

Landis Bros. Break Ground To Build New Facility

MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) — Using an antique John Deere plow, Landis Bros., Inc., broke ground recently to begin construction of a 24,500 square foot sales and service facility at 2710 Mt. Joy Road in Manheim.

"Building is not a new idea but an idea whose time has come," Herb Noll, president and general manager of Landis Bros., Inc., told the crowd attending ground breaking ceremonies on June 22.

The new facilities are expected to better serve their clients with both sales and service and provide more efficient work space for the 39 employees. The selected location for the new facility is seven miles west of Lancaster at the intersection of Route 283 and Route 772.

Noll along with fellow-owners Phil Wimer and Mark Weaver used the antique plow, which was built before the 1900s, for the initial ground breaking then switched

to a John Deere 8100 to carve the initials J.D. into the soil.

Later, John Deere Gator rides around the perimeter of the nine-acre site were offered to those attending the ceremonies.

What is known as Lancaster County's oldest John Deere dealer was founded in 1920 by Elmer and Ben Landis. The farm implement and supply store was housed on the second floor of the Northern Market, on North Queen Street in Lancaster. Later, the business was moved to 1305 Manheim Pike, where it is still located.

In 1988, three of the company's employees, Noll, Wimer, and Weaver, purchased the business while renting the Manheim Pike property. In 1994, the owners purchased a dealership in Lebanon.

The dealership has consistently received Super Service Dealer awards, which is given to only 20 dealerships out of approximately



Thirty-nine Landis Bros. Inc. employees gather around the plow for ground breaking ceremonies. Each employee was interviewed by the builder to determine the needs and insight each have in order to make the new facility a more efficient, pleasant, and safe worksite.

District Announces Conservationist

WEST CHESTER (Chester Co.)—The Chester County Conservation District announces the employment of Randy Aman as nutrient management resource conservationist.

Aman is from Kimberton. His background includes a degree in agricultural business from SUNY Cobleskill and a lifelong farming experience associated with the operation of his family's Chester County farm.

As a nutrient management resource conservationist, Aman will be directly involved with the

Brandywine, Pickering, and French Creek watershed areas. He will provide technical assistance to the district for implementation of nutrient management plans as well as best management practices.

Efforts will be focused on promotion of the wise use of nutrients and pesticide management and erosion control practices. These practices can help reduce the amounts of nutrients, chemicals, and sediments which can pollute our waters because of agriculture.

300. Last year, they receive John Deere's newly created Dealer Signature Award given to dealerships that excel in sales, service, and parts.

Jerry Thomas, area sales representative for John Deere, compared the growth of the Landis' dealership as parallel to that of the parent company (John Deere) in Columbus, Ohio.

He said, "In 1920, when Landis

Bros. started in Lancaster, 'Big John' made only one tractor model. In 1953, it was selling five, and in 1995, it is building 20 tractors and 25 models of the lawn and garden tractors."

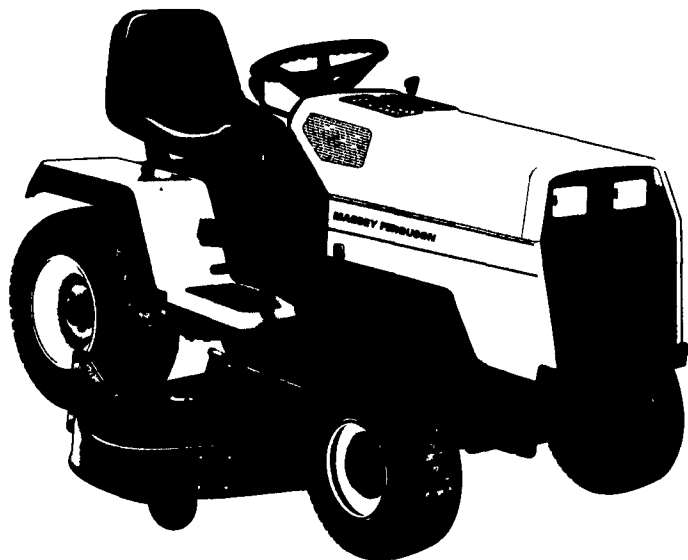
In planning the facility, both customer and the 39 employees' needs were considered. The two-story steel structure will have the shop, parts, retail, and service areas on the first floor. Offices,

storage areas, the lunchroom and plenty of open space for future growth will be on the second level.

The completion date for the facility, which is being built by FTF Construction, Inc., is projected to be Jan. 1.

The Manheim Pike business will move to the new facility but the Lebanon branch store will continue to operate as a sales and service center.

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Herb Noll drives the tractor while fellow-owners Phil Wimer, right, and Mark Weaver use the antique plow for the initial groundbreaking.

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