It is the gentle, twinkling kind of snow . . .
Dawn's flaming touch upon a frost-swirled window . . .
City streets, roofed with evergreen and
  colored constellations of light . . .
The wind, lashing in vain at a home
  buttoned up snugly against the cold . . .
The silver fire of moonlight on ice-fringed eaves . . .
The blaze of stars, through interlacing
  boughs of barren trees . . .
The solemnity of midnight service, midst a radiance
  of music and mellow candlelight . . .
So many things . . . seen and unseen . . . descending
  upon the world like gentle snow, twinkling
  through the "Silent . . . Holy . . . Night."
Michigan farmers have a right to be justly proud to note that the American Farm Bureau Federation has chosen a select Michigan-grown Christmas Tree for display in the general offices held in the Merchandise Mart, Chicago.

Charles Shuman, president of AFBF received the tree from Benzie County Farm Bureau president Don Nugent and Vice Regional Manager David Miether.

The beautiful evergreen tree, purchased by Ellsworth Ech of Honor, Michigan, 34 year veteran in Farm Bureau and a widely known Christmas Tree farmer. Mr. Ech has shipped tree throughout the country and some of his trees going to Chicago market.

Following the pattern set in millions of American homes each year, AFBF staffs will decorate the tree with lights and colorful ribbons to produce the custom that has roots deep in American tradition.

Some claim that it is not a tradition at all but the true story. In the Egyptian observance of the Feast of the Long Night, the green date palm branches of the tree on the eve of the feast was associated with the Roman custom of lighting the evergreen during the winter season.

The Lebanon brothers are working with the spirit and enthusiasm that are the hallmark of English missionary work.

Nearly 200 years ago the first Christmas tree that was ever known in Germany was displayed in a Prague church. An oak tree was Germany's Christmas tradition and a little later, the use of an evergreen tree was introduced by the brothers. In France, a man named Fruel, who was the chief of the city, ordered a tree to be brought from the forest for the people that he was to give to the whole city. Another story tells of a Christmas tree that was displayed in the Champagne and spread to France, England, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, as well as Finland.

The first trimming of the Christmas tree in America was a far cry from the multicolored lights and baubles with which we are so familiar today. Candy, popcorn, nuts, and tufts of cotton were probably the ornaments first used to "pretty up" the trees. (The custom of putting a candle at the top of the tree is said to have started as a part of the decoration of the Christmas tree.)

The tradition of the fir atop the Christmas tree is well known. It represents the Star of the East, mentioned in the Bible as having guided the three wise men from the East.

The Christmas tree has indeed some long way both in purpose and manner of use. However, it is to be a meaningful centerpiece this Christmas. It should symbolize the spiritual significance of the Yakultic Season.

The Michigan Christmas tree that stands in the AFBF Headquarters helps symbolize the hopes of millions for Peace on Earth — Good Will Towards Men.
Reflections...

Webster's dictionary has many definitions for the word 'reflection'; let's look at some of them. The first one being "an image." What kind of image do we as farmers' wives have of the work of the Farm Bureau Women in our own county? As I look over the programs and projects you have carried on this year, it looks as though you have been busy on some very worthwhile activities, but you know as we look in a mirror at our image we can also see the things behind us and beyond. Let's take a look at that shadow a minute: did we really do a good job of evaluating our county women's committees? Are we really trying to involve more women? How about those ladies who do not belong to our county group, did we really try to get any of them active in our activities, or did we just let it off saying, "they just aren't interested," did we really ask them?

Let's review our county board members to suggest any names of ladies from out-of-touch areas in the county? Let's always remember we are one cog in a big wheel, and only if we are all thinking and working together can our county program be the best ever. Let's involve as many of our county presidents for any specific tasks or projects to make our county Farm Bureau even better than it is, and our image clear and bright.

Some of those other objects around our image we can look at too, there's our district council and spring and fall district meetings, are those shadowed around these, did we plan the best program we could? Did we really encourage all our officers to go to the council meetings? Did we really invite and encourage Farm Bureau Women other than committee members to go to the district meetings? Did we encourage our officers to attend the workshops held throughout the state? Did we go to the state institute? These meetings are carefully planned to give us some tools to take back home to use as we work with our members for a well rounded county program.

