

Families Honored at Mifflin Farm-City Banquet

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Marvin and Elaine Smith manage 13 trucks and 14 employees from their home office in Strodes Mills. Their children, Rick, Paula, Jonathan, and Joshua, help with the business, although Jonathan and Joshua are still in high school.

Smith showed his appreciation for his family by saying, "You can do what you want to if you have support from your family" Smith Trucking hauls throughout the United States and Canada

Ken Mowery of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture presented a Century Farm Award to Darren and Caryn Peachey of Peach View Farm, Belleville Their children, Allyson and Chase, helped accept the award Darren thanked his parents, Marvin and Avonelle, for their support

Darren said that even though farming keeps changing, family remains a vital part of it The Peachey's keep heifers at Peach View and milk over 100 cows at Caryn's home farm less than a mile away Darren's great grandfather bought Peach View in 1896. Mifflin County has ten Century Farms

Don Baker presented conservation awards to representatives from the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Big Valley FFA

Featured speaker John Showers of New Berlin, Union County, spoke of the opportunity for tourism in the backyards of rural America Showers and his wife, Nancy, own the Inn at Olde New Berlin and its restaurant, Gabriel's.

"What a tourism treat you have in your own backyard Everyone is looking for undiscovered places."

Showers went on to say that the Baby Boomers have grown up and have money to spend

"Tourism is what we do with our free time and leisure dollars It's an experience people are looking for, and you have an experience here to sell It doesn't have to be New Berlin. They just want to see what rural America is all about"

As for Gabriel's, Showers said, "People get sold on what we have but don't know where we are - but it doesn't discourage them"

Showers said that when they first started their website, only 10 percent of their reservations were made over the Internet. That figure has now risen to over 60 percent.



Rick, Paula, Elaine, and Marvin Smith accept the Mifflin County Business Family of the Year Award at the Mifflin County Farm-City Banquet. The family owns Smith Trucking in Strodes Mills.




Benjamin, Amanda, Karol, and Bethany Wingert accept the Farm Family Award during Mifflin County Farm-City Banquet recently. Karol's husband, William, and their son Brandon were not able to attend.

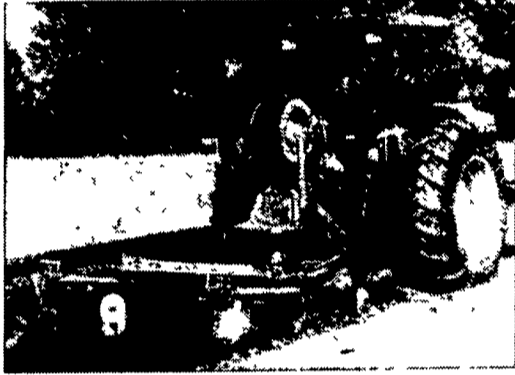
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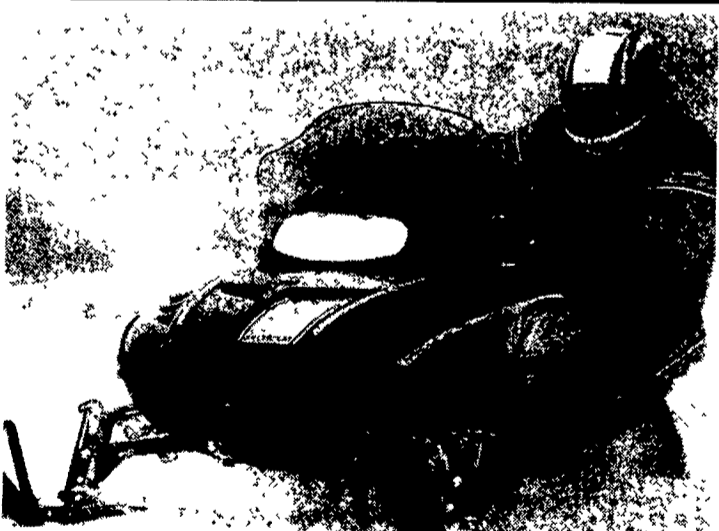
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