

# Michigan Farm News

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## Both Parties Getting Nowhere in Legislature

### EDITORIAL

#### Upon Making a New Start

CLARK L. BRODY

This editorial signifies my retirement from the staff of the Michigan Farm Bureau January 31, 1959.

Thirty-eight years have not dimmed my memory of my bewildered and uncertain beginnings on March 1, 1921. Apparently the ninety people in the old Cedar Street building were just as confused as I.

The office space was cramped by storing in the building over 3,000,000 pounds of wool for which there was no market since the government was supplying the mills with World War I surplus wool at whatever prices it would bring.

The Board of Directors had bought the building for \$50,000. The first payment was \$2,500 for which the Michigan Farm Bureau had given a note. Each of the Directors had personally endorsed the Farm Bureau's note.

Forty carloads of cottonseed meal bought by Farm Bureau at \$78 a ton were drawing demurrage as they sat on side tracks throughout the state. While enroute to Michigan the price had dropped from \$78 a ton to less than \$40 a ton. No distributor would accept delivery, and the mills wanted their money.

The ambitious plans of inexperienced department managers disturbed me greatly, and more so when I found that we had the bare rudiments of an accounting system, and little money in the treasury. In fact, we learned later that the net worth was minus \$15,000.

Disappointed members were not paying their dues, and business departments were running at a loss in the period of falling prices after the war.

At the close of my last day, Friday, January 31, 1959, I walked through the spacious Farm Bureau Center, through the offices of Michigan Farm Bureau, Farm Bureau Services, Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Farm Bureau Mutual and Farm Bureau Life Insurance Companies. Nearly 300 people who had used the offices during the day had left.

In 38 years, we certainly would expect great improvement, yet I stood for a moment,—filled with appreciation and thankfulness; and again I thought of the scene on Cedar Street which had met my eyes the first day of my association with the Farm Bureau. The contrast was indeed impressive.

The only sound in the building was made by the janitors as they went from room to room, emptying waste baskets and cleaning up for another week.

I would not be there.

Out of the side and rear windows, I looked at the 200 x 240 ft. Farm Bureau Services warehouse, with more than an acre of floor space, and the towering seed plant that looks over US-16 and carries high above ground a neon sign FARM BUREAU in letters five feet high. To the right I could see the Farmers Petroleum Cooperative warehouse and garage, with big petroleum transports nearby.

I glanced over some of the 42 acre tract that provides a setting for these facilities, and realized that these are only a part of the Michigan Farm Bureau and its subsidiaries.

I thought of the fertilizer plants, warehouses, and elevators at Saginaw, Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Traverse City and elsewhere, and of the interstate feed and paint plants at Hammond, Indiana, and Alliance, Ohio. The phosphate mine in Idaho in which Farm Bureau has an interest came to mind.

Farm Bureau has over 900 employes today. Members of the organization did nearly \$30,000,000 of business with their Farm Bureau Companies in 1958.

It came to me that these things, important as they are, are not the real Farm Bureau. The soul of Farm Bureau lies in the hearts and minds of its members.

In the early days of its history, a few devoted farm people had a vision of a Farm Bureau organization working for the betterment of the world by improving the lot of the farmer.

They had faith to work and to sacrifice to make

(Continued on Page 3)

### FARM BUREAU'S Administrative Board in Effect Feb. 2

In accordance with action taken by the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors November 19, 1958, the supervision of the management of the Michigan Farm Bureau and associated service companies has been placed in a four man Administrative Board, effective February 2, 1959.

Members of the Administrative Board are: Walter Wightman, Michigan Farm Bureau president, as chairman; Norwood Eastman, Edwin Steffen, and Leon Monroe of the Farm Bureau staff.

The purpose of the new arrangement is to provide close correlation between the programs of the service companies and the membership.

It is felt that the Administrative Board will provide a means for the company managers to obtain group counsel and approval of long range plans and proposals for recommendation to Boards of Directors of Farm Bureau Co's.

The chief function of the Administrative Board will be to supervise the general management of the various companies and to coordinate the programs with general Farm Bureau policy.

### Michigan 300 Is the New Corn Hybrid

Farmers will have a new hybrid corn available to them for planting this season.

It's Michigan 300, a hybrid developed by farm crops scientists at the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station. A good supply of seed is available this year.

Elmer Rossman, corn breeder at the Station, said the new corn is rated at about 90 days' relative maturity. It is midway between Michigan 250 and 350 in maturity.

Michigan 300 has the best yield record of competitive hybrids of the same maturity date.

Since it has a better yield record than Michigan 350, Rossman thinks farmers might want to consider using it to get the advantage of the shorter growing season.

The corn is recommended for general use in north central Michigan and for farmers in the south central part of the state who want an early variety or who plant late.

Michigan 300 is a clean picking hybrid. Ears come out of the picker with a minimum of husks because the husks are loose and open nicely, Rossman says.

The new hybrid has a high shelling percentage and the grain dried out rapidly in the field after it is mature.

The corn was nine years in development. All new hybrids must be tested at least three years before they can be released.

### Farm Bureau Life Honors Harry Steele

Harry Steele, Tuscola county agency manager for Farm Bureau Insurance Companies, has been named Farm Bureau Life's "Man of the Year" for 1958. He was top man in total life insurance production in the Farm Bureau agency force for the year.

Mr. Steele has won many other honors during his career as a Farm Bureau agent. He received Farm Bureau Life's "Pace Setter" trophy in 1956 and has been a member of many Farm Bureau Insurance All-American teams.

### Michigan Week May 17 to 23

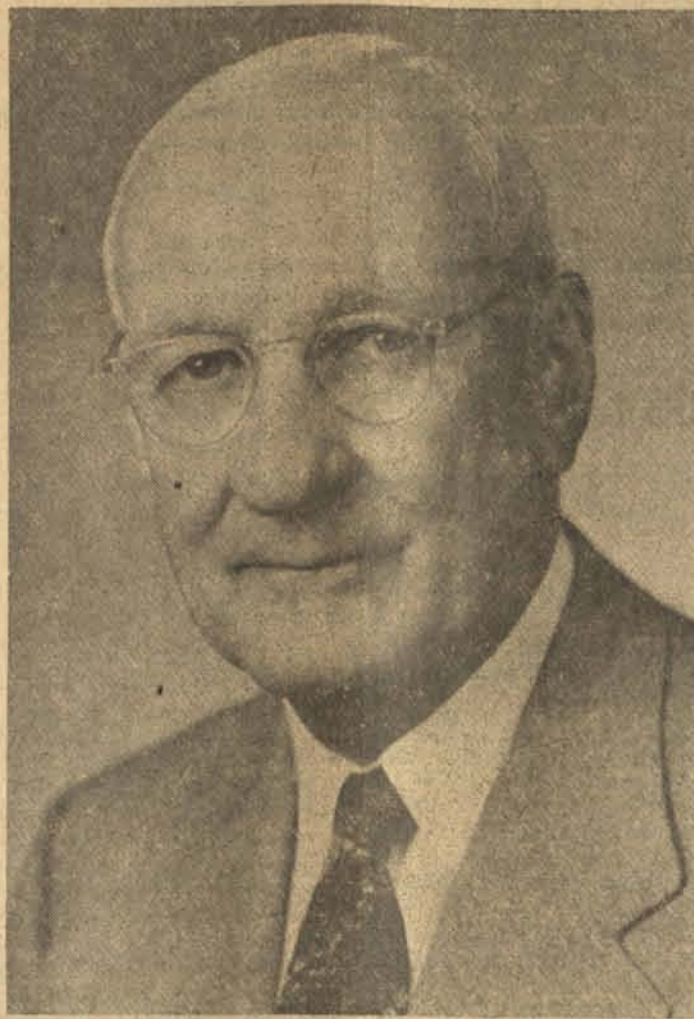
Products of Michigan is the theme of Michigan Week, May 17 to 23. The theme will draw attention to Michigan's industries, businesses, agriculture and all their products.

### Rivers

About 95% of rivers of North America flow south or southerly. The St. John's of Florida is the only important one that flows north.

### This Edition 73,211

copies of the Michigan Farm News were mailed to subscribers.



### Clark L. Brody Retires

State and County Farm Bureau leaders were among 400 friends of Clark L. Brody at a testimonial dinner given for him at Kellogg Center, Michigan State University, Saturday evening, February 21.

Mr. Brody retired from the Michigan Farm Bureau February 1—his 80th birthday—after 38 years of service.

At that time he announced that he would not be a candidate for reelection to the State Board of Agriculture, governing body of Michigan State University. He has been a member of the board since 1921.

President Walter Wightman said that Mr. Brody came to Michigan Farm Bureau March 1, 1921 as executive secretary, and general manager of the membership organization and its business services.

The farm supplies business was incorporated as Farm Bureau Services in 1929. Michigan Association of Farmers Cooperatives was established in 1945. Farmers Petroleum Cooperative and Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company were organized in 1949, and Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company in 1951.

Mr. Brody retired from active management of those organizations August 1, 1952 to become

vice-president in charge of public affairs for Michigan Farm Bureau. From October 1, 1956 to his retirement he was counsel on public affairs.

