

LOVELY KAY ESCHELBACH — Michigan Farm Bureau "Queen" is greeted by American Farm Bureau President, Charles B. Shuman, following her on-stage introduction to the huge crowd attending the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation, held recently in Chicago. Her escort was Michigan Farm Bureau President, Elton Smith. The backdrop commemorates a new, all-time membership high.



A "SPONTANEOUS DEMONSTRATION"—carefully pre-planned, complete with "Beat Ohio" banners, cowbells, horns and crashing cymbals, disrupted proceedings at the American Farm Bureau annual meeting in Chicago, where 150 Michigan Farm Bureau leaders displayed their enthusiasm for gaining more members than the Buckeye State. The outburst came just as Secretary Roger Fleming was to give his address.

New War Between States... — Ohio Fires on Michigan!

Michigan Farm Bureau leaders have accepted a challenge issued by the Ohio Farm Bureau to determine which of the two states will attain the greatest numerical membership growth in the new year.

J. Thompson, Director of Organization for the Ohio Farm Bureau, contends that Michigan hasn't a chance against the Buckeyes, "not a bit more chance than the MSU football team had all year"—he said, striking on a sore point with many Michigan residents.

"We have more of everything in Ohio. We have better farmers located on better farms. They are served by the best state Farm Bureau in the nation. Our Farm Bureau volunteers are out signing up new members right and left. We have the kind of membership teamwork which will assure our giving Michigan the horse-laugh when they end up with the "Tail-End" trophy — as they surely shall," Thompson said.

At issue is the trophy to which he referred, plus the great loss of public prestige which receiving it entails. The trophy is a sculptured wrong half of a horse.

The trophy was displayed and the official challenge given by Frank Sollars, president of the Ohio Farm Bureau, who, it is reported, somewhat crudely broke into a Michigan breakfast session during the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau, in Chicago. He pointed out that southern state Farm Bureaus were growing at a faster rate than those of the midwest and said that Ohio—for one, did not intend to stand still while this occurred. He suggested that Michigan Farm Bureau folks had tired blood.

When Sollars left to attend his own state breakfast, the Michigan group sprang into action. They instructed Michigan Farm Bureau president, Elton Smith, and Field-Services manager Larry Ewing—to locate the Ohio group and "tell them off".

In doing so, it was agreed that payoff time would come during the annual Michigan-Ohio State football game, to be held in Columbus, October 10. "We will bring along the presidents of the first ten of our Michigan counties which go over goal, to witness the humiliating presentation of the Tail-End trophy to you . . ." Ewing told the Ohio group.

Meanwhile, back at the Michigan breakfast, one observer reported that the people were "stomping mad". They promptly organized a "Beat Ohio" demonstration (see editorial) and produced home-made signs and noisemakers and then set off for the convention hall. There, they interrupted proceedings with a half-hour demonstration before a crowd estimated at five thousand persons.

Leading the parade was Michigan Farm Bureau Secretary-Manager, Dan E. Reed, followed by the 150 Michigan persons at the convention. Newsmen craned their necks to see what was going on, and many in the huge crowd were at first convinced that the hall was being subjected to actual picketing.

Smarting from this public slap, Ohio Farm Bureau officials (later) distributed authentic-looking newspapers with banner headlines proclaiming their membership-getting ability.

Michigan folks countered by capturing the overhead projector used during the convention to flash announcements on the huge auditorium screen, and using Indian terminology flashed: "Chief Mighty-Eagle Smith of the Michiganders, says Chief Sollars and his Ohios always day late and dollar short. Heap big talk—little action."

In commenting on the by-play between the two states, Charles Burkett, Director of Field Operations for the Michigan Farm Bureau, observed that the rivalry provided needed lighter moments in an otherwise businesslike annual meeting.

"But horse-play or not, Farm Bureau in Michigan is now publicly committed to reach our membership goal of 53,836 Farm Bureau families in 1968, and to stay well ahead of Ohio in the process."

Encouraging signs include reports showing Michigan to be 6,000 members ahead of last year at this time, with many county Farm Bureaus at 75 per cent of goal.

January has been designated as "membership month" with most of the county Farm Bureaus expected to reach goal by January 15th.

Editorial

BEAT OHIO!

Fate, the philosophers say, dislikes being tempted.

Last month, in this column—the positive, flat statement was made that Farm Bureau members are not much for shouting slogans, and that they practically never wave banners in public.

"Most would rather pick 60 acres of corn by hand than march in public demonstration . . ." we wrote with decisive authority.

Well, that was last month—before fickle fate intervened.

After having witnessed a mass demonstration staged only weeks later by 150 Michigan farmers in the heart of Chicago, the conclusion must be reached that Farm Bureau members can be stirred to public action.

It happened before a crowd of thousands in the world's largest hotel—Chicago's Conrad Hilton, where the world's largest farm organization—the American Farm Bureau Federation was holding its 49th annual meeting.

President Charles Shuman had just finished an elaborate introduction of Roger Fleming, Secretary-Treasurer of the Federation. As Fleming arose to begin his annual address, he was stopped by the strident blat of a horn, the banging of cymbals, by shouts and screams and the shocked roar of a crowd estimated at five thousand persons.

It had all begun earlier in the day at the Michigan breakfast, interrupted by Ohio Farm Bureau president, Frank Sollars, who bore with him a set of trophies to be given for membership work to whichever state of the two came up with the largest numerical gain.

The first, depicting Winged Victory, was an impressive affair, and Sollars claimed it in advance for Ohio. He suggested that the other trophy (depicting the rear end of a horse) would belong alone to Michigan. He had no more than left the group when plans for the "demonstration" against Ohio began.

Now, waving banners and maintaining the din, the Michigan farmers streamed through the doors into the International Ballroom where their line was so long that many had not entered when the others had reached the stage.

By then the convention organist caught the spirit and added to the din with tumultuous marching music, punctuated at intervals by horn blasts and cymbal crashes. Of the 150 Michigan folks in the march, most had cowbells, homemade signs or both, and leading the group was Michigan Farm Bureau secretary-manager, Dan Reed, carrying the explanatory sign: "This spontaneous demonstration sponsored by the more-members-for-Michigan committee".

Immediately behind him came those bearing a huge banner with the words "Go, Michigan, Go—Beat Ohio!" Other signs elaborated on the theme—"Buckeyes we've got, members we need"—and "We're for more Farm Bureau members in Michigan!"

President Shuman, unable to read the smaller signs from a distance, saw only the flashy word "demonstration" on the leading sign, and along with most delegates thought for some moments that the Farm Bureau convention had actually become caught up in a genuine protest march of some kind.

Actually, the demonstration was genuine enough, for marching in the group were 50 county "Roll Call" captains who had made a special flight from their Michigan farms to take part in the big annual meeting. There was no doubt about their concern for more Farm Bureau members in Michigan, or of their ability to get them.

Right now, they—along with hundreds of other volunteers, are working hard at the job of boosting Michigan well beyond our goal of 53,836 Farm Bureau families in 1968—and beyond the reach of the Ohio Farm Bureau.

After all, who wants to win the mounted southern half of a horse travelling north?

From Ohio—yet?

M.W.



A PERSONAL WORD FROM...

Farm Bureau Women

The Holiday Season is now history and I hope you all had a wonderful time with your families and friends. To many there were probably some "firsts" this year. Maybe the firsts might be, a new home, a first child, starting a new life together, a different part of the country, loss of a loved one. Whatever the first may have been, we realize that life is made up of a lot of "firsts".

Let's look at another first, let's call it "Quota First". It's been several years since Michigan has made "Quota" in membership. Most of us can look around us and see neighbors who should be Farm Bureau members and maybe if "we" would ask them they would join us. Many people are waiting to be asked.

One of the resolutions this year says, "—the Farm Bureau Women continue to relate their efforts to the furthering of the total program of the Farm Bureau at local, county and state levels." What better way can we begin to help, than on membership? It has been jokingly said, that two good ways to get a job done is to tel-a-phone and tell-a-woman. Ladies do get on the telephone and call your local Roll-Call worker and tell him you want to help in your local membership drive.

The Ohio Farm Bureau challenged the Michigan Farm Bureau to a membership contest. The Michigan Farm Bureau accepted the challenge and in order to win this contest we will all need to go to work.

Remember a Farm Bureau membership is a family membership and tells us that as a family grows, so should our Farm Bureau family grow, and like members of our families learn to accept responsibilities, so we as members of our Farm Bureau families must also learn to accept responsibilities. Wouldn't this be a good place for another "First"? We can accomplish many things if we all work together for the good of everyone.

Let us never forget if we hope to make our best better, we'll have to work in 1968 for this "Quota First". May we count you on our team?

Mrs. Jerold (Maxine) Topliff

President's Column

PAINT THE BARN

I'm not much inclined toward "New Year's resolutions," but I do think the beginning of a new year is often a good time to make positive plans for the future.

This is the time for positive planning for agriculture, and for Farm Bureau. We have just wound up an old year with state and national conventions to decide the things we would like done in the new year. Now is the time to decide HOW we are going to do them.

New Farm Bureau programs can't be built without support from members. Programs aren't built first and supported later. Programs are activities with members TAKING PART—for without this, no program exists.

The slogan for our state annual meeting back in November was "Strength, through Group Action." This is a fitting slogan for an organization like Farm Bureau. Every word is vital.

"Strength," for example, can mean legislative strength, or it can mean marketing strength, and we all know how important this kind of strength is to farmers today. Both of these can also mean economic strength—if we get the right results in our efforts. But we can also have economic strength in other ways through our Farm Bureau service affiliates—Farm Bureau Services, Farm Bureau Insurance Group, and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative.

By "Group," we can mean the million and three-quarter families making up the American Farm Bureau Federation (a new record membership, by the way); or the 52,000 member families in the Michigan Farm Bureau; or any one of the over 2700 county Farm Bureaus across the United States; our nearly 1200 Community Farm Bureau Groups here in Michigan, or the innumerable working committees.

"Action," of course, can also be of several types, such as action by legislative committees to help get a bill through the Legislature. It can be marketing action, such as through MACMA programs for apples, asparagus, or even the new red-tart cherry program now being developed.

