

50th ANNIVERSARY

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

Vol. 48, No. 6

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

June 1, 1969



FARM BUREAU PRESIDENTS—State and American, join in a Golden Anniversary discussion of how best to serve farmers, now and in the next 50 years. Charles B. Shuman (left) President of the American Farm Bureau Federation and Elton R. Smith, President of the Michigan Farm Bureau, review progress in serving member-families "Farm Bureau's reason to exist."

A REGULAR MEETING—of the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors was the occasion, with Shuman congratulating the board on "a high degree of militancy" in solving farm problems. Both the Michigan and American Farm Bureaus were organized in 1919—both plan anniversary celebrations.

— Vern M. Bullen Photo

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Editorial

SUPER-market struggle

Recent word that Jewish people are now boycotting grocery stores handling Arab dates, underscores the silliness of turning supermarkets into courts of arbitration.

The slogan "Slavery is illegal, don't buy California Grapes" as used by the United Farmworkers Organizing Committee in Michigan rallies, underscores the lengths to which the AFL-CIO will go in clouding their grab for power behind the cloak of emotionalism.

Intense interest shown in promoting the grape boycott by the U. S. Communist Party, the W.E. B. DuBois Clubs, the Students for a Democratic Society, the Progressive Labor Party, the Vietnam Day Committee, the Black Panthers and the Brown Berets, underscores the fact that the boycott is a political power play of decided benefit to the "New Left."

"My store contains thousands of grocery and other items," explains a Michigan supermarket chain operator. "I can't allow pressure groups to dictate what I can, or cannot sell in order to further their ends. Why, somebody could be picketing in front of my store all of the time..."

Smart man — he figured it out. Stores which have given in under grape boycott pressures have found their problems do not end there. Lack of spine on one issue opens the door for more of the same.

Here is a current list of some products upon which labor unions have officially called for public boycott...

Food Items — meat products of the brands "Reelfoot," "Frosty Morn" and "Valleydale;" flour and cornmeal of the "Pioneer Products brand; all California grapes and "Comet" rice. **Cigarettes** — of these brands: Camel, Winston, Salem, Tempo, Brandon and Cavalier. **Liquors** — these brands: Cabin Still, Old Fitzgerald, Old Elk and W. L. Weller. **Clothing** — these brands and companies: Richman Brothers, Boss gloves; Siegel (H.I.S. Brand) suits and jackets, Kaynee boys wear; Judy Bond blouses; Hanes knitwear; Randa ties, Sewell suits; Wing shirts, Metro pants; hosiery — Fruit of the Loom, Esquire, Phoenix, Sapphire, Supp-hose, Mojud and Bachelor Girl; shoes — Genesco work shoes, Sentry, Cedar Chest and Staler, Jarman, Johnson and Murphy and Crestworth.

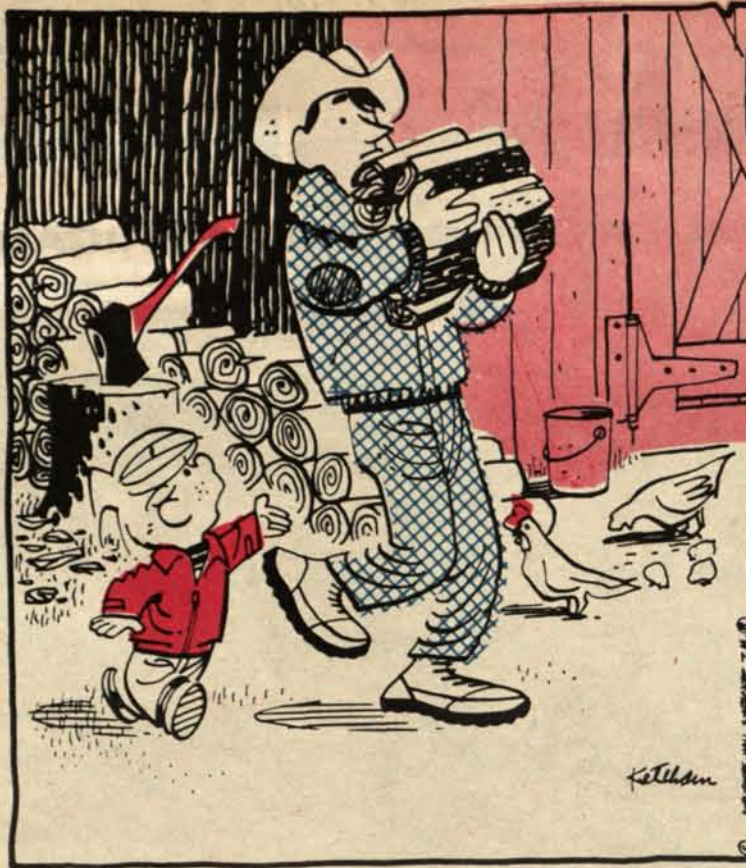
Also listed for public boycott by decree of labor unions are: Gypsum wallboard by the American Gypsum Company, Jamestown, Sterling, White and Economy furniture, World Book and Childcraft books by Kingsport Press; Baltimore brands of luggage, Atlantic sport products and toys by Fisher and by Price.

Obviously any general store manager who begins to play the union game of helping the public decide what it may or may not buy — is going to be a busy man. Especially so, if labor unions decide to enforce their boycott demands by customer intimidation and harassment.

"The boycott receives large financial support from the AFL-CIO and from grants from tax-free foundations. Personnel is mustered from New Left groups with whom Chavez (organizer Cesar Chavez) a disciple of the self-proclaimed revolutionary Saul Alinsky, actively cooperates. Some activist ministers have lent responsibility to the movement," reads portions of a paragraph in a leaflet printed by the "Consumer's Rights Committee" headed by state Senator Lorraine Beebe. Titled "Violence at the supermarket" with a subtitle "Why the grape boycott must be ended" — a copy of the leaflet and a boycott fact sheet is being mailed all Farm Bureau members in the state of Michigan. Enclosed is a pledge-card offering support to the Consumer's Rights Committee in fighting the boycott and assuring a free flow of food to the American public.

When you get your material, be sure to sign the card and return it at once to register your protest against the unfair actions of the Farmworkers union.

Melvin L. Woell



"HOW COME YA' STAY AROUND THE FARM ALL DAY UNCLE CHARLIE? DON'T YA' EVER HAVE TO GO TO WORK?"

COVER STORY

dramatic turn-around!

Charles B. Shuman, Illinois farmer, internationally-known farm leader and president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, was a guest of the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors at a recent regular session.

He commended the board and the Michigan Farm Bureau in general and for membership accomplishments — which he described as a "dramatic turnaround."

"You folks in Michigan have proven that you have solid confidence in your future as a farm organization within the agriculture of this state. The degree of 'health' of a state Farm Bureau is best shown by its degree of concern for member-services and by its lack of factionalism. If you have an organizational sickness, it is most apt to show within the board of directors and in how they react.

"As you know, Michigan was the number-five state in the nation to make membership quota and we are all proud of you..." Shuman said.

In informal conversation with the board and members of the Michigan Farm Bureau staff, Shuman underlined the reasons for Farm Bureau's existence as an organization. "Our only justification for being around," he said, "is to be of service to Farm Bureau families. Mind you — not just farm families — but Farm Bureau families. To properly account for the tremendous resources in time and money spent, we must serve Farm Bureau families first at all times, realizing that whatever legislation we successfully promote will be not only good for our members, but for all farm families as well..."

The American Farm Bureau president made it plain that farmers gain every time they take a stand on issues of importance to them. "We do not gain by sitting on the fence on any such issue. I am reminded of something Mrs. Harry Truman is reported to have said to her then-president husband: 'If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen'..." Shuman said.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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President's Column

INVITATION!

There is a "silver" plated shovel hanging on the wall of my office to remind me how it was on a windy day a little over a year ago that we broke ground for Farm Bureau Services new feed plant.

Now, June 25 will be a red-letter day in cooperative history for Michigan farmers as the finished plant is opened on that day for public inspection.

Located just off I-94 at the Climax exchange west of Battle Creek, the plant has been over a year in the building and more than twice that long in planning. Its location was determined by scientific, computerized studies conducted through the department of Agricultural Economics at Michigan State University.

Those studies pointed to a spot in the Battle Creek area as a prime location for such a plant in terms of raw materials available, the use of these materials within the area and elsewhere when they had been manufactured into feed formulas, and other such factors.

It was hard to visualize at that time how instead of growing corn, the chosen field-site would one day be a great gathering place for many types of locally grown grains to be processed into a long list of special feeds for livestock use.

Now that day is fast approaching — with the new plant, costing well over a million dollars, soon to be completed. Important as it will be in supplying the kinds of feeds we need at highly competitive prices, a greater importance lies in the fact that working together, Michigan farmers caused it to be built.

Michigan farmers own the new plant, just as they own nearly a dozen other important production and distribution facilities over the state. They financed it through their investment in Farm Bureau Services interest-bearing debentures, and their continued interest and support can be depended upon to make it a success.

Michigan cooperatives have a long history of serving the needs of Michigan farmers and Farm Bureau Services has long been a leader among them. For many years Farm Bureau Services was joint-owner along with Illinois and Indiana Farm Bureau supply cooperatives, of a feed mill at Hammond, Indiana.

In its day, the mill was a good one, and the feeds it formulated were the best answer we Michigan farmers had for our livestock needs. But the location of the mill was a disadvantage, and Services' management knew that there were savings to be made through shortening the supply line.

Just like on the farm, labor costs keep rising and good hired men are harder to find every year. One answer is to use automation in place of manpower. A further advantage is tied to the extremely close tolerances built into the new machines. For example, the Food and Drug people are more exacting each year in their requirements for the handling of various antibiotic and hormone supplements. Our new machines at Battle Creek will more than fill the bill in accurate measurement and mixing.

However, automation can't do everything — in fact it can't even do the most important thing of all — make value-judgements. Management must do that, and in Paul Mullineaux, we have a top man to direct operations. Paul has many valuable years of feed-production experience and a life-time of farm-related background. At one time he farmed in Missouri, and he managed a feed plant in Indiana for the past 16 years.

You'll want to meet him and the rest of Farm Bureau Services' management, production and sales team in person.

You are invited on June 25 to attend the Open House for the new plant, take part in the tours, enjoy a noon-time meal and the program which follows. Program details are printed elsewhere in this issue of the FARM NEWS — so I won't repeat them here, but I do join Services' Executive Vice President Bill Guthrie, and Plant Manager Paul Mullineaux in extending a personal invitation.

We hope to see you there.

Elton Smith

Citizenship Seminar

...a deep concern



SEMINAR COUNSELORS — Kathy Geiger and Harry Wilson.

Nearly 200 youth, representing top junior and senior high school students in Michigan, will participate in Michigan Farm Bureau's annual Young People's Citizenship Seminar at Central Michigan University, July 21-25.

