

Dunlap Closes

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — The largest livestock broker here at the Lancaster Stockyards is closing its doors Monday for good.

Walter M. Dunlap and Sons Inc. will close its business after 101 years of operation, according to Connie Dunlap Santarelli, the company's president, long-time Lancaster Stockyard board member, and granddaughter of the founder.

The announcement came this week.

Santarelli, contacted by phone Thursday, decided to close the business because of personal health reasons and a long commute from her home in Alexandria, Va.

As to running the business, "I really loved it," she told *Lancaster Farming*. She said she became very interested in running the company after her father, James C. Dunlap (son of the founder, Walter M.), passed away in 1992. She has increased her knowledge since of the industry and ran the company successfully.

Santarelli said she is thankful for the wonderful personnel — 15 in all, including the part-time employees — who have helped run a successful business.

Santarelli, who maintains an apartment in Lancaster, makes her full-time home in Virginia, where she has lived there since she was married, she said. But because of rheumatoid arthritis, a progressive, autoimmune, debilitating disease, and because of the 125-mile commute each way (including two beltways where the traffic is horrible, she noted), it became time to shut down the business.

"I've always been a very, very high energy person," she said. She has put up with the heavy construction under way on Rt. 30, the main road to the stockyards north of Lancaster City, and the turmoil it has caused on truckers and buyers at the site.

"But that's not going to last forever," she said, hoping the construction, which has wreaked havoc on lots of commuters, will be over soon.

While the broker is leaving, the stockyards will continue.

The property, on a tract of Lititz Pike and Marshall Avenue, is not on the market and hasn't been sold, Santarelli said. Two other brokers, McCoy Cattle Company and Louis Lyon and Son, still operate at the stockyards.

Walter M. Dunlap was 17 in 1898 when he started the company. He began selling livestock at the old Lancaster Union Stockyards, which opened three years earlier to replace the overcrowded Stewart stockyards at North Plum Street and New Holland Avenue. By 1916, at age 34, Dunlap was the largest cattle dealer at the stockyards.

As a member of the stockyards board since 1983, Santarelli will continue her association. One of 11 on the board, and one of seven companies that worked at the yards through the years, Santarelli noted the property is not on the market and hasn't been sold, though they

get offers constantly.

But she said that at some point, the property will be sold.

"It's inevitable," she said.

The board, of course, will have to decide on the right person and it would have to be a "quality project" for the 21-acre property. She will continue to serve on the stockyard board as president.

Monday's big livestock sale and the sheep and goats sale will mark the last business day for the broker. Santarelli, who grew up in Lancaster County, is a Lancaster Country Day School graduate. She has been married for 32 years and said that in her retirement, she plans to spend more time with her family.

Gov. Ridge Nominates Grumbine To PMMB

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Gov. Tom Ridge this week nominated Barbara Grumbine of Myerstown (Lebanon Co.) to serve as a member of the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board (PMMB).

The PMMB is a three-member board that runs an independent state agency that oversees the dairy industry in the interest of consumers, producers and processors.

Gov. Ridge appoints the members, who are then considered for confirmation by the state Senate.

Grumbine would replace PMMB J. Robert Derry, Indiana, whose term has expired. Derry has

served as a consumer advocate on the PMMB.

If confirmed by the state Senate, Grumbine would serve a six-year term.

A former Northeast Area Director of the former (since renamed and reorganized) USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, she is currently vice chairperson of the the Lebanon County Committee of the USDA Farm Service Agency.

Grumbine is a member of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and a past president of the Lebanon County Society of Farm Women.

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