One thing we have to remember about the whole idea—the bigger the "group", the more "strength" we are capable of putting together, and this is the reason we spend the first part of the year in membership Roll-Call activities.

This is the time of year when we protect our investment in Farm Bureau. Farmers believe in protecting their investments. We paint our buildings; we give special maintenance to our farm equipment; we buy liability insurance for the farm. This is the time of year when we "paint the Farm Bureau barn."

First we have to make sure our own membership is renewed for 1968, and then we can talk to friends and neighbors about joining with us.

Let's remember that only we, as farmers, really worry about our net income. No one else is going to watch out for us in a way we can fully rely on, and this is what makes Farm Bureau so important.

We are always hearing about the decreasing farm population, and this is truly a fact. Census figures show a drastic decline in the total number of farms in Michigan—but this is also misleading.

Instead of decreasing, the number of really commercial farms is increasing. The census figures show a decrease in total farms of about 18,000 during the five years from 1959 to 1964, but the real "commercial" farms—those with sales of ten thousand dollars or more a year—they actually increased by over 5,000 during the same period. We have a majority of the total farmers and these "commercial" farmers in Farm Bureau, but there are a lot more who probably haven't even been invited to join.

Every farmer deserves the opportunity to be a part of Farm Bureau, because membership makes him a part of organized agriculture. Somebody is going to be making the decisions about where Farm Bureau is going in the years ahead and every farmer in Michigan should have the opportunity to help decide.

Elton Smith

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

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MICHIGAN IN CHICAGO!

State Well Represented

Michigan farmers, 150 strong, played prominent parts in the 49th annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation, December 10-14.

Held in nearby Chicago, the convention attracted one of the largest and most enthusiastic Michigan groups in recent years.

Perhaps of most significance to midwest farmers is the continuous dramatic growth of membership in the southern region, which this year for the first time topped all other regions in both membership growth and in total members, thus giving the southern farmer more "voice" in the agricultural affairs of the nation.

However, Michigan continues to be well represented on the board of directors of the American Farm Bureau Federation, with the re-election of Elton R. Smith, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau, to his first full, two-year term on the board.

Smith had been elected last year to fill the vacancy created on the board by the resignation due to illness, of Olen Monsees, then president of the Missouri Farm Bureau. Only state Farm Bureau presidents are eligible for election to the board.

Twelve states comprise the midwest region, each granted voting delegates based on a formula tied to membership size. Illinois, with the largest state Farm Bureau membership, has 14 voting delegates, followed by Indiana with 11 and Iowa with 8. Kansas has 7 and Michigan, Ohio and Missouri have each earned 4. Minnesota and Wisconsin have 3 delegates each, while Nebraska and North Dakota have two. South Dakota has a single voting delegate.

Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmers made impressive showings in three events, with Marshall Forbush, Byron — representing his state well in the national "Discussion Meet" contest. His chief competition came from George F. Guess, Jr., 27-year-old farmer from Stevenson, Alabama, who won the national contest by outlining the topic "The role of Farm Bureau 10 years from now in state and national legislation". Guess was national public speaking winner of the Future Farmers of America in the 1957 competition.

Although there is no national contest as such in the annual "Talent Find" — Michigan's entry, Mrs. Jeanette Mehney of St. Johns, displayed the same professional versatility with the accordion which won her first placing in the Michigan state contest in Lansing. She played two selections before an audience counted at over 3,000 persons, doing so while accompanied by a 15-piece band.

Miss Kay Eschelbach of Jackson county, wearing her crown and sash as "Farm Bureau Queen" — strolled on-stage, on the arm of Michigan Farm Bureau president Elton Smith, to be introduced to the large audience, and to be greeted by American Farm Bureau president, Charles Shuman.

Earlier, Miss Eschelbach appeared relaxed and regal on WGN television in a half-hour color show wherein she presented a cherry pie she had baked to Farm Director, Orion Samuelson.

Kay used the opportunity to tell her vast audience about Michigan's cherry industry and about the new Cherry Marketing Division of the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) — which opened its drive for membership that morning, December 11.

Both Elton Smith and Michigan Farm Bureau board member, Kenneth Bull, of Bull Brothers Orchards, Bailey, spoke before those attending several of the marketing programs.



HARD AT WORK — defending Michigan policy recommendations to the American Farm Bureau Federation, are these voting delegates. From the right, they include: MFB President, Elton Smith; Board Member, Eugene Roberts; V. Pres. Dean Pridgeon; Exec. Committee member, David Morris.

MEMBERSHIP SOARS TO ALL-TIME HIGH!

The American Farm Bureau Federation reported another all-time high in membership at the opening of the organization's 49th annual meeting, December 11 to 14.

Reports from the 49 State Farm Bureaus and Puerto Rico show a 49,624 increase over last year to bring the American Farm Bureau Federation's membership to 1,753,532 member families, Roger Fleming, secretary-treasurer, said. Alaska is the only state without a Farm Bureau organization.

"This is the largest numerical gain in membership over a previous year since 1953. A total of 42 State Farm Bureaus and the Puerto Rico Farm Bureau registered gains over 1966. This is the same number of states that gained in membership last year," Fleming said.

He added: "Membership growth in a voluntary association is the most reliable test available as to whether farmers and ranchers support its policies and programs. Naturally, Farm Bureau leaders are gratified with this dramatic display of confidence and support."

Six states reported a membership gain in all of their organized county Farm Bureaus. States with a membership gain in each organized county are Delaware, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Tennessee, Utah and Wisconsin. This is the third consecutive year all organized county Farm Bureaus in Wisconsin have shown a gain in membership over the previous year.

The AFBF secretary-treasurer said, "Fifteen states established an all-time membership high in 1967, the same number of states as last year. All four regions gained in membership in 1967, but the larg-

est gains came from the Southern Region with nine years of consecutive growth and 35,953 members over 1966 and the Midwest with an increase of 10,421. All states and Puerto Rico in the Southern Region gained.

The fifteen states establishing a new all-time high in membership are Alabama, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas.

The 1967 AFBF membership quota was attained by 35 states. This includes 14 of the 15 states listed above (Montana excepted) having new all-time highs plus the states of Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Maine, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Puerto

Rico, Rhode Island, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

The Alabama Farm Bureau in reaching an all-time high passed the 100,000 membership mark to join Texas, Iowa, Indiana, and Illinois in the category of states with more than 100,000 members. The Alabama membership climbed to 100,024.

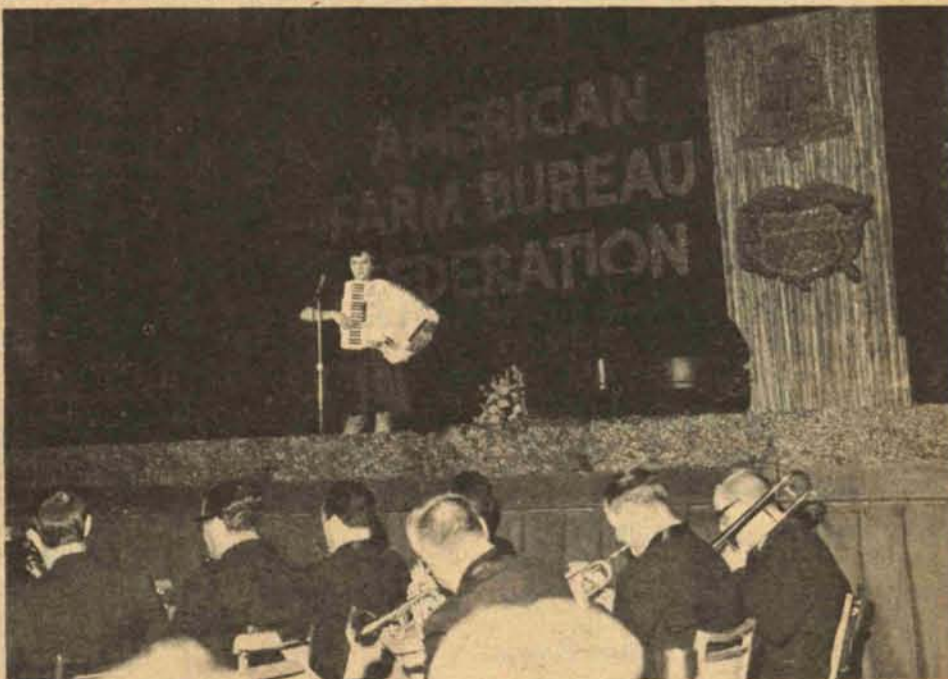
The Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation has had a continuous gain in membership over the previous year for the past 27 years. Florida Farm Bureau Federation has had a continuous gain in membership since it was organized 26 years ago.

Other state Farm Bureaus with outstanding records of continuous gain in membership over the previous year are Texas with 12 years continuous membership gain; Alabama and Puerto Rico with 11; Montana and North Carolina with 9; Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina with 8; Indiana, Kentucky, Nevada, New Mexico, and Rhode Island with 6; Maine, Missouri, South Dakota, and Wyoming with 5; Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho and Oklahoma with 4; California, Nebraska, Oregon, Utah and Wisconsin with 3 years of continuous gain.

Tennessee Farm Bureau had the largest gain in membership over the previous year with 8,023 new member families.