Purpose of the Seminar is to instill the deep concern Michigan Farm Bureau has for the strengthening of the free enterprise system; to reaffirm each citizen's responsibility to their country and to offer constructive aids to improve the American way of life.

Keynote speakers for this five day seminar include Dr. Clifton Ganus, Dr. John Furbay, American Farm Bureau's Kenneth Cheatham, D. Hale Brake and National Football League official Art Holst.

Directors of the Citizenship Seminar have been informed that the 1968 program has received a Freedom Foundation Award. Directors for the 1969 Seminar are Dale Sherwin, Helen R. Atwood, Vern M. Bullen and David Cook. Twelve senior counselors and two junior counselors will conduct the Seminar.

Three students (and a stand-by fourth applicant) will be accepted to attend the Seminar following submission of their applications by their County Citizenship committee. June 15 is the final date for applications to be returned to Dale Sherwin, Legislative Counsel, Michigan Farm Bureau.

The two junior counselors chosen to work with fellow students at this year's seminar are Kathy Geiger, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Geiger, Smyrna, and Harry Wilson, the son of Mrs. Mabel Wilson, Holt.

Kathy is a senior at Belding high school, an honor student and has been active in academic and athletic events throughout her high school career. She has been at Girl's State at the University of Michigan and also attended the Michigan Farm Bureau Seminar last year. She has been accepted as a student at the University of Michigan and will begin classes there this fall.

Harry is a member of the Holt high school Student Council and served as council vice president. He has played varsity basketball for four years, baseball for two years and is a member of the school choir. Harry has also been prominent in many school activities and is a member of the Greater Lansing Youth Council. He represented Ingham county at the Boy's State in 1968 and also attended Michigan Farm Bureau's Citizenship Seminar last year. He plans a Pre-Med course at Western Michigan University.

That Grape Boycott

Reprinted from the Grand Rapids Press

The California grape boycott which has flared here and in other Michigan cities, as well as in many other states, is a bold attempt by a union—the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee—to use retailers and consumers for its own ends. Those ends are to organize California grape workers, the great majority of whom apparently want no part of the UFWOC or the left-wing groups that are aiding the union.

The UFWOC's membership probably represents less than 3 per cent of all California farm workers. Wages paid California grape pickers—at last report \$2.32 an hour—are relatively high for farm workers. There is nothing to stop them from joining any union if they wish. The UFWOC is using virtually every known tactic to enroll them. In some instances it has signed contracts with producers covering their workers without giving the workers a chance to vote on whether they want to belong to the UFWOC. Strikes, many of them marked by violence and conducted in large part by persons having nothing to do with the grape industry, have had a disruptive effect, but they haven't stampeded the workers into the union.

It is the very failure of the UFWOC's organizational effort that has led the union to attempt to put pressure on grape producers by persuading sympathizers to picket retail stores and by fostering consumer boycotts around the country.

Services OPEN HOUSE at Battle Creek!

Michigan Farmers are proud owners of a new and important ultra-modern feed processing plant, which will be "unveiled" to the public, June 25 near Battle Creek.

Farmers are especially invited to the Open House program and ceremonies which will provide a fair-like atmosphere through an estimated 100 commercial and educational exhibits.

Formal booth areas will fill a special display tent erected on the site with exhibits to include feed and related products and machines.

The Michigan Farm Bureau will be located in several areas,

one exhibit of which will deal with the 50th anniversary celebration of the organization to take place this fall on the campus of Michigan State University where Farm Bureau first began, a half-century ago.

Farm Bureau's wheat program, conducted in cooperation with the Michigan Elevator Exchange Division of Farm Bureau Services will occupy another booth area. Adding to the carnival atmosphere will be thousands of golden colored balloons, commemorating the 50th anniversary.

A noon-time luncheon will be served to the public, with several

thousand persons expected, including carloads from local co-operatives and from Community Farm Bureau Groups.

Featured on the dedication program will be remarks by Farm Bureau Services president Elton Smith, and an address by Congressman Garry Brown. William Guthrie, Executive Vice President and General Manager of Farm Bureau Services will act as master of ceremonies.

Drawings will be held throughout the day for a long list of valuable prizes. Conducted tours will begin at 9:00 and continue through the afternoon.



FARM LABOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS — chat with Jack Angell (left) newly appointed Communications Director for farm labor activities with the American Farm Bureau. Angell had recently returned from a fact-finding tour of California vineyards, and reported to the committee that workers are not on "strike" and strongly oppose union efforts to organize them. Angell chats with MFB board member, Harry Nye, (center) and Louie Smith, committee member.

NATIONAL CAR RENTAL OFFERS DISCOUNT TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

Is there a possibility that you might do some vacation sight-seeing by rent-a-car? Such temporary transportation is near-perfect for special side-trips or other unscheduled events.

Michigan Farm Bureau members are offered an unusual 10% rent-a-car discount through an arrangement between Farm Bureau and the National Car Rental System, Incorporated.

The third largest of the nationwide firms, National has offices in most major cities and airports. It offers all modes of American cars including full-sized and compact vehicles.

Adding appeal (especially for most women) are S&H Green Stamps given with car-rental payments.

"The service is excellent, I've already had occasion to use it"—reports Larry Ewing, Manager of Mich. Farm Bureau's Field Services Division.

Members planning trips should pre-sign both their Farm Bureau membership and National Car Rental Cards (recently mailed to all 1969 members) and place them together for possible use on any trip, Ewing advises.

VACATION!

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.

TOURS ANNOUNCED

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

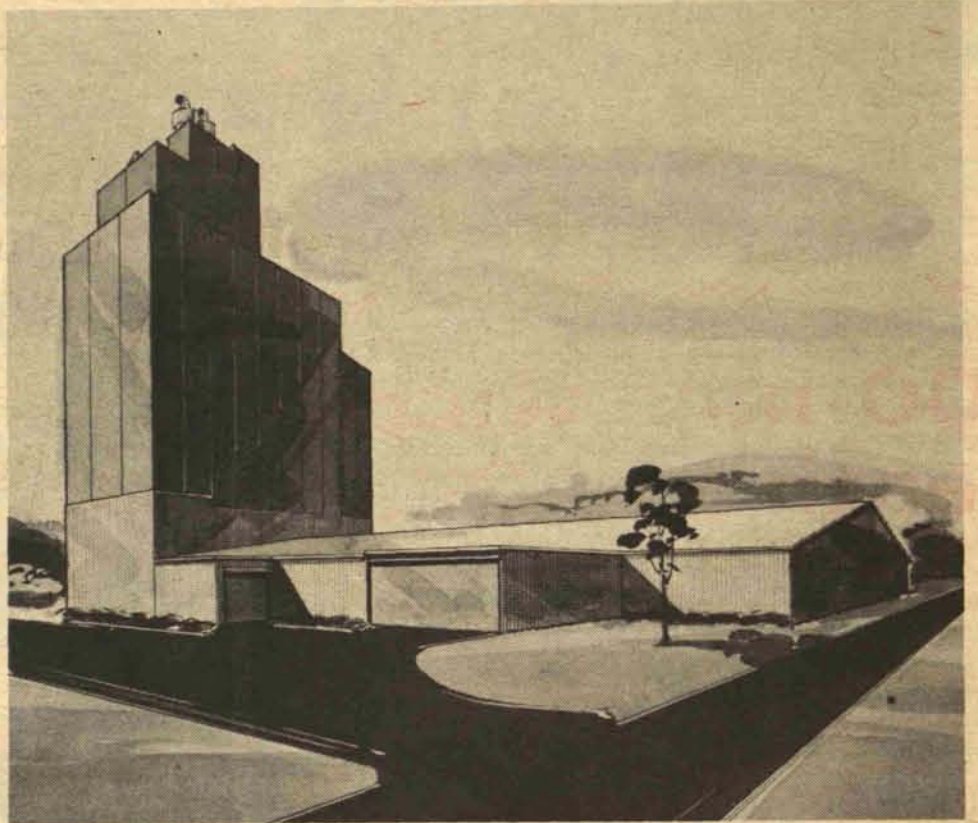
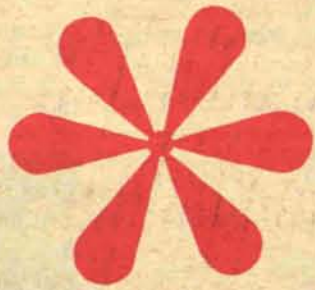
CALIFORNIA CRUISE:—Oct. 28
Air to Los Angeles, bus up the Pacific Coast and a slow boat back to Los Angeles. Early reservations are necessary.

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

A dedication to progress...



...And you're Invited!

You are cordially invited to attend our dedication ceremonies and inspect the new facilities of our Battle Creek feed mill June 25, 1969, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This million dollar 40,000 ton capacity feed plant is so completely automated that drugs, medicants and additives can be mixed thoroughly into large quantities of feed down to fractions of an ounce per hundred pounds. It has 20 bulk load-out bins.

- TOURS 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- LUNCH 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- DEDICATION CEREMONIES 1 p.m.
- SPEAKER: The Honorable Garry Brown
United States House of Representatives
- FAVORS
- DOOR PRIZES
- 2 GRAND PRIZES

This plant site was computer selected by Michigan State University as the best location to effectively serve the needs of South and West Michigan farmers. Our other feed plant, a 30,000 ton capacity facility at Zilwaukee, serves the other half of the State.

OPEN HOUSE

June 25, 1969



PARK at the Kellogg Regional Airport, west side of Battle Creek, Business Route I-94 at 28th Street. Shuttle buses will take you to and from the mill.



FARM BUREAU
Services
INC.

4000 N. GRAND RIVER AVENUE

LANSING, MICHIGAN

TORNADO

APRIL 11, 1965

400-mile winds bring... Death and Destruction!

During the past 20 years, Michigan residents have experienced an average of seven tornadoes annually. Insurance experts estimate financial losses from the storms average \$3 million each year.

The year 1965, however, was not average. The Palm Sunday tornadoes of a little more than four years ago created paths of death and destruction that will not heal or be forgotten for years to come. Deaths numbered 50. More than 700 were injured.

WILD WINDS SMASH

Approximately 2,000 homes were destroyed or damaged and it was impossible to measure the loss of personal property and farm buildings.

Winds ranging up to 400 miles an hour raced through portions of western, central and southern Michigan, the last area probably

sustaining the storm's greatest fury.

The tornadoes struck during the evening of Sunday, April 11, the night masking unthinkable destruction. With the dawn of April 12, force of the wind became painfully apparent. This house was gone — completely vanished. That house lay in a crazy heap near the barn foundation.

