

John Alwine Honored For 54 Years

MIDDLETOWN (Dauphin Co.) — When Three-Mile-Island was still a farm instead of a nuclear electricity plant, John Alwine began to sell seed corn for DeKalb. In fact, after this 86 year-old farmer visited the 1954 Pennsylvania Farm Show and bought seed corn for himself, he was asked by DeKalb to start to sell seed to his neighbors, which he did.

Along with farming his own 143 acre farm, Alwine drove a '39 Ford around the Middletown/Harrisburg area selling seed corn. At the time, even the parking lot at the Harrisburg Airport was a farm.

At one time, shortly after he started selling for DeKalb, Alwine

lost interest and was going to quit. But officials persuaded him to keep going. And after selling 1200 bags one year, he received a trip to Mexico as a sales production bonus.

In the early days, corn was sold by the peck, not by the kernel. And farms were much smaller. And while the new technology that produced genetically engineered corn was not known, even then the company had a good number of varieties.

Alwine was honored last week for his hard work, leadership, and drive for perfection at a dealers' meeting at the Bird-in-Hand Restaurant. Both a plaque with a

message from the company president and vice president, and an enlargement of an early advertisement were presented as a retirement gift.

"You may never know the influence you have had on improving crop yields, increasing the economy of the area and helping to provide food for consumers around the world," the message on the plaque said. "It's individuals like you who make others proud to be associated with DeKalb. We salute your success—." Signed: Richard O. Ryan, president, and Dennis R. Schlott, vice president, sales.

"You get to a certain point



John Alwine (right), was honored at a dealers' meeting last week for 54 years of service. Making the presentation is John Wysolmerski, district sales manager, (center) and Dale Brandt, Alwine's grandson-in-law.

where you keep on going," Alwine said. "Sure I would do it again if I had it to do over. But now it is time to let the younger generation take over.

And that is what is happening. Dale Brandt, Alwine's grand son-in-law, has taken up the work as the elder salesman has begun to retire.



The Pennsylvania Farm Show display from the late 1950's.

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