He is in his 38th and last year as a member of the State Board of Agriculture. He was chairman of the board for 16 years and five months—January 1, 1932 through April 1, 1938 and January 1, 1948 through December, 1957.

Governor Williams, President John Hannah of Michigan State University, and Charles Figy, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and others paid tribute to Mr. Brody for his work in state and national public affairs, for his services to Michigan State University, and as a builder of the Michigan Farm Bureau organization of 72,000 farm families.

Blaque Knirk of Quincy announced that the state, county and community Farm Bureau organizations and individuals are establishing a Clark L. Brody scholarship fund at Michigan State University. He said that it is well along toward \$25,000.

Mr. Brody said that he and Mrs. Brody will continue to make their home in Lansing. He is writing a book on the history of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

### MFB Dues Up \$2; Act On Insurance

The board of delegates of the Michigan Farm Bureau made three decisions at an all day meeting at Michigan State University February 24. The Credentials Committee reported 620 delegates present.

1 - Dues. They authorized the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors to increase Farm Bureau dues from \$10 to \$12 a year, effective for the membership year of 1960.

They said that all of the \$2 increase is to go to the state organization to apply on rating costs and for program purposes. The remaining \$10 will be distributed to MFB, County Farm Bureaus and American Farm Bureaus as before.

The delegates provided that members in the Upper Peninsula may be allowed a lesser annual membership dues than \$12.00 through 1965. They pay \$10 dues now.

This action was taken by amending the by-laws of Michigan Farm Bureau. The vote was YES—332 NO—246.

2 - Election of Delegates to Michigan Farm Bureau annual meetings. The board of delegates rejected a proposal to have each County Farm Bureau delegate to future annual meetings of MFB represent 200 Farm Bureau members instead of 100 members as at present.

The Michigan Farm Bureau board of delegates of 720 for a membership of 72,000 is the largest in the nation. Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and other states having

large memberships have reduced their delegate bodies for various reasons. The Michigan delegates said February 24 that the benefits are great from coming to the state annual meeting.

The first vote on this question was a tie 284 to 284. On the second ballot it was YES—223, NO—324.

3 - Insurance. The board of delegates adopted a resolution to authorize the Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company to offer fire insurance to farm and urban people not members of the Farm Bureau.

No change was made in the policy of limiting automobile insurance and farm liability insurance to members of the Farm Bureau.

President Blaque Knirk of Farm Bureau Mutual said that opening of the fire program to accept risks having more fire protection would benefit the Company financially and in other ways.

This proposal carried by a voice vote indicating a large majority.

The board of delegates was called together to consider raising dues from \$10 to \$20 a year, as recommended by the MFB State Study Committee, which has been working on the Farm Bureau program and finance situation since 1957.

The Committee reported that in 1957 and 1958 Michigan Farm Bureau expenses have exceeded its share on the membership dollar. (Continued on page 2)

### Call Vernal Best Alfalfa For Michigan

Steve Dexter of the Farm Crops Department at Michigan State University says that Vernal alfalfa is a very good variety which may solve the problem for farmers looking for a top quality seed for their fields.

Vernal appears to be well adapted to Michigan weather conditions and yields the popular Ranger variety by 10 to 15%.

Narragansett has often been preferred for northern Michigan, even though it has no resistance to wilt.

Mr. Dexter said that with self spreading, Vernal is the best selection since it yields about the same as Narragansett.

Vernal's winter hardiness, high yields, and toleration of frequent cutting is very satisfactory. Demand for the limited supply of Vernal has pushed prices up. Even though the cost is a little high, Vernal should more than pay the additional cost when it is used on good soil.

Mr. Dexter suggests putting a strip of Vernal through the middle of your field of Ranger or other alfalfa. He believes you will be convinced of Vernal's superiority when you compare the varieties in two or three years.

### Unions Become Great Political Power

The American Farm Bureau told the State Farm Bureaus at Chicago a few weeks ago:

"The election of November 1958 demonstrated that in the last ten years labor unions have become an overwhelming political power.

"This was the labor unions' record in the November 1958 elections:

"U.S. Senate—25 of 32 Senators or candidates for Senator who had labor union support were elected.

"U.S. Senate—8 or 14 U.S. Senators opposed by labor unions for re-election were defeated.

"House in Congress—70% of the candidates for election or re-election to the House in Congress who had labor union support were elected.

"Governors—17 of 23 Governors or candidates for Governor who had labor union support were elected.

"The resources of men, money and organization that labor unions can throw into any campaign far exceed the resources of men, money and organization available to either political party... or both of them."

Farm Bureau Recommendation: Realize that the labor union drive for political control can be dealt with only by public opinion and votes in the ballot box.

The world's first lighthouse, was 445 feet tall, and used an open fire on a platform at the top for light. Place? Alexandria, Egypt. It served for 1,600 years.

### Long & Turbulent Session in Sight

One of Major Problems is How the State Treasury is to be Kept Solvent in the Months Ahead

STANLEY M. POWELL

Legislative Counsel for the Michigan Farm Bureau

All in all, it looks like a very lengthy and controversial session of the Legislature. Neither political party can muster the necessary 56 votes in the House to pass even an ordinary bill.

The two-thirds vote required for approval of a proposed constitutional amendment would be even more difficult to obtain.

Each political party tries to keep the other on the defensive, and no individual member or political party is anxious to assume responsibility for any bill or tax program which would probably be unpopular with the voters.

This sets the stage for a long, turbulent and possibly rather unproductive legislative session.

The major interest in the State Legislature is focused on what constitutional amendments will appear on the April 6 election ballot.

To date, 29 joint resolutions, embodying amendments to Michigan's Constitution, have been introduced.

Only one of those has now received the necessary two-thirds vote of the members-elect of both branches of the Legislature and is thus assured of being placed on the ballot at the coming April election.

This is SJR A, which is intended to assure continuity of government. It authorizes the Legislature to provide for temporary succession of powers and duties of public officials in emergencies caused by enemy attacks.

Another proposed amendment which has been approved by both the House and Senate, but in slightly different forms, is HJR I, which would change the name of the State Board of Agriculture to Board of Trustees of Michigan State University.

The point at issue between the Senate and House is whether there should be added to this title the words "of Agriculture and Applied Science." Those words were in the resolution as passed by the House, but were dropped in the Senate. What the ultimate decision in this regard will be remains to be seen.

Of the proposed constitutional amendments still pending, those arousing the greatest interest have to do with the State's financial and tax situation or with the holding of a constitutional convention.

House Joint Resolution B, as originally introduced, would have changed the vote necessary to order the holding of a constitutional convention from a majority of those participating in the election to a majority of those voting on this particular issue. That would make considerable difference.

For instance, if the proposed basis of determining the results had been in effect last November, we would find ourselves holding a constitutional convention this fall, despite the fact that only 35% of

those voting last November expressed their support of the convention idea.

This proposal has now been further complicated by an amendment, sponsored by the Democratic floor leader in the House. It provides that the delegates to a convention would be chosen from Representative districts rather than from Senatorial districts.

If that amendment should prevail, it would give the metropolitan areas of Michigan a tremendously increased voice and influence in a constitutional convention.

There are also bills pending in both the House and Senate, H. 94 and S. 1064, which would provide for placing the question of calling a constitutional convention on the April 6 election ballot. All of this agitation relative to a convention seems a little strange and untimely when that issue fell about 350,000 votes short of approval last November.

Michigan's acute cash balance shortage was relieved temporarily by advance payment of State (Continued on Page 2)



### Iron County Farm Bureau is Our 71st

IRON COUNTY Farm Bureau was organized January 29 as the 8th County Farm Bureau in the Upper Peninsula and the 71st in the Michigan Farm Bureau. It has a membership of 60 families. Eino J. Kaski of Crystal Falls, vice-chairman; Mr. Kaski; Percy Wainwright, Crystal Falls; Joe Kadulski, Iron River; Frank Tuohowski, Crystal Falls. Mrs. John Serena of Iron River, R-2, is secretary-treasurer.

Michigan Farm Bureau

President ..... W. W. Wightman  
Fennville

V.-Pres. .... R. E. Smith, Fowlerville  
Sec'y ..... N. D. Eastman, Lansing

DIRECTORS BY DISTRICTS

- 1—Max K. Hood.....Paw Paw, R-1
- 2—Blaque Knirk.....Quincy, R-1
- 3—Allen F. Rush.....Lake Orion, R-1
- 4—Elton R. Smith.....Caledonia, R-1
- 5—Dale Dunckel.....Williamston, R-1
- 6—Ward G. Hodge.....Snover, R-1
- 7—Thomas Hahn.....Rodney, R-1
- 8—Kenneth Johnson.....Freeland, R-2
- 9—Elmer Warner.....Traverse City
- 10—Eugene DeMaddo, W. Branch, R-2
- 11—Edmund Sager.....Stephenson

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

- Herbert Fleck.....Saginaw, R-6
- Robert E. Smith.....Fowlerville, R-2
- Walter Wightman.....Fennville, R-1

Representing  
WOMEN OF FARM BUREAU  
Mrs. Alex Kennedy.....Posen, R-1

Representing  
FARM BUREAU YOUNG PEOPLE  
Harry Foster.....Niles, R-3



PURPOSE OF FARM BUREAU

The purpose of this Association shall be the advancement of our members' interests educationally, legislatively and economically.