TORNADOES what to do

There is no guaranteed protection against tornadoes except caves or underground excavations. When you receive a tornado warning and time permits, go to a tornado cellar, cave, or underground excavation. It must, however, have an air outlet to help equalize the air pressure and should be kept fit for use, free from water, gas, or debris; and preferably equipped with pick and shovel.

If you are in open country move at right angles to the tornado's path. Tornadoes usually move ahead at about 25 to 40 miles per hour. If there is not time to escape, lie flat in the nearest depression, such as a ditch or ravine.

If you are in a city or town, seek inside shelter, preferably in a strongly-reinforced building. **STAY AWAY FROM WINDOWS!** In homes, the southwest corner of the basement usually offers greatest safety, particularly in frame houses. People in houses without basements should find other shelter, preferably in a storm cellar, although a depression, such as a ditch or ravine, can offer some protection. Doors and windows on the north and east sides of the house may be opened to help reduce damage to the building.

Mobile homes are particularly vulnerable to over-turning during strong winds, and these residents should seek other shelter.

In schools, if the building is of reinforced construction, stay inside, away from windows, and remain near an inside wall on the lower floors when possible. **AVOID AUDITORIUMS AND GYMNASIUMS** with large, poorly-supported roofs! In rural schools that do not have reinforced construction, remove children and teachers to a ravine or ditch if a storm shelter is not available.

Above all, keep calm! It will not help to get excited. According to the Michigan Civil Defense Division, people have been killed by running into streets and by turning into the path of a tornado. Keep tuned to your radio or television station for latest tornado advisory information. Do not call the Weather Bureau, except to report a tornado. Your individual request may tie up telephone lines urgently needed to receive special reports or to relay advisories to radio and television stations.

Remember, "Tornado Watch" means tornadoes are expected to develop. "Tornado Warning" means a funnel has actually been sighted.

TRAGIC SCENES

Silos were toppled. A calf, hip crushed, limped through a barnyard now relegated to a junk yard. Featherless chickens searched the rubble for feed. Machinery lay tangled in a mass of steel.

Another home had been lifted and turned on its foundation, leaving the interior a wasteland of glass, plaster, dishes, food clothing, broken furniture — and water from the rain which followed the storm.

Slivers of wood, sheets of tin roofing and debris of every imaginable description littered the fields. As one farmer put it, "What do you do with 20 acres of wheat when there are sticks of wood driven into the ground every few feet?"

AFTERMATH —

It added up to a \$23 million loss for Michigan.

After the dust had cleared — neighbors, friends and, often, strangers, pitched in to lend a helping hand.

Local Farm Bureau members and those from neighboring counties poured into the stricken areas armed with chain saws and other tools necessary for "cleaning up." Teenagers removed and burned debris. Neighbors furnished food and shelter.

NEEDS QUICKLY MET

Farm Bureau Insurance representatives responded to the need with immediate claim service and financial aid. Agents gave all possible assistance in initiating settlement of claims, including a personal survey of tornado areas to ascertain damage to the property of Farm Bureau insureds — in some cases, even before the county office had been notified of the loss. Adjusters worked night and day, making "on-the-spot" settlements where possible. All affected Farm Bureau insureds were offered cash to meet immediate needs.

All Farm Bureau Insurance claims were handled by the Companies' own Agents and Adjusters. Additional adjusters were brought in on a temporary basis from other parts of the state, and repairs, in some cases, were begun the day after the storm. If a delay was contemplated, temporary measures were taken to protect property from water damage.

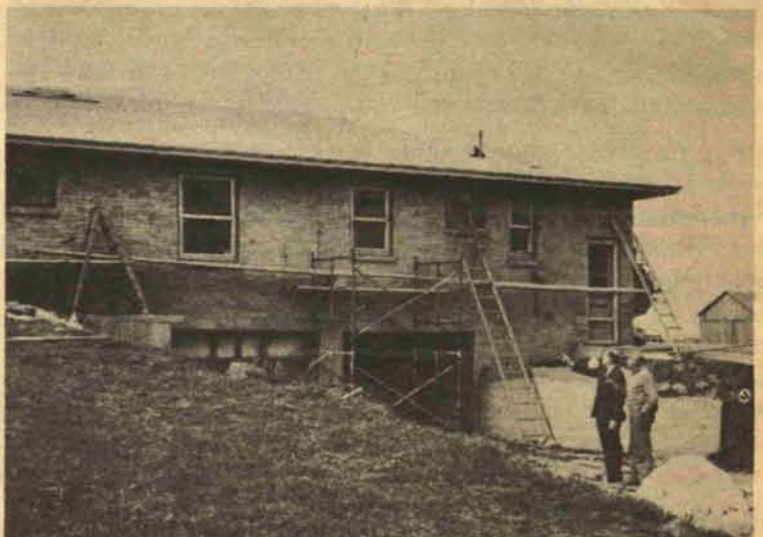
Farm Bureau Insurance Group paid well over \$1 million to policyholders for tornado losses.



A TUMBLED SILO — was just one of many losses suffered by this Hillsdale county farmer and his family during the Palm Sunday tornadoes of 1965. The storm ripped the roof off their home, disintegrated several farm buildings and scattered 200 bales of hay over the countryside.



OTTAWA COUNTY — residents bore a lion's share of the tornadoes' destruction. This farmowner was milking as winds whipped through the area. Outbuildings lay in weird stacks concealing crushed vehicles. Somehow, the house was spared.

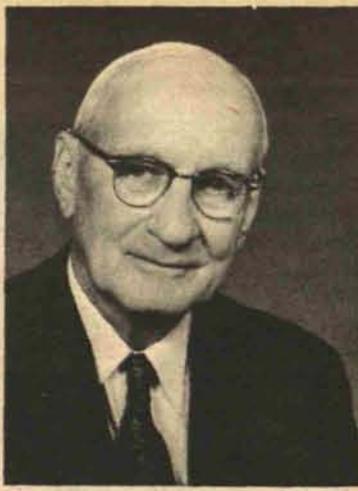


REPAIRS STARTED — almost before the tornadoes' dust had cleared. An Allegan county farmer and his Farm Bureau Insurance Group representative inspect repair work which was started the day after the storm. The family's losses included a barn with a recently finished addition.



A HELPING HAND — was extended willingly to those families suffering tornado losses. Members from Eaton county stop at the Hillsdale county Farm Bureau office for directions to the farm of a member whose property was badly damaged by the storm. One week later, most of the litter in hard-hit areas had been removed.

One day in the spring of 1923, the Governor's secretary, Major Hezekiah N. Duff, telephoned me to come to the Governor's office. This was the first call from Governor Alexander J. Groesbeck in the two years that I had been secretary of the Michigan State Farm Bureau. The reason for the call was obvious. The Bureau was urging the Legislature to enact a gas tax; the Governor opposed the tax.



CLARK L. BRODY

Roads were then financed by taxing adjoining properties. Under the Covert Road Act of 1915, "adjoining" properties included those as much as two miles back from a road. A property could therefore be taxed simultaneously for each of several roads built in its vicinity. It was common for farmers to be delinquent in paying road taxes; many were near confiscation. The farmer wondered what he got for his taxes, for the gravel roads of that day deteriorated quickly. I recall driving over worn out roads on which "adjoining" farms had three to five years' assessment still to pay.

Automobile traffic necessitated new and better roads. In 1919 the Legislature voted a \$50 million bond issue to build highways. It was obviously unjust to worsen the desperate plight of the farmer by taxing him under the Covert Road Act for roads that would mainly benefit the city people, who owned most of the cars. Farmers felt those who used the roads should pay for them. Accordingly, county delegates instructed the Bureau to work for a gasoline tax.

By 1923 Governor Groesbeck dominated the state. He dictated law to the legislature and policy to state agencies. His power was seldom opposed. He had appointed me to the State Board of Agriculture soon after I became secretary of the Michigan State Farm Bureau. The public then had been apprehensive that the Bureau was comprised of "radicals"; officers of the Bureau were not then readily taken in as members by civic organizations. My appointment to the State Board of Agriculture had given important recognition to the Bureau, and I was grateful to the Governor for it. But Governor Groesbeck doubtless assumed he had put the Bureau and me under political obligations, that therefore he could dominate us as he did state agencies, even if it meant working against our own interests. The upstart Farm Bureau was to be made to toe the line.

Several people were waiting to see the Governor when I walked into the office. Nevertheless, Major Duff ushered me right into a conference room. The Major said the Governor would see me as soon as he could break away from a meeting with a joint committee of the Senate and the House, and then he left me on my own. I did not relish the coming interview. I tried to settle myself by reasoning that the Governor, after all, had to put on his trousers one leg at a time, just as I did. But I was in awe of him; there was no getting around it. I stood waiting for him at the end of a long, shiny conference table.

The Governor was fairly ablaze as he swept through the door. He ordered me to sit down. For half an hour I received a verbal barrage, the intensity of which Alexander Groesbeck alone was capable. He declared that the Legislature would never pass a gas tax. I stated that the gas tax was favored by a strong majority of the legislators. "Then," he roared, "I will veto any gas tax they pass." So it went. He would pause in his tirade to see what effect all this was having on me, and I would again mention the necessity for a gas tax. Paradoxically, I gained some composure under his first blasts, and my awe of him waned. Eventually my hackles rose and I became less and less of a mind to be dissuaded. My voice grew to the pitch and volume of his. Sparks flashed from both directions. Neither of us gave ground.

The legislature passed a gas tax that session by a good majority. Governor Groesbeck, of course, vetoed it, and with a vengeance. The Bureau then stepped up the intensity of its campaign for a gas tax. Meanwhile automobiles increased and more and more improved and hard surfaced roads were needed. There simply were not enough farms to be taxed to meet the expense of building all the new roads. Two years later Governor Groesbeck saw the light and led the fight himself for enactment of a two cent gas tax.

So much for the initial major effort of the Michigan State Farm Bureau. But pioneering leaves one with indelible memories; the passing years do not dim, let alone erase them. Most of my associates who fought the good fight by my side in the early days of the Bureau have now passed away, but their work stands them in good stead. Let this book be a testimony to them.

IN THE SERVICE OF THE FARMER



In earlier installments of the book "In the Service of the Farmer"—the late Clark Brody described boyhood times in St. Joseph county, Michigan. The chapters were a sensitively-done recollection of what life was like at the turn of the century in rural Michigan. In this month's excerpts, Brody moves from his experiences on the farm and as one of the pioneer county agents, to a recounting of the actual organizing of Farm Bureau—and the beginning of an association which was not to end for him until nearly 40 years later.

(In the Service of the Farmer—Copyright 1959 by MSU Press. Excerpts reprinted by permission)

THE COUNTY AGENT

All during World War I, the American farmer became increasingly unhappy with his economic plight. Not only did he not fare as well as industry, but the disparity between incomes had widened even further. Commodity organizations had lobbied assiduously during the war in the national capital (and in state capitals as well) to improve marketing outlets, but the government had kept farm prices down through controls. By 1919 county Farm Bureaus in some states had begun to federate to gain strength.

