believe that his paralysis injury was "incomplete," or temporary, Danny was convinced he would walk again. Doctors eventually had to tell him that the injury was not a reversible one.

"Don't drink and drive," is the message that Danny hopes to impress on others by sharing his life-changing experiences of the last five years. He has done a public service announcement for Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and friends are encouraging him to further share his message.

A licensed cattle dealer, Danny attends sales usually at least three days weekly. With the assistance of a homemaker and two drivers, along with family and friends, he maintains his personal and business independence. A computer helps him write and keep track of records.

"I rededicated my life to God laying on my hospital bed. God has blessed me with a lot of good people to help me," he testified.

Along with Albright's message, a spirit of giving to others and a cheery sunflower theme further brightened the spirits of the York Farm Women participating in their annual gathering. Attendees piled several tables to overflowing with contributions of non-perishable food items that were packed for delivery to four York County organizations which feed the hungry. Recipients of the food contributions were the Dover Food Bank, Mason-Dixon Food Bank, Lehman Center for families in crisis, and Our Daily Bread Food Kitchen.

Contributions of \$550 each were presented to the York County 4-H Center and the York County Literacy Council. The \$1,100 of donations was generated through chances sold on reproduction coverlets and place mats woven in the county by the David Kline family. Using antique jacquard looms, the Kline's have woven reproduction floor coverings and coverlets for restored homes and museums across the country.

President Carolyn Neal presided over the re-election of the county's treasurer, Treva Stiles, Group 18. Other officers for 1995 are Arlene Keener, vice president, Lois Manifold, second vice president, and secretary Trudy Reichard. State president Dorothy Strickler installed the county and group officers and announced in her report the date of the 1995 Spring Rally as May 23.

In her compiled group report, vice president Arlene Keener noted that York County presently has 36 active Farm Women societies and 1 inactive, with a total of 485 members. Collectively, the 36 groups donated more than \$4,600 to various community and charitable causes through the past 12 months.

Five 90-year-old members and 16 who turned 80 years old during the year received special pins of recognition. Recipients of the 90-year awards were Beatrice

Leib, Group 4, Mary Wise, Group 12, Sara Myers, Group 17, Lula Rennoll, Group 20 and Pansy Leibhart, Group 25.

Awards for 80-year-olds went to: Grace Sturm, Group 5; Irene Rentzel, Helen Bentz and Mary Rohler, Group 7; Viola M. Hauer and Eleanor Mummert, Group 8; Esther Dehoff and Ruth Gable, Group 9; Edith Slenker, Group 10; Kathryn Shultz, Group 12; Ruth May and Ruth Hobbs, Group 14; Effie King, Group 15; Margaret Bailey and Estelle Dellinger, Group 20; and Kathryn Resline, Group 25.

Fourteen members who died in the preceding year were memorialized in a service of scripture and floral presentation remembrances. Remembered during the ceremony were Estella Crowl and Amy Miller, Group 1; Donna Jones and Mildred Fink, Group 5; Ethel Gross, Group 6; Ruth Runkle and Beatrice Bacon, Group 12; Virginia Halbalch and Doretha Peters, Group 14; Ruth McCurdy, Group 17; Helen Smith, Group 18; Evelyn Stock and Margaret Johnson, Group 27, and Yetta Grove, Group 21.



"Don't drink and drive," is the message of Perry County cattle dealer Danny Albright. He shared with York Farm Women his story of recuperation, rehabilitation and rededication of his life to God after his neck was broken in an automobile accident five years ago.



Carolyn Neal, right, president of the York County Society of Farm Women, presented checks of \$550 each to Lois Rankin, left, representing the York County 4-H, and Nancy Fraser, York County Literacy Council.



York Farm Women officers gather around a basket rounded full of glasses, decorated with their convention theme of sunflowers. From left are Trudy Reichard, secretary; Lois Manifold, second vice president; Arlene Keener, vice president; Treva Stiles, treasurer, and Carolyn Neal, president.



Packing up donations for the hungry were York County Society of Farm Women members, from left, Shirley Wright, Group 33, Nancy Knaub, Group 32, Loretta Baus-tian, Group 16, and Betty Brodbeck, Group 14.

Homestead Notes