

Director Tells FFA Members

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let anybody make you old before your time."

He also told them to develop a sense of compassion. One student in his class of his was always changing his hair color. One time it was blue, then it was pink, then it was yellow. The student came in with earrings in all sorts of places: on the lips, nose, ear, just all over. Deen asked the student why he wore so many earrings and the student replied, "just for fun." While Deen didn't necessarily approve of the earrings, he never criticized the student for wearing them.

FFA'ers should learn to develop an inner strength, one that says, "I know why I'm here. I know where I'm going." Deen also told them to "fingerprint" other people's lives as a leader and team player.

He told them a story. One time he was introduced to a blind person learning braille. When she met him, she asked Deen if she could "feel" his face. Reluctantly, Deen allowed her to — slowly, she worked her fingers over his forehead, the eyebrows, down across the eyelids, over top of the nose, and down his face. She said to him, "I can tell you are a kind person. All the lines (on your face) go up. With unhappy people, the lines droop down."

Deen said young people should learn to celebrate life more. One word has faded from general use, he said: "razzle-dazzle." He asked

them, "When was the last time in class you were dazzled?"

The GSPA director told the students that if tomorrow Steven Spielberg, the famous Hollywood film director, would phone and talk to him, Deen would be "dazzled."

"Celebrate who you are in light of what you have been given," he said. "Give yourself away."

As he steps down from teaching, Deen told them, "Ninety-eight percent of the time I love what I teach," he said. "Do you know how it is to leave what you still enjoy?"

Deen told a story of one student, a boy who had a behavior problem. He worked on a farm, day in and out, from ninth grade until his senior year. He was an FFA member. He went from misbehaving in four years to being one of four graduation commencement speakers. He learned to be an eagle. Deen remembers the boy's mother who almost passed out from joy and disbelief when she saw her son speaking during graduation ceremonies.

Deen told FFA members to treat others like you want them to treat you — energize them. He told them to keep mentally, physically, and spiritually fit. Invest yourself in the lives of other people. And turn your weaknesses into strengths.

FFA Activities

A low ropes course organized and operated by Ben Ehrhart, Nar-



Ryan Groff, Manheim vice president, successfully works the zig-zag portion of the ropes course at the leadership conference at Ephrata High School.

von, provided team challenges for the FFA members.

Included in these group activities, which help develop communication, group planning, decision making, goal setting, and other important life skills, was the zig-zag, a method to use lumber to traverse the ground. Also included were the Amazon, where one individual walks a gangplank and uses

a stick of wood to retrieve a pail; the spider web, where individuals must cooperate with the group to successfully thread a difficult rope maze; and magic boots, where individuals work together to traverse a distance.

Other workshops were held. In one, Dan Kreider and Charles Aurentz, both of Cedar Crest, coordinated a reporter session on how to submit stories for publica-

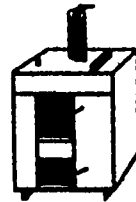
tion. Others included president and vice president leadership duties, and secretary, treasurer, reporter, photography, and other leadership training sessions.

Career booths included the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the Fish and Boat Commission, Maryland University Institute of Applied Agriculture, Pa. Bureau of Forestry, and Cobleskill College.

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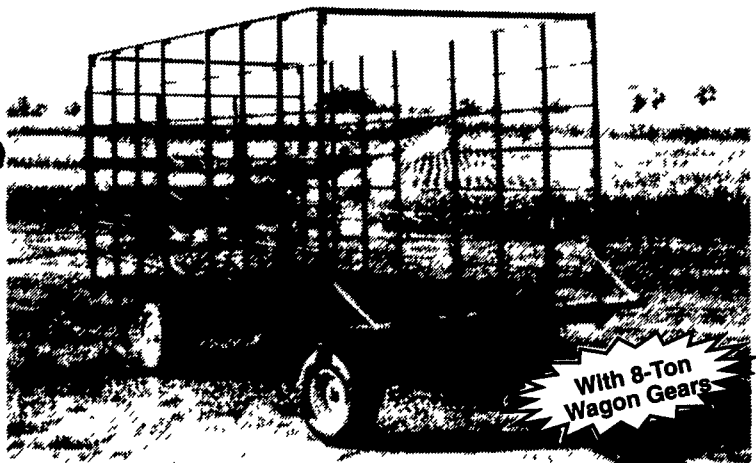


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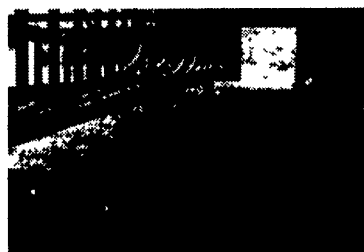
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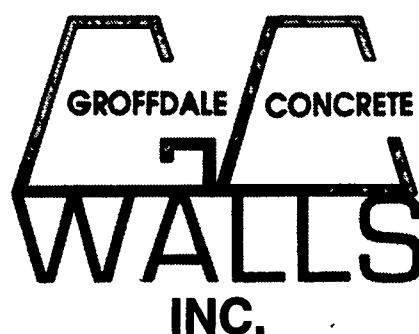
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