In 1917, Dr. Eben Mumford, State County Agent Leader in Michigan, began to hold annual conferences for county agents. The conferences were concerned with the training of agents, with education in disease and pest control, and with intercounty projects such as drainage. The first two conferences also dealt with problems connected with the war—draft deferment, crop and livestock production, and the procurement of farm supplies.

On February 4, 1919, the county agents and farmers from fifty-seven county Farm Bureaus met in the lecture room of the Horticultural Building at Michigan Agricultural College. There ensued a lengthy, bitter discussion on the ways and the extent to which the Michigan farmer was being exploited. The government had made postwar settlements with industry, but not with farmers. Moreover, at that moment, prices of farm products had declined, but the cost of many farm supplies remained high. The farmer obviously had to organize if he were to stay on the farm, but how could he organize effectively?

Dr. Mumford, encouraged by Dr. Frank Kedzie, President of MAC, and by Dean of Agriculture Robert S. Shaw, suggested that the county Farm Bureaus be united under a state-wide Farm Bureau. (According to Article II of the by-laws, "the object of this organization shall be to encourage, aid, and correlate the efforts of the county Farm Bureaus, to provide ways and means for concerted action in the solution of

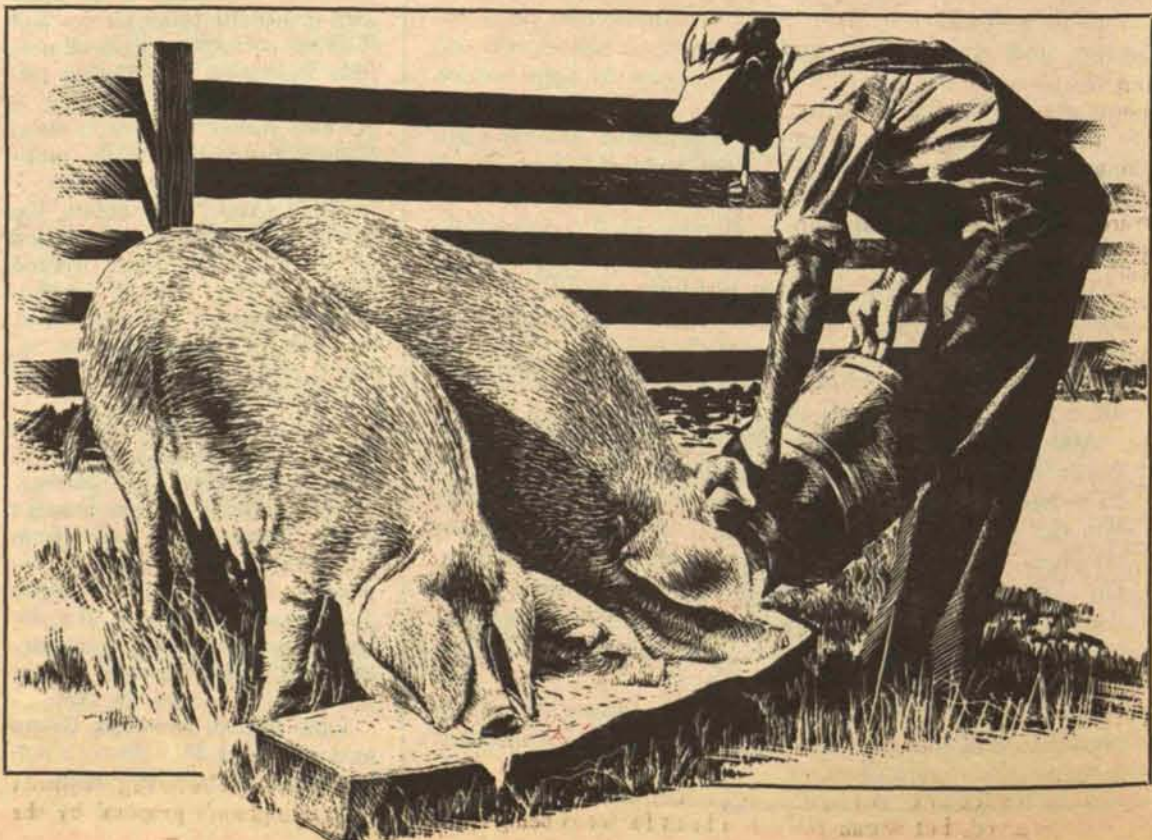
agricultural problems of state or national scope.")

Membership dues would be \$50 a year for each county Farm Bureau, and individual farmers would pay nominal dues of fifty cents or one dollar. The state Bureau was to have a president, vice-president, 2nd vice-president, treasurer, and secretary.

FIRST OFFICERS

The first slate of officers were: Roland Morrill, a fruit grower from Berrien county, President; Ray G. Potts, a dairyman from Macomb county, Vice President; F. M. Vandebloom, a general farmer from Marquette county, Second Vice President; Fred Van Nordsdall, an apple grower from St. Joseph county, Treasurer—and Charles Bingham, a fruit grower from Oakland county, Secretary.

The secretary would manage the Bureau and would be the only salaried officer. He was to receive \$2,500 a year. The other





HONORED AT RETIREMENT — is long-time Michigan Farm Bureau Secretary-Manager, Clark L. Brody, pictured as he often appeared in official capacity, before the delegate body in official session in the auditorium of Michigan State University. He retired in 1952 as Secretary but continued in a new position of Executive Vice President until his 80th birthday in 1959.

officers would rule on policy and would have administrative control over the secretary. They were to receive ten dollars per diem for attending board meetings. An executive board would be composed of the officers and the heads of the departments of crops, soils, fruits and vegetables, livestock, dairying, buying and selling, farm management, boys and girls clubs, home economics, and publicity. As the names of the departments indicate, a major function of the Michigan State Farm Bureau was to be educational.

It was, of course, naive to assume that so loosely associated and so poorly funded an enterprise as the Michigan State Farm Bureau could effectively alter the welfare of the farmer for the better, that such an organization could hope to accomplish much more than county Farm Bureaus separately. No one recognized this more readily than the officers and executive board of the Bureau. But a start toward organizing the farmers on a state-wide basis had been made, and that was what mattered. And circumstance or just plain good fortune put in the key position of secretary a man who had the vision of what the Bureau might become, the determination to engage the support of farmers, and the energy to carry out the mission.

SECRETARY BINGHAM

Charles A. Bingham was in his forties when elected Secretary of the Michigan State Farm Bureau. Except for the active role he had played at the conference of county agents in February, 1919, there would not seem to have been much to recommend him for the position. Bingham had been a moderately successful fruit farmer, but he was not well known outside his own community. His closest friends spoke of him as a substantial, aggressive person. Bingham had made them aware of his dissatisfaction with farm condition, but then almost every other farmer in the state had voiced similar views. What would distinguish Bingham from the other farmers, however, was the intensity with which he held his views, the measure to which he would devote himself to a cause he believed in, and his hitherto dormant abilities to organize, promote, and develop a program.

Bingham stood about 5' 10", sturdily but tidily constructed. His dark hair and his rather full moustache were carefully trimmed. He wore a pince-nez while reading, and it became him. He dressed conservatively in tailored dark suits and usually wore a diamond stickpin in his foulard. His manner was reserved, but warm. His

voice was moderately pitched ordinarily, but he could command an extraordinary range of pitch and volume. I did not know Bingham until he became secretary, so it may be that the authority with which he spoke he inherited at least in part just from being secretary. But I do know that on a platform, or indeed in a casual conversation on a sidewalk, his audience, struck by the honesty and sincerity of his countenance and the controlled intensity of his voice, paid attention to what he said, and that he transferred some of the emotion penned up in him to them.

Bingham soon persuaded the Executive Committee that the functions of the Bureau should include operations other than educational ones. By March 6, a month after Bingham had taken office, the Executive Committee issued a statement that:

"Its (the Bureau's) purposes are to unite under a definite head all other farm organizations. The Farm Bureau should not be considered just another farmers' organization added to the list but as THE ONE which . . . may assist all others to better accomplish their purposes . . ."

A PATTERN SHAPES

The astounding implications of this statement were for the time overlooked by the Grange, the Gleaners, and other farmers' organizations. But it soon became clear that Bingham intended to render all other associations subordinate to the Michigan State Farm Bureau. Nevertheless, he now had their support.

To establish and operate the business and legislative services that Bingham now planned to initiate, the Bureau needed funds way beyond those that the \$50 a year dues from county Farm Bureaus would provide. Therefore, the Executive Committee authorized Bingham to raise a guarantee fund by way of notes solicited from farmers. The form of the note ran, —

"At call I promise to pay to Michigan State Farm Bureau, a Michigan corporation, the sum of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) without interest. This obligation is made with the full understanding that this note is to be used as collateral for the purpose of providing a guarantee fund to meet the expenses of the Michigan State Farm Bureau until March 1st, 1920."

Bingham intended for farmers to present these notes to banks as a basis for loans being made to

the Bureau. Banks generally did not regard the notes as satisfactory collateral for loans, however, and the farmer either borrowed \$50 from his bank or advanced it out of hand to the Bureau. All loaners were fully reimbursed in little more than a year.

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU IS BORN

The officers and the executive board of the Michigan State Farm Bureau were convinced that their organization would gain strength if relations with similar movements in other states were established. Indeed, much might be learned through association with other state Bureaus that had been in existence for some time. Accordingly, on February 12, one week after they had been elected to office, Vice-President Ray G. Potts and Bingham attended a meeting of Farm Bureau representatives from twelve states at Ithaca, New York. There plans were laid for creating a national federation of state Farm Bureaus.

In June, Bingham and the secretaries from the Farm Bureaus of Iowa, Indiana, and Illinois met with Assistant Secretary of Agriculture G. I. Christie, who wanted to bring the United State Department of Agriculture in closer touch with farmers generally. In September, Charles B. Scully, an active member of the Michigan State Bureau and a politician of wide acquaintanceship in Washington, was delegated by the Executive Committee to attend a conference of the National Board of Farm Organization in Washington, at which amendments to the Sherman Antitrust Act for the right to organize farmer cooperatives were proposed. Bingham in September attended a conference of the state Farm Bureaus in Indianapolis, the purpose of which was to elect a committee to consult with President Woodrow Wilson about better representation of farmers on the National Industrial Committee. The Bureau gained recognition and support among Michigan farmers from these activities.

MEMBERSHIP AND MONEY

Meanwhile, a primary concern of the Michigan State Farm Bureau was the building up of its membership. In July, 1919, Bingham proposed to county agents that farmers be asked to pay a substantial membership fee. It was reported that Iowa Farm Bureau had 89,000 members who paid a \$5.00 fee, and that Illinois had 2,600 members in McLean County, each of whom paid \$10.00 annually.