Reflection means "examined." Many of our Farm Bureau members are also home demonstration members, many of our goals for our home and community are the same. The Cooperative Extension Service and many other women's organization work together to plan "College Week for Women" each year. This is a week of learning for women, some of us attend, more of us should go.

Reflection is "the act of fixing the mind on the subject," yes, as a reflection of fixing the mind on the subject, namely our Marge Karcher Farm Bureau Scholarship, we now have our goal of $8000.00 on deposit at Michigan State University. The interest from this each year will be used for our scholarship. Another fixing of the mind project is a holiday camp conducted by two of our districts. Reflection is "serious thought" and I'd like to present some serious thoughts to you. Some of us recently attended a three day meeting, "Michigan Women's Conference of Traffic Safety," held right here in Michigan Center. A new organization was formed at this meeting, namely "Michigan Women for Highway Safety." Some serious facts given us at this meeting like: one accident every one-minute-and-twenty seconds, one person killed every three-hours-and-forty minutes, which means 616 persons a day die in traffic accidents in Michigan for a total of 2,388 persons killed in 1968. In the United States last year, 6,000,000 lost their lives in traffic accidents, and did you hear a single march or moratorium against killing our own neighbors, friends and citizens on our highways? I think we need to give this some serious thought and act when asked to do so. Let's support our policemen, not tear them apart. Let's do our part to set a good example in our driving, go the extra mile or turn the other cheek.

Reflection — "the turning of thought back upon past experiences," let's do that at a moment and make it a pleasant experience. Farm Bureau Women can claim our Michigan Mother of 1969 as one of us. Of the 15 merit mothers this year, five of them are our own Farm Bureau members, this brings in addition to Mrs. Onderer, who is the Michigan Mother. We are very proud of all of you, we know we have many good mothers in our membership and are happy the other women of the state are learning it too. This truly has been a pleasant experience and our congratulations go to each of you. Now, to you counties, why don't you look over your members again this year and nominate some more of your good mothers.

Another pleasant and learning experience was our multi-state workshop, held in Peoria, Illinois. This is an exchange of ideas on state with states whose structure is similar to ours. By working together for two days, you also can appreciate the common goals and concerns shared by other state Farm Bureau Women's committees. At meetings like this you soon realize how important it is to overcome the idea that our own ideas are best, how important it is to listen and consider many other ideas, before you start a project. You have to remember that you are one cog in a big wheel, and only when you all work together do we get the job done.

Reflection can be "contemplation" and contemplation is "the act of looking forward to expectation." This to me says let's make our programs and projects for 1969 just the very best we can. Let's ask our county presidents for any specific tasks or projects to make our county Farm Bureau program the best ever. Let's involve as many women as possible, both community group and non-community group. Better yet get more community groups formed to involve more people. Let's continue to promote Michigan and Michigan products, commodity promotion is fun, you ought to try it. If you are proud of our products, let's tell people we are, if we are proud of our Farm Bureau Women's work, let's set our goals high and pursue them in our achievements. I'd like to leave you with this little poem written by Paul Gilbert, titled, "Your Own Version."

You are writing a Gospel, A chapter each day, By deeds that you do, By words that you say, Men read what you write, What's your faith like, or truth, Say, what is the Gospel According to you?

Mrs. Jerold (Maxine) Topliff

Women's Program Resounding Success

Sen. N. Lorraine Beebe, a member of Michigan's State Legislature, talked 'woman to woman' at the MFB Women's luncheon. She, as a mother, former teacher, counselor and now as a member of several state committees studying young girls and their problems, said, "Youngsters need our support, need our love and understanding, and regardless of what they seem to say, need and want discipline. Are any of us aware of what our youngsters are exposed to today? Go through the newspaper. watch television. read the papers. We immunize them against all diseases but how much effort are we as parents putting forth to immunize them against the corrupting forces such as drug pitfalls (flippity-flappity) etc. Let's do something today . . . not tomorrow . . . and a good place to begin is in the home where you ladies set the pace."

Mrs. Jerold (Maxine) Topliff, Eaton Rapids, was re-elected to head the Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee at their annual meeting held on Monday, Mrs. Richard (Doris) Wieland of Ellsworth was elected vice-chairman.

Nearly 700 Michigan Farm Bureau Women and guests heard Senator N. Lorraine Beebe tell about 'Women's Role in Today's Society' and watched the style review presented by 35 county Farm Bureau Women. The ladies modeled costumes made by them in county needlecraft contests. Needlecraft of other types were on display around the room.

