

50th ANNIVERSARY

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

Vol. 48, No. 5

—1919—A Half-Century Of Service To Michigan Farmers—1969—

May



DELICATE MOSS ROSES—receive careful attention, including a controlled atmosphere, at the Penning greenhouses located near Portage, Michigan. Mrs. Emma Penning and sons Fred and Budd have become specialists in producing spring-time bedding plants. They grow more than 100 varieties of flowers and vegetables in 13 large greenhouses where scientific aids including special burners emitting carbon-dioxide to aid growth.

SCIENTISTS PREDICT—that someday all farmers will grow crops in the controlled atmosphere of huge plastic domes. When that day comes, greenhouse farmers such as the Penning will lead the way with their specialized knowledge. Horticultural crops including flowers, bedding plants and ornamentals are becoming a large part of the farming business.

—Vern M. Bullen Photo

MICHIGAN WEEK — MAY 17-24 "LAND OF HOSPITALITY"

I'd hate to have to live down South where grass is always green...

Where Winter never comes around and snow is never seen.

I'm glad I live in Michigan where all these dreams come true,

Where Summer never lingers long but yields to Autumn's hue.

I like to feel the icy blast which makes the trees bow low...

I like to stand and gaze aloft and watch the falling snow.

And then the Spring with sunshine hair and rainy fingertips,

Comes skipping o'er the meadow to kiss the daisy's lips.

— David Cook

Editorial strength freely given

There is joy at Farm Bureau Center, Lansing. It is reflected joy, having spread to the Michigan Farm Bureau from the communities and counties which produced brilliantly successful Roll-Call membership drives.

All over the state counties first reached and then surpassed membership goals. Some seem unable to turn it off and new members continue to be signed!

For the first time in recent years the Michigan Farm Bureau has reached state and American membership goals, becoming the fifth state in the nation to report 1969 quota to the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Best of all, Farm Bureau members join without fear coercion or compulsion. Volunteer workers did the job, and in Michigan these workers gave tremendously of their time and effort — often during the worst weather of wintertime.

Those who have joined have done so because they wanted to. They have signed membership agreements and paid their annual dues — voluntarily.

Solicitation for Farm Bureau membership is a low-key affair compared to organized work done by many other groups. The only pressures used in Farm Bureau are those involving the farmer's own social conscience as he looks squarely at his own need to work with others.

Now thousands of new members must be recognized and given a place within their organization. They should be introduced at new-member meetings and by newsletters. They should be invited to become part of a Community Group and to serve on county action-committees. They should be made to understand that they are full-fledged members from the start without initiation or waiting period.

In organized labor—more members are often not welcome. Sometimes in fact, they are severely discouraged or even refused admittance by unions which have set limits on the amount of opportunity they will allow within one trade area.

In fact, attendance at certain union-called meetings may be compulsory, with the member's job at stake should he not comply.

Even in some farm organizations, membership sometimes becomes a matter of compulsion either through a mandatory dues check-off of earned co-op patronage refunds, or through intense pressures generated by a variety of scare techniques.

For example, how "voluntary" is a membership gained through fear of a burned barn, slashed tires, or bullets in the gas tanks of valuable equipment?

Even more important, what is the value to the organization of a member gained under circumstances less than free? Strength does not come from a count of bodies and money — no matter how much, buys only certain things. It does not buy the most important things.

Farm Bureau gains come totally from those strengths freely given — and which no amount of money may buy. Imagine the hundreds of thousands of dollars it would have cost to hire teams to challenge and tally all of the recount votes in the Daylight Saving Time issue. But the votes were challenged and tallied — by Farm Bureau members, voluntarily.

Further, would hired efforts have been as diligent or as effective even if available? The answer is obvious in the envy shown of Farm Bureau strength by others who fail to understand how it must be voluntary to be real.

Farm Bureau volunteer effort is effective at hearings and before commissions. It is effective with editors and newsmen and in all phases of legislative work.

It is especially effective in LOCAL AFFAIRS — in solving water drainage, fire-warning and ambulance service problems; in pollution control, bonding issues, local roads and local safety.

Now that a substantial membership has been secured for the 1969 Farm Bureau year, the task shifts toward all the other important jobs to which we are committed.

Melvin Woell



"ABOUT TIME YOU GOT BACK. BEEN HOLDING A CRATE WITH A COUPLE 'A RABBITS YOU ORDERED . . ."

cover story:

Bedding Plant Farmers

Production of horticultural crops is an important, lesser-known and greatly expanding part of Michigan agriculture. The operation of Mrs. Emma Penning and sons Budd and Fred of Portage, Michigan, helps prove this point. They are active members of the Kalamazoo county Farm Bureau.

They and the late Mr. Penning started with one greenhouse 20 years ago and have transformed this modest beginning into 13 structures . . . all but one plastic covered and each measuring 60 by 144 feet.

Good management and hard work are parts of the story of success, but not to be ignored is the pioneer research done by the Pennings in selecting seed and soil types and the best kinds of containers to reduce mortality rates of tender seedlings.

Controlled atmosphere for the tender plants is one of the prime "secrets" of a successful bedding-plant operation, the Pennings believe, and Budd and Fred work continually to devise new ways to relieve the amount of manpower and manhours needed. One of their latest innovations is a flat-filler, made from an old salt truck mounted over a conveyor belt to carry pots and plastic containers over the flower and vegetable flats.

The Pennings grow more than 100 varieties of flowers and vegetables — with a new project this year involving 50,000 potted flowering plants, putting them into year-around production.

Everyone works at self-assigned tasks — and they know their jobs well. Mrs. Penning drives a panel truck as needed while the men do most of the heavier work with the pots and flats.

Besides Farm Bureau, the Pennings are active in the Kalamazoo Valley Plant Growers Cooperative, with members growing and selling more than 450,000 flats of seedling plants each year. The 27 growers in the cooperative provide leadership for the rapidly expanding industry which in southwest Michigan alone annually produces an estimated two to three-million seedling flats.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

The MICHIGAN FARM NEWS is published monthly, on the first day, by the Michigan Farm Bureau, at its publication office at 109 N. Lafayette Street, Greenville, Michigan.

Editorial and general offices at 4000 North Grand River Avenue, Lansing, Michigan 48904. Post Office Box 960, Telephone, Lansing 485-8121, Extension 317. Subscription price, 50¢ per year.

Established January 12, 1923. Second Class Postage paid at Greenville, Michigan.

EDITORIAL: Editor, Melvin L. Woell; Associate Editor, Vern M. Bullen; Advertising Manager, Carl P. Kentner.

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POSTMASTER: In using form 3579, mail to: Michigan Farm News, 4000 N. Grand River, Lansing, Michigan 48904.

Second class postage paid at Greenville, Michigan

President's Column

let's do it first

When the state Topic Committee met last January, they picked "Farm Labor Problems" for the May discussion by Community Farm Bureau Groups. They couldn't have picked a more timely or important topic if they had tried.

Like it or not, we farmers must face the fact that although farm labor problems have always been with us, they are far more complicated and important now than at any other time in farming history.

Almost all of the labor in this country is organized. Included are teachers, firemen, policemen, nurses and office workers. Farm labor remains an obvious exception, but the idea that farm workers are unorganizable is now being tested. The labor union boycott of California table grapes is part of this test. So are bills introduced in the Michigan legislature which would set the number of work hours for farm labor at no more than ten per day, 48 hours in a week and 6 days per week. Other bills would raise the state minimum wage to \$2 per hour beginning next January and place all workers under terms of a greatly broadened Workmen's Compensation act.

One bill in Congress — S-8, would place farmers under an unbearable set of working restrictions if passed.

It is significant to Michigan farmers that the House version of the bill — HB-9954, has been sponsored by Michigan Representative James O'Hara (D-Detroit) and others. Both bills ignore the differences between agriculture and other industries in attempting to extend the Labor Management Relations Act — designed to fit commercial and industrial firms, to agriculture.

I think these bills are a warning that the time is past when farmers dare turn their backs on what has been happening within the labor force of other industries. Farmers have said "we're different" for too long and unless we change our attitudes I'm convinced that we will end up in serious trouble.

We are such a small part of the population and we've done such a good job of food production that most people don't worry much about the special problems we have — problems not faced by any other industry. A ripe crop represents a full year of investment — often including borrowed money. Any kind of labor dispute or strike at harvest time could wipe out a farmer.

These are some of the reasons why I think farmers had better take the lead in writing the terms of their own farm-labor legislation before others do it for them. In coming up with our own legislation, we could protect ourselves and our workers by outlining certain prohibited acts.

For workers we would propose the protection of their rights to either join or not join, the union. This is completely consistent with our own attitude about the voluntary nature of Farm Bureau. We would ask that workers be protected from discrimination because of union membership or its lack; that they be allowed to vote for or against union representation by secret election.