The overwhelming support given Bingham's proposal by the



ROLAND MORRILL
First President,
Michigan Farm Bureau



CHARLES BINGHAM
First Secretary,
Michigan Farm Bureau

county agents led to a special meeting of county Farm Bureau delegates on August 5, 1919, at Grand Rapids. Bingham pled for a membership fee large enough to permit the Michigan State Farm Bureau to finance its operations on a level where it could hold its own with the organizations of other industries. The dissenters were listened to respectfully, but ignored. It was finally agreed that the membership fee would be \$10.00 per year; \$5 was to go to the county Farm Bureau, \$4.50 to the Michigan State Farm Bureau, and \$.50 to the American Farm Bureau Federation. The three levels of farm organizations would thus be tied together; each farmer would be asked to sign for three years, using three checks, two of them postdated.

FIRST CAMPAIGN

The most successful solicitors were rural people, it need hardly be said, who knew the farmer and his problems and could talk to him in his own terms. A local farmer traveled with each solicitor to introduce him. During the first week of the campaign, almost 2,000 farmers signed three postdated \$10 checks and became members of the Oakland County Farm Bureau, the Michigan State Farm Bureau, and the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The success of the campaign brought requests for solicitors to canvass Barry and Allegan Counties, and then the demand for solicitors from county agents all over the state mounted rapidly. Enough membership dues were coming in to finance campaigns in other counties. At the second annual meeting of delegates to the Michigan State Farm Bureau, President Morrill could announce that the Bureau had more than 22,000 members from fifteen counties.

This meeting marked one of the high points of Bingham's tenure with the Bureau. His

salary was raised to \$7,500. At Bingham's suggestion, the articles and by-laws of the Bureau were revised, authorizing the Bureau to widen the scope of its activity:

. . . namely: buying and selling merchandise, farm machinery, fertilizer, stock feeds, livestock or any other farm product, whatsoever, operating storage warehouses, elevators, creameries or mills, canning, preserving, pickling, evaporating, dehydrating or otherwise converting or manufacturing farm fruits, grains, vegetables, or any other kind of farm products whatsoever; securing better results in grading, packing, marketing, and advertising the products of members; renting, buying, building, owning, selling and controlling such buildings, equipment and other real and personal property as may be deemed necessary in the conduct of the affairs of this association . . . at actual cost to this association. . . .

Bingham's ambitious scheme for expansion soon became evident. All operations were to be financed from membership dues, which were pouring in. Apparently there was no thought given to how soon departments should become self-supporting.

NEXT MONTH: Troubled Times for the fledging Bureau

Help!

NEEDED: for inclusion in future issues of the **FARM NEWS** — 1919-era photos of Farm Bureau people and places. Include descriptions. All will be returned. Help celebrate Farm Bureau's Golden Anniversary.



50TH ANNIVERSARY CAKE — baked and displayed by Mrs. Jerold Topliff, was enjoyed by members of the Michigan Farm Bureau board and staff, at a recent meeting in Farm Bureau Center, Lansing. Another cake also baked by Mrs. Topliff, commemorated reaching state membership goal.

springtime in Rockies busytime in Michigan!

"When It's Springtime in the Rockies . . ." Yes, I was just out to Utah and it's all the song says and more. Mom went out to visit daughter Carolin and husband Mike. Seems like a long time they have been away. *They are both working on their Masters degree, and needless to say they are both busy.* I enjoyed every minute of my visit with them, the mountains and mountain trails we traveled, the deer, elk, and raging waters coming down from the mountains, and a visit to Idaho to call on friends we hadn't seen in 23 years. *Then it was back to Michigan and it's just as beautiful, but in a different kind of setting.*

With spring nicely under way fall seems a long way off, but time has a way of passing faster than we realize. I do hope you are all working in your groups to send in resolutions to your county policy development committee so they can have them ready to present at your county annual meeting. It does take time to get these all assembled, so why don't you get your part of the project done early.

Are you promoting and organizing new community groups in your county? Remember we said this was one of our projects for this year, let's see how many new groups we can add and keep increasing the number of people participating in our organization.

With school nearly out we will all have more meals to prepare for those active young people at our house so let's remember or think about a few health tips, good for both you and your young folks. For a "pick me up" when you ache or are tired from work or play, relax for ten minutes with a hot cup of beef or chicken bouillon. It gives you a big burst of energy with few calories. So prop up your feet, sip slowly and dream a little.

Trim or peel as little as possible from FRESH VEGETABLES because outside leaves of greens are high in vitamin A. And vitamin A helps eyes adapt to light changes and aids in keeping the skin smooth.

For a TANGY SYRUP on pancakes or French toast, simmer a cup of brown sugar and a half-cup of orange juice for five minutes.

Do you know you are a key person? Read this next paragraph and you will see how much difference one key person not operating does make.

Xexn through my typewriter is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll, xxxcpt for onx or two kxys. I havx wishxd many timxs that it workxd prfxctly. It is trux that thrxx arx forty-six kxys that function wxll xnough, but just onx kxy, not working makxs thx diffxrxnc!

So let's all get out of our comfortable rut and start working together to accomplish those things we can't do alone.

Mrs. Jerold (Maxine) Topliff

WEAVER GEBHARTS 68th ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. Weaver Gebhart, of Hart, Michigan, had already been married 18 years when the Michigan Farm Bureau was organized a half-century ago.

April 18th they celebrated their 68th Wedding Anniversary!

Life-members of Farm Bureau, they have 4 children, 11 grand-children and 23 great-grandchildren.

FARM BUREAU WOMEN

working, not waiting

SPRING SERIES

elections are announced

Discussions on Juvenile Delinquency, Problems of Youth, Crime in the United States, Drugs and Narcotics and Fallacies in Juvenile Crime were heard by hundreds of Michigan Farm Bureau Women at their Spring District Meetings held the past month across the state.

Prime interest in six of the districts (the even numbered ones) were the elections of chairmen and vice-chairmen. The uneven numbered districts will elect officers next year.

Mrs. C. G. Lee (Alice), Addison, was elected chairman of District 2 at their April 30 meeting held in Adrian, Lenawee County. Mrs. Dale Crouch (Ruth) was elected vice-chairman. Mrs. Crouch is from Grass Lake.

Mrs. Gerald Smith (Leora), Hastings, was elected District 4 chairman and Mrs. John Rhodes (Evelyn), Clarksville, elected vice-chairman for District 4 at the April 12 meeting. Chairman for District 6 for the coming year is

Mrs. Harland Welke (Margaret), Mayville, and Mrs. Howard Mahaffy (Doris), Marlette, vice-chairman. Both Mrs. Welke and Mrs. Mahaffy were re-elected.

Mrs. Hugh Swindlehurst (Marie), Mt. Pleasant, was re-elected chairman at the District 8, April 8 meeting, and Mrs. B. H. Baker (Martha), Merrill, re-elected vice-chairman.

District 10-west Farm Bureau women elected a new chairman at their meeting April 29. Mrs. William Parsons (Bertha), Charlevoix, accepted this position and Mrs. Edward Shanahan (Phila), of Charlevoix, was elected vice-chairman.

Chairman and vice-chairman for District 10-east will be elected later.

Helen Atwood, coordinator, Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Activities, reported a good turnout at all meetings, with the usual bountiful laden tables and interesting "lighter touch" programs for entertainment.

APOLOGY FOR... NAME OMISSION



An APOLOGY — is due Mrs. Minnie Clemens, West Branch — whose name was inadvertently omitted under a picture in last month's FARM NEWS showing the Michigan Merit Mothers for 1969. She is shown (left) with Mrs. Harry Oxender, state Mother of the Year. Our apologies, Mrs. Clemens and congratulations on your selection!

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.



your money is used.. to propagandize you

By: Dan E. Reed

Secretary-Manager, Mich. Farm Bureau

How many of your tax dollars are being used to propagandize in support of campus violence? At Michigan State University, office space in a campus building is given to "The Paper", a tabloid publication printed off campus but sold on the campus and in other spots throughout the Lansing area.

The paper appears dedicated to the use of lurid four-letter word descriptions of intimate activities. It carries advertisements of a nature that you would scarcely expect to find even in the time-honored Police Gazette.

Office of Economic Opportunity Puts YOU in Printing Business

"The Neighborhood Journal" calls for "greater protection from unjust police and judicial action" for certain arrested persons. You are helping to finance The Neighborhood Journal, which states on its masthead that it is "owned and operated by five Denver community action councils and funded by a grant from the Office of Economic Opportunity."

A front-page story in the March-April, 1968 issue of "The Spokesman" says — "If you want action, come join me in my fight for identity, equality, not civil rights but human rights." The Spokesman is published with the encouragement and financial support of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

An O.E.O. handbook — "The Printed Word" — encourages publication and distribution by community action agencies of newsletters or house organs and financed with federal money.

Not What Congress Intended:

In 1967, an amendment to an appropriation bill providing anti-poverty funds was offered by Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr. (D-Virginia) which stated — "None of the federal anti-poverty funds may be used for establishing or operating a general coverage newspaper, magazine, radio station or television station."

"I am unalterably opposed to government ownership or control of newspapers because it leads inevitably to government control of the news," said Senator Byrd as he introduced the amendment. "I believe we have too much government management of the news already without this additional weapon being put into the hands of federal officials."

Publications such as "The Spokesman" and "The Neighborhood Journal" carry no advertising and are providing "information", it is claimed.

And although they fall outside the legitimate activities of a government supported agency — the publications continue!

Taxpayer Supported Propaganda Efforts

Did you recently receive through the mail a communication from Wisconsin Congressman Alvin E. O'Konski? Many Michigan farmers did. The envelopes, with pamphlets enclosed, were mailed under Congressman O'Konski's franking privilege and contained hard-sell propaganda for a farm organization.

The Post Office Department is still running a heavy deficit in the face of the recent postal rate increase. In a desperate move to try to balance the postal budget, President Nixon has recommended another increase in postal rates.

Congressman O'Konski's interest in Michigan farmers, as evidenced by his use of his franking privileges, is helping to keep the Post Office in the red. If he is concerned about Michigan farmers, is he also concerned about farmers in Texas, California, Washington and all other states? How many tons of material have the mailmen carried under this franking privilege?

"Not at Government Expense" Remains Expensive Procedure

Under the rules of Congress, we understand it is considered "legitimate" for a Congressman to make his franking privilege available IF the envelopes are hand-addressed. Those which have been forwarded to our office have been hand-addressed and have included two copies of the pamphlet.

While the material bears the legend — "Not printed at Government expense" — it is a well-known fact that the major cost of the material is borne by the Congressional Record, with only the cost of the printing runs charged to the purchaser. The costly part of the job — setting the type, proofreading and editing, is at taxpayer expense.

