

Grange Celebrates 125-Year History

(Continued from Page B19)

Representatives from each of the state's subordinate Granges lined the perimeter of the auditorium and handed the torch to each other.

As the torch made its way clockwise around the audience, the crowd slowly turned, people craning to watch its progress. Young and old, men and women, passed the torch solemnly until it made its way up onto, and across the stage, past a banner proclaiming the 125th anniversary, to be presented to Donald Evans (of Penn State University) who placed the torch at the front center of the stage, where it remained for the duration of the pageant.

Evans served as chairman of the 125th Anniversary Committee, along with members representing eight Grange regions in the state: Carol McCullon, Jennifer Viscusi, and Martha Sherman from Region A; James Grant and Mary Himes from Region B; Arlan Higley, Gloria Higley, and Gordon Hiller

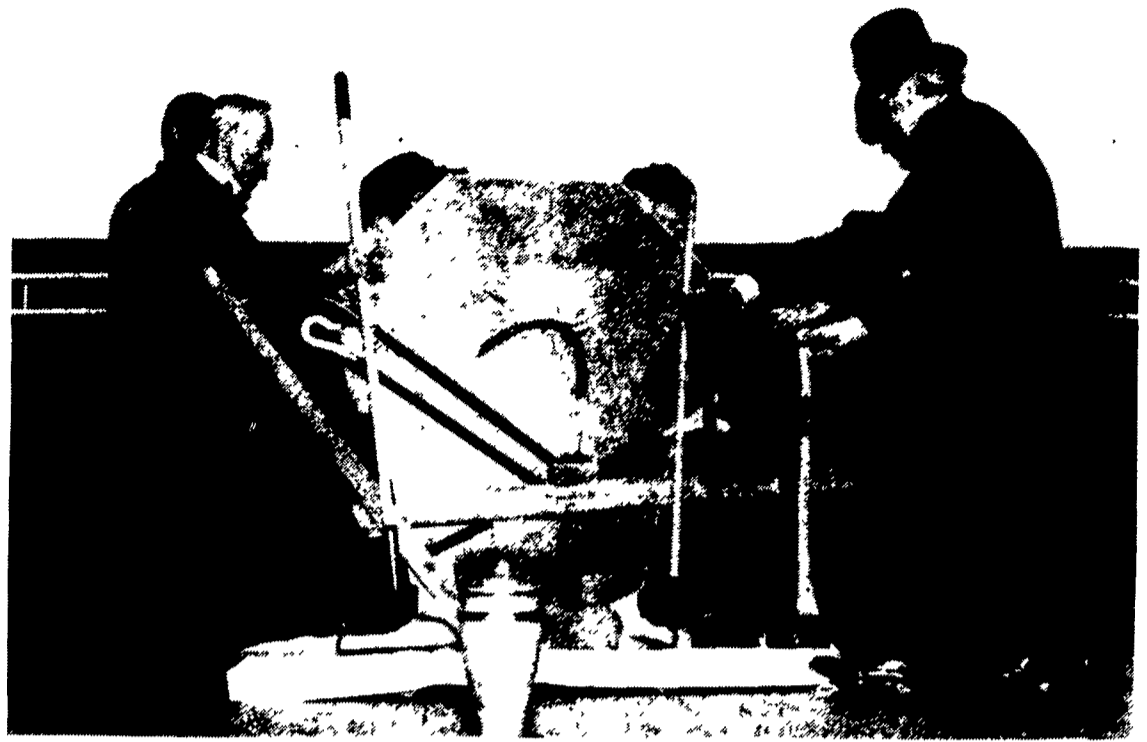
(past master) from Region C; June Marzani, Hedy Chaffee, and Richard Seidof from Region D; Netter Martsof, W. Roger Parry, Linda Parry, and Lois Moore from Region E; David Hay and Betty Grove from Region F; Judy Pressler, Brian Ebersole, Nancy Cole, Betty Diamond and Dr. James Diamond from Region G; and Clifford Holloway, Dr. Arba Henry, and Nettie Kauffman from Region H.

Also serving on the committee were Grange Master William Steel, and Jim Mentzer, its public relations director.

Having the 125th anniversary celebration held in Reading was significant, because the first convention was held in Reading.

Evans narrated the first segment dealing with the founding of the Grange, followed by a segment portraying the establishment of the state and subordinate seal.