For farmers we would ask that a list of rights also be protected by statute. These would include protection against several actions now taking place in the grape boycott; specifically, the right to be free from secondary, "hot cargo" or product boycotts of any kind.

"Featherbedding" as it is practiced in some unions, must be specifically prohibited, as must any kind of strike which would result in the loss of a farm product.

I think we must pledge to fight without quarter, any attempt to place farmers under a labor act which would allow strikes at harvest or at other times which would result in the loss of farm products.

By writing our own, separate Farm Labor Act, we could beat to the punch the labor unions which now hope to extend union-shop contracts to agriculture, with all workers then hired forced to join the union within a few days to keep their job.

Elton Smith

Congratulations Continue:

Michigan is Membership Leader

ROLL-CALL GOAL IS REACHED, SURPASSED

Congratulations continue to pour into Farm Bureau Center, Lansing, where jubilant officials of the Michigan Farm Bureau have announced 50 of the state's 71 Farm Bureau counties "over goal"; — one region reporting 100 per cent goal counties, and a state membership of 54,200 Farm Bureau families for the 1969 year.

"Congratulations on the attainment of your 1969 membership quota. According to our records you have gained 736 members over 1968 and have completed two years of continuous membership growth," wrote Charles Shuman, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation to Michigan president, Elton Smith.

Meanwhile, District 6 — the "Thumb" region, became first in the state to report all goal counties.

Although some lack goal, nearly 100 per cent of all coun-

WESTERN UNION

DAN REED,
Secretary Manager, Michigan Farm Bureau.

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU AND YOUR ASSOCIATES ON ATTAINMENT OF 1969 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP QUOTA. MICHIGAN IS THE SECOND STATE IN THE MIDWEST REGION AND FIFTH STATE IN NATION TO REPORT 1969 QUOTA TO AMERICAN FARM BUREAU.

O. R. Long, Director
Field Services Division

ties have gained in membership over last year, with Michigan now sure to be recognized at the December annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau as one of the rare every-county gain states.

Michigan remains substantially ahead in membership of arch-rival, Ohio Farm Bureau—which

although reportedly also a "gain" state is said to be dragging as it nears the finish line.

This has caused Michigan membership workers to make it known that they will be happy to allow Ohio to drag the tail-end trophy back across the border "where it belongs . . ."



A GOLDEN COAT — will be worn by President Elton Smith at the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation in December — because the Michigan Farm Bureau has become a Golden Anniversary quota state. Pictured measuring him for the garment is (left) Field Services Director, Larry Ewing, and Secretary-Manager, Dan E. Reed.

state senator declares boycott action a fraud

By Vern M. Bullen

Michigan's only woman Senator, Mrs. N. Lorraine Beebe, (R-12th District) has returned from a five-day trip to Delano, California, bringing with her a verbal picture of the grape boycott and the effect it is having on the grape pickers, their families and the growers.

Senator Beebe visited Farm Bureau Center, Lansing, to give details of her fact-finding visit to President Smith, several members of the Board of directors, staff and invited guests.

Senator Beebe talked with grape picker's families, state and county health officials, union leaders, school administrators and Congressmen representing the Delano vineyard district.

"From the women's point of view, the grape pickers and their families are furious because the union has pictured them as going hungry, that they live in shacks of squalor and that they are uneducated," Mrs. Beebe said.

"The homes and schools that I visited . . . (and I came unannounced) were clean and all they want to do is try to go back to their normal lives," Senator Beebe reported.

In California, one state Senator has offered his full year's salary as a reward for the identity of "Poor Jaunita" the little half-starved and dirty girl shown on posters put out by union organizers as being representative of the grape-workers plight. He has not had any takers to date — Mrs. Beebe reported.

She said that he had also offered to resign his position if a single starving grape picker's child could be found in the conditions shown . . . again without results.

She emphasized that there is no question but what Michigan is "number two" on the boycott organizer's list, and that all consumers have real reason for alarm.

In answer to the question of how we in Michigan can help, the Senator said "We must stand up and be counted against the boy-



STATE SENATOR — Mrs. N. Lorraine Beebe of Dearborn (12th District) is pictured at a telecast filming session where she voiced opposition to labor-union grape-boycott efforts. With her (right) is Jack Angell of the American Farm Bureau. The filming was done by the Information Division staff of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

cott. We must stand together . . . if Delano goes down, I can see the whole country going down. People in general that know and understand the situation, are concerned.

"There will be a national move for consumer protection. I as a mother and shopper, will resent being told what and when I can buy," Mrs. Beebe said.

Regarding the real interests of the union, she said that "Ninety per cent of their interest lies in the union dues they would gain.

"This is a well-organized campaign. They are ready to strike in over 200 cities and we in Michigan — and every other state in the country, cannot sit by and watch this farm-labor phase of our economy be taken over against the worker's will.

"The union campaigns are far from being over and we must all take an active part against this unfair boycott . . ." she advised.

CHURCH AGAINST BOYCOTT

The Perry Methodist church has opposed actions by the National Council of Churches to support the AFL-CIO table grape boycott.

The "Annual Charge Conference" of the Perry church adopted a resolution since sent to the West Mich. Conference of the Methodist church.

The Perry group said that the National Council apparently took action to support the boycott without being fully informed. They said that the grape workers are now being paid hourly wages higher than those proposed by the striking union and that the unions are using the "strike" to increase their personal income and power.

They said that if encouraged this type of union activity could spread to all perishable foods to "seriously handicap both producers and consumers . . ."

former board member

Edgar O. Diamond, prominent Alpena county Farm Bureau leader and educator, died March 24. He was 63 years old.

In the years from 1962 to 1966, he served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Michigan Farm Bureau, representing District 10.

Earlier, he had served four years as president of the Alpena county Farm Bureau, and had been an active member of the Evergreen Community Group. His Farm Bureau leadership extended over a period of 20 years and included work as Chairman of the County Policy Development and Legislative committees, all phases of Roll-Call work, and special work in a variety of commodity interests.

A lifelong resident of Alpena county where he both taught school and operated a dairy farm, Diamond was a member of the Wilson township school board for many years and taught in rural schools for more than 20.

In recent years he had converted his dairy farm into a grain and feeder-cattle operation.



EDGAR O. DIAMOND

He was a member of St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Herron and at the time of his death was chairman of the Church Council; a Sunday School teacher and a member of the Brotherhood.

Surviving are his wife, the former Eursellena Pariseau; a son, Richard of Sioux City, Iowa; nine grandchildren; five sisters, and four brothers.

VACATION! TOURS ANNOUNCED

A choice of nine "Heritage" tours has been announced by Hoosier Travel Service — open to Michigan Farm Bureau members and friends . . . beginning with:

THE ORIENT: — June 12
One month tour . . . Japan, Korea, Formosa, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, and the Philippines.

THE NORTHWEST: — June 30-July 12
Rail tour . . . pullman or coach. See the Glacier National Park; to Seattle by ship and on to Victoria and Vancouver.

EUROPE: — August 5
A 3 week tour of Europe . . . visit nine countries plus the Island of Majorca.

CANADIAN ROCKIES: — Aug. 9
All the way to the West Coast and into the Canadian Rockies by bus and train and then by ship to the Island of Victoria.

MEXICO: — Aug. 17
Ten day tour via jet-air, hotels, sightseeing and some meals. Under \$500.

SCANDINAVIA: — September 8
See Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark in the fall . . . most necessary expenses included in tour cost.

HAWAII: — Oct. 14
Two weeks duration . . . visit four islands. Hotels, sightseeing, tips included in tour cost. Early reservations necessary

CALIFORNIA CRUISE: — Oct. 28
Air to Los Angeles, bus up the Pacific Coast and a slow boat back to Los Angeles. Early reservations are necessary.

SOUTH PACIFIC: — Nov. 1
An ideal time to visit the Islands of the South Pacific including Pago Pago . . . Bora Bora . . . Tahiti and Samoa.

For further information regarding these tours and others not listed, please contact:

Information Division,
Michigan Farm Bureau,
4000 N. Grand River Ave.
Lansing, Michigan 48904
Phone — 517 485-8121

IN THE SERVICE OF THE FARMER

This fall the Michigan Farm Bureau will celebrate its 50th Anniversary annual meeting, November 10 - 11 - 12.

In observance of that event, portions of a book dealing with farming as it used to be, and the early history of the Michigan Farm Bureau will be printed in this and future issues.

(From the book "In the Service of the Farmer" by Clark L. Brody, former secretary of the Michigan Farm Bureau. Copyright 1959, by Michigan State University Press. Used with permission of the publisher.)