Repayment

Many folks have done me favors  
That I never quite repaid  
And to them I stand a debtor—  
I have often felt dismayed  
At the need for some expression  
Of the gratitude that's due  
To a kindly benefactor. Has  
It not been so with you?

I have thought, and most sincerely,  
If the chance should ever rise  
I'll restore to him with interest  
Though it means some sacrifice;  
But the chance so seldom rises,  
And the best thing that I can do  
Is to pass along the kindness  
And my credit thus renew.

Then again it sometimes happens  
That some word or act of mine  
Offers someone aid or comfort  
Somewhere down the line.  
I do not expect repayment  
But I like to think that he  
Will just help some other fellow  
And perhaps remember me.

It is fine, when we are able  
To repay each debt in kind  
But we need not think too paltry  
Any coin that we can find.  
Any kindness, big or little,  
That we do along our way  
Helps to balance, in the long run,  
Favors that we can't repay.

R. S. Clark (7-1-53)

Today in Farm Bureau

JERRY CORDREY  
Coordinator of Organization

Delegates from 70 County Farm Bureaus have just finished reviewing, discussing, and deciding on some major issues facing our organization.

In a special delegate session February 24, the delegates determined that the Michigan Farm Bureau should raise dues to \$12 per year.

The feeling of the delegates was that the \$2 increase would meet the immediate financial needs of the organization, and

would allow it to continue to gain in numbers.

There seemed to be much sentiment toward having the county leadership take more responsibility in the county programming, and involving more volunteer people in the program, since the strength of Farm Bureau is in farmers working together for a common cause.

The delegates also advised the Board to open the fire insurance to non-members, and decided to leave the size of the delegate body as is.

Farm leaders from all over the state, Don Hatfield, Mecosta county; Dave Morris, Clinton; Pete Spencer, Lapeer; Austin Greenhoe and Dick Ravell, Montcalm; Dick Wieland, Antrim; Leon Trafelet, Presque Isle; to mention a few, pointed out the need for members to take their responsibility at the county level in building a more effective organization to meet the challenge of the future.

Total membership reported to Michigan Farm Bureau is 70,750 of which 4,911 are new. We still need 1,637 for goal.

Sixteen counties are over goal. In order of attainment, they are: 1. Mackinac - Luce; 2. Washtenaw; 3. Presque Isle; 4. Mason; 5. Montmorency; 6. Van Buren; 7. Tuscola; 8. Livingston; 9. Clare; 10. North West Michigan; 11. Genesee; 12. Otsego; 13. Alpena; 14. Cass; 15. Gladwin; 16. Ottawa.

In discussing the membership situation, the presidents of Farm Bureau companies and the chairman of Women of Farm Bureau wonder which group in Farm Bureau can get the most members in one day.

President Wightman thinks County Board Members can since they are more closely involved and know more about the organization.

President Knirk of Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance, President Dunckel, of Farm Bureau Life Insurance, and President Koning of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, think the Insurance and Direct Distribution Agents can write the most because of their sales experience and ability.

Mrs. Alex Kennedy, chairman of the Farm Bureau Women, is sure that the women could do the best because, after all, they were the most active group and always did do the most.

It was decided to find out by having 3 New Member Blitz days in March.

The 16th of March is the day for the women to prove that they can do the best.

March 18 is the County Directors' day to demonstrate their ability.

March 20 is given the Insurance and Petroleum Agents as the day to use their sales experience.

County Roll Call Managers and County Secretaries are being asked to referee this contest. Each day's results will be turned in to them, and they will send the total results in on March 21. Which of these groups do you think can do the best?

Other March activities include:

1—Blue Cross reopening to all eligible members March 1-15.

2—Farm Bureau Services campaign to raise \$350,000 for the egg marketing program and better supply distribution facilities will get under way March 2.

For more information, contact your regional representative or County Secretary.

3—Regional and County Legislative Seminars in which county Legislative Committees and Minute Men will visit at Lansing with the Representatives and Senators and see state government in action.

4—County Presidents' Conference—March 12 and 13—at Kellogg Biological Station, Gull Lake. This conference will give County Presidents an opportunity to study the Farm Bureau program and make suggestions and recommendations for more efficient action.

5—Farm Bureau Insurance 10th Anniversary celebration at Kellogg Center March 14.

6—Michigan Livestock Exchange annual meeting at Olds Hotel, Lansing, March 14.

7—Young Adult Conference at Kellogg Center, MSU, March 18 and 19.

8—Drive for new Direct Distribution patrons in Farmers Petroleum Cooperative in Direct Distribution counties.

9—Women's District Advisory Councils, and Camps for Women in District 1, 2, 4, and 5 and District 3 Camp.

March will be another mighty busy month in Farm Bureau. Have you been asked to help or take part in any of these events? If more information is needed on any of the above, contact your County Farm Bureau Secretary or Board member from your area.

Both Parties Getting Nowhere

(Continued from page 1)

taxes by some of Michigan's largest corporations. This places our government in a sort of fool's paradise because it eases the stringency for the time being but sets the stage for much worse trouble next May.

At that time these corporations would normally have been making their tax payments. Obviously, they aren't going to pay those taxes more than once.

As to how the State's treasury is to be kept solvent in the weeks which lie ahead, there were two major proposals. One scheme involved a virtual mortgaging of the State's Veterans' Trust Fund. Four bills to carry out that plan.

Meanwhile, attention has been turned toward another emergency financing proposal. This would raise the State's debt limit, which the Legislature might incur without a vote of the people, from \$250,000 to \$50 million. This is a rather drastic upward revision as it proposes raising the State's debt limit to 200 times the present level.

This is only one of various amendments to provide for bonding the State for various purposes. For instance, SFR G proposes that

the State borrow not to exceed \$30 million for improvements to State parks and issue full faith and credit bonds therefor.

A proposal that the State borrow not to exceed \$100 million, to be used for the construction of university buildings to be paid by student tuition notes to become due and payable two years after graduation, was voted down in the House.

Then there is HJR O, which would authorize State bonds up to \$100 million for underwriting borrowings by industries. Governor Williams is sponsoring a proposed bond issue of \$146 million for new construction and other capital expenditures at various State institutions.

An interesting feature of all of these various bonding proposals is that none of them gives any information as to how either the interest or principal involved would be paid.

House Republicans worked hard for HJR H, which would have allowed the people to vote on April 6 on a constitutional amendment which would have raised the sales tax to 4%, the new revenue to go into the State's General Fund. It encountered solid opposition from the Democratic Representatives and went down to defeat.

A companion measure, HJR C, which would have cleared up any doubt as to the authority of the Legislature to impose a graduated income tax with exemptions, was also turned down in the House.

Opponents of this proposal insist that there is no question as to the right of the Legislature to enact a graduated income tax. Up until quite recently, most lawyers had agreed that the so-called "uniformity" clause in the Michigan Constitution would mean that a graduated income tax would be of very dubious legality and would probably be declared unconstitutional.

As mentioned in our February report, Governor Williams presented a budget which would require \$140 million of new tax revenue, and even then that would permit making only a little start in retiring the State's anticipated deficit of over \$110 million, which the Governor predicts will have accumulated by June 30, 1959.

The Governor later submitted a tax message detailing how he proposes that the \$140 million of new money might be secured. This was based largely on a personal income tax, a corporation net profits tax and a levy on financial institutions.

Specific bills to carry out his program and the recommendations of the Citizens' Advisory Committee to the Legislative Tax Study have not been introduced as yet.

While Farm Bureau members deplore all waste and extravagance and mounting governmental budgets and deficits, there are some projects and programs which are very important and which should be considered more in the light of investments than merely as expenditures.

I am thinking particularly of the agricultural research program at our State Experiment Station at East Lansing and the Cooperative Agricultural Extension Service.

Representatives of Michigan Farm Bureau and the other general farm organizations and the Michigan Agricultural Conference met recently to review this situation.

They were unanimous in agreeing that the budget recommendations for these programs should be approved and that the appropriation bill for MSU should ear-

mark definitely the amount of money allotted to each of these programs.

It would be a highly undesirable thing to have a lump sum grant to the University, the Experiment Station and the Extension Service, with no assurance as to what ultimate division of this money might result.

Quite a bunch of bills of definite farm interest were worked out by the various general farm organizations and commodity groups, in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Agriculture last fall.

They were later channeled off into the Governor's office and, thus far, none of them has been introduced in the Legislature. We all hope that they will find their way into the Senate and House in the very near future.

MFB Dues Up \$2

(Continued from page 1)

ar. Meanwhile, services to members have grown. The MFB has been dipping into financial reserves.

The proposal was to divide the \$20 at \$10 to MFB, \$9 to the County Farm Bureau and \$1 to the American Farm Bureau.

The \$20 proposal was immediately amended by a proposal from Oakland county to make the dues \$12, with the additional \$2 to go to the state, and continue the \$10 distribution as before.

