

State Grange Day Event Focuses On Rural Issues

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ago was manifest in the efforts to create the first Pennsylvania Grange meeting in Reading, by spreading the word from community to community.

State Lt. Gov. Mark Schweiker was first speaker of the afternoon workshops. From 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. he discussed emergency preparedness in rural Pennsylvania and the role of the volunteers, who in many rural areas serve first and sometime second line defense in battles against tragedy.

From rural fire fighters to volunteer ambulance crews and radio dispatchers, rural communities in Pennsylvania have served to demonstrate the cooperative abilities of people to organize and maintain such protective services for the good of all.

The rest of the afternoon offered a choice of workshops.

From 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., members could either attend a talk about the dairy crisis and the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board, or a work-

shop on threats to the sense of hearing.

The next set of workshops offered insight into insurance reform in the state, and review of the first 125 years of the Grange activities through a review of the State Grange history in conjunction with the upcoming 125th anniversary.

From 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., Gene Barr, slated to soon become the executive director of the Associated Petroleum Industries organization, and Robin Ross, with the William Hawkins public relations consulting firm in Harrisburg, discussed the proposed tightening of air particulate standards by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

While representing the petroleum industry, the implications for agriculture are significant.

Barr said that adoption of the standards would result in further departure of United States petroleum industries and jobs to other nations where such standards are nonexistent.

The basic argument from both men was that the EPA has proposed standards without considering the potential for achievement, for benefits, and for cost to indus-

try and the national economy. For agriculture, opponents maintain that the standards are so tight that they would seem to fairly well shut down traditional as well

as modern confinement housing practices; field work could be substantially affected, as could a wide range of normal human activities
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From the left, state Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brosius is presented with a framed certificate of appreciation from the Pennsylvania State Grange by William Steel, master, while others applaud in the second of two standing ovations.



State Sen. Dan Delp, chairman of the Senate Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee, presents the Senate proclamation for State Grange Week and Day, and also discusses some of the achievements and changes in the state's agricultural policies.



Charlie Wismer, president of the Pa. State Grange Service Corporation, and a past state master, receives a bag of seed corn in honor of his heading efforts to institute and operate the member-service non-profit corporation.

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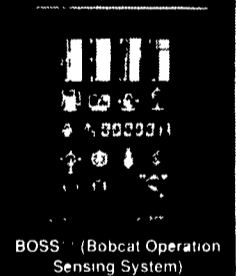
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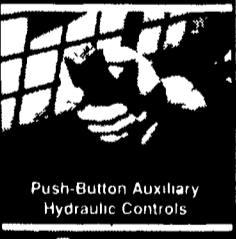
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