

ROBERT E. STEESE

17th MASTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE GRANGE
(March-October 1979)



The Person:

- Bob and his wife, Frances, were natives of the Grove City area of Mercer County.
- They were the parents of Robert, Jr., Virginia and Patty. The family operated an ice cream manufacturing business and popular restaurant.

Of Note:

- Bob lead the State Grange officers to confer the Sixth Degree eight times prior to the National Grange Session in November. These special conferrals resulted in 1,363 members advancing to the Degree of Flora. In Lancaster 3,920 members received the Degree of Ceres in four conferrals of that degree in one day.
- *The Grange Advocate for Rural Pennsylvania* replaced *Grange News* which had become too costly to print and mail.
- Custom made bookcases were installed in the State Grange Headquarters, a gift from Berks county to honor Wayne and Helen Readinger.
- Member services were added – Lawyer Referral, Pearle Vision Discounts, and group purchasing opportunities.
- Grange ritual improvement was stressed, and winning teams representing Subordinate and Junior Granges performed at the State and National Grange conventions.
- James L. Snyder, Jr. and his sister, Lou Ann, claimed the state Prince and Princess titles.
- Charles E. Wismer, Jr., Montgomery County, was elected to a one-year term as Master at the convention in Williamsport.
- John W. Scott retired as National Master at the 113th Annual Session of the National Grange in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
- J. Luther Snyder continued to serve as Priest Annalist, and William Steel as National Youth Director.
- A total of 3,920 candidates received the Seventh Degree; there were four conferrals in one day.
- Mary Buffington was named Outstanding State Grange Lecturer by the National Grange.
- The Schnecksville Grange Singers, Lehigh County, took first place in the National Talent Contest.
- The Mattock Family, Troy Grange, won first place in the Family Instrumental Contest.
- Chris Hoffman, Penn Line Junior Grange, placed first in creative writing in the 5-6 age category and Gloria Fogh, Pleasant Hill Junior Grange, placed first in the 13-14 age category.
- James L. Snyder, Jr., York County and Judy Paull, Fayette County were winners in the YRA Program and assigned to attend the Washington Conference.
- Sheryl Stark, Butler County, was a regional winner in the Sign-a-Song Contest (not yet a National Contest.)
- PA Young Couple Keith and Suzanne Treichler, Kutztown Grange, Berks County, were National Runner-up Young Couple.
- Richard and Wanda Gallimore, Adams County, began serving on the National Youth Team.
- 46,802 members in 576 Subordinate Granges as of June 30, 1979.