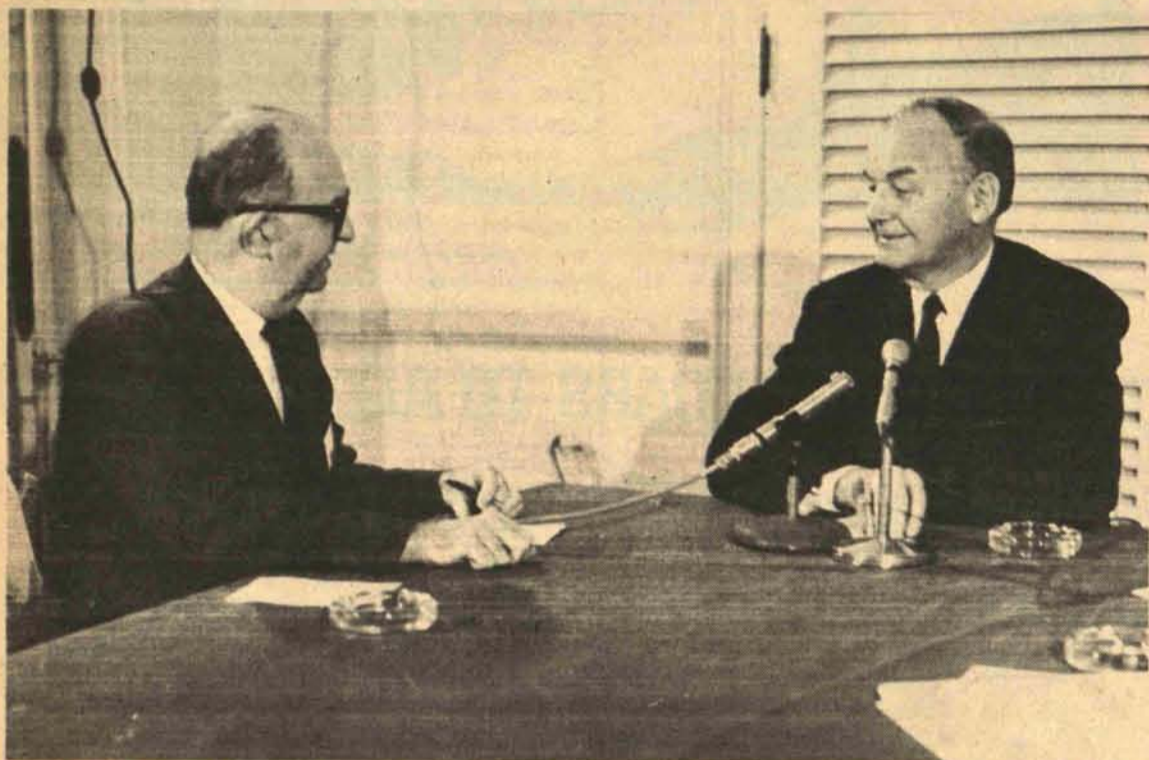
TELEVISION CAMERAMEN — included a crew from the Information Division of the Michigan Farm Bureau, hired to telecast convention proceedings on behalf of the American Farm Bureau. Shown at work is Michigan Broadcast Services Director, Roger Brown, working in line with crews from CBS and NBC.



A FULL ORCHESTRA — provided accompaniment for accordionist Mrs. Jeanette Mehney, representing Michigan in the annual nation-wide display of rural talent. Mrs. Mehney won rounds of applause from a crowd of more than 3,000 persons, for two lively selections done with professional polish.



capitol report



DANGER TO OUR DOLLARS — was outlined for broadcast by Senator Williams (right) of Delaware, in speaking of inflationary pressures to Farm Bureau radio-television man, Jack Angell. The program was re-broadcast in 35 states on a network of more than 400 stations.

DOLLAR VALUES IN DANGER

Senator Speaks Out

There is a very real threat of devaluation of the American dollar, according to Senator John J. Williams of Delaware.

Recipient of a distinguished service award at the American Farm Bureau annual meeting recently in Chicago, Senator Williams warned that only vigilance on the part of elected officials can prevent such a devaluation.

"Inflation is not a threat in America to-day; it is a reality," he said. "Unfortunately there are those at high government levels who do not recognize the real danger as yet."

He also pointed out that the recent devaluation of the British pound has intensified the pressures on the American monetary system.

Examining the effects of the pound devaluation he pointed out that the British people are having to pay dearly for the mistakes of their government. *As an example he pointed to people living on*

pensions who have suddenly lost a seventh of their already meager resources.

As a result of our trying to go full steam ahead here and in Viet Nam, he said, "We have a deficit running at the rate of one and one-half billion dollars a month — over fifty million dollars a day. *If it's kept up, we can be in trouble with the American dollar.*"

"The first order of business must be to cut expenses," he said. But he added that he would support increased taxes if the executive branch met the first test.

The 1967 awards for distinguished service to agriculture, highest honor conferred by the American Farm Bureau Federation, were given at the Federation's 49th annual meeting to Sen. Williams of Delaware and Charles Marshall, Avoca, Nebraska, former president of the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation, and a former member of the AFBF board of directors.

In presenting the award to Senator Williams, Charles B. Shuman, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, said:

"Members of the U. S. Senate achieve renown for many reasons — some of them not necessarily salutary — but the man we honor here tonight is esteemed by many others as well as we in Farm Bureau for a quality too often rare in politics — integrity. Indeed to many, he is Mr. Integrity."

"He has been instrumental in uncovering some of the biggest scandals in the government. His investigation brought forth 125 convictions for bribery, extortion and embezzlement and other crimes. A total of 131 persons were charged with criminal conversion of more than 80 million dollars worth of grain held by the Commodity Credit Corporation.

"He was a leader in the effort to bring the infamous Bobby Baker to justice; he played a major role in keeping the government honest in the Billie Sol Estes scandal. He is, indeed, 'the conscience of the Senate.'"

In addition, Shuman said, Senator Williams has not confined his duties to investigations.

"As the senior Republican on the important Senate Finance Committee, he is a major force in the evolution of the tax policies of the nation.

"His voice is often heard on the side of logic and reason. He is not above the people; he truly is of the people. He also serves on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee," Shuman pointed out and said Farm Bureau was truly gratified in honoring a true, honest-to-goodness farm boy who had reached a position of natural prominence in the U. S. Senate.

FIFTH IN A SERIES:

KLINE ON FREEDOM

BY: ALLAN B. KLINE

Semi-retired following his 1954 decision to decline re-nomination as President of the American Farm Bureau Federation, Allan Kline has continued to serve through his perceptive speeches and writings. This is the fifth of a six article series outlining the anatomy of Freedom. . . .

We are in a rather fortunate position. We have accumulated all the knowledge of the ages. We have the institutions of freedom. We have a nation whose prosperity, whose power, whose freedom is without counterpart in history. We are part of it.

Freedom cannot survive in a disorderly society. We believe in justice, under the law. There is a difference — not justice on the basis of what someone thinks it ought to be at the moment.

We believe in competition and a free market; in individual ownership and individual initiative. This is America and America works. The legislative branch of our government has been a very key branch — very vital in our system of government. It represents all the people. Until the Civil War, the Courts challenged the constitutionality of an act of Congress only twice. The first 17 presidents had only 7 who vetoed acts of Congress. Congress was important!

Those who governed believed in the Constitution! We believe that people should have considerable administrative responsibility where they live so that they can learn to govern themselves by taking part. At home is about the only place that most people can take part.

But, now let's look at Congress. The comparative power of Congress has been declining. It has lost control of the purse. The budget comes over from the executive. Congress can hardly read it. It is a foot thick, with many secret items in the budget, agency upon agency, mass allocations of funds, unexpended balances, revolving funds. Congress has lost control — and control of the money is important.

Congress still has some power of investigation. But this is now being eroded. We have a court action which says that all these investigations are subject to COURT review!

The "liberals" don't like investigations and they don't like Congress. They don't want interference with government as they want it to work. Congress no longer initiates much of the legislation. Many bills come to Congress with the i's dotted and the t's crossed by the biggest lobby in Washington — the executive department of the government of the United States.

The executive has gained a vast new accumulation of powers. The executive department is a vast bureaucracy. James Burnham, in his book "Congress and the American Tradition" says that "the impression that the federal bureaucracy is an efficient, jet-streamed operation, is a myth. It is, in fact, a swollen, arthritic, half-paralyzed cripple that spends one-third of its time housekeeping, one-third trying to duck responsibility — and only a third at government affairs."

When you read about the progress of the Congress in today's sessions, what is meant is **The Progress of the President's Program in Congress**. The President has moved in. Power is used for reprisal against Congressmen who do not cooperate — limits on government money and political reprisals.

What about treaties? We have international bodies — the UN and associated agencies; the international bank-international monetary fund. They all have the effect of treaties. A lot of treaty agreements never came to the Congress for consideration at all. They were made outright by the President.

Treaties become the law of the land. In treaties, the President makes agreements with the force of law, which, in many cases, supercede the Constitution of the United States itself.

We had a Court decision in 1936 which said that in the international field the President was the supreme power! Other decisions later declared that international treaties are THE SUPREME LAW. So, now the President can over-rule the Constitution in this sphere. And efforts to try to change this concentration of power have failed.

What about the Supreme Court? Courts have a dominant position in deciding what is in accord with the Constitution. Under this advantage, the Court has put itself in the position of an inquisitor of Congress. Democratism moved into the Supreme Court — where opinions are determined by an over-riding majority opinion and a power to act being centered in few men.

Democratists want Congress out of the way. They do not want public policy expressed through a bicameral legislature or Congress — they are too tough to move around — they want the executive to speak for the people.

Heritage 1968

Hawaiian Tours

Departing—March 2—June 15—August 3—

October 26

Visiting 4 Islands—Oahu—Kauai—Maui
and Hawaii

FOR DETAILED FOLDER: Contact
Information Division, Michigan Farm Bureau
Box 960, Lansing, Michigan 48904

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

YOUNG FARMERS

Two major Farm Bureau events are scheduled for the first part of 1968, with the 4th consecutive YOUNG FARMER program set for Lansing on the dates of January 3-5.

The annual "President's Conference", has been scheduled for the later part of the month, and is set for Camp Kett in northern Michigan, January 25-26.

The Young Farmer Conference will bring 55 youthful farm couples together as guests of the Michigan Farm Bureau and affiliate companies, and will include a tour of some Farm Bureau facilities.

Included in this year's program will be tours of the Leonard re-

finery at Alma, of the Farm Bureau Supply Center at Saginaw and the ultra-modern egg-processing plant at Brighton.

It is expected that the youthful participants will view these facilities in a critical light, and as a first-time experience for many.

"Nothing in Farm Bureau is sacred simply because we have been doing it all along" — said President Elton Smith in announcing the conference.

"We hope our young guests can help us improve our activities and services."

"PRESIDENT'S" CONFERENCE

Much the same attitude is attached to the annual "President's

Conference" where members of County Farm Bureau Executive Committees are also invited to attend.

