

Exciting Exchanges Explained At Lebanon Farm-City Banquet

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served at the evening's banquet. Dutch-Way Schaefferstown cut the last-minute shipment of 650 smoked pork chops from Hatfield. The Lebanon Chamber of Commerce initiated a collection for donations to be distributed equally among the Kutztown Bologna's employees for the holiday season.

A highlight of the Farm-City banquet is the entertaining accounts of the job exchange.

Michael Deitzler, owner of Dairy Queen West, had several educational experiences during his exchange with Brian Kreider.

Deitzler admitted to putting on a straw hat and listening to country music as he drove to the Kreiders' beef and crop farm in southern Lebanon. Lesson number one, said Deitzler, was that "early" meant 6 or 7 a.m. to the farming community. Arriving at 7:10, learned Deitzler, was late.

He also received a lesson in combining from Kreider.

"I was impressed with her overall concern for the citizens of Lebanon and her promptness in taking care of problems," said Heilinger. Heilinger was also treated to a ride-along with the city police to learn about Lebanon's police programs. As a result of the day Heilinger decided that she would rather farm than become the mayor.

The banquet also included several program updates and awards.

Fifth-grade teacher Blythe Hunsinger gave her impression of her Agriculture In The Classroom workshop. Lebanon County farm Bureau sponsored teachers to participate in the workshop each year.

"I brought back with me a new appreciation for the agriculture community," said Hunsinger. "Our students need to realize they depend on agriculture for their survival." Hunsinger believes her workshop experience will help to enrich her existing curriculum.

Secretary Samuel Hayes and Dennis Grumbine, Farm Show director, presented the Century



Laura Heilinger, Jackie Parker, Brian Kreider and Michael Deitzler entertained the audience as they shared their workday exchange experiences.

Farm Award to Arthur and Sara Jane Krall.

"I don't think there's a bigger, more robust Farm-City celebration in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania," said Hayes in his address to the audience. "It's important to come together and recognize the importance of agriculture in Pennsylvania."

The Kralls own a 120-acre farm in the south Annville area, land that has been in the family for 140 years. Arthur and Sara Jane purchased the farm from Arthur's parents 52 years ago and began with 15 cows. Today 70 Holsteins are milked on the farm. Besides a dairy, the farm also hosts alfalfa, corn, rye, and

The Kralls are now retired from full-time farming but help on the farm and are active in leadership in various farm-related organizations.

The sheep-to-shawl auction, featuring a shawl made by the Lebanon Valley Woolsies, ended with a bid for \$275 from Darryl and Michelle Grumbine.

"I always looked out into the fields and saw the farmers on their tractors and thought, 'Wow, they're working hard!'" said Deitzler, who was surprised by the "La-Z-Boy recliner, air conditioning, and surround sound," in the tractor's cab. "I was waiting for the projector to pop out so we could watch a movie," said Deitzler.

Brian Kreider's day at Dairy Queen West began with a message on the answering machine "for Cowboy Kreider," said Deitzler. "I'm from the city, and we get up late and we stay up late."

Kreider helped to clean the restaurant and serve the patrons. Although he wore an assistant manager shirt, Kreider quickly learned that wearing the shirt does not substitute for practice in serving ice cream cones. "I couldn't make those nice swirls, so I gave that up," he said. At the banquet Deitzler awarded Kreider's efforts for the day with a large golden soft-serve ice cream cone.

Jackie Parker, mayor of the city of Lebanon, exchanged a day of work with Laura Heilinger, who owns a dairy farm along with her husband Bruce.

Parker spent her first minutes on the farm cheering on a cow in labor. "Because of my son Max I was able to see what it's like to be a mother, and I thought she could use a little encouragement," said Parker.

Parker also brought the herd in from the pasture and assisted in hooking up the cows for milking before she was drafted to clean out the grates.