We had our swimming and our fishing holes. Women-folk of all ages honored the prerogative of boys to bathe in the state of Adam, and gave swimming holes a wide berth. We were given many an afternoon for fishing, for a panful of nicely browned fish was a welcome antidote to our steady farm diet of cured meats and canned goods. Boys generally ran rabbits down; it was an informal way to prove fleetness of foot, which was as highly admired then as it is now. I remember father taking me to the fields on the Esterle, our self-binder. Its wooden frame gave it the proportions of a small house, and I, supremely happy and contented, rode beside him high on the back — "God's in his heaven/All's right with the world!" A rabbit being flushed from the grain, I would scramble down and give chase. Unless it skirted into a patch of Canada thistle, I would usually bring the young rabbit back and stow it in the big tool box.

My reward, which I would have exchanged for no other, not even a new book or a rifle, was a brief comment on my nimbleness. Father always persuaded me to free a rabbit before we reached home for fear the dogs might catch it.

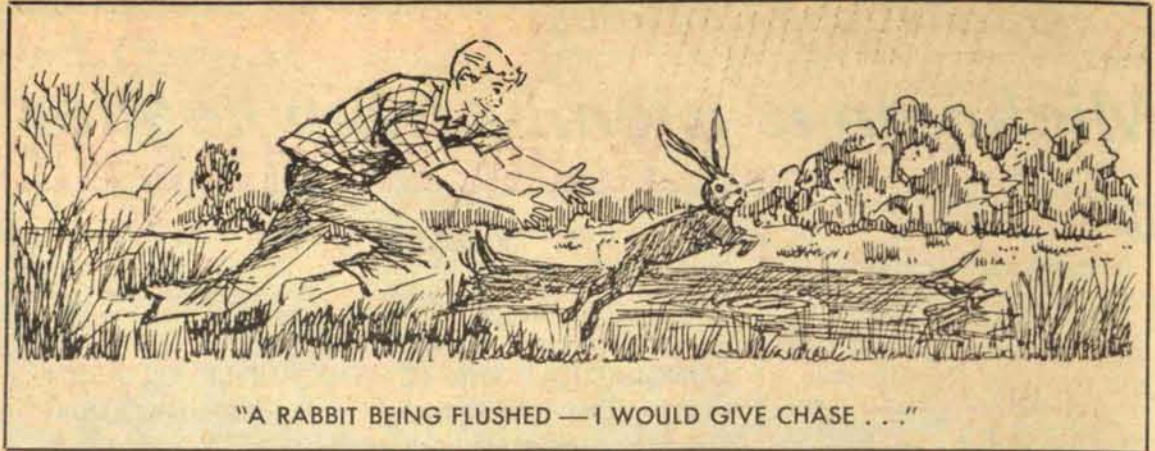
One Room School

My brothers and I attended a weather-beaten, one-room school. The seats and desks had been made by local carpenters, and it was indeed honest work that they had done. The seats were hard and flat, and the backs were straight, altogether uncondusive to slouching. The scarred and initialed desk tops had been planed by hand. A large box stove heated the room.

In fair weather we walked the half mile to school and back, now chasing a squirrel, now shinnying up a tree, then vaulting a rail fence. When the snow was deep and the weather bitter, father drove us to school by horse and cutter, and then we dodged snowballs thrown by the back feet of the black stallion. The glowing stove at each end of the line made

the trip worth the discomfort.

Waiting for the hand bell to begin class, we played hard at "Catch off the Stoop," "Ante-Over," "One Old Cat," "Pump, Pump, Pull Away" and in the winter, "Fox and Geese," in the school yard. Once inside we pursued some grammar, history, and geography, as well as the three R's. All eight grades — twenty-five children — were together in the one room. While some children recited, others studied. There was individual attention aplenty from the teacher, and it was not always relished. He drilled lessons into us by rote, much of it so effectively that I remember it today — poems like "Snowbound" and the "Village Blacksmith," the rules for letter writing, and dates of significant battles in Roman history. Attention was re-enforced by discipline, which was in part



"A RABBIT BEING FLUSHED — I WOULD GIVE CHASE . . ."

achieved by manual means. A ruler was an instrument of measure, to be sure, but it was one of authority, also. Nor did the teacher hesitate to employ it. I should be the last to recommend that schools revert to its use, but as a man's heart is sometimes reached through his stomach, occasionally his mind can best be approached circuitously, from the rear.

Our family was closely knit and self-contained. We had only ourselves and neighbors for companionship and virtually no activity other than work. Amusement and recreation were matters of imagination and ingenuity and had to be found pretty much within the confines of our work.

The anecdote, the trivial incident that had been elaborated upon imaginatively, was the most popular kind of humor. Someone began by recounting an everyday experience of no serious consequence, in which he saw coincidence, surprise, or irony operating at his own expense. In the retelling by others, the story would be expanded and the twist of it exploited. The stories most enjoyed had a wry, self-deprecatory note, the butt of the joke being the teller. This kind of humor must have acted as a safety valve for us. The person who can poke fun at himself is likely to be the one who under every condition maintains his balance and sense of direction.

Isolated as we were, and having few books and newspapers, no radio, television, or telephone, and no mail delivery, conversation was as essential to our well-being as bread. Seeding, milking, husking, quilting, almost any task, was done to the steady accompaniment of talk. Strings of words bound us to each other; with them, we kept one another from becoming bogged down in the everyday routine.

The pattern of isolation on occasion broke down. At harvest the farm would be inundated by neighboring farm families who had come over to help us with our crops, and additional field hands would be taken on. The fresh faces, the good talk, the enormous meals made harvest seem like a holiday. In the autumn, after the bustle of canning, the cooking of applebutter, the carting of apples to the cider press, friends gathered around our table to compare the results to the efforts of the previous year. In the winter there was the excitement of butchering and scalding six or eight hogs and of curing the meat, again with the help of friends.

Young people had a passion for the square dance. It was nothing to hitch a horse to a buggy or cutter, drive ten miles, and dance until two in the morning. Then, while the exhausted driver rested as best he could on the carriage seat, Dobbin would wend the way home. The next morning a farmer might find the horse grazing at the front gate or at the watering

trough, his son asleep, the reins long fallen from his hands.

We made a weekly trip of six or eight miles to Constantine or Three Rivers for supplies and to pick up the mail and newspaper. By nine o'clock on Saturday the towns were doing business on a big scale, and the hitching posts were crowded. Mother would be looking at dry goods or trading news with friends along the street. Father would be having the horses shod or tires set. We children would be loitering on the sidewalks chewing spruce gum, devouring a penny stick of hoarhound candy, or shucking two cents worth of peanuts.

I remember walking with father from the sunlit street into the initial semi-darkness of the stores. My nose immediately scented the freshly ground coffee, the spices, the sour pickles, and the store cookies. In a moment my eye could distinguish the rows of barrels that contained crackers, sugar, salt, flour, dried peas and beans, the pails of fine cut tobacco, and the shelves of canned goods. Cool and dignified, the grocer, arm bands on his sleeves, would greet us.

How excellent a station in life town people seemed to have, white collared, shielded from the weather, with decent working hours. We received for butter and eggs only what they decided to give us, and they set the price of what we bought as well. A whole year of work on a farm could go for naught, it appeared, if town people were of a mind to say it should. The government protected infant industries, the lot of industrial workers was apparently improving, and holding companies were growing ever more powerful. But the farmer believed that he was exploited by everyone. It was a rare farmer who did not resent his inferior political and economic status. The organization of farmer associations — Granges, Farm Bureaus, and Alliances — sprang from this disparity.

On Saturdays saloons were well patronized. Children would stand engrossed, watching the doors swing incessantly back and forth, wondering what in that dim, aromatic place buoyed men up so

Licensed saloon keepers were usually responsible people, cutting off a man's drinks in good time. Not so the "blind pigs," the unlicensed saloons. Many an erstwhile patron had to lean against a hitching rail for support, or be carried to an alleyway to sleep off the effects of his imbibing.

It seemed to me as a child that drink almost always brought out the meanness in a man. In freezing weather horses would be left unblanketed for hours outside a saloon. A man who had bent his elbow a few times might snuff out a cigar on a horse's nose — the poor frightened animal would tear away from the hitching rail and careen dangerously up the street — or a man might, out of pure meanness, beat a horse all the way home. Women avoided the neighborhood of saloons, perhaps not so much to avoid offense as embarrassment and inconvenience. I remember mother was dismayed one day that the only open place at a hitching rail was in front of a saloon. She was disarmed, but not wholly put at ease, by Bob Green, the owner of a shoe store. "Don't worry, Mrs. Brody," Bob said, "Kate won't go inside."

In an election year, Constantine and Three Rivers were enlivened by political rivalries. Politicians worked desperately to make up for their inattention to the farmer since the last campaign, slapping him on the back, calling him a fine fellow, and giving him all sorts of promises. After election day the farmer again became the forgotten man. Certainly the distance from one farm to another, not being able to spare much time away from land, life, and traditional independence, worked against the farmer politically. His lone voice just couldn't be heard over the clamor of organized groups.