Chaired by Mr. Smith, the conference will deal with membership Roll-Call, with increased involvement in local affairs and with an expanded "PEP" program (Political Education and Participation).

Managers of affiliated service programs will again participate in the two-day and one evening program, which will open at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, January 25, and continue through 3:00 p.m. Friday, January 26.

Workshops and question-answer sessions will be held, and mutual problems and opportunities examined.

Notes From All Over

Convicts Pick Figs

MERCED, California—(AP)—Over the objections of organized labor, California convicts were out plucking figs to avert what Gov. Ronald Reagan said would be a disaster for the state's growers.

The governor authorized the use of about 200 prisoners from the minimum-security Deuel Vocational Institution at Tracy to lend a hand in harvesting the ripe fig crop.

"Unless prison labor is made available immediately, a substantial loss will be suffered," the governor said.

The men are being paid prevailing wages, with part of the money going into the state treasury and

the rest into a fund paid to the convicts upon release.

Thomas Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, protested the action. He contended growers hadn't made full efforts to find domestic labor.

— Detroit Free Press

Farmers Assailed by De Gaulle

PARIS — (UPI) — President Charles de Gaulle said Tuesday that the French government had already done "more than any other country" for its farmers. He blamed riotous demonstrations by 100,000 farmers on their stubborn refusal to modernize.

De Gaulle met with his cabinet to discuss Monday's massive demonstrations and the French Farmers Union's demands for immediate price increases for farm products.

Hundreds of farmers and 179 police and gendarmes were injured in the violent demonstrations. The nation-wide strikes and riots were the most serious since World War II.

Following the Tuesday cabinet meeting, Information Minister Georges Gorse said de Gaulle felt the farmers should work with the government instead of demonstrating against it.

Gorse said the farmers' real problem was inefficiency in production and marketing and not low prices. The farmers had asked for an across-the-board increase of five percent in farm prices and 10 percent on meat prices. They also want protection against crop failures.

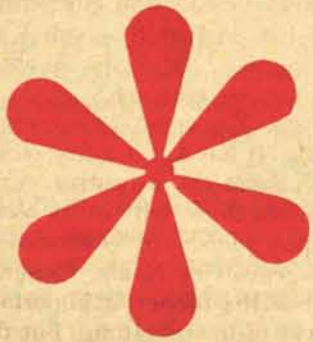
The most serious rioting Monday occurred in Quimper in Brittany where 7,000 farmers and police fought near the local Gullist union party offices. More than 100 persons were hospitalized. Four were critically injured.

MICHIGAN — MEMO —

SPEECH COPIES AVAILABLE — There were many requests for copies of the "Selling America" speech by Richard DeVos, speaker at the Farm Bureau Women's annual meeting. A copy was secured from Mr. DeVos and duplicates have been printed. They may be ordered through the Information Division of Michigan Farm Bureau, 4000 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing, Mich. 48904.

STUDY COMMITTEE — authorized by the state Women's Committee, has held three meetings and proposed recommendations for consideration of the committee at their January meeting. Following this meeting, the final recommendations will be available to county women's committees for such areas as structure, program their use. The committee studied planning, training, and district activities.

RURAL ART EXHIBIT — Michigan State University has announced a Rural Art Exhibit at the 53rd annual Farmers' Week. The show will feature artists from the state's rural areas, hopefully with many Farm Bureau members included. The exhibits will be displayed January 30, 31, and February 1 at MSU's Auditorium exhibit room.



Let the Spirit of the
Holiday's Remain
with You Throughout
The Coming Year!



**FARMERS
PETROLEUM**

We can still take care of your winter needs . . . Call us now!

4000 N. GRAND RIVER

LANSING, MICHIGAN

FARM BUREAU WOMEN



working, not waiting.....



RECOGNITION — for outstanding Farm Bureau Women's programs brought \$25 award checks to Chippewa, St. Clair and Livingston counties. Accepting are (from left) Mrs. Marie Postma, Chippewa; Mrs. Maribelle Reid, St. Clair and Mrs. Claudine Jackson, Livingston. Second place awards of \$10 went to Saginaw, Kalamazoo and Montmorency Women's Committees.



ASSOCIATE EDITOR LEAVES

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS associate editor, Donna Wilber, has left Farm Bureau employment after 15 years of service, to become editor of the Ovid-Elsie Banner.

A creative writer, Mrs. Wilber has won a number of awards with her work, which included photography, typography and magazine layout. She was associated with Farm Bureau Women's informational activities and participated in speech training, creative writing, broadcast and information work-shops.

The weekly Banner will serve Ovid and Elsie in Clinton county and surrounding rural communities not currently served by a locally-owned and operated newspaper.

Printed by the most modern photo-offset methods, the Banner will be available to subscribers the first week of January.

"African Exchange" Success

By Mrs. Edward Bourns
Oakland County Reporter

The Oakland County Farm Bureau Women have recently completed an "African Exchange" project, which they feel was a very worthwhile activity. After several months of collecting material such as magazines, cookbooks, sewing, Extension and 4-H material, pictures of farms (including the "Slow-Moving Vehicle Emblems"), and the Michigan Farm Bureau Women's "Country Kitchen Cookbook," two boxes were sent to a woman in Piketberg, South Africa.

Exchange material from Africa arrived for the Oakland Women in September, and to our surprise, the magazines were similar to ours, even with similar ads.

This exchange material was displayed at our regular women's meeting, and a speaker was contacted at the International Center of the University of Michigan.

The speaker was Thomas de Koning, a graduate student and teacher in Social Psychology. He arrived in America a year ago last August, and his wife and four children arrived the following November. Two days later they saw their first snowfall.

The family lives at Victoria, South Africa, near Piketberg, our exchange town.

Mrs. deKoning spoke about the woman's place in South Africa and of living conditions there. She explained that help is no longer plentiful so women are learning to do their own work. Few of them work outside the home — and the man is still "head of the home."

Electricity is still scarce, Mrs. de Koning said, and little heat is necessary as temperatures range from 50 to 100 degrees all year. Weather is very dry but still plenty of fruit and vegetables are

available from near the Cape.

Mr. de Koning was born on a farm but chose to leave it for teaching. He spoke on the political situations and integration.

Fulfilling their desire to see a farm, the family was entertained at the Edward Bourns for church and Sunday dinner, and a tour of the farming operation.

Karker Fund Drive Gains!

The Marge Karker Farm Bureau Scholarship fund drive has gained momentum following the recognition and presentation of an engraved tray to Mrs. Karker at the Farm Bureau Women's annual meeting in November. The fund currently stands at \$5,000 toward a minimum goal of \$8,000 by July 1. Several counties are reporting fund-raising projects for the scholarship.

Branch Women earned part of their quota at their county fair booth, by selling the Country Kitchen cookbooks, food and baked goods. Groups in that county have also held "white elephant" sales with proceeds going to the fund.

St. Clair County Farm Bureau Women contributed \$300 toward the fund, from their Smorgasbord dinner at which they served over 500 people.

Counties which has contributed to the fund include: Alpena, Antrim, Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Chippewa, Clare, Genesee, Huron, Iosco, Iron, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lapeer, Livingston, Macomb, Marquette-Alger, Mecosta, Midland, Monroe, Montmorency, Newaygo, Northwest Michigan, Oakland, Ogemaw, Otsego, Ottawa, Saginaw, St. Clair, Sanilac, Shiawassee, Tuscola, Washtenaw and Wayne.

A number of Community Groups in various counties have also contributed, as have individuals.

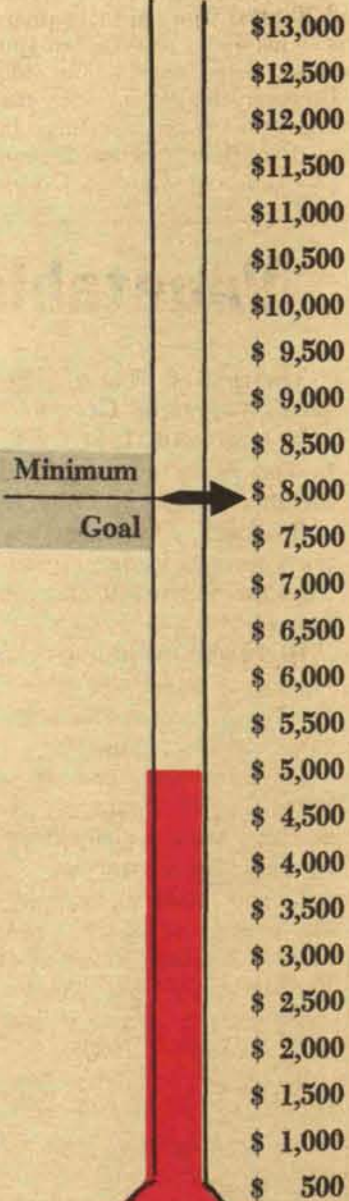
Contributions may be sent to the Marge Karker Farm Bureau Scholarship, attention Helen Atwood, 4000 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing 48904.

1968 Women's Officers

Chairman: Mrs. Jerold Topliff (Maxine), Eaton Rapids
Vice Chairman: Mrs. Clare Carpenter (Florence), Cass City

District	Chairman	Location
1	Mrs. Vida Morehouse	Decatur
2	Mrs. Dorothy Kramer	Reading
3	Mrs. Mary Edith Anderson	Fowlerville
4	Mrs. Ann Campau	Ada
5	Mrs. Jeannette Babbitt	Eagle
6	Mrs. Florence Carpenter	Cass City
7	Mrs. Margaret Muir	Grant
8	Mrs. Marie Swindlehurst	Mt. Pleasant
9	Mrs. Dorothy Hendricks	Kalkaska
10-W	Mrs. Doris Wieland	Ellsworth
10-E	Mrs. Margaret Kartes	West Branch
11-W	Mrs. Eleanor Honkala	Crystal Falls
11-E	Mrs. Cleve Lockhart	Pickford
Vice Chairman		
1	Mrs. Alice Burandt	St. Joseph
2	Mrs. Wilma Olney	Quincy
3	Mrs. Lottie Koppelman	Ottawa Lake
4	Mrs. Leora Smith	Hastings
5	Mrs. Maud Bristol	Durand
6	Mrs. Margaret Welke	Mayville
7	Mrs. Grace Greenhoe	Carson City
8	Mrs. Martha Baker	Merrill
9	Mrs. Madeline Sundell	McBain
10-E	Mrs. Deanna Stevens	Hillman
10-W	Mrs. Bertha Parsons	Charlevoix
11-E	Mrs. Ruth Sundin	Ensign
11-W	Mrs. Helen Good	Bark River

FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP THERMOMETER



Goal: 25¢ per member



MARKET DEVELOPMENT

The "Crown Prince" of All Michigan Fruits...