Berrien county offered an amendment for \$15 dues with the extra \$5 to go to the state Farm Bureau. It lost by a wide margin.

Bay county proposed \$15 dues, with \$4 to the state and \$1 to the county. It lost. YES—263. NO—334.

Oakland county's proposal for \$12 dues carried. YES—332. NO—246.

United Go-op Sales \$38 Million in '58

Merritt H. Crouch, general manager of United Cooperatives, Inc., of Alliance, Ohio, said that nation-wide sales exceeded \$38,000,000 in 1958, with patronage dividends of \$793,000 to member cooperatives.

United Cooperatives is a manufacturing and purchasing organization for 31 state and regional farm cooperatives, including Farm

Bureau Services, Inc., and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., of Michigan.

The familiar Unico trade-mark appears on paints, petroleum products, barn equipment, farm chemicals, farm hardware, electrical equipment, steel and asphalt roofing, fence and other products.

Iowa Farm Supply Company became a member at the 28th annual meeting of United at New Orleans January 9 and 10.

Daily newspapers are printed in 19 languages in New York City.

**Artesian Well**  
The world's largest artesian well is near Roswell, New Mexico. It flows 13 million gallons of pure water per day.

**Mt. Vernon**  
Mt. Vernon, home of Washington, was in the area of some of the heaviest fighting during the Civil War. Both sides refrained from damaging the locality.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS  
March 1, 1959

Farm Bureau's High Analysis, Granular PLANT FOOD

(Bagged or Bulk)

Will Make You Money!



State wide tests in Michigan have proved that the use of Farm Bureau Fertilizer is profitable. Users get back, on the state average, \$3 for every \$1 spent on fertilizer. Are you one of the farmers who are getting that kind of return? You can be, by ordering your fertilizer requirements now!

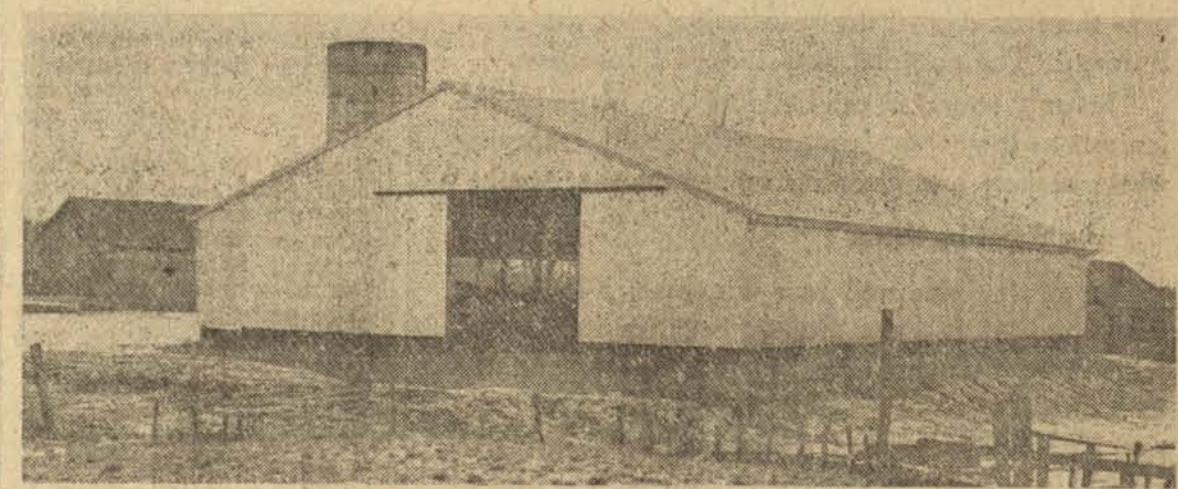
**SOIL TEST FIRST!**  
Find out what your land needs to grow the crops you want. Pick up a supply of the FREE soil sample bags at your Farm Bureau dealer and follow the simple instructions... it will pay you.

**FARM BUREAU BULK**  
is available from both plants, Saginaw and Kalamazoo. Here is the real way to save money on your fertilizer requirements. Ask your dealer how.

PLANT FOOD DIVISION  
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THIS 40x60 ft. LOAFING BARN



CAN BE PUT UP ON YOUR FARM FOR \$3,240<sup>00</sup>

- KAISER DIAMOND RIB ALUMINUM ROOFING
- KOPPER'S PRESSURE-TREATED POLES AND LUMBER
- FARM BUREAU CONSTRUCTION

Don't Take Our Word For It... Ask the Man Who Has a Farm Bureau Building!



This emblem is your guide to quality farm supplies. Shop where you see it.

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Farm Bureau Services

S. P. A. R. Department  
Farm Bureau Services, Inc.  
P. O. Box 960, Lansing, Mich.  
 Please mail me the information, thanks.  
Name .....  
Address ..... RFD .....  
City ..... Michigan  
Phone .....

**Strawberry growers!**  
Order now

Now—Judson plants available to commercial growers. Top profits from top quality plants. Judson plants are sand grown to develop heavy, vigorous root system. Plants are grown in fumigated soil to eliminate nematode. Reserve plants! Order now! Pick up or direct delivery.

\*Grown from virus-free planting stock

F. O. B. Bristol, Indiana—Spring 1959

June-bearing	Midseason	1000
Early Varieties	*Robinson	\$13.00
*Blakemore	*Catskill	15.00
Premier	Empire	15.00
Red Glow	*Anmore	15.00
	*Spartan	15.00
	*Tennessee Beauty	15.00
Early Midseason	*Vermilion	15.00
*Dunlap	Surecrop	17.00
*Bellmar	*Paymaster	17.00
Fairfax	*Jumbo	23.00
Fairland		
*Peachblow	Late	
Wisconsin 214	*British Sovereign	15.00
	*Plentiful	17.00

Everbearing

*Gem	23.00	Streamliner	25.00
*Superfection	23.00	Twentieth Century	31.00

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**The Mighty Mite**

History was made several years ago when Bell Telephone Laboratories invented the TRANSISTOR. The transistor is a tiny, solid device that will amplify electrical signals a thousandfold and do many things a vacuum tube can do. And more besides!

More recently, the Laboratories announced a new transistor, with even wider uses than previous types. It can amplify 2,500 telephone conversations, simultaneously, on a telephone line. It is expected to be extremely useful in the transmission of television programs and in equipment for National Defense.

There's always something new coming along in the telephone business. The Mighty Mite is another example of how telephone people constantly find ways to do things better so that the service gets better for more and more people.

**MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY**

**Fossil Plants**  
Over 3,000 plants have been identified in coal deposits, 90% of which are similar to plants we now know. Many were a type of rush which grew to 90 or 100 feet in height.

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McCurdy Bros. Seedlings Have Built-In Growability that Provides Profits.  
**MID-WEST'S LARGEST PINE TREE NURSERIES**  
40 Million Highest Quality and Most Reasonably Priced Seedlings on the Market for Spring Planting.  
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**You Pay Less**

TRUCKS ARE VITAL to every industry in Michigan, and no service or commodity which affects your day-to-day living or could reach you without trucks. That is the basic way in which trucks serve you. But they benefit you in other important ways, too. For example—latest available figures show that Michigan's trucks pay over \$65,000,000 annually in State registration fees and gasoline taxes alone, plus several millions more in mileage taxes and special taxes levied on the larger vehicles. In addition, of course, trucks pay all the other taxes charged against any business enterprise in Michigan—real estate property taxes, personal property taxes, business activities taxes, sales taxes, intangibles taxes, franchise taxes.

All these millions in taxes the trucks pay go to support the general welfare, to help pay for modern roads, hospitals, schools and colleges, parks and playgrounds, police and fire protection.

So, you see, thanks to the trucks, you pay less.

**Michigan Trucking Association**  
Fort Shelby Hotel • Detroit



**EDITORIAL**

(Continued from Page 1)

that vision a reality. And indeed it took faith,—almost enough to move mountains. It required self-denial at times that seemed beyond endurance. It needed initiative, certainly, but since the farmer is an individualist at heart, it needed more the harmonizing of differences and the uniting of their efforts. But they built,—even better than they knew.

The Farm Bureau survived the adversities of the 1920's, the depression of the early 1930's. For forty years it has met the issues of the times without hesitation and to the best of its ability.

As I looked through the window I saw someone closing the garage doors. I turned and started back to my office. On the way I came to a row of portraits. They hang on the wall near the door to the Board of Directors' room:

**PAST PRESIDENTS OF MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU**

ROLAND MORRILL	1919-1921
JAMES NICOL	1921-1923
WALDO E. PHILLIPS	1923-1924
	1935
MICHAEL L. NOON	1924-1926
	1927-1934
MELVILLE B. McPHERSON	1926-1927
WATSON W. BILLINGS	1934-1935
JAMES J. JAKWAY	1935-1939
CLARENCE J. REID	1939-1945
CARL E. BUSKIRK	1945-1954
WARD G. HODGE	1954-1958

Their faces recalled many cherished memories of the helpful relations I had enjoyed with them; the successful Boards of Directors under whom I had worked, and the support they had accorded me. They recalled many persons on the staff with whom I had been associated.