A political rally began with a torch parade. The torches were messy, smelly, kerosene affairs. To work up a little enthusiasm for a parade, politicians and their handy men would ply the inmates of saloons with a few rounds of free drinks. The ruse rarely failed, and excitement soon spread to the crowd in general. Someone who had become as well "oiled up" as



the torches was inevitably spattered with kerosene or his clothes would catch fire, though usually without his being seriously inconvenienced. The Democrats spliced together rough hickory poles to a height of nearly a hundred feet, on top of which were nailed banners with the names of candidates and the American flag; the Republicans raised poles of soft wood from which the bark was removed. It was a stirring sight, on the dim street of a small country town, to watch men shuffle along to the martial music under flaming torches. Children skirted the edges of the parade, and some of them always clustered around the bass drum. We had arrived at maturity when allowed to march in the parade proper. The pattern has not changed.

At the rally the entire farm family was accommodated at a barbecue, a band concert, contests of strength, wrestling, and foot races. But the high point of the rally was the speech of the principal candidate. Oratory in that day was extravagantly admired. It was a puny candidate who did not hold his audience for at least an hour berating the opposing candidate and his party, and it was counted a great pleasure, except by children, to listen to his high-flown words and phrases.

It was this admiration for an accomplished speaker, I am sure, that won such overwhelming support from the farmer for William Jennings Bryan in his three campaigns for the presidency. In 1896 Bryan went to the hustings from the Democratic convention in Chicago, which he had set afire with his Cross of Gold speech. Times were hard in 1896, and prices for farm products were scraping bottom. Bryan, to the accompaniment of sweeping gestures, blamed the scarcity of money on the single monetary standard, gold being in short supply. He claimed that the free coinage of silver at a ratio of sixteen silver dollars to one gold dollar would rid the farmer of most of his problems. For the rest, in scathing words, he attacked Mark Hanna and the large monopolies, which he contended were supporting the Republican candidate. Though the farm vote was insufficient to win Bryan the presidency, it cannot be denied that he brought farmers together and brought them to life politically. It was from that day that politicians had to consider the "farm vote."

It is quite possible that future readers of this book are being born as this picture of farm life in the latter part of the 19th century is being drawn. Each child takes his environment and advantages for granted. His opportunities, conveniences and problems could hardly have been imagined by previous generations. Only by reading the history of preceding periods can he realize the struggles that went into them, the debts we owe those who came before us. The helplessness of infancy, the vision of youth, the judgment of maturity, and the counsel of the aged blend and modify one another. I hope that this chapter provides my readers with a sense of the continuity and unfolding of life, of the overlapping of generations, that maintain the stream of human effort and make progress possible.

NEXT MONTH:

The Beginning Days of Farm Bureau in Michigan.

national talk-meet winner — John Nye

"Young Farmers Must Be More Active..."

John Nye, Michigan's Farm Bureau Discussion topic entrant and national winner at the American Farm Bureau Federation's annual meeting last December, carries into his every day work world and family life the practices and beliefs he thought and felt would enable the farmer . . . especially the young farmer . . . to make a better living for himself and his family.

John and Michigan Farm Bureau's Young Farmer Director David Cook had an opportunity to visit and compare thoughts along this line in a recent visit at the Nye home near St. Joseph in Berrien county.

John is in partnership with his father, Harry Nye, a member of the MFB's Board of Directors, representing District 1. Together they farm 400 acres, raising apples, grapes, peaches, pears, plums and cherries plus some corn, wheat and oats.

"Problems in agriculture and labor are closely related," John said. "There is a great need for stronger management practices on the part of the farmer if he plans to meet the problems facing him. Farmers are going more and more into specialized farming and to further improve their farming operation, management training must be included as part of their overall preparedness to becoming an efficient farmer. The ability to purchase mechanical equipment and supplies to take the place of the migrant labor that is no longer available to us plus the ability to earn the money to purchase this equipment is necessary. Most farmers find that more and more they are having to depend on their own families for help at harvest time. Local help is not always available and the migrant help becomes more doubtful each year."

Mr. Cook was curious as to what affect John's winning the National Discussion meet had had on his farming career and thinking. "Actual affects?" John asked, "there has been no change in my beliefs other than now I know more than ever that the farmer must stop thinking of himself as

'low man on the rung.' He has to come into his own and make up his mind that he has to employ some of the same ideas and practices that other big businesses use to promote his products and that the day of the road-side stand to make his living is gone. We must have markets and must have equal marketing opportunities and prices to allow all of us to make a good living."

The Nyes were part of the annual Michigan Farm Bureau's Women's Legislative tour that visited Washington D. C. . . . taking part while John was Berrien County's Young Farmer Director. John is firm in stating that this tour was one of the greatest experiences in his young life. He saw that the elected representatives actually are interested in the farmer and that Michigan Farm Bureau's opinions are valued and receive a great deal of respect. "Now I'm doing my best to show many of our Community Group's Young Farmers the necessity of promoting the Young Farmers program and practices."

John is vice president of the Berrien County Horticulture Society; secretary of the Michigan Peach Sponsors; Young Farmer Chairman and director of the Berrien County Farm Bureau; alternate director of the Michigan Agriculture Marketing Association and a director on his church board, First Church of Christ Scientist, in Benton Harbor.



IN KEEPING — with the fruit operation of Harry and John Nye in Berrien county, a pear-shaped birth announcement was sent to herald the arrival of twin daughters, Noreen and Nancy — born five months ago to John and Sandra Nye. The announcement read: "Wt. — .0035 tons (6 lbs. 14 oz.); sprout, 19¼ inches; time of harvest 9:25 and 9:36 a.m. and Grade — U. S. #1. Crop, identical and extra fancy . . ."

John and Sandra are completing plans for a Farm Bureau float to be shown in the Blossom Parade on May 17. The float, sponsored by the Young Farmers of Berrien County is expected to be seen by more than 200,000 people that annually attend the parade. John is chairman of the Float committee, working with two other Young Farmers and A Farm Bureau Women's Committee representative.

When John competed with the other state contestants in Kansas City, Mo., last year, he said, in effect: "Young Farmers must be active. We must be part of a Community Group that can plan, talk and carry out progressive farming methods. We need to

know all we can learn of means to help farmers earn on an equal basis with salaried workers in our country. Agriculture is the number two industry in our state and it's time we promoted it on an equal basis with the promotion given to the products of the automotive industry."

"I have not only my own obligation to myself to be a successful farmer, but I now have a wife and our two daughters as well as to my parents who had trust and confidence in me enough to make me a partner in a business that took my Dad years to work up. I must also help in a business that brings man close to the warm earth and God . . . farming . . . and with help, I'll do it."



GRANDMOTHER'S KITCHEN — 50 YEARS AGO — WHEN FARM BUREAU FIRST BEGAN



a spring-time "thank you" — for goals reached; — a year well begun!

Isn't Spring wonderful? The beautiful greens show up on trees and fields, a most welcome sight after the dead browns we've been looking at all winter. Nature has had her rest and now is bursting forth in glorious color. While nature has been resting many of you have been busy working on membership and thanks to your hard work, Michigan has made membership goal. Many of your counties have made goal too, several are near goal, and with a little more push you too can be over the top. Will you try? I know many of you ladies have worked on this membership team and I want to say "Thank You" to all of you who helped in this most important project and do keep it at the top of your project list. You have helped to make it possible for President Elton Smith to be able to wear a golden coat in this golden anniversary year of Michigan and American Farm Bureau.

Michigan Week will be with us in a couple of weeks and I hope you are planning to emphasize Michigan; our products, spots of interest, vacation opportunities, and most of all our pride in Michigan. Learn all you can about Michigan and tell others about "Michigan—Land of Hospitality". Then do your part to show Michigan's hospitality is in each of our communities.



There are buttons, posters and napkins available for your Michigan Week activities. For information and cost of these write to: Michigan Week State Committee, 809 Center St., PO Box 5096, Lansing, Michigan 48905.

It was my pleasure recently to attend the luncheon given by the Northland Chamber of Commerce, announcing the Michigan Mother of the Year. Our 1969 Michigan Mother and five other of the "Merrit Mothers" are Farm Bureau members. You know we are very proud of all of you. Maybe next year we will have more of you competing. County Women's committees can nominate someone if you want and we hope you do.

Let's all be sure we read the labels on the herbicides and pesticides we use this spring and summer. If we use the proper amounts and dispose of the containers properly (burn or bury, but not at the dump) then we will be doing what we need to do. If we remind our urban friends to do the same, we can help more. We know these farm chemicals are beneficial to us and let's help keep them available rather than give the legislature a reason to take them away by legislation.