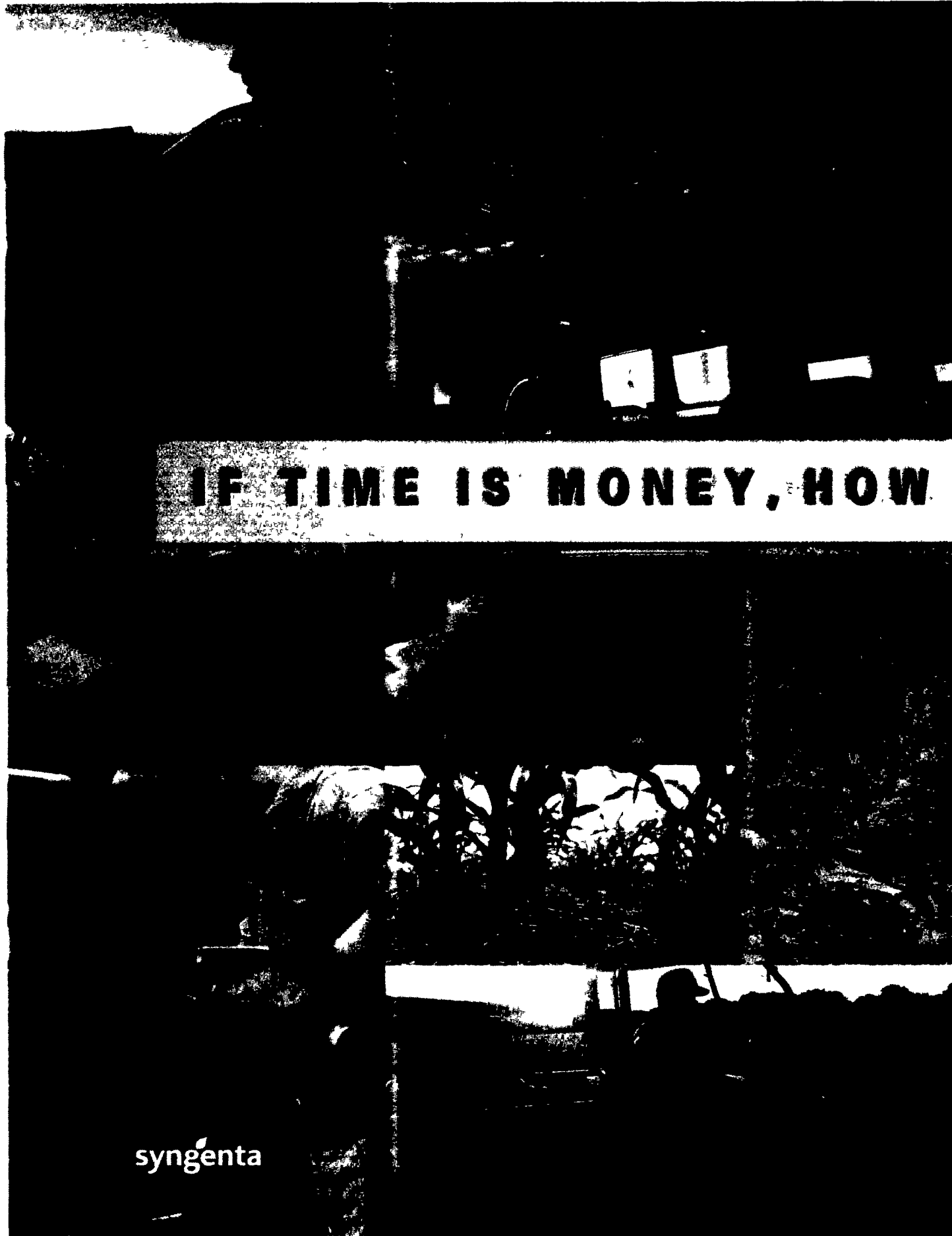
"I was determined that I could do this," said Parker. "Luckily I had a supervisor, three-year-old Emily (Heilinger's daughter), because I didn't realize that the cows behind me are higher than my head. Luckily Emily yelled 'look out' just in time. That one was a little too close," said Parker.

She was also able to pregnancy check several cows. "I don't know what I was feeling but it was a good experience anyway."

I always looked at farmers and thought, 'I'd like that kind of a job, it's peaceful and serene and the cows are great co-workers,' she said.

Parker learned through her experience that "it just takes a special kind of person to be a farmer. It's a lot of hard work and I'm thankful that we have people committed to farming and our community."

Heilinger discovered that Parker's schedule is full of "meeting after meeting and in between phone calls and paperwork," said Heilinger. Besides attending meetings and fielding phone calls, however, they traveled to the site of a future overpass to get citizen opinion and give input as to where and whether or not to put the bridge over the railroad, Lebanon's major project.



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