Never before had I sensed so clearly that the lives of all members, employees, directors, and officers were being merged through the years to produce what is now the Michigan Farm Bureau of 1959.

I closed my eyes for a moment to fix this picture in my mind; and I thanked God, as I had many times before, that I had been given the opportunity to serve with these fine people in this great work.

With a start I realized the lateness of the hour; I still had my brief case in my hand. At once I turned and walked briskly down the hall, through the door and to my car. My wife would be waiting supper for me.

I do not regard retirement as an ending, but as a beginning. Margaret and I are determined to make

it graduating time, bringing us into larger fields of opportunity. We look forward to the future with anticipation and thankfulness.

**U.P. Brothers' Farm Includes Trout Project**

HUGO E. KIVI  
U. P. Regional Representative

I am going to be writing about various agriculture enterprises in the Upper Peninsula.

**Trout Farmers.** One of the highlights of the past month was my visit to the Ruohonen Bros. farm near Rock in Delta county. In addition to their general farming operation, they are utilizing the springs on their farm. They have dug large areas into trout ponds and stocked them with rainbow, brown and speckled trout. They operate these ponds on a commercial scale and are supplementing their farm income in this manner.

The Ruohonen Brothers, Edwin, Albert and Anselm, are musicians. They have played on radio and at social functions throughout the U.P. Being of Finnish descent, their repertoire includes numerous Finnish folk songs.

I'm going to tell you some interesting things about the Upper Peninsula, too:

The Upper Peninsula is larger than Switzerland or Belgium. The distance from the western end of Gogebic county to Drummond Island is nearly 400 miles. Traveling north and south, the distance from the Keweenaw Point to Menominee is about 250 miles.

In the beginning the Upper Peninsula was Michigan. The lower peninsula was not even known to the earliest explorers. Lakes Erie and Ontario were not sketched on the map of wilderness until some years after white men were coming into the Great Lakes area.

The first white man in the U.P. was Etienne Brule in 1623. Father Marquette founded the mission at the Soo in 1668. The city and county of Marquette are reminders of this great pioneer.

Henry Rowe Schoolcraft was an early Indian agent. Schoolcraft County was named for him.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote the Song of Hiawatha on the findings of Schoolcraft's Indian researches and that is why

Hiawatha's homeland is the Upper Peninsula.

Houghton County is named for Douglas Houghton who was Michigan's first geologist. He found the copper outcrops in the Copper Country.

William Burt, a government surveyor running the first lines on the Marquette range found iron in that area. Thus, before the Civil War, the Upper Peninsula had been advertised to the world as its largest depository of copper and iron.

Alger County was named for Gov. Russell A. Alger, a lumberman from the U.P.

Frederick Baraga was the first Catholic bishop of the U.P. and Baraga county is named for him.

Don M. Dickinson, a member of President Cleveland's cabinet, left his name on Dickinson county, Luce county is named for Cyrus G. Luce, a former governor of Michigan.

Iron County was named for the iron so abundant on the range. The other counties all have Indian names.

**Reed Heads United Fund Committee**

Kenneth C. Tiffany, president of the Michigan United Fund, has announced the appointment of Dan E. Reed as the new chairman of the Admissions & Budget Committee. Mr. Reed is vice-chairman. He is associate legislative counsel for Michigan Farm Bureau.

The Admissions & Budget Committee consists of 250 citizens representing many communities in Michigan. It meets annually to hear the budget requests of 34 health and welfare agencies in the Michigan United Fund and to screen applications for admissions to the Fund.

President Tiffany said that the Admissions & Budget Committee functions to assure citizens that the money they contribute to United Fund health and welfare services is allocated and spent wisely.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS  
March 1, 1959 3



Mr. Schroeder is past-president and director of Olmstead County Holstein Association. He and his sons milk a herd of 100 registered Holsteins that have held several A.R. and H.I.R. records for butterfat production.

**"My concrete masonry barn stays clean and dry—and that's a must for 'Grade A' Milk!"**

Says LINCOLN SCHROEDER, Rochester, Minnesota

"I'll pass any inspection with my concrete masonry barn. I wash down walls regularly with a pressure hose. Concrete masonry is like money in the bank."

Concrete masonry is the "Grade A" material for "Grade A" producers. With ever more rigid inspections, good sanitation is like money in the bank.

Concrete masonry puts 8 insulating inches between your herd and any weather. The barn stays warm and snug in winter... cool and comfortable in summertime.

Concrete can't burn, won't rot, doesn't need constant repair. It's a lifetime investment in easier, more profitable dairying. Write today for copy of the booklet, "Labor Saving Concrete Dairy Barns."

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MODERN FARM  
**concrete**

A national organization to improve and extend the uses of concrete

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Choose

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- Or
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\* MICHELITE... adapted to the total range of soils—good resistance to white mold when planted in wide-spread rows on infected soil.

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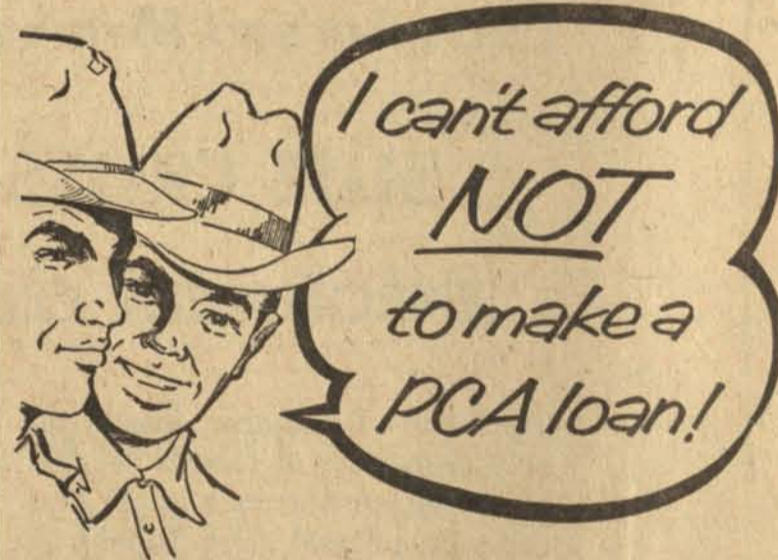
**MICHIGAN CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

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... recommended especially for Michigan growing conditions.

Farmers and stockmen who compare **ALL** the costs say:



Follow the example of thousands of other farmers and stockmen... save **REAL MONEY** on all your financing with a



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because...

1. You pay less interest. Interest is charged only on the money you borrow... and only for the length of time you use the money!
2. You eliminate expensive trips to town to sign multiple notes!
3. You have a farm financing program that assures you that your money will be available when you need it!



**PRODUCTION CREDIT Associations of Michigan**

Credit life insurance available for your protection. For further information call your local PCA—46 offices in Michigan.

**Which Industry Now Betters The Living Of 3 Out Of 4 Michigan Families?**

... Here Are Some Surprising Facts About The Trading Stamp Industry

So far, whenever our nation's economy has needed expansion, a new industry has sprung up to help the country go ahead.

The automobile industry, employing millions, was followed closely by the development of radio and radio broadcasting to make more millions of jobs. Then came the airplane industry, air conditioning, plastics, television, frozen foods, to change our lives some more.

The trading stamp industry, while not new, belongs to this expansion group and has been one of the fastest growing of all. Today it betters the living of more than 3 out of 4 Michigan families who save trading stamps.

Obviously, an industry affecting such a large proportion of Michigan's population

must bring far-reaching benefits for Michigan's economy. And it does. In 1957 the trading stamp industry bought \$9,816,000 worth of products from Michigan's manufacturers.

In one way or another, it provided employment for 1,016 Michigan people in many different industries.

The people in the trading stamp industry, its merchandise and redemption stores, its warehouses and transportation and all the activity that goes on within it are integrated economically within our state.

Thus it seems plain that the trading stamp industry along with the 1,690,000 Michigan women it serves has become, like other expansion industries, a living, vital segment of Michigan's economy.

\* \* \*

This message is published as public information by THE SPERRY AND HUTCHINSON COMPANY, originator 63 years ago of S&H Green Stamps.

# Activities of Women of Michigan Farm Bureau

## District 1

Mrs. Alma J. Foster, Chairman  
Niles R-3

Berrien County Farm Bureau Women's Committee toured the county jail February 17 and found it very interesting. After the tour we had our meeting at Holly's Restaurant. Interesting reports were given.

J. Burton Richards, our Regional Representative, suggested we read J. Edgar Hoover's book "Masters of Deceit." The March 17th meeting will be held at the Youth Memorial Building with Mrs. Henry Peters, citizenship chairman, in charge.

St. Joseph County. Two cancer films were shown by Mrs. R. J. Fortner, of the St. Joseph county unit of American Cancer Society. The meeting was held in the Community Building at Centreville following a potluck dinner attended by 18. The film entitled "The Other City" said 75,000 people die needlessly every year.

"Time and Two Women" showed that timely visit to a doctor saved the life of one woman. Another who failed to heed the warning signs died. Dr. I. J. Bordow, Centreville's new doctor, conducted a question and answer period.