As a reminder, I have in my desk an antique. It was known as a penny postcard. Perhaps the penny postcard never did carry its own weight, but even a 500% increase in some 30 years fails to make the 5¢ postcard meet the expense of the postal service. Mr. O'Konski's misuse only adds to the burden.



capitol report

THREE KEY BILLS

about farmland assessment...

By Robert Smith
Legislative Counsel, MFB

Three key bills were reported out of the Taxation Committee — two in the House and one in the Senate. Each is in line with Farm Bureau policy and each will affect farmland assessment.

H. 2533; originally introduced by Rep. Spencer (R - Attica) and six others, was reported out in substitute form and provides: "Upon written application of the owner . . . with the local board of review prior to March 1 of each year, land, exclusive of buildings, zoned specifically for agricultural purposes shall be exempt 50% of the state equalized value thereof."

This, if passed, takes advantage of the Court of Appeals case last year that ruled that property cannot be assessed at any higher valuation than for the purpose for which it is zoned.

This portion of the bill means that land, not including buildings, would be assessed at 25% of its value instead of the present 50%.

The bill further provides: "When land assessed and zoned under the provision of this act is rezoned or sold for other than agricultural purposes it shall be subject to additional taxes referred to as roll-back taxes . . . the roll-back shall be for a period of three years . . ."

"Roll-back taxes" mean that at the time of selling or changing the use of the land the difference in taxes assessed for farm purposes and what it would be assessed for other purposes would become payable for a period of the previous three years. This is similar to the "New Jersey" plan.

In short, the proposal would: (1) require land assessments to be based only on the value for agricultural use; (2) cut the assessment on land in half from the present 50% to 25%; (3) when the land is sold and used for a purpose creating a higher value, taxes on that new value would be payable for the previous three years.

This substitute version, following the lines of some court cases, is expected to be within the requirements of Michigan's Constitution.

S. 231; (DeMaso R - Battle Creek) and H. 3582; (Bishop R - Rochester) were identical bills and both have been reported out of committee. They will require assessors to consider "zoning, existing use and income capability" when assessing property.

Two County Boards of Supervisors (Genesee and Livingston) have passed resolutions supporting legislation to assess farmland according to its agri-

cultural use. Genesee County is a metropolitan county, but recognizes the need for maintaining good farmland for future use and the fact that open spaces need to be preserved as an aid to water and air pollution control, prevention of flooding and realistic land use planning.

The city of London, England, recognized this concept 30 years ago, when it created a 20-mile wide "greenbelt" of farmland and forest around the city to "give London a lung and keep the metropolis within bounds and prevent urbanization of the countryside."

FARM LABOR

Over 100 labor bills were introduced that directly or indirectly could affect agriculture. Most of these remained in committee. Some of those reported out of committee affecting farmers include one on Workmen's Compensation, H. 3012, which would bring more farm workers under full W/C by eliminating the present "13 or more consecutive weeks" and inserting "six weeks." Two other W/C bills, H. 3834 and S. 794, (both 83-pages long), would revise the entire law, but make no substantive changes. It is hoped that one of these bills will pass, thereby helping to prevent the passage of H. 3012.

strong links in radio chain



"ACCENT AGRICULTURE" — Farm Bureau's weekly radio service is aired on 50 Michigan stations including WPAG — Ann Arbor, where Howard Heath (left) airs portions during his morning and noon-time farm shows. Heath has been a farm broadcaster for 23 years. In Three Rivers, Larry Simon (right) manages WIKM, where Accent Agriculture is featured at 4:35 on Saturdays.



wheat marketing program now open to Farm Bureau members

By: Noel Stuckman
Manager, Market-Development Division

As interest in marketing increases farmers have shown a willingness to participate in cooperative marketing programs in which their support will favorably influence price and other trade terms.

As the leading general farm organization, Michigan Farm Bureau is offering wheat producers a marketing program to serve their marketing needs.

The overall objective of the wheat marketing program is to increase the dollar returns to participating Farm Bureau members from the sale of their soft winter wheat. Traditionally, farmers have marketed their wheat on an individual unorganized basis. The wheat marketing program offers producers a change from individual unorganized sales to a coordinated method of marketing. The marketing of a large volume of wheat in an orderly manner increases the likelihood for higher profits to producers.

Operation of the wheat market-

ing program is simple. Producers have until harvest time to decide whether to participate and sign-up in the program. Delivery of program wheat can be made to any participating cooperative elevator until September 1. At the time of delivery a cash advance will be paid to the producer. Following harvest the wheat will be sold throughout the marketing year by professional grain marketing personnel.

Sales of all program wheat must be completed by May 31 of the year following harvest. When sales are completed the producer will receive a final payment based on the average return for all wheat sold in the program minus the harvest time advance payment and operating costs. Each succeeding year wheat producers can elect to participate in the program by choosing various options. Producers can place all or a portion of their crop in the program by completing a simple

sign-up card and returning it to Michigan Farm Bureau.

The wheat marketing program provides a key marketing alternative for Farm Bureau members in 1969. Each wheat producer can evaluate the market situation at harvest and decide whether to sell for cash and accept the harvest time price; store wheat for later sale and attempt to out-guess the market; or consign wheat to the wheat marketing program and receive a cash advance. Participation in the program also provides an opportunity to share in normal seasonal price advances following harvest.

Every wheat producer is urged to consider participating in the 1969 Farm Bureau wheat marketing program. This program provides a real opportunity for wheat producers to advance an important marketing principle and increase their profits from the marketing activities of their Farm Bureau organization. Additional details may be obtained from your County Farm Bureau and most local cooperative elevators.

-MARKETING SPECIALIST-

Norman Veliquette, former Northwest Regional Representative, has joined Michigan Farm Bureau's Market Development Division as a Marketing Specialist. His new assignment was effective May 12.

Mr. Veliquette of Kewadin, will assume responsibilities of fruit commodity specialist, economic data analyst for MACMA and will work on various marketing research projects.

Veliquette was raised on a dairy and fruit farm and was active in 4-H. He graduated from Michigan State University, with honors, in 1967, earning a B.S. degree in Ag Econ.



CONGRATULATIONS — from Dave Smith (right) chancellor of Alpha Zeta fraternity, to Elton Smith, President of Mich. Farm Bureau on his recognition as one of Michigan's top farm leaders.

An honorary membership in the Michigan State University chapter of Alpha Zeta Fraternity was presented to Elton R. Smith, president of Michigan Farm Bureau, at a banquet held on the campus recently.

"As leader of one of Michigan's major farm organizations, Smith has been a progressive leader and spokesman for Michigan agriculture for several years," said Richard Feltner, assistant dean of the

MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

George McIntyre, Director of the Cooperative Extension Service at MSU was also honored.

State Senator Charles Zollar spoke on "Agriculture . . . its effect on Political Decisions." Membership in Alpha Zeta Fraternity consists of students in the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources with exceptionally high scholastic achievement.

a man of many talents!

E. Harry Norris, Muskegon county Farm Bureau member, wears many hats. He gave up one of them recently when he resigned from the Muskegon County Medical Care Facility after serving on the Social Services board of directors for 17 years — 12 of them as chairman.

In the years from 1945 to 1953, Norris served as a director on the Michigan Farm Bureau board, representing the 7th District.

He continues to live near Casnovia in Muskegon county where he has spent a productive lifetime — much of it in positions of public service.

For example, during his years with the Medical Care Facility,

and because of his intense interest in the care of aged and ailing, the present new structure was built.

In addition to this Social Service "hat", Norris wore those representing Civil Defense, Sheriff's Deputy, Realtor, School Board president, fire-department organizer and Charter Member of the Lion's Club.

In his "spare" time, he has served as village president and as Justice of Peace.

Other career facets included work as an insurance man, political party officer, and most importantly, pioneer farmer — from a long line of pioneers.

Great Grandfather Norris came to the area in an "overwagon" as an early settler. Grandfather Norris drove a stage to the Casnovia area from Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids.

Son E. Harry (now 78) — took part in the original drive for membership in Farm Bureau, and became Muskegon county's first president, a position he held for 5 years.

At a dinner marking his retirement from the County Board of Social Services, Norris asked that a planter be built in the Care Facility's Chapel in lieu of a personal gift as some had suggested.

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Floyd Esch Rt. 1 Mio, Michigan 48647	Gene Mater Rt. 2 Nashville, Mich. 48858	Carl Wiggins 3820 Parmenter Rd. Durand, Mich. 48429	Roger Brooks 14600 Ely Rd., Rt. 2 Manchester, Mich. 48158
Fern Payne Rt. 4 Eaton Rapids, Mich. 48827	Farm Bureau Services Ward Witeman, Mgr. 204 N. Main, Yale, Mich. 48097	Raymond Hutchins Rt. 3 Mt. Pleasant, Mich. 49073	Malcolm Cuddie Route 4 Gladwin, Mich. 48624
St. John's Coop. John Williamson, Mgr. St. Johns, Mich. 48879	Frank Myers Rt. 1 Clare, Mich. 48617	Ben Seeley Rt. 2 Reading, Mich. 49274	Harold Brunner Wayside Trailer Ct. 2900 N. Whitehall Muskegon, Mich. 49440
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Montcalm Experimental Farm

More people should know of the important research work centering out of the Montcalm Experimental farm — an 80-acre plot under extensive study by the Crop Science Research Department of MSU.

In addition to the actual work done on the farm, the Station is headquarters for "overstate" potato variety trials . . . located on farm land in four counties . . . Bay, Allegan, Presque Isle and Montcalm. These are in their third research crop year and according to Dr. Richard Chase, Dept. of Crop Science, Michigan State University, are proving highly successful.

Not only are potatoes tested, but plots of dry edible beans (second in emphasis), field and sweet corn, horticulture, grain sorghums, seeded tomatoes, tests on herbicides and the comparison of nutrients and plant foods are all given careful analysis and tests. Art Wells, MSU entomologist and his student assistant, Clio Townsend, conduct tests on

insect growth and the most effective means of combating them.

A seeded-tomato plot is under the supervision of Dr. Clark Nicklow and Dr. John Downs and the field corn plot under many varying conditions such as moisture, soil and growing conditions, comes under the scrutiny of Dr. Elmer Rossman.

Careful planning preceding the establishing of these outstate stations was done by Michigan State University.

Dr. Sylvan Wittwer, Director of Michigan State University's Ag Experiment stations said "Climate, soil and drainage conditions are important factors, and in the Montcalm station, especially so. The 80-acre site is in the heart of the potato producing area and near to Ore-Ida, one of its principal processors."

This cooperative project is showing positive results . . . both in the improved product and in what it means to the processor and grower.