I thought maybe you'd like this . . .

COMPASSION

If everyone were perfect . . . in his body, soul and mind . . . then the folks who had compassion . . . would be mighty hard to find . . .

For each living thing that suffers . . . is a challenge to the rest . . . It's God's own way of measuring . . . the kindness in your breast.

Mrs. Jerold (Maxine) Topliff

Winners to Share Scholarship Fund!



KATHLEEN WIELAND



DAVID TUTAK

The Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Scholarship Committee has selected two outstanding Michigan State University students, David Paul Tutak and Kathleen Doris Wieland, to share equally in the \$300 Marge Karker Scholarship Fund.

Kathleen is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wieland, dairy farmers and Farm Bureau members of Ellsworth, in Antrim county. Mr. and Mrs. Chester Tutak, Montague, are the parents of David. Mr. Tutak is a farmer in Oceana county.

David, a junior Veterinary Medicine student, maintains a 3.52 average, is a member of the Block and Bridle Club, of the Intercollegiate Meat judging team and of the Farm House Fraternity. While in high school, he held several FFA offices and was the Science Club president.

Kathleen was an honor roll student at Ellsworth Community High School and served as class secretary and yearbook editor. She is maintaining a 3.39 average at MSU, in her chosen home economics-teaching course.

Both students received high recommendations from former teachers and associates.

The scholarship is a gift to the qualifying student and can be renewed after a yearly review.

Mrs. Mary Edith Anderson, Fowlerville, is chairman of the Scholarship committee. Members are Mrs. Margaret Kartes, West Branch; Mrs. Claudine Jackson, Howell and Mrs. Maxine Topliff, Ex-Officio member, Eaton Rapids.

one more fast-time defeat!

Another attempt to place Michigan on Daylight Saving Time has been defeated — this time by the actions of the state Court of Appeals in turning down a case by two Grand Rapids law students against the state Board of Canvassers.

The Court of Appeals cited a "lack of merit" in the case made by the students, who had sought to overthrow the certification of the Board of Canvassers through

a technicality. The students said that exact dates of Daylight Saving-Time clock-changes should have been placed on the ballot.

The court action means that certification of Daylight Saving Time's defeat by voters, following a complicated and costly recount of the November 5th vote, stands as reported.

The students may still take the issue to the state Supreme Court.

what's a funny place for a phone?

That depends on what you think is funny. If rushing in from the barn or back forty to answer a telephone leaves you out of breath, then perhaps an extension telephone is the answer. You can put an extension telephone nearly anyplace you'd like, inside or out. Then instead of interrupting work to rush back to the house, you can do your telephoning from where you are. Call your Michigan Bell Business Office or ask your telephone man. You can have an extension telephone in any funny old place you'd like.

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taxes are necessary "evil"



capitol report

TAXES . . . a necessary "evil" to maintain our accepted . . . and expected . . . way of life.

TAXES . . . like death . . . unavoidable in this day and age and affecting everyone in the country.

TAXES . . . a major problem, not only for Michigan Farm Bureau members but one that is mutually shared with our lawmakers, and now especially, our educators.

TAXES . . . an item on each land-owner's tax bill that allots . . . in some areas, 70% or more of the total tax bill for education.

Some of the state aid measures presently before the Michigan Legislature would tend to require an even greater property tax in some areas. For instance, presently a district must levy 10 mills for school purposes in order to qualify for full state aid. Under some of the present proposals, this amount would be raised to 18 mills for full state aid.

At the December 1968, annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau, one of the policies adopted reads, "Recent sessions of the Legislature have adopted revised and improved versions of the state school aid formula and have reversed the previous trend toward shifting a greater portion of school costs to the local property tax. We believe this to be progress." The resolution continues, in part, "We recommend that — the state income tax be used as one of the major sources of funds for our schools.

— Property taxes for all school purposes be limited by law; — development of a new state aid formula should include other than property valuations alone; — a reasonable state aid formula be developed to assist school districts in meeting the cost of building-needed facilities; — the state's share of operational cost should continue to increase, in order to achieve tax equity and provide every child with an equality of education; — and — sufficient funds should be appropriated to pay in full all state aid formulas."

Following this same thought, at the March 26 meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors, a review of the state-aid proposals that have been introduced to the legislature was made. One proposal in particular, The Spencer Plan, (proposed by Rep. Roy L. Spencer, R-78th District) is very close to the Farm Bureau's policy for school financ-

ing as determined at the annual meeting. Spencer's Equal Educational Package (three bills, HB 2265, 2266 and 2267) termed the Fair-Share program . . . has brought up some interesting questions and also some very informative answers.

Spencer's proposal, would guarantee any district raising 12 mills, \$550 per student. A district would then have other alternatives for additional money if needed. If it chose to raise more millage, it would be guaranteed \$30 per pupil for each additional mill, or a total of \$90. For the next five mills, the district would be guaranteed \$20 per pupil per mill, or a total of \$100 per pupil.

Instead of extra millage, the district could use a district personal income tax up to 2%, in which case the state would guarantee \$125 per pupil for each 1% of the tax. These amounts would be guaranteed even though the income tax within the district yielded only a fraction of that amount.

In order to pay for the additional state aid, the plan would create a State Educational Tax Fund, to be funded by an increase in the state personal income tax of 1½% with \$1200 exemptions. The State income tax on corporations would be increased 3%.

This program provides considerably more money to pay for rising school costs. Example: Suppose a district with a valuation per child of \$10,000 is presently raising 25 mills of school operation taxes which, together with state aid, gives it approximately \$550 per pupil. Under the "Spencer Plan," this district would receive \$550 per pupil and could cut its property tax more than half, from 25 mills down to 12 mills — a cut of 13 mills.

Another example of a poorer district might be one with \$8,000 valuation per child, raising 14 mills which, together with state aid, amounts to \$451 per student. In this situation the property tax could be cut to 10 mills and still have \$458 per pupil.

Still another example of a district with an average valuation per child, \$15,000, and raising 20 mills of property tax — presently, this would amount to \$538 per pupil. Here again, the property tax could be cut to 12 mills and the district would receive more money — \$550 per pupil.

Any of these districts could, if they chose, use the income tax on a district basis and be guaranteed \$125 more per pupil for each 1% of personal income tax. The property tax could be maintained at 12 mills or less.

A public hearing was held on this program on March 27. The House floor and galleries were filled. Representatives of 20 or more organizations testified, including Farm Bureau. All were in support of the program.

If this, or any other new school finance plan, receives serious consideration it will no doubt be amended. For instance, Farm Bureau is looking into the possibility of placing a limit on school property taxes not to exceed a percent of income.

On March 31, the Michigan PTA sponsored a statewide meeting in Lansing on school finance. Farm Bureau was one of the 25 co-sponsoring organizations. Several County Farm Bureaus were represented. It was generally agreed that property taxes must have some relief from school taxes. One speaker, however, called for elimination of exemptions and made a special point of the exemption on assessment of farm crops (trees, bushes, vines, wheat, etc.). He said that as much as "\$3,000 per acre" are exempt. Dr. Ira Polley, Superintendent of Public Instruction, called dependence on property taxes "unrealistic," but then suggested a "statewide" property tax to support education.

The F.B. Board of Directors is also studying Rep. Roy Smith's (R-52nd Dist.) plan to petition for a constitutional amendment removing the operating cost of schools from the property tax. This has broad implications. Any results from this proposal could not be implemented before 1971, as it would not be voted on until November, 1970.

At least four measures are now introduced to require assessment of farm lands on their agricultural use rather than "potential" value. This is another part of the whole tax problem.

ACTION IS NEEDED NOW. You can help by writing as many letters as possible to your Legislators outlining the taxation problems farmers face as the result of school finance, unrealistic assessment, special assessments, etc. Let your Legislator know NOW that you support legislation to solve these problems.

PRILLWITZ NAMED

Appointed to fill a recent vacancy on the board of directors of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, has been Wesley Prillwitz, former president of the Berrien county Farm Bureau — and long-time area farm leader.

The appointment was made to fill a vacancy declared on the board following the resignation of Joel Chapin, Mecosta county.

A director of the Berrien county Farm Bureau Oil Company, Prillwitz operates a 320-acre fruit farm near Eau Claire. He is a past president of the Eau Claire Fruit Exchange.

