

# Lebanon Farm-City Banquet

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staff to be more aggressive, telling them, "That's what pays the bills, not the news, not what people read."

Boltz said he also got to see the operation's new automatic inserter — a mechanism for taking the preprinted advertisement supplements and putting them into the newspaper.

He also noted Mick's constant attention to time and ensuring that the operation didn't fall behind and lose time, equated to money.

Boltz said that perhaps the one thing that Mick said that impressed more than any other was Mick's perspective of the county, coming from a person not from the area who has traveled around and worked in different communities on different papers.

"Andy made me realize how lucky we are as to the quality of people who work here," Boltz said. "I asked him, 'How do we rate?' And he said, 'Second to none.'"

When Mick took to the podium he said he was pleased with the type of farm to which was assigned as a participant in the exchange.

He said he was glad it wasn't a livestock farm, but instead, a tree farm.

In an effort to prepare himself for the Farm-City Banquet sharing of his experience, Mick said he scanned joke books and the Internet. "There are no jokes about trees," he deadpanned.

However, he said he came across a story about the origin of the Christmas tree, that it was started by St. Boniface, sometime around 700 A.D., as an English

Christian missionary in Germany.

According to Mick, the story goes that St. Boniface came across a pagan ritual where a young boy was tied to a large oak tree and about to be sacrificed to gods.

Boniface purportedly stopped the act saving the boy, cut down the oak, and there next to the fallen oak was a spruce, an evergreen.

He pulled up the evergreen and handed it to the boy and started the observation that the spruce represented everlasting life.

Mick said, "In some way, shape or form, that was the beginning of Yordy-Boltz Tree Farm," he said.

However, he also noted that if the tree-raising operation only depended upon the sale of Christmas trees, there would only be enough business for three months of work per year.

Instead, the tree farm raises a variety of landscaping evergreens that are sold widely for industrial, commercial and residential landscaping, as well as for golf course design.

He said he also learned that Boltz doesn't just plan for the immediate future, but must plan what he plants for a return 3- to 5-years or more down the road.

Boltz has to project what people will want years in advance. Mick said, "I never knew there were so many varieties (of evergreens and ornamentals)."

Not only does the Yordy-Boltz Farm use its own land, but leases property also, and Mick said he was impressed with that and also watching tree harvesting.

He said he expected to see crews

of laborers with shovels and picks, but was impressed to see a specialized harvester with hydraulics that pulled trees out of the ground and wrapped them. The only labor involvement was wiring the burlap tight, he said.

Comparing jobs, Mick said he would like to spend one or two days on the farm in the fall walking through the trees of the large farm, but, "I don't think I'm patient enough to wait 3- to 5- years to see the results of my work."

Another tradition of the Lebanon Farm-City Banquet is the auctioning of a sheep-to-shaw shaw. Again produced by the Lebanon

Valley Woolsies, state Dairy Princess Dotterer modeled the bi-color shaw made with wool from a Romney/border Leicester cross sheep.

It was auctioned by Harry Bachman, an Annville auctioneer who is a consistent supporter of local and state agricultural and livestock events, including the county agricultural youth programs, the Farm-City event and the Lebanon Area Fair.

It was purchased for \$275 by Lebanon Valley Farmers Bank.

The event also includes a drawing for door prizes, which offered a dozen high value prizes and included the grand prize of a quilt.

While that normally would have

concluded the event, a special presentation was made to Homan, who recently celebrated his 73rd birthday.

Bachman said that while it was known that Henry always wanted a cocker spaniel, they offered a similar-sized animal to him in hopes that it would fill the void.

An obviously stunned Homan received a young pig, and after a break in laughter from the audience, he asked if he was really supposed to take it with him.

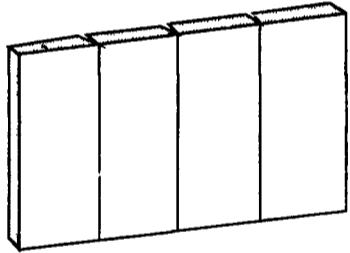
Instead, he made a gift of it to Gabe Svonavec, brother of Heidi Svonavec, who, for commodity promotional effect, attended the event dressed as a lamb. Gabe said he would take it home to raise as a pet.



A century farm award is presented to the Frank Reist family farm. From the left, in the front row, are Frank's wife Cindy, their daughter Michelle who holds a framed photograph of the farm, and Frank's mother Eunice, holding the century farm award. In the second row, from the left, are Linda and Carl, Frank, and Cathy and Donald Reist, while in the third row are Gary and Valerie Reist.

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