Mrs. Fortner said Michigan Farm Bureau has pledged \$1,000 towards the new 4-H Camp Kett program and suggested that \$1 be collected from each community group towards the support. We have purchased two bed trays for the Fairview Hospital.

Van Buren County. Thirteen members and guests were present at the home of Mrs. Bregger for the February meeting.

Roll Call chairman, Vida Morehouse, announced that we had gone 30 over our quota, first in our district, first in the State to go over 2000 and the sixth in the State to reach our quota. The Women's Committee will receive \$500 from the County for their efforts. In January we visited the Studebaker-Packard Corporation and the South Bend Tribune. We appointed a committee to work with the Farm Bureau Building Committee regarding work space and cabinets for the

## Districts 1-2-4-5

Women of Farm Bureau Districts 1, 2, 4, 5 are invited to a camp at Wesley Woods, Clear Lake, in Barry county March 10 and 11. Mental health is a main part of the program, with a tour of the Kalamazoo State Hospital March 10, starting at 2:00 p.m. The cost for the two days is \$5.50. Bring towels, sheets, blankets, pillow, etc. Make reservations at Wesley Woods Camp, Dowling, R-1, Mich., Phone Banfield, Randolph 1-4295. Reservations must be in by March 6.

## FARM BUREAU Garden Seeds

Your Farm Bureau seed dealer can make 170 leading varieties of Farm Bureau vegetable and flower seeds available to you in attractive lithographed packets. Many are also available in bulk.

### VEGETABLES

- |             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| Asparagus   | Lettuce    |
| Beans, Str. | Muskmelon  |
| Beans, Lima | Watermelon |
| Beets       | Onions     |
| Broccoli    | Parsnip    |
| Cabbage     | Peas       |
| Carrots     | Peppers    |
| Cauliflower | Pumpkin    |
| Celery      | Radish     |
| Corn        | Salsify    |
| Cucumber    | Spinach    |
| Egg Plant   | Squash     |
| Endive      | Tomatoes   |
| Kale        | Turnips    |
| Kohlrabi    | Rutabaga   |

### FLOWERS

- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Ageratum        | Fox Glove     |
| Alyssum         | Garads        |
| Aster           | Hollyhock     |
| Baby's Breath   | Larkspur      |
| Bachelor Button | Marigolds     |
| Balsam          | Morning Glory |
| Brachycome      | Nasturtium    |
| Calendula       | Patens        |
| Candy Tuft      | Phlox         |
| Canterbury Bell | Pinks         |
| Carnation       | Poppies       |
| Caster Bean     | Portulaca     |
| Chrysanthemum   | Snagdragon    |
| Cockscomb       | Stock         |
| Columbine       | Straw Flower  |
| Cosmos          | Sweet Peas    |
| Dahlia          | Sweet William |
| Deliaes         | Verbena       |
| Delphinium      | Zinnia        |
| Four O'Clock    |               |

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- FLOWERS

FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC. Garden Seed Dept. 3 P. O. Box 960, Lansing, Mich. Please send free catalog.

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kitchen. Mrs. Elwood Geisler, guest speaker, said 3 out of 100 children are handicapped. Many are sent to institutions and many should be sent there but many parents want to keep their children at home so they are being sent to County Day Schools which receive much of their support from our Community Chests.

Berrien County started with 1 teacher for 8 pupils and now has 3 teachers and 30 children. Many have not been reached yet.

Each child must be treated as an individual through three stages—nursery, day school and sheltered work shops. To date only the day schools are in operation. Much help is needed through Legislature as well as the community chests and organizations. We adopted our Van Buren County Mentally Retarded Chapter as a project for this year.

## District 2

Mrs. Geo. Crisenberg, Chairman  
Jackson, R-8

I feel a little bewildered this morning as I write this article. I have been away a month sunning myself in Florida. Each day the temperature is 80 degrees. My friends wrote they had run out of words to describe Michigan's weather.

At our District Council meeting Mr. Drew said rural people made more effort to attend meetings where school finances and taxes are discussed.

Branch County. Miss Vincent, public health nurse, told of the requirements and duties of her profession. A nurse visits each consolidated school bi-monthly and each independent school monthly. This year hearing tests are being given. Every year tuberculosis tests are given kindergarten, sixth and twelfth grades. Some nursing care is given in homes, such as insulin shots, etc.

Calhoun County. Mrs. Hom-baker told about the camp program at Clear Lake, March 10th and 11th for Farm Bureau Women of Districts 1-2-4-5.

Messrs. Harold Steinbacher, Jack Neller and Alfonso Magnotto spoke to us. They are candidates for Circuit Judge.

We voted to participate in the state projects for 1959.

Hillsdale County. Mrs. Ames read information regarding polio. Petty Officer 1st Class John Wheeler discussed citizenship. He spoke of the importance of courtesy, tactfulness and honesty with others and ourselves both at home and abroad.

Jackson County. D. Hale Brake, president of Michigan Institute of Local Government, was invited to lead a panel discussion by tax experts in the County Building at Jackson the evening of February 28th. The meeting was sponsored by the Jackson County Citizenship Committee.

James Thomson, county treas-

urer, Charles P. Isman, city treasurer, James Folks, state representative, and Dan Reed, associate legislative council of Michigan Farm Bureau, have agreed to assist.

## District 5

Mrs. John C. Watling, Chairman  
Bath R-1

Farm Bureau Women's Spring Camp of Districts 1-2-4-5 will be held on March 10 and 11 at Wesley Woods Camp, Clear Lake, Barry County, South of Hastings off 37 at Bristol Corners. (See article on this page)

District 5 Spring Council meeting will be held at the home of the chairman, Mrs. Watling, on Tuesday, March 17 at 10 o'clock. Planned potluck lunch.

Clinton County women are having an attendance contest. Husbands were guests at the January meeting. We are selling vanilla as a money project for the School for the Mentally Retarded Children which is in its 2nd year. Farm Bureau women played an important part in getting it started.

Eaton County women heard Donald O'Brien from Youth Unlimited Foundation, Eaton Rapids, speak on child guidance and aptitude tests. Every child is an individual and should be treated as such. Seventeen different types of tests are available on a loan basis to schools and the cost is \$2.00 per student.

A speaker from Alcohol Anonymous gave us many points of interest on alcoholism.

Genesee women listened to a talk and films on Cancer Detection by Mrs. McAr from the American Cancer Association at Flint. There were 426 deaths in the County from cancer last year. The availability of cancer detection centers was also explained.

Husbands were guests at the February meeting. Hugh Caryl from the County A.S.C. office was guest speaker. Acreage allotments, loans, storage, violations penalties for over-planting were some phases of the program discussed. Patricia Oberlink, health poster winner in the A. F. B. contest, described her trip to the convention at Boston.

Ingham County Farm Bureau gave foam rubber cushions to patients at the County Rehabilitation Center. Philo Rich from the Farm Bureau Garden Seeds Department said the most of our small seeds are grown on the west coast of the U. S. in California, Oregon, Washington and Colorado. The main reason is that weevil and aphids are no problem there.

Ingham County ladies had as guests for a noon luncheon, Senator Paul Younger, Representative Ralph Young and Stanley Powell.

They were joined by 9 others who had served sack lunches to

## Mrs. Wagar Honored



MRS. EDITH M. WAGAR of 13,876 Briar Hill Road, Carleton, was honored January 27 by the Monroe County Agricultural Extension Service for meritorious service to 4-H Club work in the many years that she was an ardent supporter of agricultural extension work.

The occasion was the annual 4-H Club leaders appreciation banquet. Mrs. Wagar was unable to attend, so the plaque was presented to her at home by Frank Hawley and Lynn Dexter of the Monroe County 4-H Club Council, and Joe Waterson, county extension agent in 4-H Club work.

Airport Community High School on Grafton road was dedicated last fall. The building was named the Edith M. Wagar School in remembrance of her work in behalf of schools.

Mrs. Wagar was one of the organizers of Monroe County Farm Bureau in 1919. She was a member of the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors from 1921 through 1939, and a contributor to the Michigan Farm News for more than 30 years. Mrs. Wagar celebrated her 86th birthday October 1, 1958.

229 people attending the Petro-chemical meeting that day. Later the ladies all attended a session of the legislature.

Shiawassee women are buying new curtains for their hall and planning an appreciation dinner with the County Board for workers and new members in the recent membership campaign. Mrs. VanKurr, president of the parents group sponsoring the school for Retarded Children, said the school has been organized for 3 years. There are 11 pupils in the school. There are about 450 retarded children in the county of which about 100 are not in any school.

Mothers are asked to assist in the daily routine and preparing lunches. Since the school doesn't receive State aid funds are raised in any way possible.

## District 6

Mrs. Ailyn Gordon, Chairman  
Croswell R-2

Huron East. The film "The Sister Kenny Foundation" was shown at our meeting January 27th at Uby, Mr. Tinsman, field man for the Foundation, conducted a question and answer period. Plans are being made for a tour of the hospital in the Spring. A cancer unit has been organized for Huron County. Work will begin very soon. Our next meeting will be March 31st.