1100 POTATO VARIETIES — two hills of each, were planted this spring at the 80-acre Montcalm Experimental Farm, located 9½ miles west of Stanton — by Farm Bureau member Leon Alwood, (left) Charlotte, and MSU potato-seed specialist and student — Meer Hussian of Pakistan.



WORKING TOGETHER — are Dr. Richard Chase, (left) of the Department of Crop Science, MSU — and Theron Comden, cooperater and owner of the experimental land. MSU leases the land for a wide variety of significant testing programs.



CHECKING POTATO SAMPLES — are MSU's Richard Kitchen (left) and Michigan Farm Bureau's Market Development Division Manager, Noel Stuckman. Kitchen is co-worker with Dr. Norman Thompson, Crop Scientist also of MSU.

MACMA Marketing Co-op Annual

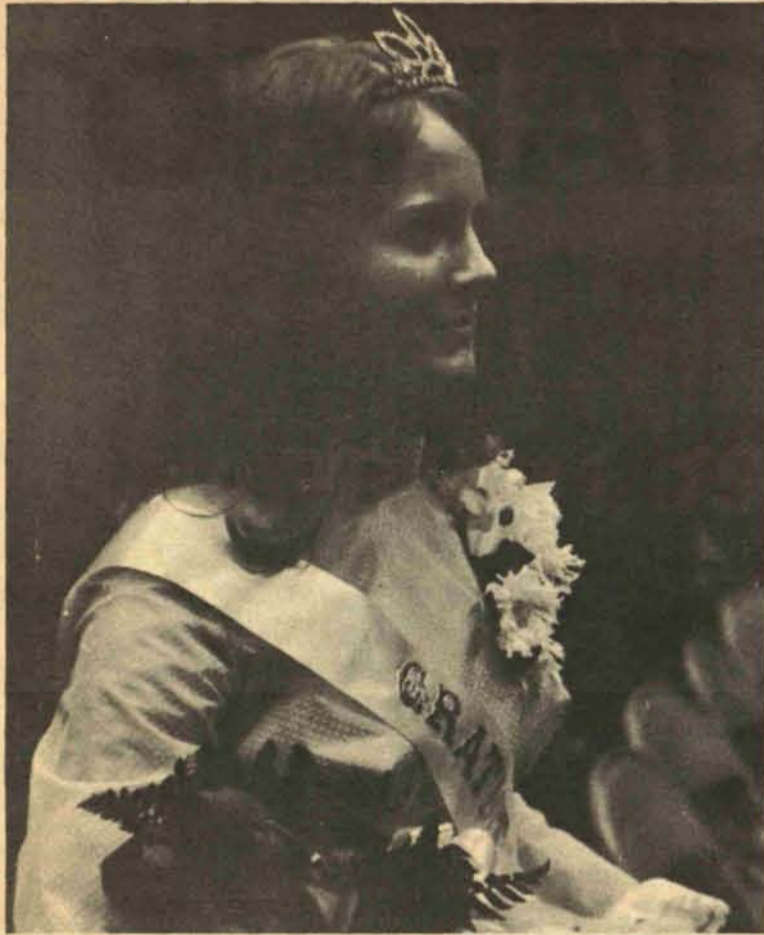


RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT — of MACMA — the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association in Grand Rapids recently, was Elton R. Smith, Caledonia. Others named to the Association's board include (front row, left) David Morris, (Smith) Donald Hower and Dean Pridgeon. Standing (left) are Donald Barden, Harvey Levenberger, Walter Frahm and Eugene Roberts. Not pictured are Kenneth Bull, Harry Nye and Paul Wicks. Bull was re elected to the vice presidency, while Barden was renamed third member of the Executive Committee. Robert Braden was reappointed Manager, William Wilkinson Secretary and Wm. Beattie, Treasurer.



TELEVISION NEWSMAN — (back to camera) hears how Farm Bureau members are successfully bargaining with processors for price and other terms of trade — from Dr. Kenneth Hood, Manager of the American Agricultural Marketing Association. Hood spoke at the MACMA annual meeting in Grand Rapids.

SMORGASBORD ROYALTY



MEET QUEEN JOYCE STRONG — the 1969 Gratiot county Bean Queen. Miss Strong, a senior at Alma High School, received her crown at the recent Farm Bureau bean smorgasbord. Royal parents are Mr. and Mrs. Niles Strong, Farm Bureau members of Elwell.

AGRICULTURE IN ACTION — — PICTORIAL REPORT

COMMODITY PROMOTION — "It is important that farmers promote the increased sale and consumption of farm products with duplication of effort. We support — and will continue to seek improvement of — sound, well coordinated promotion programs . . ." (from Farm Bureau's policy statements — 1969)

In the belief that local promotion is the best promotion, Michigan farmers join with their friends and neighbors in Dairy Days, Blossom Festivals and Apple Smorgasbords. Two popular events, the Vermontville Maple Syrup Festival, and the Gratiot Bean Smorgasbord are featured here.

Gratiot bean smorgasbord



POPULAR PLACE — is the dessert table at the Gratiot Farm Bureau Bean Smorgasbord. Everything there, the pies, cookies, cakes and candies were made with navy beans. Stopping for thirds are Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Witkovsky and (on the right) Theron Summers. Witkovsky is a Farmers Petroleum Co-op representative in Breckenridge. Summers is Midwest Fieldman for the American Farm Bureau Federation.



Vermontville syrup festival



SPRINGTIME — and the sap running in the maple trees are signals which call thousands of people to Vermontville for the annual Maple Syrup Festival. The invasion to the small central Michigan town is by car, truck and bus from as far away as Detroit.

For one day the entire community takes on a carnival atmosphere in promoting the popular farm product — maple syrup. There are parades, queens and carnival rides. Most popular of side-show games is the "Dunk-Em" — where the invitation is out to pitch a baseball at a target, which if hit causes a platform to collapse dropping a game young man into a tank of water.

It's all in honor of maple syrup, the sticky delight which brings people and dollars and which is best enjoyed on pancakes. Maple syrup at Vermontville means climbing the long stairs to the American Legion Hall and sitting down to a steaming stack. It's a real family affair!



mayor meets bureau members



FARM-CITY SESSION IN SANILAC . . .

REFRESHMENT TIME — at Sanilac county Farm Bureau's Rural-Urban meeting. Among key people on hand recently were (left to right) Doris Mahaffy, District 6 Vice President of Farm Bureau Women; Bruce Bennett, Mayor of Sandusky; Mrs. Faye Adam, chairman of the county Rural-Urban committee and Karl Howard, Young Farmer state committee member and master of ceremonies for the event.



HOMEMAKER TEAM— You can tell by the bigger smile who won the election! This is the mother-daughter team which will head up the state FHA (Future Homemakers) for the coming year. Left is Sharon Wolbers, new president of the state FHA from Portage, and next to her is Mom. Mrs. Wolbers teaches Home Ec. at Portage and is Sharon's advisor. With Sharon's election, Mrs. Wolbers becomes state mother for the FHA.

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MICHIGAN MILK'S— Vice-President, Harold Blaylock appeared with state Farm Bureau President Elton Smith, recently, on the program of the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association Seminar in Grand Rapids. A 1968 recipient of Farm Bureau's Distinguished-Service-to-Agriculture award, Blaylock told how Michigan Milk conducts bargaining sessions.

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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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

WANTED: ALLIS CHALMERS round baler and near-new McCormick power corn binder. Contact: Alfred Roeder, Seneca, Kansas. (6-1t-17p) 36

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- taxes - tax reform and - school financing

DISCUSSION TOPIC

By: Melvin L. Woell

Tax Reform

Almost everyone agrees that Michigan needs a strong program of tax reform. Unfortunately, tax reform means something different to nearly everyone. "Reform" to one person is nothing more than doing away with someone else's greatly needed social service.

"Tax Revolts" help dramatize the confusion. Most bear little relation to the reality of tax needs in terms of the services which most people continue to demand.

Such is the framework within which farmers must operate in seeking a balanced tax structure, one which does not give unfair advantage to agriculture but which also does not take advantage of a land-owning minority whose acres are always evident as taxing targets.

Where are we now in terms of Michigan taxes? They have DOUBLED and more, in ten-year's time! Why? Inflation is a basic cause, with the wage-price spiral a large part of it.

Meanwhile, incomes have risen too—almost double in the same ten-year period. Rising incomes have become a tempting target for much needed sources of new tax revenue.

The real question is: "Is everyone paying his or her fair share of total taxes (including farmers)—but no more?" Farmers have plentiful evidence that they are paying substantially more than a fair-share of the total tax load.

Farm families are subject to all taxes which others pay, but their property taxes have had an especially hard impact in many areas of the state. A prime reason is the assessment of farmlands based on potential rather than on actual value for farming purposes. Another reason is that schools and local government costs are almost totally dependent upon the property tax.

Latest USDA figures show that property taxes in Michigan amount to about 16 per cent of total net farm income. University figures show farm property taxes as a per cent of income in Michigan range from a low of 7 per cent to a high of 30 per cent or more!

Farmers see a hopeful sign in the recent shifting of considerable government costs away from property and toward more fair sources of revenue—mainly through income taxes.



TAX REBELLION—signs of mounting taxpayer unrest appear in Michigan and elsewhere. May 14, this group of "Citizens for Fair Taxation" marched to the state capitol to emphasize that until that date all worker-earnings have gone to pay local, state and federal government tax costs.

FARM BUREAU POLICY ON . . . TAX REFORM

Farm Bureau policies have supported total tax reform for several years. Much has been accomplished beginning with the new Constitution and continuing with each session of the legislature since that time.

The enactment of a state income tax together with the repeal and adjustment of other taxes, return of substantial amounts of monies to local units of government and direct and indirect relief on property taxes revises Michigan's tax structure so that it now contains the major elements of a "balanced tax structure."

However, tax reform is a complex and continuing process. We call attention to the fact that until further reforms are accomplished, taxes on property will continue to rise and carry an unfair share of the total tax burden.

Property is no longer a good measure of wealth or ability to pay. For example, a 1965 study by the Michigan Citizens Research Council revealed that in urban areas property taxes as a percentage of family income ranged from a high of 4.1% to a low of 2.9%. In sharp contrast, U.S.D.A. data shows that farm real estate taxes as a percentage of net farm income are three to four times higher.

We, therefore, continue to support further tax reform and believe that the following will lead to greater equity of taxation:

- New sources of revenue for local units of government in order to relieve property taxes. We believe this should permit the use of the income tax by the county.
 - Improved assessment and equalization procedures.
 - Permit assessment and taxation of new property for school purposes the first year it is built.
 - New methods of financing schools with limitations on property taxes for school purposes.
 - Use of the income tax as a major source of funds to finance schools through a state-aid formula.
 - Assessment of agricultural land as farm land as long as it is so used—instead of on its possible potential value.
 - Prevention of inequities arising from special assessments on property that receives no benefit from the project.
- The balancing of Michigan's tax structure should result in every citizen paying his fair share toward the support of his schools and other local and state government services.