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West Branch Farm Bureau Eugene Noble, Mgr. West Branch, Mich. 48661	Roger Brooks 14600 Ely Rd., Rt. 2 Manchester, Mich. 48158	Malcolm Cuddie Route 4 Gladwin, Mich. 48624	Harold Brunner Wayside Trailer Ct. 2900 N. Whitehall Muskegon, Mich. 49440	Omer Tacis Spruce, Mich. 49747

Climax Farm Bureau
Robert Whaley, Mgr.
Climax, Mich. 49034

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Rt. 4
Eaton Rapids, Mich. 48827

St. John's Coop.
John Williamson, Mgr.
St. Johns, Mich. 48879

Aaron L. Gilmore
Rt. 2, 510 W. Territorial
Camden, Mich. 49232

Gene Mater
Rt. 2
Nashville, Mich. 48858

Farm Bureau Services
Ward Witman, Mgr.
204 N. Main, Yale, Mich. 48097

Frank Myers
Rt. 1
Clare, Mich. 48617

Farmers Reminded of Compensation Rules!

By: John Leary
Farm Bureau Insurance Group

Michigan farmers are faced with many farm labor problems — not the least of which is how best to provide a proper insurance protection program.

Such programs should be designed to protect you as a farmer from disastrous economic losses which could result from a serious injury to an employee.

The Michigan Workmen's Compensation law provides that . . . "all agricultural employers of three or more regular employees paid hourly wages or salaries, and not paid on a piecework basis, who are employed 35 or more hours per week by that same employer for 13 or more consecutive weeks during the preceding 52 weeks . . ." must carry full Workmen's Compensation coverage.

"Coverage shall apply only to such regularly employed employees. The average weekly wage for such an employee shall be deemed to be the weeks worked in agricultural employment divided into the total wages which the employee has earned from all agricultural occupations during the 12 calendar months immediately preceding the injury, and no other definition pertaining to average weekly wage shall be applicable."

All agricultural employers of 1 or more persons who are employed 35 or more hours per week by that same employer for five or more consecutive weeks, shall provide for such employees — in accordance with rules established by the Insurance Department, medical and hospital coverage for all personal injuries "arising out of and in the course of employment" suffered by such employees not otherwise covered by the Act.

Other provisions include that such medical and hospital coverage shall not affect any rights of recovery that an employee would otherwise have against an agricultural employer and such right of recovery shall be subject to any defense the agricultural employer might otherwise have.

"Section one of this Act shall not apply to cases other than medical and hospital coverages provided herein, arising under this subsection, nor shall it apply to actions brought against an agricultural employer who is not voluntarily or otherwise subject to this Act . . ."

The medical and hospital coverage referred to in this paragraph is unlimited. It is possible that an employer could be responsible for treatment of a worker's injury for the rest of the life of that employee.

Although the Compensation law does not require that protection be extended to those working less than five weeks or for employees paid on a piecework basis, the farmer could still be responsible, to some degree, if an injury occurs.

To be fully protected an employer may buy a Workmen's Compensation policy including a "voluntary medical benefits" endorsement. This policy provides coverages called for by the law and in addition, liability, medical and hospital benefits.

Should an employer want to provide full Workmen's Compensation — including loss of wage benefits for all employees, he can do so by requesting a change in his policy to permit such coverage.

Also — an employer of workers for less than 5 weeks may purchase a coverage providing medical, hospital and liability which will protect him up to the limit of the policy but not provide protection if a claim is presented under the Workmen's Compensation law.

Employee coverages are subject to audit by the issuing insurance company to determine the amount of involved exposure.

Work records should always be kept by name, amount of time worked and amount paid each employee. Payment includes items such as housing or room and board.

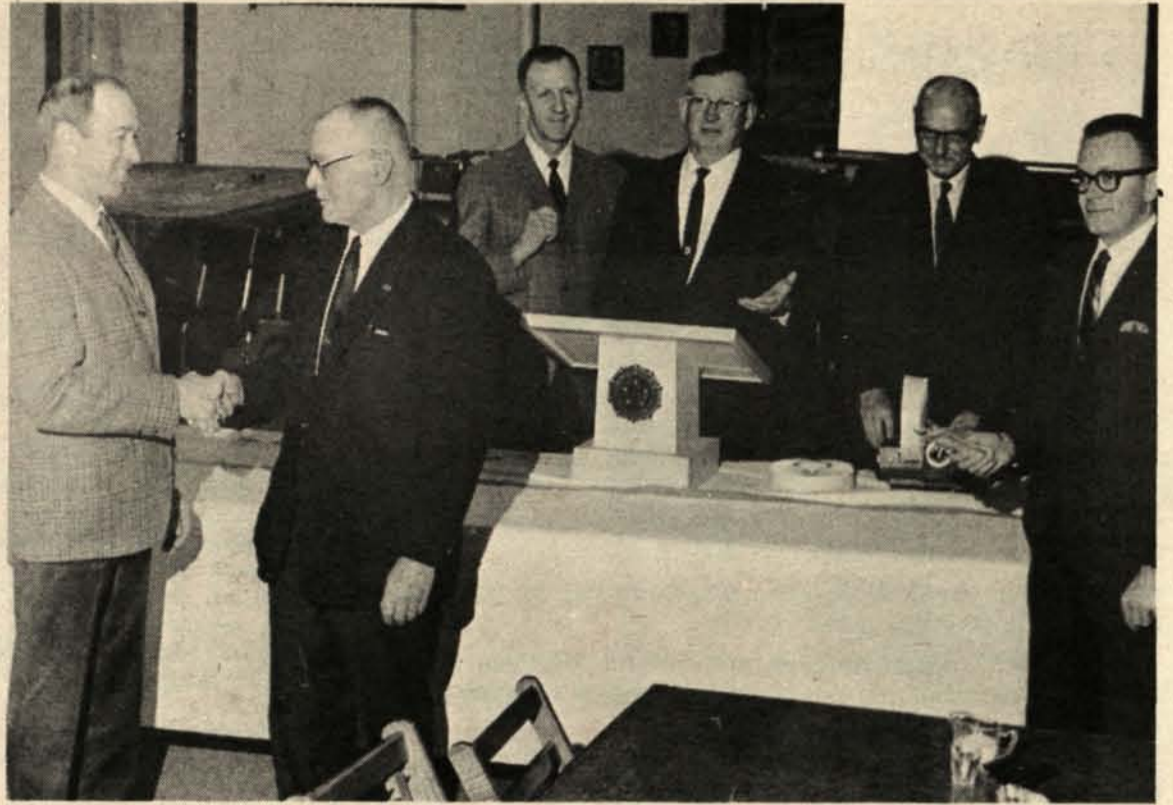
The Michigan Farm Bureau has farm record books available to greatly aid and improve keeping such proper farm labor records. Inquire at your county Farm Bureau office.

READ THE LABEL

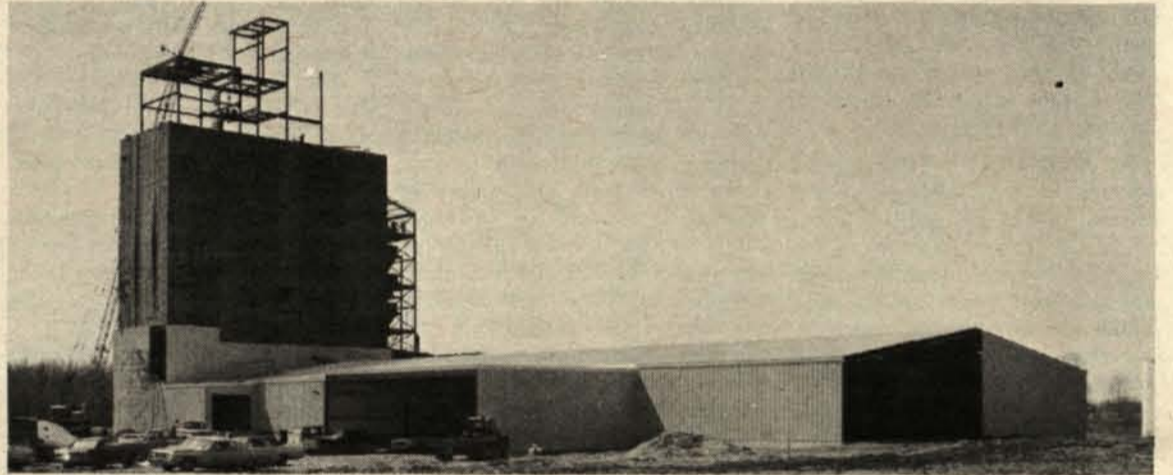
The use of "hard" pesticide chemicals is being progressively cut back to uses for which there are not good substitute controls.

The major problem lies with the disposal of waste spray solutions, cleaning of equipment, disposal of pesticide containers, and drift of fine droplet sprays during application.

A large part of the problem is that many pesticides are used around home and garden without adequate knowledge on the part of the user — today's consumer just doesn't bother to read the label.