The February meeting at Columbus Hall was poorly attended because of icy roads. Some committee reports were given and games were played, led by Mrs. Alvin Kirsten. Mrs. Martin Hueston was the host.

St. Clair County. Farm Bureau women were entertained by Mrs. M. O. Hitching at her home in January. Thirty-three were present including 6 guests.

Dr. Michael Bridge of Port Huron, spoke to the ladies of the danger of obesity urging them to be more cautious of their diets. He was accompanied by wife and daughter.

Sanilac County. We have had snow trouble. Only 5 ladies came on a day all our side roads were blocked. The next week we served the "Power Farming" lunch. We prepared for 300 and we only had 100 because of blocked roads. Ladies in District 6 are sorry to hear our former secretary, Mrs. Norman Huesner of Snover, fell and broke her arm about two weeks ago. A very bad break. I know she would enjoy hearing from our ladies in the district.

Our next meeting will be the women's annual meeting. We are having a special program. All women are invited.

Tuscola County Farm Bureau Women's Committee met at Don Polski Hall February 12 to prepare lunch for the "Power Farming" program. We had such wonderful cooperation that preparations for lunch were made early.

We had our meeting conducted by Mrs. Mack Little. Mrs. Clare Carpenter showed the gayly wrapped boxes of valentine candy and valentines which have since been sent to each of eight boys at Caro State Hospital. These boys are special projects of our committee. Community groups contributed to our projects.

We meet again March 11th when a style show is being planned.

## District 8

Mrs. Albert Schmiege, Chairman  
Chesaning R-2

Arenac County. Mr. Charley Mumford, our Regional Representative, said at our February meeting that we have 97% of our State membership goal for 1959. Farm Bureau helps us make our community a better place to live.

Bay County. We planned a party night to entertain husbands. We shall serve lunch for the Petroleum Power Farming Show March 10 at Pinconning.

Clare County. Farm Bureau women visited the Mt. Pleasant State Home. It is a home for retarded children. The 1,100 patients include 150 permanent crib cases, 50 toddlers, 50 training to be toddlers. The others are boys with varying degrees of retardation. They have a recreation program for those capable of receiving it. The home has a Parents Association which helps in many ways to make life more enjoyable for the patients and promote public interest and understanding for the mentally retarded.

Gladwin County. Stella Kline, legislative chairman, talked about the most important bills before the legislature. For the Farm Bureau Safety program we began our survey of 1958 farm accidents in Gladwin County.

Griati County. The committee March 10 said that Richard for the Bean Smorgasbord on Bell, Assistant Director of Extension at MSU, will be the speaker. Mrs. Mulholland moved that a bean cake be sent to Washington with Bean Queen Kay Havens when she goes to participate in the National Bean Queen Contest. The cake is to be made by Mrs. Godley.

The new 1959 women's committee programs were passed out by Vice-Chairman Mrs. Munson. Mrs. Mulholland, on behalf of the committee, presented to the past Vice-Chairman Mrs. Shankel and past Secretary Mrs. Frost gifts in token of the committee's appreciation for their services. Mrs. MacLaren passed out membership lists to the committee women, survey sheets and rules of approach for the Farm Bureau Safety survey.

Mrs. J. B. Smith stressed the importance of going to township caucuses and getting out the vote in the coming spring election.

Mrs. Burnham gave a brief resume of the PTA and Educa-

tional Conference which she attended at Central Michigan College at Mt. Pleasant. Taxation for better schools, teachers and educational programs were discussed. We accepted an educational program on diabetes as a project. Mrs. Mulholland gave a brief review of the article "Mutiny of the Bountiful" in the February Reader's Digest and suggested that it would be informative reading for all.

Isabella County. Harold Preston spoke on the history of Isabella county. It was so interesting to be told what took place nearly 100 years ago. He told why the timber was cut so many feet from the river, how the first road was established, about the building of the railroads. We wished we could have given him another hour.

Mrs. Edmund Wansley reported an educational meeting that she attended at Central Michigan College.

Midland County. E. C. Blakeley of Dow Chemical spoke on the theme, "Let's be Creative for Safety."

Saginaw County. Mrs. Manley Dorr introduced Mr. Leppin, our county clerk and chairman of the County Polio Foundation. He spoke on the progress we have made from the polio drives. The talk was followed by a film on care of polio patients. A collection of \$12 was given to this work.

## District 9

Mrs. Oliver Tompkins, Chairman  
Traverse City, R-1

Yesterday I went out to tie snot on the evergreens for the birds, my most faithful callers. I vow that the snow is about 6 ax handles deep.

I knew I had to get back to the house somehow—not a man on the place, no cars going by. I could have stayed there until the (Continued on Page 5)

## Mrs. Carl Topliff Retires as Secretary

Mrs. Carl Topliff of Eaton Rapids on January 6 retired as secretary of the board of managers of the Michigan Christian Rural Overseas program. Mrs. Topliff is a member of Ingham County Farm Bureau, and represented Women of the Michigan Farm Bureau on the board.

Mrs. T. Thomas Wylie of Kalamazoo, representative of the Michigan United Church Women, was elected secretary. Dan E. Reed was re-elected chairman. The Rev. William B.

Lutz was re-elected vice-chairman, and Lyle A. Thorburn was re-elected treasurer.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS  
4  
March 1, 1959



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## Farm Bureau Members... Don't Miss Out!

### BLUE CROSS-BLUE SHIELD

ENROLLMENT CLOSES MARCH 15th!

Act now! Remember, this is the only chance for at least a year for Farm Bureau Members to get Blue Cross-Blue Shield group benefits at group rates for themselves and their families.

Join the more than 47,000 Farm Bureau Families who already belong. They've found out that when it comes to prepaid health coverage, nothing holds a candle to Blue Cross-Blue Shield!

Proof? Half the people in Michigan are now covered by Blue Cross-Blue Shield. It's the choice over all other prepaid health care Plans combined

by a two to one margin!

But you must act NOW! This special Farm Bureau Enrollment period ends March 15th. See your Blue Cross Farm Bureau Township Service Chairman or County Secretary right away for full details!

Check the benefits and you'll see that this is the only coverage that provides real protection—provides the hospital services you and your family may need regardless of what they may cost! Enroll today and give YOUR family the security of the best hospital-medical-surgical protection available.

Farm Bureau Members whose dues were paid by January 15th are eligible for this coverage during the enrollment period. It is also the fine present Farm Bureau Blue Cross-Blue Shield members can make changes or additions to their coverage. But remember, applications must be in the hands of your Township Chairman or County Secretary by the March 15th deadline!



SIGNS OF THE TIMES



For Doctor Care

## The Home Flower Garden

The Care of Easter Plants

during the time the plant is in the home.

When the flowers have passed their prime they should be removed by cutting through the thin flower stem. Never cut off the main stem to which leaves are attached. Continue to water the plant carefully to keep the leaves green as long as possible.

After the flowers are removed the green leaves apply all their energy in building up a strong bulb for the next year's growth. Eventually, but not always, the leaves will turn yellow and fall off. Stop watering then. If the



MR. CHAPMAN leaves remain green, continue to water the plant. In either case the plant must be kept away from freezing temperature until it can be planted in the garden.

The Easter lily is not a hardy plant when grown outside in Michigan unless certain conditions are provided. It should be removed from its container and planted in the garden as soon as freezing weather has passed and

the garden soil is workable.

Plant so that the top of the bulb is six inches below the surface of the soil. It should be planted in a well drained, somewhat rich soil in a location where it receives plenty of light but not at mid-day. This encourages the flowers to remain in good condition for a longer period.

In the fall after the first good freeze the plant should be covered with six inches of leaves or old farm manure which is about two-thirds straw. Given this protection the Easter lily will come through the winter season safely and flower the next summer.

The Gardenia and Azalea are plants sometimes given as gifts at Easter time. Both of these plants demand that the soil in which they are growing is somewhat acid. When their leaves turn very pale green it is an indication that there is not enough acid in the soil.

This can be corrected by watering with a solution of aluminum sulphate. Use two teaspoons of the powder to one gallon of rain water once every two weeks.

Fill the pot to the brim and allow the solution to pass down through all the soil. Each of these plants do better in the home when rain water is used for all waterings.

The Gardenia enjoys a temperature of 70 degrees and the Azalea five to ten degrees lower. Both plants should be taken outside during the summer months and placed in a very light shade.

The pots should be plunged in coal ashes up to the lower rim of the pot. Coal ashes are acid and therefore beneficial to the plant and will prevent worms from passing up into the pot. Spray the plants each late afternoon with clear water. This keeps down insect attack.



# Should Everybody Receive Government Aid?

## Community Farm Bureau Discussion Topic for March

Background Material for Program in March by Our 1,654 Community Farm Bureau Discussion Groups

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The civilization of ancient Rome collapsed under the onset of the "barbarians" from eastern Asia. It was an easy conquest. Social, political and economic decay caused Rome to fall like a rotten apple.

Under Augustus Caesar and Diocletian, subsidies were ladled out right and left. The population was supplied by the government with "bread and circuses."

People who had property or money were taxed into hopeless despair. Very few people worked at producing goods and services. Such things were supposed to be free gifts from the Roman Empire.