FARM BUREAU POLICY ON . . . EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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.

However, the school-aid formula has always been tied to the property tax. With passage of the tax reform package, new methods of financing our schools become available and it is now possible to eliminate many of the inequalities that have existed in the past . . .

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.
- Sufficient funds should be appropriated to pay in full all state-aid formulas.

School Money Problems

No one doubts that Michigan schools are in deep financial trouble. To rural residents, both the problem and solution appear clear. In many areas, 70 per cent of property taxes go to school purposes—yet this is not enough. As is the case with other "governmental" costs, school expenses are on a dramatic incline. Property is no longer able to supply a sufficient tax base. Effective taxpayer revolts are taking the form of refusal to pass millage or bonding issues. Plainly citizens are saying that other sources of revenue must be found. Farm Bureau members feel that the state income tax must be used as one of the major sources of funds for our school.

Adding to the problem are great differences between districts in both costs and valuation. Averages mean little—some districts pay as low as 9 mills for school operational purposes, others pay as high as 36 mills or more. The average cost of keeping a pupil in school for a year may be as low as \$304 in some areas, while in others it may be in excess of \$1,300 per pupil!

Why this tremendous range? Do low-cost areas pay teachers less? Not necessarily—much of the difference in operating cost may be tied to curriculum, with higher cost districts usually offering broad, comprehensive curriculum opportunities.

Is this bad? Again, not necessarily. It depends upon individual viewpoint and ultimately, upon taxpayer's willingness to pay. Knowledge continues to expand while the world grows smaller in terms of people and time. Yesterday's training is unsuitable for tomorrow's citizens, many feel.

As the globe shrinks, international policies and international economics become more important too. A smaller world makes foreign language much less of a luxury and more of a necessity.

It all adds up, and somebody has to pay the bill. About five years ago (in the 1964-65 school year) state aid to schools in Michigan amounted to "only" 465.9 billion dollars.

A bill presently under consideration carries appropriations of 849.1 million dollars in school aid for the 1969-70 school year. (Original legislation included aid to non-public schools which would have added another 44 million dollars.) As in the case of taxes, school costs have almost doubled, but in five years!

Where does the money go? In spite of what some people regard as impractical buildings and unnecessary courses, most of the costs are tied to teacher salaries . . . a full 70 per cent of school operating costs. When the salaries of other school personnel are added, the total amount spent for wages and salaries rises to 80 per cent of school operating costs.

Let's examine just one teacher-cost alone—retirement benefits. Back in the '64-65 school year, they added 53.2 million dollars to the operating cost total. In the '69-70 school year, teacher retirement will come to an estimated 154 million dollars!

There seems to be little question of school need and the cost of this need. The question narrows to "how best to meet these costs?" Although everyone sees the problem, few people agree on what to do about it.

This disagreement is apparent in the consistent rejection of local millage school proposals. These turn-downs have become a real money pressure-point forcing the legislature to act toward tax reform.

APRIL TOPIC SUMMARY Pollution and Pesticides

726 Groups, composed of 5,445 families reporting.

Within these families, 7,377 persons said they use farm chemicals during the year. 5,925, or 80.3% of them, feel they carefully read and follow all directions.

Among the 1,652 persons who do not, 631 said that the label print is too fine, 567 said they were in too big a hurry, 251 said directions were too complicated, and 203 didn't understand the technical wording.

A majority of the families make a practice of burning and burying empty pesticide containers.

There were 43 separately listed sources of air and water pollution observed in communities of the state including several dozen (by name) local industries.

**NEXT MONTH: Law and Order,
—Law Enforcement.**

**ST. CLAIR FARM BUREAU
MEMBERSHIP WORKERS
HONORED AT PARTY**

Reaching membership goal in St. Clair county meant a first-time victory in 16 years! Accordingly, officers and workers celebrated the event with a victory dinner and unveiling of a new "Distinguished Salesman" award.

Named top salesman was Charles Rodzos, signing 18 membership toward the 993 county total.

Vice President Fred Schultz (right in picture) presented the award to Rodzos while other top officers join in. They are (from left) Robert Wilson, county president; Wm. Reid, Roll-Call chairman, Rodzos and Fred Schultz.



CONGRATULATIONS — to St. Clair Farm Bureau's Distinguished Salesman" Charles Rodzos (second from right) receiving a new trophy from vice president Fred Schultz (right).

Canadians Reject Supply Management

By: Creston J. Foster
American Farm Bureau Federation

A Canadian task force in agriculture made up of five highly competent professional people has rejected government supply management as an effective tool to improve net farm income.

The task force, appointed in 1967 by Canada's minister of agriculture, has released three of the papers that will make up its report. Its chairman is Dr. David MacFarlane of McDonald College, Quebec, and the remainder of the committee is comprised of Canadian university agricultural economists.

**Canadian Findings
Same as in U.S.A.**

Here are some of the findings of the task force as reported in the Country Guide, a Canadian farm magazine. Many of the findings about government control parallel the experiences of U. S. farmers.

"High per capita incomes arise only from higher rates of productivity and not from some sleight of hand in manipulating prices, wages or statistics."

As supply management is applied to individual products, producers turn to other products, bringing surpluses there, lower prices, etc., the task force reports.

"In the first year of controlled broiler production in Ontario, the output of turkeys increased dramatically as producers shifted resources to that product."

Prices Shift

"The disappointing turkey prices which followed must have offset most of, or more than, the higher prices experienced by broiler growers.

"Supply management of the 'all-pervasive type' which would be needed would involve inspection, research, administration and control far exceeding anything we have experienced in Canadian agriculture to date."

Broad Approach Better

The task force pointed out that the livestock and poultry industries hold out real hope to Canada's farmers.

"The red meat industry," the task force reported, "has not grown up behind protective walls but operates as part of a continental market.

"They (red meat and poultry) have not been suffering from surpluses as is the case with wheat, nor from dependence upon government support and protection as is the case with dairying, nor from wild foreign-born price variations as with potatoes."

The task force also asks, "Can we afford marketing board policies aimed at quota production and elimination of vertical integration, with such powerful competitors just south of our border?"

In warning against supply management, the task force says: "... a major expansion of output could be marketed through exports or reduced imports if our marketing institutions are not excessively rigid."

VERNON SPENCER

Vernon N. Spencer, 72, former Kalkaska Farm Bureau leader, died April 10 in Texas.

Mr. Spencer served as Farmer Fieldman of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service in Central Michigan and was a member of that organization's state committee.

He was also a member of the original board of directors of the Mich. Agricultural Conference.

SMO-O-OTH! *



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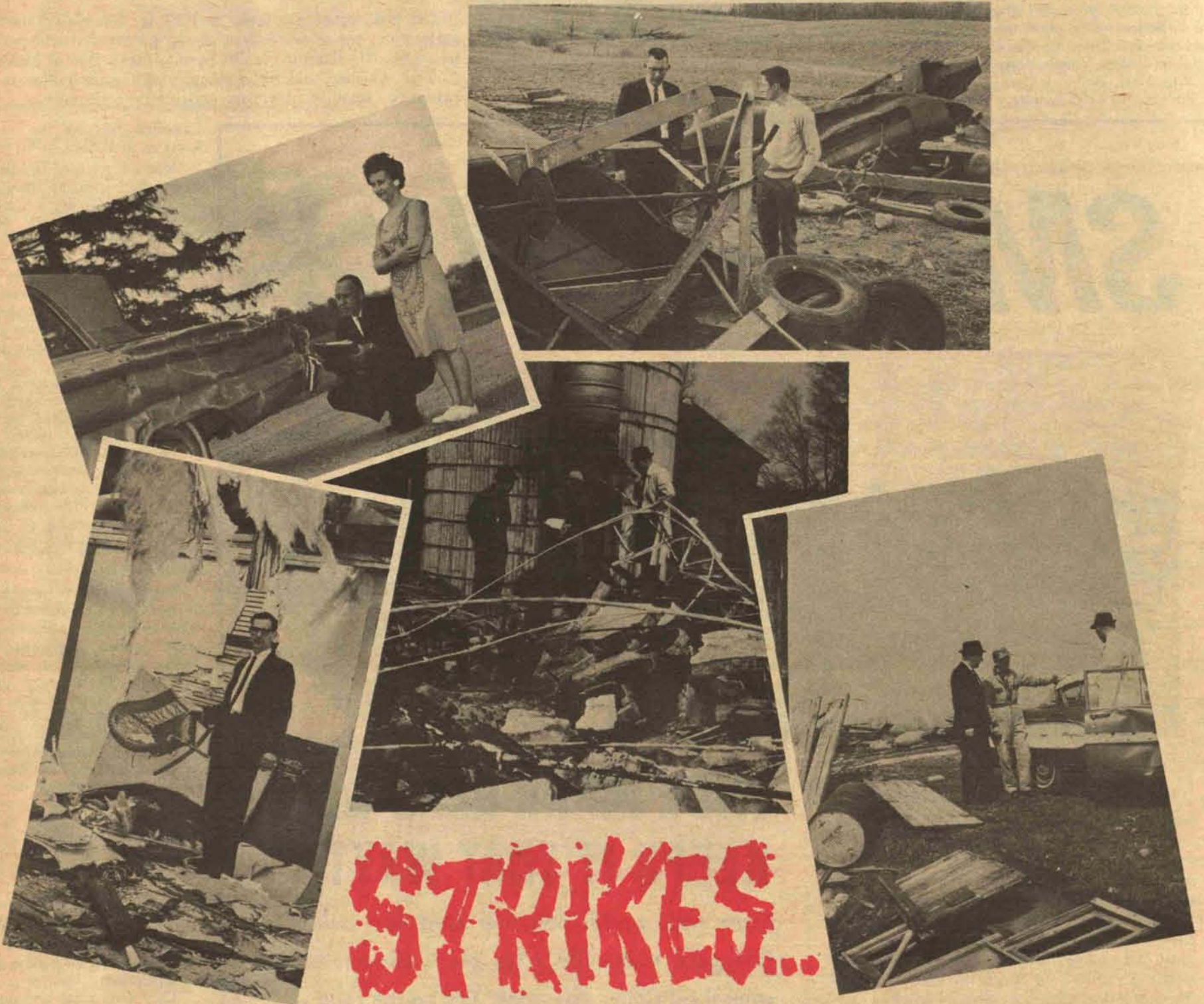
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So, we'll help you prepare for the unexpected. The entire Farm Bureau Insurance Group agency force will be reviewing all Farm owner policies this summer. Homes, outbuildings, and personal property will be thoroughly assessed. Inflation has skyrocketed labor and material replacement costs. So, insurance coverage should be updated and your financial future secured. After all . . . *you are our greatest concern.*

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