MERRILL IRWIN MEMORIAL LEADERS — gather following a highly successful dinner honoring the late Gratiot county farm leader. County Farm Bureau president, Dale Stoneman, (left) thanks board member Don Root who served as "M.C." Others pictured represent farm groups with whom Irwin worked. From left: James DeMott, Mich. Animal Breeders; Eugene Erskin, Mich. Milk Producers and Mich. Farm Cooperatives; Harry Lund, Ag-Extension and Loren Brown, Gratiot PCA.



FEED MILL CONSTRUCTION — is moving along on schedule, at the new million-dollar Farm Bureau Services feed plant near Battle Creek. June 25 has been set for a dedication and open-house, officials report.



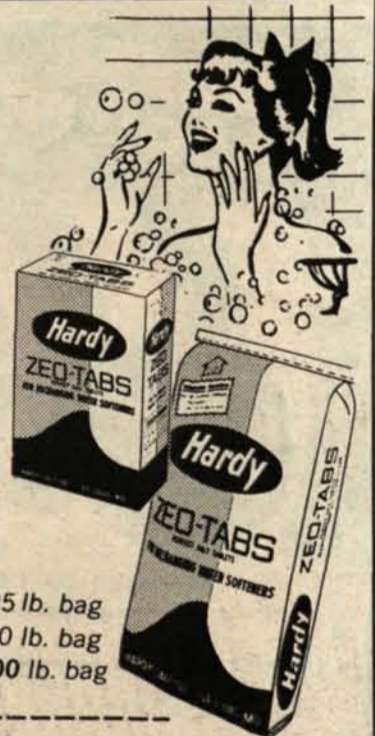
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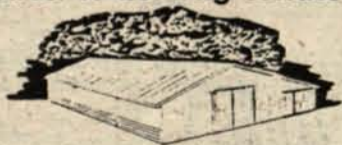
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Michigan Mother Honored-----May 14



MERIT MOTHERS — pictured at a Detroit luncheon are (left to right) Mrs. Florence Southworth, Mrs. Maurine Scramlin, Mrs. Ina Wright, Mrs. Oxender (named Michigan's Mother of the Year); Mrs. Ruth Day and Mrs. Myra Spike.

MRS. HARRY (MYRTLE) OXENDER, CONSTANTINE — was chosen Michigan's Mother of the Year at a luncheon meeting in Detroit recently. The Oxenders' farm 500 acres and have been Farm Bureau members for more than 20 years. They have five children, Wayne, Dale, Vernon, Glenn and Joan and 12 grandchildren. Five other Farm Bureau women were also honored, two of them receiving Special Mention on their "Merit Mother" Certificates. Farm Bureau mothers in the total 15 honored included Mrs. William (Maurine) Scramlin, Holly; Mrs. Cyril (Myra) Spike, Owosso; Mrs. Fred (Ruth) Day, Clark Lake; Mrs. George (Florence) Southworth, Elkton and Mrs. Albert (Ina) Wright, Hillsdale. Mrs. Oxender will attend the National Mother of the Year meet in Los Angeles April 29, representing Michigan. Principal speaker at the Merit Mother Luncheon was Mrs. William Milliken, First Lady of Michigan. Mrs. Milliken brought the good wishes of the governor and also a proclamation stating "May 14 has been designated as Michigan Mother of the Year Day." Michigan Farm Bureau members will have more than their share of celebrating to do, having Mrs. Oxender as their state Mother of the Year.



DON CARLSON — has been named Secretary-Manager of the American Dairy Association of Michigan. Carlson has been a field representative for ADA of Illinois, and since 1962 has served in the same capacity with the Michigan Association. He replaced Boyd Rice who has taken a position with the American Dairy Association headquarters in Chicago.

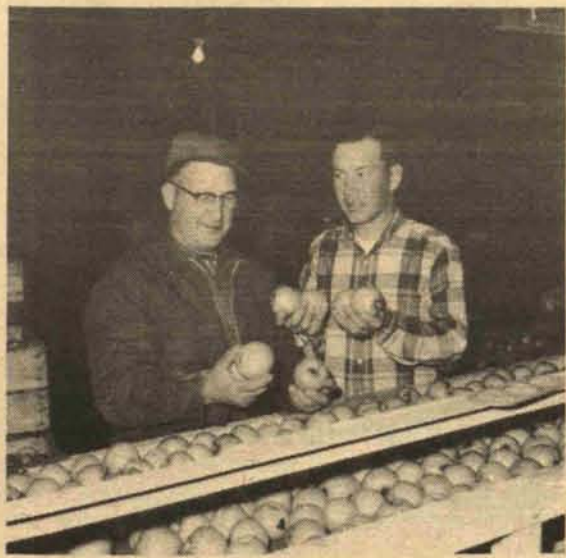


DONALD R. PAULSEN, a graduate of Western Michigan University, has accepted the position of Regional Representative for the Thumb area. Mr. Paulsen, who lives in Kalamazoo, replaces David Cook, now MFB Young Farmers Director. Mr. Paulsen worked in the capacity of Consumer Protection, covering all phases of sanitation relating to farm products.

MICHIGAN
Something to
honk about!



MICHIGAN
WEEK MAY 17-24



EXCELLENT APPLES — typical of those on the sorting table are shown by Harry and John Nye — father-son partners of rural St. Joseph address (Berrien county). Father Harry is a member of the Mich. Farm Bureau board. Son John is national Young Farmer Discussion Meet winner.



ELECTRIC CO-OPS — Spring Conference Program at Clare, Mich. included these leaders: (left) Elton Smith, President, Mich. Farm Bureau; John Keen, President, Mich. Rural Electric Co-ops and Kenneth Croy, Mich. Public Service Commission. "Problems common to all" was one program.

"women in action"

More than 40 Michigan Farm Bureau women from Districts 1 and 2 and their guests have reported a very successful and enjoyable two days spent at Wesley Woods Holiday Camp the later part of March.

The theme of the meeting, "Farm Bureau Women in Action" was carried out through the various programs. Time and Two Women; The Pulse of Life; Women Partners in Farm Bureau and Adventures in Collecting all offered much of interest. "One of the most enjoyable book reports ever heard" seemed to be everyone's opinion on the report given by Mrs. Mary Jane Swartz who reviewed the story of the life of the wife of Robert Louis Stevenson.

A surprise part of the program was offered by Don Roberts, camp manager, who told the ladies about "Band-ing Birds in Michigan." Michigan Farm Bureau was represented by MFB Women's Activities Coordinator Helen Atwood, Legislative Counsel Robert Smith and by Mrs. Jerold Topliff, MFB Women's Committee chairman.

The Holiday Camp has been an annual event and many of those attending expressed plans for the 1970 Holiday Camp.

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.

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FOR SALE: Farm — 143 acres near Clarksville. Clay loam, some woods, 2 family house, 2 barns and silo. \$250 per acre. Consider trade. Ed Tanis, Jenison, Michigan 49428. Phone: MO 9-9226. (5-2t-25b) 14

BUILDING — Reynolds Aluminum pre-fabricated 31 x 128 ft. Butler Grain Bin (5 ton). Refrigeration unit, cages, 3,000 chickens, grader and candler. All for \$3,500. Earl Mastick, 2360 Lone Tree Road, Milford, Michigan 48042. Phone: 684-4235. (5-1t-34b) 8

PARTS FOR CO-OP, COCKSHUTT AND BLACK HAWK tractors and farm equipment. Parts for Massey-Harris tractors and combines. Also used parts and attachments for Co-op and Cockshutt tractors. Will ship. Heindl Implement Sales, 1140 M-15, Reese, Michigan 48757. Phone VO 8-9808. (2-6t-39b) 8

FOR SALE: A-No. 1 BUCKEYE TILING MACHINE and John Bean potato grader and harvester. Wilfred Mallburg, 17251 22 Mile Road, Utica, Michigan 48087. Phone 463-7201. (3-2t-25p) 14

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: 35 registered horned Hereford cows. Many four and five years old. Some have calves at side. Rest will calve this spring and summer. Will sell one or group. Call: Bill Blume, Egypt Valley Hereford Farm, Ada, Michigan. Phone: 676-1090. (5-1t-39b) 20

ANGUS BULL—1964 Futurity Grand Champion. Proven sire. Many daughters kept in herd. For sale or trade for future calves. Shagbark Farm, Caledonia, Michigan. Phone: 891-1377. (5-2t-20p) 20

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) (tf-46b) 26

SHAVER STARCROSS 288—Started pullets available most every month. Get wise and try these top profit makers as your next flock. MacPherson Hatchery, Route #3, Ionia, Michigan. Phone 527-0860. (6-3t-28b) 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

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

OVERSEAS JOBS — Australia, Europe, South America, Far East, etc. Openings in all trades and professions. \$400 to \$2,500 monthly, free information. Write: Foreign Employment Mart, Box 2235 A.M.F., Miami, Florida, 33159. (5-1t-31p) 36