KENNETH BULL — prominent Michigan orchardist (Bull Brothers, Bailey) made a major presentation before the Horticultural Crops conference at the recent annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation, Chicago. The following statements are from his talk about the future of cherry marketing.

The apple has always been known as the "king of the fruits", peaches, "The Queen", but the Red Tart Cherry has been the glamour fruit or the Crown Prince of the Michigan fruit industry. In 1964 and 1965 the tart cherry industry fell into an indisputable slump and lost its former prestige.

The last two years, due to an act of God and with very little help from us, the tart cherry industry has returned to respectability once again, and I am told the cherry grower is beginning to feel like the upper crust of the horticultural fraternity.

According to Webster, the upper crust is a bunch of crumbs stuck together with a lot of dough. This might apply to New York or southwestern Michigan or northern Michigan but the affluent cherry industry almost missed West Central Michigan. For instance, in 1965 our orchards produced 430 tons of cherries; in 1966 — 130 tons and in 1967 we had 30 tons. You see that's progress — maybe in reverse, but you can't say that I am standing still.

However, to get on with the serious business of marketing. In 1961, the Michigan Farm Bureau organized an affiliate Co-op

known as Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association — commonly known as MACMA. This cooperative was set up to aid any agricultural commodity group that asked for aid in trying to solve their marketing and bargaining problems. MACMA is a state-wide farmer-owned and controlled cooperative and is a voluntary non-profit organization, legally operating in Michigan as a bargaining and marketing cooperative.

MACMA presently has four successful operating divisions, namely processing apples, processing vegetables, grapes and asparagus.

Early last spring, when it became apparent that Great Lakes Cherry Producers Co-op, Inc. was not going to function this year, fruit growers from six of the cherry producing counties of western Michigan asked the Michigan Farm Bureau for a cherry division to be formed under the framework of MACMA. Because similar interest had been shown in other states bordering the Great Lakes, President Charles Shuman of the American Farm Bureau Federation sent a representative, a Mr. Ward Cooper, from the na-

tional Farm Bureau offices to study the feasibility of such a program. After considerable research, Mr. Cooper reported favorably. Michigan Farm Bureau Market Development staff studied the probability of a successful cherry division of MACMA for Michigan growers, and they recommend that such a plan be set up as soon as possible.

The County Farm Bureau Boards, in those counties where interest had been indicated, then appointed cherry committees. The Chairman of each of these local committees was to act on the State Advisory Committee. The State Committee is made up of two members representing Michigan Farm Bureau, five members at large representing the heavy cherry producing counties and the above-mentioned county Chairmen.

This committee met several times and decided that a cherry division of MACMA was very desirable and necessary to stabilize the tart cherry industry. This is a fine committee of good cherry producers who have worked diligently for the tart cherry industry of Michigan. They have spent a great deal of time and effort without any monetary rewards. They have acted as the interim cherry advisory committee and will continue to do so until a sufficient membership has been signed up and the members themselves will select their own committee to operate the cherry division. This group of cherry growers produce about 6% of the total tart cherries grown in Michigan, so you see they are successful operating producers.

This year, with the short crop, your committee decided to go all out with a market analysis and price leadership and newsletter service program to all cherry growers in the state. The growers of New York and Wisconsin cooperated in the program. This program was financed by borrowed funds from Michigan Farm Bureau. It accomplished its purpose as you are well aware. The processors of Red Tart Cherries in New York, looking at their good crop had no intention of paying 18¢ for cherries and you can well see what would have happened in Michigan if New York processors came out with a 15¢ price.

Under the present set-up, Michigan has five members on the National Cherry Advisory Committee; New York, two; Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, one each, with Ohio coming in with Michigan. This committee acts in similar capacity as our Michigan Cherry Advisory Committee.

The interim cherry committee has come out with a two-phase membership agreement to help obtain market power for tart cherry growers. Phase one — a market analysis, market information and price leadership and a newsletter to keep the members informed.



FLAVORBEST APPLES — from Bull Brothers Orchards, are distributed by Leonard Warner of the American Farm Bureau, to eager members of the working press during the American Farm Bureau convention in Chicago. Michigan Farm Bureau board member, Kenneth Bull, has provided the Michigan apples for the newsmen for a number of years.

This will be financed by not over a 1% marketing fee.

Number two — or Phase two is phase one plus bargaining for price with MACMA as exclusive sales agent. This, too, becomes effective after a member referendum requiring a two-thirds majority of those voting representing over 50% of the eligible tonnage when voted into effect by grower referendum. If it becomes necessary to go into phase two, which the committee does not plan on doing this next year with the 1968 crop, there would be at no time more than a 3% fee for the sales agent services.

Today there is a place in the market for small producers, but there is no place for small sellers. The concentration of buyers into fewer and larger units, together with the increasing strength of labor and government, is the challenge of today's producers. Cooperation is necessary for market power. Facts vital for market power are accurate analysis of such factors as: Crop size and condition, Carry-over stocks, Demand for processed products and the situation of competing products. Informed growers have more market power because of information to growers and industry by newsletters and bulletins, news releases to news media, Growers meetings, meeting with process-

ors and direct contact by telephone.

Price leadership for Market Power can be realized by the growers with the facts and they can unite all production areas, present a united front to processors, gain understanding and respect with buyers and establish a realistic uniform cash price.

A strong cooperative marketing organization (AAMA) acting as representative for its members is necessary for Market Power. A program providing: market analysis, information and price leadership; a means to initiate bargaining and sales agent service if growers decide this approach is needed; a strong, binding interstate affiliation with cherry growers in other states and member grower involvement and representation; a means of uniting the marketing interest of cherry growers, plus a tie with producers of other commodities having similar needs, and a marketing service at nominal cost.

Finally, this young cherry division of AAMA has the organization, the staff and the knowhow to get this job of keeping the tart cherry industry on the profit side of the ledger and return it to its former prestige as the Crown Prince of the fruit industry. All we still need is your cooperation.

Vegetable Program

The first of what is hoped to become an annual "Great Lakes Vegetable Growers Educational Program" will be held January 9-11, at the Lansing Civic Center, according to Ted Bosgraaf, prominent Ottawa county Farm Bureau member and vegetable producer.

Bosgraaf, who serves as Chairman of the council, reports that the program will officially begin at 1:30 p.m. — Tuesday, January 9, and continue through noon, Thursday, January 11.

Highlights include panel discussions and lectures relating to the latest vegetable producing practices throughout the Great Lakes area, with some emphasis on their application to Michigan.

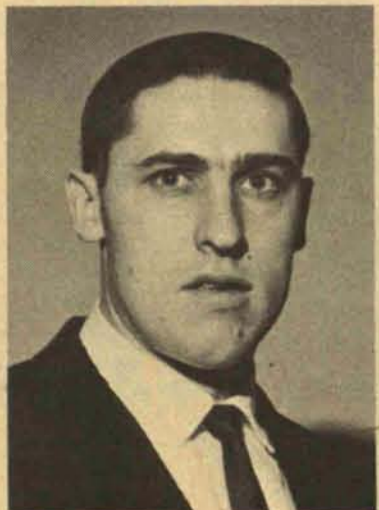
Effective management of farm labor, the mechanical harvesting of asparagus, pickling cucumbers and tomatoes and the Mexican vegetable industry, will all be featured in special presentations.

Duane Baldwin, Ingham county Farm Bureau member and prominent in the vegetable-growing industry, will explore the effective use of labor. Baldwin is a member of the Michigan Agricultural Services Association board. The Association is Farm Bureau's labor recruitment, training and placement affiliate.

Speaking on "The Mexican Vegetable Industry — in transition" will be Dr. Ernesto H. Casseres, visiting professor at Michigan State University from the Inter-American Institute for Agricultural Sciences, out of Mexico City, Mexico.

It is expected that 75 U. S. commercial firms will display supplies and equipment at the exhibition hall. Among them will be the Hart-Carter company of Peoria, Illinois, with their mechanical asparagus harvester.

about people...



DAVID COOK — (32) Manager of Farm Bureau Services Sandusky Branch, has been named Regional Representative for the Michigan Farm Bureau in the Thumb area, according to Charles Burkett, Director of Field Operations. He began his new work January 1. Born and raised on a farm in the Stockbridge, Michigan area, Cook attended Michigan State University. He is married and the father of 3 children.



EUGENE ERSKINE — of Hemlock, has been elected Chairman of the Michigan Association of Farm Cooperative's Council, in a recent meeting in Lansing. A long-time Saginaw county dairyman and dairy leader, he has served as a Director on the board of Michigan Milk Producers for the past 8 years, and currently as Treasurer, a post he has held since 1964.

DISCUSSION TOPIC

BY:
STEVE VAN SLYKE
DIRECTOR,
EDUCATION AND
RESEARCH
MICHIGAN
FARM BUREAU

DISCUSSION TOPIC

PROPER TAXATION OF FARM LANDS

Some Problems...

Today, less than two million acres of Michigan's total land area are devoted to urban and suburban development. And some land-use experts say that Michigan already has more land earmarked for this kind of development than they will need for the rest of this century.

However, present trends if continued, could result in as much as four million acres being used for this purpose by 1985. This is a trend that has Michigan farm leaders concerned, because much of the lands that will be taken for this development will be some of the prime agricultural land in the state.

Urban sprawl—meaning unregulated, uncontrolled growth by metropolitan areas—is undesirable in the eyes of most farm leaders, and many city fathers agree that the preservation of a certain amount of good farm land on the rural-urban fringe is something that would be of value.

Many Michigan farmers have felt the power of urban-sprawl. Some of them aren't farmers today. Some of them have resisted and continue to farm in spite of staggering tax burdens brought on principally by urbanization.