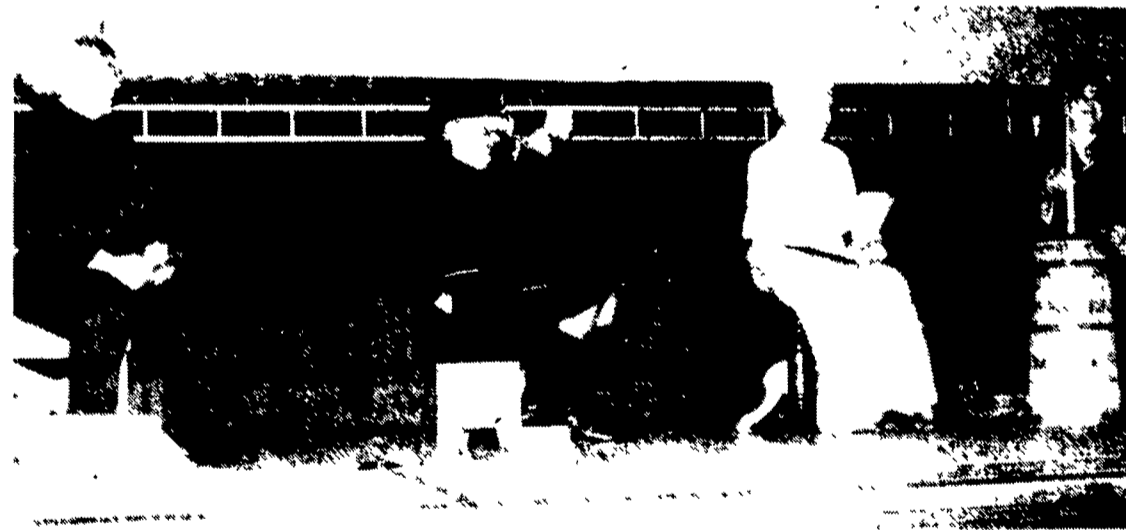
Just as with the other segments, the presentation of the establishment of the seal was done with pageantry, and different, costumed



125th Anniversary Committee members create a life-sized version of the official Pa. State Grange seal.



The chorus of State Grange members from Region D sings period songs (1922-1938), while Tom Purdy and Flo Hunter portray Gov. and Mrs. Gifford Pinchot.



From the left, in a skit demonstrating some of the adversities and achievements of the members of the Pa. State Grange, are Lois Pifer, Evelyn Grant, Mary Yoder, and Anna Gould.



Pa. State Grange Master William Steel stands next to the podium and holds the anniversary torch, while the cast of the 125th anniversary pageant gather behind for the grand finale.



From the left, Jennifer Viscusi portrays Carrie Hill, while David Hay portrays Oliver Hudson Kelley, two of the founders of the Pennsylvania State Grange.

performers carried each element of the seal out on stage to result in a life-sized version of the seal.

According to the narration, "On Jan. 7, 1874, the first annual meeting of the Pennsylvania State Grange was held at the Patriarch Grange No. 42 in Harrisburg. Fifty-two delegates answered the roll call.

"It was decided that all fourth degree members in attendance be permitted to take part in all discussions."

One of the discussion items was the seal. After such discussion, it was decided that the seal should represent the farm and those who toil the soil.

It was decided the seal should have a seven-sided background, representing the seven founders of the order.

On the seven-sided shape was placed a sheaf of wheat to represent God's bounty for all, and that all should be good stewards.

A plow was included because it breaks up and prepares the soil for planting. According to narrator Evans, "This should teach us to drive the plowshare of thought diligently through the heavy soil of ignorance and thus prepare the mind for the growth of knowledge and wisdom."

The ax was also added, because, as it was used to clear out fields, "Its use teaches us perseverance in overcoming obstacles."

A spade was added because it is used to dig deeper than the plow. "It is the emblem of thoroughness," Evans said.

The rake, or harrow, was placed upon the seal, because as the tool is used for more detailed work — pulverizing soil and covering

seed — "It is emblematic of the study and observation need to fully run your life or business."

The hoe was added because it was used to weed and stir the soil. It represented that "... cultivation of the mind promotes the growth of knowledge and wisdom."

The spud — a weeding instrument used to get those missed by the hoe — was added. "It is a reminder to get rid of all dissension and strife."

The pruning knife or spear, beaten into a pruning hook, was added because it was made by converting a weapon into a farming tool. It is a symbol of peace. "It should always remind you to preserve peace with your fellow men."

A shepherd's crook is on the seal because, "It is emblematic of the care and guidance need to care for the weak and innocent."

The seal also contains a sickle. "It is a reminder of honorable employment, preaching its sermon of present prosperity and peace. It represents a future of plenty and rejoicing."

The only non-tool, other than the sheaf of wheat, on the seal is a type of rock, agate. Agate is a quartz rock with various, usually with fine-grained patterns of different colors. It is used as a sign of friendship.

"May your principles of life be as firmly impressed as the lasting colors in the stone, and may your friendships be as lasting as the stone itself," Evans said.

The next segments recalled the events and circumstances of the period and what role the Grange played in working to better the