Again, in the twentieth century, we find western civilizations challenged by the peoples of eastern Asia. A cold war has been waged for 13 years. Russia and China wait. They believe that western nations can be prompted to spend themselves into ruin.

Up to now, political programs in America are lending strong support to the Russian and Chinese prediction. The national debt grows and grows. More subsidies by government are the order of the day.

What is a Subsidy? Many think that a subsidy exists only where someone receives a cash payment without returning full value for it. In the broader sense, subsidies also include the granting of special privileges, advantages or rights not equally granted to other people.

These advantages can often be converted into cash through pressure on other groups. If others do not pay for them in taxes, they may pay for them in prices or charges for services.

### When Subsidies Get Popular

One subsidy prompts demand for another. Non-subsidized groups put on political pressure for equal treatment. The argument goes—"If others get it, why shouldn't we?" A group without a subsidy claims that it is handicapped in competing with other groups who receive the favor of government aid.

Follow this argument through,

and you arrive at the question—"Why shouldn't the government subsidize everybody?" Is it fair if one group receives government help not permitted to others?

Doesn't this begin to get a bit absurd? Subsidies must be paid from money earned by the people. If you take from everybody to give to everybody, what have you gained? As subsidies now operate, some seem to gain because others have to cough up the difference.

When we reach the point where the government subsidizes every program (and so holds control of

all programs) we have 100% socialism.

### "Let George Do It"

Our U. S. Constitution requires that the Federal government "provide for the common defense, and promote the general welfare." It does not say that the government should PROVIDE for the general welfare, it says PROMOTE it.

When government provides where people might better be doing things for themselves, a nation begins falling apart at the seams. The people become dependent. They also do what they are told to do.

Many subsidies of today are substitutes for programs of action that could be done by the people themselves — at home in their own communities.

A businessman protested in court that the Federal government had no right to impose regulations upon his business operations. The U. S. Supreme Court answered, "That which the government subsidizes, it has the right to regulate."

This court decision applies to the control of state and local governments, public schools, labor and farm programs as well as business and industry.

### Who Gets Subsidies?

So extensive and so tangled together are present day subsidy programs that any complete answer is impossible without writing a book. We can only cite a few cases.

We will only mention farm subsidies in passing. Price support programs, soil conservation payments and the Soil Bank, etc. are familiar to our readers.

### Farm Programs

Over \$15 billion of government funds have gone into farm programs since their beginning in 1933. About six million farmers now receive government checks. In spite of this the farm income problem has become more acute. Few other subsidies result in accumulating surpluses to plague the market price. And falling farm prices are looked upon as a reason for advancing price support levels, which in turn provoke more surpluses.

### Railroads

Railroads got one of the earliest government subsidies. The aim was to help open the wilderness to settlement and commerce. In return, the railroads agreed to give the government special rates on freight and the mails. Over the years this cost the railroads \$1.1 billion.

Railroads get no direct subsidies now. In common with other businesses they get some special tax adjustment privileges. The government regulates the operations of the railroads, nevertheless. Franchise laws have forced some lines to continue operation in spite of yearly losses.

### Airlines

In 1957, the U. S. paid \$34.4 million in direct subsidies to airlines, and an additional \$63.7 million for air mail service.

Airline subsidies began in 1958. Aviation development was regarded as important to national defense. Commercial lines would help develop aviation generally.

Trunk line airways now get rather little of the money. More goes to support the small feeder lines. While these serve some of the smaller communities, the subsidy actually supports a relatively inefficient operation. Their costs per unit of mail, freight or passengers are high.

The Federal government put \$20 million into airport construction in 1957. Communities asking for Federal aid often found that their total costs were higher than they had planned alone because they had to abide by Federal standards under the grant in aid.

Air navigation safety systems cost the government \$19 million in 1957. Here is a proper function of government, since it protects both planes and surrounding communities from accident.

### Ships and Waterways

The government justifies the spending here as a part of the national defense system. But some problems are created in the doing.

In 1957, \$67 million was given toward merchant ship construction; over \$15 million toward shipyards; \$88 million for operating costs, and \$111.6 million toward channels, harbors, locks, dams and bridges.

American ships cost more to build than foreign ships. Workers get higher pay. Seamen also have higher wages than foreign mariners. For this reason foreign as well as domestic shippers avoid the use of American ships. The law requires that freight along the seacoast from one American port to another must be carried in American shipping. All farm surplus commodities sold under Public Law 480 must be shipped in American boats.

These things scarcely make for a favorable attitude toward America by other nations. Return loads from foreign lands are hard to find and trips with one-way loads become costly. This—in a real way — becomes a support

program for American shipworkers and crews.

### Public Power Projects

The combined returns from seven Federal power dams have resulted in a deficit of \$338.7 million from 1943 to 1953. Users on these power lines have not had to pay for their own power development. Taxes have done it. People in other areas where rates are higher help pay for the power plants. Other communities often lose too, because business moves to the area of cheaper power.

Since the Federal government also fixes and controls the rates for the private power companies, some very real inequalities exist here. Some states have no government power plants — others have plenty.

### Post Office Deficit

For years the postal service has been running more deeply in the red. Part of it is in inflation — part in increasing mail volume. The largest losses occur in second and third class mails.

Postal losses are made up out of taxes. Second class mail carries newspapers and magazines. Third class mail handles direct mail advertising. The government regards these as informational services for the public.

Total postal service losses mounted from \$129 million in 1946 to \$863 million in 1953. So an increase in postal rates was passed. By 1957 the postal deficit was back up to \$513 million. So 1958 saw another rise in postage rates.

This is partly a subsidy for publishers and advertisers, and partly for users of newspapers and magazines. Direct mail advertising is more often under public fire.

### Labor Subsidies

Labor unions not only receive the benefits of laws which give them special advantage in bargaining for wages, benefits, hours and working conditions. They also enjoy direct government subsidies. These take the form of Federal and State funds for unemployment compensation.

The Federal fund for this purpose in 1957 was over \$255 million. In addition, \$9,925,724 was given over to the administration of wage and hour laws.

In some cases, labor unions also have private agreements with industries for added unemployment benefits. The government funds pay workers for periods of layoff. No other working group gets such aid during periods of income stoppage. Industries are taxed to provide the money for unemployment compensation.

### Business & Industry

Special privileges have been given business and industry, too. During the war, defense plants were often built at government expense. After the war, these plants were often sold on bids. Some industries picked them up for a fraction of cost.

During the war, the Federal government sought to stimulate plant development by private companies. Money invested in plants and equipment was given special tax relief. A business was allowed to claim an exemption from tax for part of the money invested in such equipment over a five year period. Ordinarily the "depreciation" allowed had to be stretched over a much longer period.

By claiming more loss for "wear and tear" and for machinery going out of date during the first few years the amount payable on income taxes could be reduced.

While the business had to pay full income taxes after this 5 year period, nevertheless the total amount of taxes paid was less money than would have been paid with long depreciation.

### Social Welfare

We are going to have to be brief in our cases from here on.

The Federal government paid out \$1 1/2 billion in 1957 for grants and administrative costs for old age assistance, aid to the blind and to dependent children.

In the same year cities received \$71.6 million for slum clearance and \$109.2 million for public housing. A bill now in Congress would double the last figure.

### Social Security

Social security taxes are now paid by over 73 million wage earners. Over 10 million people receive government checks today. Nearly \$600 million per month is paid to them.

Public pressure continues for increasing payments and lower age limits for eligibility. So taxes go up. Rates have been increased six times since the start in 1935.

The present schedule calls for a progressive increase in the social security tax rate until 1975, when the tax will take 9.5% of the individual's earnings.

### Stockpiling

For some years the government has been stockpiling minerals and war goods. The plan is to collect \$11 billion worth. Suppliers enjoy a real government price support program in the meantime.

Some of the goods for the armed services get out of date. They are sold for a small fraction of their cost to "war surplus" stores. Taxes pay for these goods and make up the losses.

We could go on. Many other direct and indirect forms of subsidy exist. Generally the public is called upon to pay the bill, both in money and in their loss of personal decision.

A free ride on the subsidy train is just a figment of the public imagination.

Many people get restless and unhappy when they consider the interference of government in their "private affairs." But too few are willing to surrender government support or protection.

Subsidy programs are like the "Old Man of the Sea"—once you get them on your back, it isn't easy to shake them off.

### Questions

1. Have subsidy payments to farmers solved the farm problem? Have they improved it? Is the problem about the same? Or are the problems getting worse?

2. Should the government regulate programs in cases where it grants subsidies?

3. List some of the major subsidies which you think ought to be continued.

### Potatoes Belong In Your Diet

"Don't cut potatoes out of your menu just because you've gained a few pounds," says Adelia Beuwickes of the University of Michigan School of Public Health. "Potatoes are a good source of vitamin C and are no more fattening than oranges."

She explained that one medium-sized potato has about the same number of calories as a large apple or orange, or a serving of peas and contains one-third of a person's daily requirement for vitamin C for growth, development and health.

Corn, wheat, oats and rice all go by the name 'corn' in various parts of the world. The corn of the Bible was likely wheat or rye.

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