It is a known fact that tax assessments have helped speed the shift of land to uses other than farming. Many farms, owned by the same family for generations, have suddenly been forced out of agriculture because over a period of years, the suburbs have grown closer and closer, shopping centers crowded in. The local assessor, required by law to assess property at its market value, has had to increase assessments on the farm because of its "potential value" as development property. Since insufficient profit could be shown on the land operated as a farm to pay the resulting higher taxes, many such farms have been sold, often before there was any real need for the land as development property.

But another side of the matter is even worse from the standpoint of farmers. The fact that land is assessed at its value for some supposed higher and better use does not automatically provide a buyer for the land at that price. In any number of cases, farmers have been burdened with high taxes when in reality, there was no demand for the land other than for agricultural purposes.

In some cases, when farm land

values actually do go up rapidly, landowners have an opportunity to receive a fast gain by selling at higher prices before the high tax rate catches up, or at least before they have had to pay high rates for any length of time.

But when land values go up slowly, farmers end up paying taxes over a long period of time on assessed valuations that are higher than agricultural values, and at the same time, they are unable to sell at high enough prices to justify parting with the "home place" and moving to a new farming location. There are many sentimental values involved in these decisions also.

Further complicating the problem in the near urban areas is the problem of special assessments when new water mains, sewer lines, storm drains, and other "city" facilities must cross agricultural land to reach new urban developments.

These may be of no value to the farmer, and in fact can be detrimental when growing crops are involved at the time of construction, but they could be of future value to the property and therefore, the landowner is subject to assessment sometimes at unbelievable levels.

This too, has added to the increasing effect of "urban-sprawl" on Michigan agriculture.

Farm Bureau Policy

AGRICULTURAL LAND ASSESSMENT

Many Michigan leaders are becoming increasingly concerned with the rapid disappearance of good agricultural land. Future leaders may look back at the folly of our unwise land use. A proper tax structure can be an effective method of saving the better farm land for future food needs and also meet the need for water conservation and the preservation of "open spaces" for aesthetic and recreational values.

Many other progressive state legislatures (14 or more) have taken action to allow assessment of farm land on the basis of its value for agriculture rather than for non-farm uses.

For instance, the Maryland law states expressly that it is "in the general public interest that farming be fostered and encouraged in order to maintain a readily available source of food and dairy products close to the metropolitan areas of the state, to encourage the preservation of open spaces as an amenity necessary to human welfare and happiness, and to prevent the forced conversion of such open space to more intensive uses as a result of economic pressures caused by the assessment of land at a rate or level incompatible with the practical use of such land for farming."

This is becoming an increasingly serious problem in Michigan. We recommend legislation that will protect prime agricultural lands and require assessors to consider only agricultural factors in assessing land used for that purpose.

SPECIAL PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS

Owners of agricultural land often find themselves saddled with high special assessment taxes due to the necessity of crossing their property with water mains, sewers, storm drains, etc. in order to reach an area of industrial, commercial or residential development.

Such facilities may not be of any value to the property crossed, but can impose a serious financial burden on the owner. The state of Ohio has recognized this problem and has passed legislation to prevent such hardships. We recommend that legislation be enacted in Michigan to solve this increasing problem.

Some Solutions...

Preservation of open spaces or "green-belt" areas has a decided value to both agriculture and to the urban population—for economic and esthetic values. At least four possible avenues are open to farmers in providing a solution or at least an easing of the problems brought on by higher taxation in the urban fringe.

(A) **Farm Land Assessment**—This type legislation allows assessment of farm land according to its value for agricultural production, rather than on its potential value for other uses, such as residential subdivisions. Farm land near cities, theoretically, would be assessed at the same value as it would be assessed if it were located in a remote rural area—strictly according to its value for growing farm produce.

(B) **Tax Deferral**—This approach to the problem causes a part of the property tax to be deferred each year, but not actually forgiven. The amount of this deferral then becomes due when the land passes into non-agricultural uses. The number of years this "roll-back" would be charged varies from state to state. New Jersey would charge the deferred tax for up to three years; Oregon for five years.

(C) **Planning and Zoning**—This plan ties the availability of use-value assessment to local land-use zoning. Farm land can receive a farm land assessment value only in areas which have been designated as agricultural or open space zones. Farm land in other zones is assessed the same as all other property.

(D) **Easement**—This plan abandons the use of lower assessments to protect agricultural land. Instead, the taxing governmental unit actually contracts with the landowner to restrict the development of the land for a period of time, and pays him for restricting the use of the land. This payment offsets part of the tax which is paid on the property under normal assessment procedures, but in addition, the contract may affect the value of the land. Some states require that assessment be based on only the values allowed under the easement contract.

NEXT MONTH: Changing Role of Local Government



\$300,000 AUTO DIVIDEND

F.B. MUTUAL DOES IT AGAIN

Michigan's declining traffic accident rate will benefit the auto policyholders of Farm Bureau Mutual, it was learned recently. They will receive their second dividend refund in a year.

Members insuring approximately 55,000 cars and trucks with Farm Bureau Mutual will receive another substantial dividend beginning in mid-January. A similar refund was declared last August.

Farm Bureau Mutual is affiliated with Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company of Michigan and Community Service Insurance Company, to form the Farm Bureau Insurance Group.

The dividends authorized will range from 10% to 15% and will be paid on all policies in force as of December 29, 1967. Scheduled for mailing in mid-January to coincide with the Michigan Farm Bureau membership drive, the individual refund checks will total \$300,000.

Officials of Farm Bureau Mutual attribute the dividend to a decreasing accident rate experienced by its auto policyholders. Further, they contend that insurance dividends of this type could stimulate continuing individual concern for traffic safety.

N. L. Vermillion, the company's Executive Vice President, said, "accident frequency for our policyholder group has declined slightly during the calendar year 1967. Even though the cost of individual accidents continues to rise due to inflationary pressures, total claim costs have been less than anticipated. This factor, combined with an underwriting program placing emphasis on proper driver classification, has made the refund possible."

"We feel the people of Michigan are acting individually to reduce the needless slaughter and financial waste on our streets and highways," Vermillion continued. "The state's preliminary figures indicate there will be fewer accidents, injuries and deaths during 1967, than in 1966. The situation could easily change next year, but it is our responsibility to try to sustain the present momentum. We feel that insurance dividends and other financial benefits of this type can and should be used as a much-needed incentive for safe-driving."

Until 1967, the number of Michigan traffic accidents had increased annually during recent years. The continuing squeeze of rising accident rates and higher repair, medical and liability judgment costs has affected all firms within the industry. As a result, there has been a general upward trend in auto insurance premiums.

The Farm Bureau Insurance Group writes coverage for approximately 150,000 policyholders in the State.

Farm Labor Still Issue

It's becoming increasingly apparent that "social action" groups, including various religious organizations, will continue to exert extreme pressure to bring farmers under stricter labor laws.

These include higher minimum wages, unemployment compensation, stricter housing regulations, broader workmen's compensation laws, further transportation regulations, and bringing farmers under the National Labor Relations Board's regulations. These and other farm labor issues will see action at both the state and federal levels.

Federal housing regulations are in the forefront now. The U. S. Department of Labor recently decreed that all farmers using the recruitment services of the Department must meet the federal housing requirements developed by the President's Committee on Migratory Labor.

The enforcement of these standards would result in the disapproval of a large majority of Michigan's farm labor housing, even though the requirements of the Michigan law are being met. The federal standards are completely unrealistic, especially under Michigan conditions.

Farm Bureau is working with the Michigan Department of Health and M.E.S.C. in an effort to solve this serious problem. Farm Bureau has also taken the matter up with Michigan's Congressmen and Senators.

Workmen's Compensation will continue to be a pressing issue. For example, Farm Bureau represented agriculture at a recent meeting where a lawyer specializing in Workmen's Compensation declared that if every worker on every farm is not brought under full Workmen's Compensation by the Legislature, he will take a test case to the Supreme Court and force the issue. This threat is not new, as it has been expected that test cases would be tried.

Public Must Know Pesticide Truths!

The Food and Drug Administration has just completed a survey which found that the daily intake of pesticides in a well-balanced diet is "substantially below acceptable safe limits." R. E. Duggan, director of the F.D.A. survey, said, "The findings to date look very good to us. If it continues like this, we've got no real problems."

Not so many years ago, most people had at least a rough working knowledge of the facts of life down on the farm. This was because the energies of most people were devoted to the business of producing the food and fiber necessary to sustain life.

All this has now changed. One farmer now produces enough to feed scores of people as a result of modern agricultural techniques. Probably not one person in 50 any longer has the remotest notion of what it takes to draw from the sun, the rain and the soil the things we require to live.

Ironically, the great scientific and technological advances in agriculture which has freed the majority of the populous from the drudgery of squeezing out a living on the back 40 have been a two-edged sword. Those who have been freed from the land for other pursuits are unaware of the vital role of such things as chemicals in agriculture, and thus often obstruct continued agricultural progress. Keeping the public informed of modern agricultural processes has become a major task.

Recently, Congressman Jamie L. Whitten drew attention to the need of public understanding of pesticides and pesticide residues and the necessity of reaching an agreement between nations, particularly between the United States and countries of western Europe, upon pesticide tolerances. Testing methods of such sensitiveness have been developed as to permit identification of pesticide residues at a level of parts in a trillion — so infinitesimal as to be beyond human comprehension. Present testing methods make "no residue" requirements utterly unrealistic. Therefore, in the opinion of Congressman Whitten, nations must agree upon what are safe tolerances and must reach an understanding in order that trade between nations shall not be needlessly incumbered and people threatened with critical shortages of wholesome foods.

Everything we eat has faint traces of innumerable chemicals — put there by nature. Man-made pesticides are just another chemical applied to help grow our food. In some cases, a trace remains after the growth and harvesting process. A few years ago, the analysis techniques of the time could not detect these harmless traces. But now, the laboratory can isolate the minutest indication of any substance in our food.

Thus, laws that say "no residue" are impossible to comply with and can simply result in the total prohibition of scientific pesticide application — even though soaring food requirements make pesticide use mandatory. This truth must be brought home to peoples of all nations if mass starvation is to be avoided.