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO pick Raspberries if your arms didn't get scratched? Get CANBY. They're thornless — no pickers. Write: Donaghy Nursery, Sandusky, Michigan 48471. (5-1t-25p) 24

NIGHTCRAWLERS AND RED WIGGLERS. "B & B" Worm Ranch, Route #1, Box 341, Steele, Missouri 63877. Phone 695-4984. Area Code 314. (2-2t-19p) 36

36 MISCELLANEOUS
FRUIT JARS — 50¢ - \$100. Send \$1 for Complete buy-sell list. Refundable. Schroeders, Paducah, Kentucky 42001. (3-1t-14p) 36

WANTED: LAND FOR RECREATIONAL USE — Preferably water frontage or lake site possibilities. Please include price per acre and location data. Please write: Stanley Chase, Howard City, Michigan 49329. (5-2t-28p) 34

FREE 1969-S CENT with three 1955-S cents, \$1. Eight different Indianhead cents or V-nickels \$1.98, or California souvenir Gold dollar \$1.50. Half 75¢. Edell's Carlyle, Illinois 62231. (4-2t-26p) 36

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Farm Labor Problems

"Michigan, the second largest user of seasonal farm labor, employs about 80,000 out-of-state seasonal workers each summer. They hoe, prune and pick. Most of all, they pick . . . strawberries, cherries, peaches melons, pickles, apples, tomatoes, and other fruits and vegetables. They will continue to pick until they can find other opportunities for employment or until mechanical harvesters replace them. The latter is likely to come faster than the former, and that is the problem . . ."

**Report: Status of Migratory Farm Labor
Michigan Civil Rights Commission — 1968**

DISCUSSION TOPIC

By: Melvin L. Woell

Although Michigan has an impressive agricultural industry in many ways it might be termed a "labor" state. Organized labor has grown along with the industries which support it. Union treasuries have been fattened by years of prosperity.

Fringe benefits such as paid hospitalization have been built into union contracts and these costs, along with the costs of the union itself, are ultimately passed on to the consuming public.

That's where farming differs from other industries. Farmers generally are unable to pass along new labor costs to those who buy their products. Other differences include the fact that there are certain times of year when a farmer is utterly dependent upon his labor supply if he is to harvest a crop or gain any income from his year of investment.

These major differences are often ignored or misunderstood by those who wish to place agriculture under the same labor rules and restrictions as now apply to industry.

With much of the American work-force now unionized, the organizers are turning their attention to the man-on-the-land. This attention is being felt through new farm labor legislative pressures in Lansing and Washington. Nationally, major efforts are now underway, on the part of unions and others, to place farmers under provisions of the national Labor Management Relations Act.

In Lansing, many new labor laws affecting farmers have been passed by our legislature in the past five years. Dozens more are now in the hopper. Farmers must remain alert and effective if they are to protect their farm-management rights.

Farmers must do everything in their power to remove causes for farm-labor complaint. Farmers must then stop reacting to the proposals made by others concerning their labor-management relations and begin acting to shape the rules which will govern relations between farmers and farm workers in a manner fair to both.

In recent years Michigan farmers have gained considerable ability and experience in doing this. In 1964, farmers of our state were placed under the state Minimum Wage law for the first time. As is usually the case in trying to fit an industrial law to agriculture, little consideration was given to how well the law might apply or what its effects might actually be.

Later, the Michigan Farm Bureau was successful in getting clarification of certain areas of the law, including an amendment allowing piece-rate payments — which had been traditional in fruit and vegetable areas of our state.

In 1966, state Workmen's Compensation Act was rewritten to include farmers for the first time. Farm Bureau asked for a one-year delay to allow a study of proposed rates. The delay was granted as was a second one-year delay during which important amendments to the law were made with Farm Bureau leadership and support. As a result of these amendments, substantially lower premium rates were possible.

Currently, more than two-dozen new farm labor proposals are before the Michigan legislature. Included are bills to greatly enlarge and extend both Minimum Wage and Workmen's Compensation laws. Others deal with the number of hours which may be worked on a farm, and with legal terms of wage payment.

Organized labor is working to build public support through press and pulpit to place farmers under the same tight labor restrictions as is industry. Such devices as the carefully staged farm labor "dispute" in California and the nationwide boycott of table grapes, are part of the labor arsenal.

Unions are enlisting the aid of church, social-action groups, welfare, government and public officials in a sleight-of-hand campaign aimed at forcing farm workers into unions which they have said they don't need and don't want — and which they have refused to join voluntarily.

Specifically, the AFL-CIO's "United Farm Workers Organizing Committee" headed by professional organizer, Cesar Chavez, is doing everything in its power to deliver farm workers into union hands, for the union's own purposes.

In the words of Father Cletus Healy of the Society of Jesus: "When one reflects on the refusal of the California grape pickers to join the union of Cesar Chavez, and, on the other hand, the cruel willingness of Chavez to call for a national boycott to impose his will upon these workers, one wonders: What is Chavez's real concern?"

Many feel that the long-term goal is nothing less than total unionization of all agriculture and that the grape boycott is only an opening gun . . .

COMPULSORY FARM UNIONISM?

Organized labor is moving quietly in giving strong support to a mild-appearing labor bill which contains rude shocks for farmers. The bill is S-8 (and its House twin, HR.9954. Specifically, the measure amends the National Labor Relations Act to "make its provisions applicable to the agricultural industry . . ."

The amendment would allow union officials to negotiate compulsory or "closed shop" work agreements with farm owners under which all farm labor must then be secured through union hiring halls. Once the agreement was signed all workers would be compelled to join the union within 7 days or lose their jobs.

Thus, the unions would accomplish through the legislative route what they have failed to do more directly through the grape boycott.

An examination of the bill by the editors of the Muskegon Chronicle brought this comment: "S-8 is a piece of legislation which should provide a rude awakening for those who believe the motives of organizer Chavez and his supporters are pure — that is, purely and simply to guarantee the farm workers a right to collective bargaining; . . . the bill would make it possible for union officials to extract dues from hundreds of thousands of farm workers — whether they wanted to pay or not — without a vote by even a single worker. . . . The Senate bill is aimed at the capture of millions of agricultural workers by compulsory unions; a drive to organize all farm workers in all crops to collect millions of dollars a year in forced dues. The assault on the grape pickers was just an opening shot; if passed, the Senate bill — despite their gutty fight against union coercion — will force them into bondage with the rest . . ."



information-self regulation farm-labor management keys

Information and self-regulation appear to be keys by which farmers may retain their farm-labor management freedoms.

New, highly restrictive and extremely costly farm labor regulations are proposed in Washington and Lansing. They propose to add to the many laws and regulations which already cover the production and harvesting of farm crops in our state.

Meanwhile, public controversies over farm labor and related subjects are increasing daily, and it has become vital that farmers recognize and understand the many and oftentimes very confusing sanitation, safety, housing and wage laws which exist — and that they carefully observe them.

Information and self-regulation will, in the long run, save Michigan farmers money, trouble, headaches and heartaches.

- **Be informed:** a yearly subscription to Farm Bureau's MASA (Mich. Agricultural Services Association) labor-management information newsletter service will provide clear, factual material on state and local labor problems. It is an inexpensive method of keeping informed.

- **Prepare written work agreements with those you hire!**
- **Abide by the law** in full detail pertaining to minimum wages and Workmen's Compensation.

- **Prevent trouble.** Take positive action toward labor management relations. Human relations are often so simple that they are overlooked. However, proper human relations are much more satisfactory and much more economical than any legislated compulsory labor management which could result from even simple misunderstandings.

HELPFUL HUMAN-RELATIONS RULES:

- **Remember, people want to feel important** — that they are a part of the success of any operation. Help them "belong."

- **People want to be respected.** Every person has self-respect needs. Respect for work and for property begins with self-respect.

- **People desire recognition.** Recognition for work well done is often better "pay" than money.

- **People want to make progress** — in both earnings and status. They need to know where they stand — and they need to know this regularly. Reviews of work and payment on a regular basis is the best form of worker-employer human-relations.

- **People are concerned about their relations with fellow employees.** Teamwork is important. Requests gain more than do demands.

March TOPIC SUMMARY	
F.B. Marketing-Bargaining	
689 Groups Reporting	
ARE YOU WILLING: to trade some decision-making freedom for more farm income?	
"Quite Willing" 1,298 persons	
"Willing" 1,730 persons	
"Not Willing" 705 persons	
Should bargaining groups have full authority?	
YES:	568 Groups
NO:	94 Groups
Will bargaining work in livestock and grain?	
Yes:	466 Groups
No:	144 Groups
Farm groups which ignore marketing will soon be out of business:	
Agree:	3,334 persons
NO:	477 persons
Withholding products is self-defeating:	
YES:	2,613 persons
NO:	820 persons

NEXT MONTH: taxes, school finances . . .



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