FARM BUREAU MARKET PLACE

SPECIAL RATE TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS: 25 words for \$2.00 each edition. Additional words, 10 cents each. Figures such as 12 or \$12.50 count as one word. NON-MEMBER advertisers: 15 cents per word one edition, two or more editions, 10 cents per word. Copy deadline: 20th of the month.

8 FARM EQUIPMENT

FARROWING STALLS — Complete — \$24.95. Dealership available. Free Literature. Dolly Enterprises, 219 Main, Colchester, Illinois 62326. (11-tf-15b) 8

FARM BUREAU BENEFITS — and programs are hitched to all members of the family. Line up and attach your interests to Farm Bureau.

CALF CREEP FEEDERS — 30 bushel capacity \$88.50. Dealerships available. Free Literature. Dolly Enterprises, 219 Main, Colchester, Illinois 62326. (11-tf-18b) 8

LOST

FARMERS INFLUENCE — is lost without strong, sound organization. Join the organization that keeps its head in a crisis — Farm Bureau.

WOMEN WANTED

RURAL WOMEN NEEDED — to work for betterment of home and community through Farm Bureau Women's Program. We welcome you to Farm Bureau! Join now!

YOUR MEMBERSHIP — in Farm Bureau is needed! You can help do so many things in the interest of farmers. Join Farm Bureau.

14 FOR SALE

FOR SALE: VERMONT EVAPORATOR. Complete and in good condition. Size 4 x 16. Charles A. Hunt, 70th Street, Route #1, Covert, Michigan. Phone 621-3070. (1-1t-25p) 14

FARM BUREAU "TUNES" — its programs by sound research and tested methods. No building-in of defective parts to bring costly repairs later. Join Farm Bureau.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: OLD STYLE SLEIGH BELLS. Write or call: Alfred Jensen, Little Falls, Minnesota 56345. (1-tf-15b) 14

FARM BUREAU OFFERS — the best farmer influence in Michigan and the nation. Location of "sale" — your Farm Bureau neighbor or the County Farm Bureau office. Join today!

FOUNDATIONS

OUR FOUNDATIONS — are concretely set on a firm belief in law and order, and consideration of the other man's rights. Help keep it that way. Join Farm Bureau.

BUILDING

FARM BUREAU IS BUILDING — favorable conditions in which farmers can carry on a flourishing business. Get together with Farm Bureau, folks, and help build. Join today!

20 LIVESTOCK

HEREFORD BULLS — pure bred herd sires. Ready for service. Also, registered heifers and calves. Egypt Valley Hereford Farm, 6611 Knapp St., Ada, Michigan. Phone OR 6-1090. (Kent County) (11-tf-25b) 20

FOR SALE: 25 LARGE HOLSTEIN HEIFERS, due base months; vaccinated, from good herd. Will trade for open heifers. Telephone MO 9-9226. Ed Tanis, R#1, Jenison, Michigan 49428. (Ottawa County) (5-2t-25b) 20

MARKETS

PAYING MARKETS — are assured by sound approaches and cooperation among producers. That's the Farm Bureau approach. Help it work by joining.

WANT HIGHER FARM PRICES — for future years? Help Farm Bureau build expanded markets for permanent marketing benefits. No farmer is "Withheld" from joining.

MEN WANTED

SINK YOUR INFLUENCE — deep. Get down to bedrock principles in tackling farm problems. Join Farm Bureau.

MEN TO PROMOTE — and serve on programs in the interest of agriculture through Farm Bureau. Results guaranteed to men of vision and sound purpose. Farm Bureau membership now open.

22 NURSERY STOCK

STARK BRO'S ALL NEW 1968 CATALOG FREE! Spectacular full-color display of Giant-size Apples, Peaches, Nectarines (Fuzzless Peaches), Pears, Cherries, Apricots, Plums from DWARE, Semi-Dwarf, Standard Size trees, Ornamentals, Roses, etc. **GUARANTEED.** STARK, Dept. 30508, Louisiana, Missouri 63353. (12-4t-39b) 22

600 ASSORTED SWEET ONION PLANTS with free planting guide \$3.00 postpaid. TOPCO, "home of the sweet onion," Farmersville, Texas 75031. (1-4t-20b) 24

HARDY MUMS, 20 varieties \$3 prepaid. Free catalog of 500 varieties. Huff's Gardens, Burlington, Kansas 66939. (1-3t-10b) 24

OPERATORS

FARM BUREAU — is a full time operator in legislative affairs that affect farmers. You can't be there, Man! But Farm Bureau can! Join and be part of the job.

FARM PROPERTY

TAXES ARE DUE TO GO UP — unless you join in the effort to bring property tax relief by working with Farm Bureau members. Farm Bureau needs you.

ARKANSAS: LIVESTOCK FARMS, ranches, land. Reasonable prices. Year round grazing, mild winters. Free lists, photos. **FARM AND RANCH LAND COMPANY,** Box 383MFN, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901. (1-4t-25p)

26 POULTRY

DAY OLD OR STARTED PULLETS — The DeKalb profit pullet. Accepted by the smart poultryman for high egg production, superior egg quality, greater feed efficiency. If you keep records, you'll keep DeKalbs. Write for prices and catalog. **KLAGER HATCHERIES,** Bridgewater, Michigan. Telephones: Saline HAZEL 9-7087, Manchester GARDEN 8-3034 (Washtenaw County) (t-46b) 26

FAMOUS SHAVER STARCROSS STARTED PULLETS. Top rated layer by U.S.D.A. — 1964 through 1966. Delivered to your farm in clean equipment. We have pullets available every month. May be seen by appointment. MacPherson Hatchery, Route #3, Ionia, Michigan 48846. Phone 527-0860. (6-tf-36b) 26

KLAGER'S DEKALB PROFIT PULLETS — Order your started pullets that have been raised on a proven growing program. The growing birds are inspected weekly by trained staff, vaccinated, debeaked and delivered by us in clean crates. If you keep records, you will keep KLAGER DEKALBS. **KLAGER HATCHERIES,** Bridgewater, Michigan. Telephones: 313 429-7087 and 313 428-3034. (Washtenaw County) (9-tf-50b) 26 blow-out proof programs.

34 WANTED

FULL OR PART-TIME. Couples or individuals for local sales work. After short training have people working for you. Write: Suburban Sales, 28957 Smith, Inkster, Michigan 48141. (10-4t-26p) 35

COOPERATION — through Farm Bureau helps pick up and "elevate" the load of farm and community problems. Add your power and pep to the effort: Join Farm Bureau.

WANTED: ALLIS ROTOR BALER. Price and description. Alfred Roeder, Seneca, Kansas. (1-1t-10b) 34

MAGIC MAY BE SPECTACULAR — but it does not work when it comes to Marketing. Farm Bureau approaches are real, not illusions. Join Farm Bureau.

36 MISCELLANEOUS

"ZIPCODE DIRECTORY" — (All 35,000 Postoffices): \$1.00 MAILMART, Carrollton 72, Kentucky 41008. (3-tf-11b) 14

3 LINE POCKET RUBBER STAMP. \$1. S & F Enterprise, Dept. FN, Box 224, Addison, Illinois 60101. (1-1t-15p) 36

FARM BUREAU WORKS — for sound programs in the interest of all agriculture and all farmers. We stick to the positive, well-founded approaches. Join Farm Bureau.

WHOLESALE CHAIN SAWS. Chains, bars and sprockets for all saws. New. Buaranteed. Mfg. Supply, Box 157, Dochester, Wisconsin 54425 (1-4t-10p) 36

GET IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT! — Help to guide and develop programs that assure a sound future for agriculture. You do it when you join Farm Bureau.

WHEN YOU TIRE — of fly-by-night schemes for making the world better for farmers, change to Farm Bureau.

AGRICULTURE IN ACTION — — PICTORIAL REPORT

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO AGRICULTURE . . .



REP. CHARLES DAVIS — of Onondaga, and wife Lenore, were among those honored by Distinguished Service awards at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting. "After 39 years of service, he has earned the title of "Agricultural Statesman" said MFB President, Elton Smith.

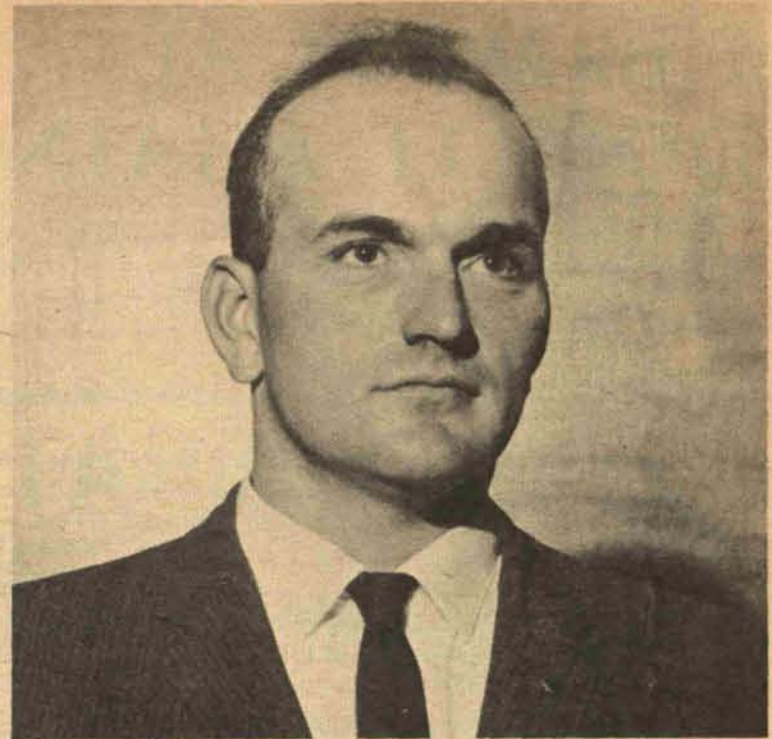


EDITOR, JEAN WORTH — of Escanaba, was one of three Distinguished Service recipients. "If all newsmen presented the farm picture in the same manner as does Mr. Worth, our city cousins would have a much better understanding" — President Smith said.



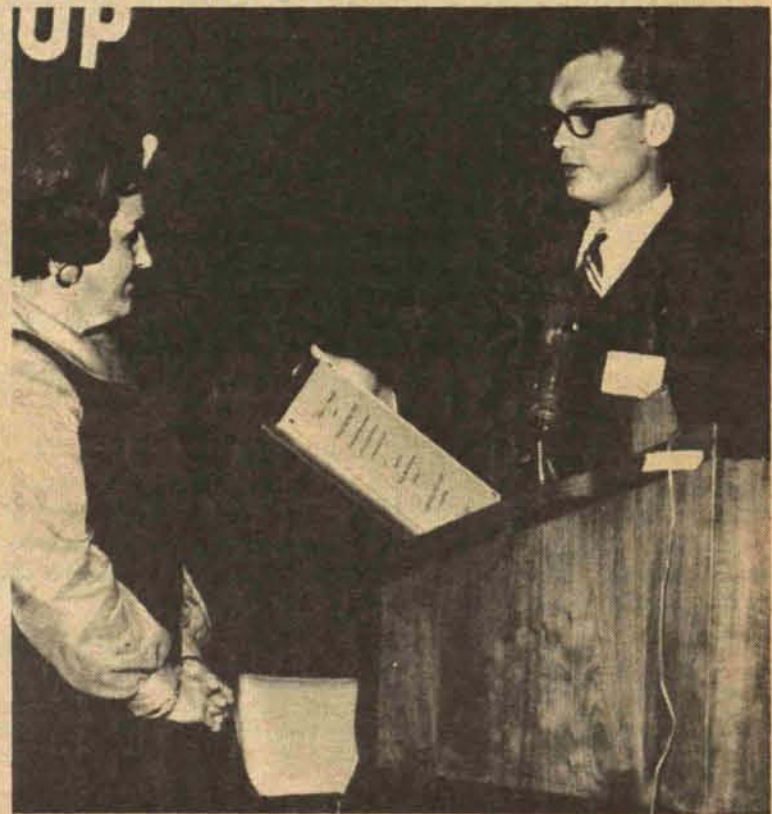
WARD G. HODGE — of Snover, along with wife, Gladys, were honored as Distinguished Service recipients. Ward was the highly respected President of the Michigan Farm Bureau from 1954 to 1958. He has served Farm Bureau for 20 years in a variety of leadership positions.

DISCUSSION WINNER



"DISCUSSION MEET" winner, Marshall Forbush of Byron, participated in the national event at the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting in Chicago, where he made an impressive showing.

IN APPRECIATION . . .

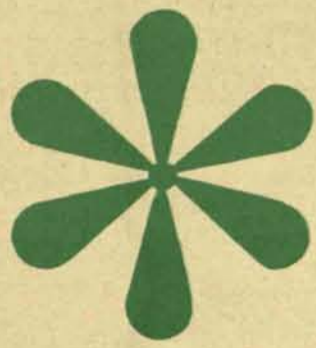


CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT — recognizing Farm Bureau Women's Slow Moving Vehicle emblem promotion, was presented by Terry Buckles, of Farm Bureau's Insurance Group, to Mrs. Lou DeMatio, Women's Safety Chairman.

VISITING TOGETHER



COMMITTEE OPERATIONS — are discussed by Institute participants at Flint. Shown in informal session are: (from left) Kenneth Fierke, President Sanilac Farm Bureau; Harvey Leuenberger, MFBF board; Warner Meylan, President, Bay county; Larry Ewing, MFB Field Services, and David Morris, MFB Board.



Farm Bureau Services **NEW** Plan-A-Yield Program Gives You Higher Yields With Less Cost and Labor!

Here Are Your Row Starter Production Costs

In-Season Delivery — Cash

Yield Per Acre	Fertilizer Per Acre	Bulk Per Acre	Bagged Per Acre
100 bu.	110 lbs.	\$5.44	\$5.72
150 bu.	150 lbs.	7.43	7.80
200 bu.	200 lbs.	9.90	10.40

ORDER EARLY AND SAVE!

Pre-Season Delivery Discounts — Cash

Yield Per Acre	Fertilizer Per Acre	Bulk Per Acre	Bagged Per Acre
100 bu.	110 lbs.	\$5.00	\$5.28
150 bu.	150 lbs.	6.83	7.20
200 bu.	200 lbs.	9.10	9.50



This Is A Complete Program Not Just A Fertilizer Sale!

The *Plan-A-Yield* program can help any farmer who wants to get a more profitable yield. It doesn't matter if you're a corn grower presently getting 80 bushels or 150 bushels per acre, our program can help you increase your yield and increase your net income by lowering your cost of production. This plant food program is tailor-made for each farmer, farm, field, crop and yield. The *Plan-A-Yield* program gives you recommendations on rates, methods and time of fertilizer application; specific fertilizer carriers; type of hybrid; plant population and planting patterns; and controls for weeds and soil insects. As the plants develop there will be tissue tests to determine nutrient levels. At harvest time you'll have total cost per acre, gross and net income, cost per bushel and most important, your income comparison with your present program. Send a post card today and our specialist will show you the complete program.



Special Corn Starter Fertilizer
now has 2% zinc guaranteed.

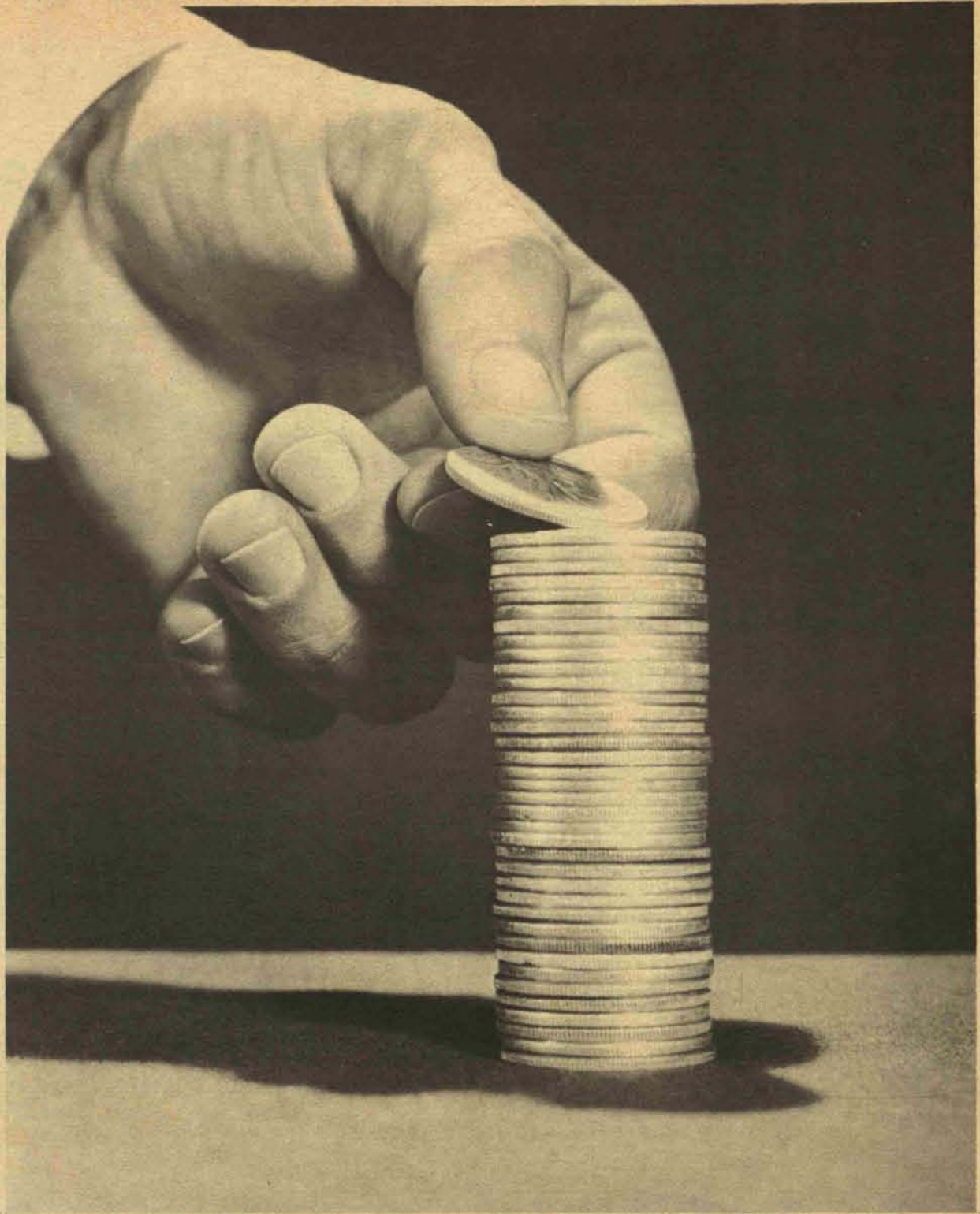


FARM BUREAU
Services
INC.

4000 N. GRAND RIVER

LANSING, MICHIGAN

**IT
PAYS...
TO INSURE
WITH
FARM
BUREAU**



Another Auto Insurance Dividend Declared

If you are a Farm Bureau Mutual auto policyholder . . . you will receive another dividend check . . . the second declared in a year. How much? Up to a healthy 15% of the semi-annual premium payment for each auto and truck.

Approximately \$300,000 will be refunded to policyholders insuring 55,000 cars and trucks, beginning in mid-January. That's over \$600,000 in dividends declared since August, 1967. It *pays* to insure with Farm Bureau.

We believe our customers deserve *maximum* benefits for their insurance dollar. That's why most families carry two, three or four different types of protection with us—to meet all their insurance needs.

Farm Bureau Mutual has a unique system of rating and classification which permits everyone in the group to benefit from the individual driver's attention to safe driving. If you are interested in traffic safety and the low rates which result, why not contact the Farm Bureau Insurance Group representative in your locale? He has the whole story.

**FARM BUREAU
INSURANCE
GROUP**

Farm Bureau Mutual - Farm Bureau Life - Community Service, LANSING