Michigan Farm Bureau President Elton Smith thanked the ladies for their participation in Farm Bureau programs and voiced approval of their many projects.
There has been plenty of action this fall, both in the Legislature and in the Policy Development process within Farm Bureau. The two processes can be considered together inasmuch as activity in both areas has been of a concurrent nature.

The activity of County Farm Bureau Policy Development Committees, together with county annual meeting policy decisions, resulted in another record number of recommendations to the State Policy Development General Sales. The nearly 500 elected voting delegates that attended the state annual meeting made decisions on a record number of policies that will guide Farm Bureau in the farm, would become subject to the sales or use tax. Supplies, including gasoline used out of committee by a 3-2 vote. We became aware of this action last April by Senator Bowman (D-Roseville) and Senator McCaulty (D-Grand Rapids). He found to his dismay that the per-sonal and farm exemptions have been a threat for the last 15 years. In these bills introduced in the Legislature under consideration in the Legislature, togethe-her with county annual meeting policy decisions, recommendations to the State Committees, along with county annual meeting policy decisions, recommendation to the State Committees, and the Young Farm Bureau President, every delegate that attended the state annual convention also made de-cisions that will guide Farm Bureau in the near future.

Agricultural Sales Tax Exemption

The possible loss of this exemption has been a threat for the past three years or more. During that time, there have been bills introduced in the Legislature to remove all or a part of the sales tax exemption on farm machinery, equipment, seeds, fertilizers, and other supplies. Two of these bills were introduced in the Senate last April by Senator Bowman (D-Roseville) and Senator McCaulity (D-Grand Rapids), and were passed out of the Senate Committee Development, together with county annual meeting policy decisions, recommendations to the State Committees, and the Young Farm Bureau President, every delegate that attended the state annual convention also made de-cisions that will guide Farm Bureau in the near future.

Agricultural Marketing - Farm Bureau has testified before a Senate Agricultural Subcommittee hearing on the effect of the Agricultural Marketing Act. This resolution would also per-mit a $3,000 assessed valuation exemption on residential property. This would be to remove all or a part of the sales tax exemption on farm machinery, equipment, seeds, fertilizers, and other supplies. Two of these bills were introduced in the Senate last April by Senator Bowman (D-Roseville) and Senator McCaulity (D-Grand Rapids), and were passed out of the Senate Committee Development, together with county annual meeting policy decisions, recommendations to the State Committees, and the Young Farm Bureau President, every delegate that attended the state annual convention also made de-cisions that will guide Farm Bureau in the near future.

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Celebration of the 50th anniversary year of the American Farm Bureau Federation will be climaxcd at the Federation's annual meeting Dec. 7-11, in Washington, D.C., with 1969 membership predicted to reach 1,850,000 families, a new record high, and an increase of 50,000 over 1968, according to organization officials. Farm Bureau is the largest general farm organization in the nation. Roger Fleming, secretary-treasurer of the Federation, said the new membership figure will represent the largest numerical gain registered by the organization since 1953.

Key issues expected to be discussed at the Washington meeting include farm policy, pesticides, farm exports, farmer marketing-bargaining, and government monetary and fiscal policies.

Secretary of Agriculture, Clifford M. Hardin, will address the convention Monday morning, Dec. 8, following the annual address of Charles B. Shuman, president of the Federation. Shuman is a grain and livestock farmer from Sullivan, Illinois.

Attendance at the Washington meeting is expected to set a new record as State Farm Bureaus are planning group plane trips to the nation's capital. More than 6,000 are expected to be on hand for the observance of the 50th anniversary year celebration.

Headquarters of the convention will be the Washington Hilton Hotel, the largest general hotel general and business sessions to be held there.

Other top U. S. Department of Agriculture officials who will address the convention include: Dr. Thomas K. Cowden, assistant secretary of agriculture for rural development and conservation; Clarence D. Palmy, assistant secretary of agriculture for international affairs and commodity programs. Cowden will speak at the natural resources conference, and Palmy at the field crops conference Tuesday morning.

Congresswoman Catherine May, from the state of Washington, will address the marketing conference on December 9, on the subject "Agricultural Marketing from the Point of View of a Consumer and a Member of Congress."

"Pesticides and Public Health," will be discussed at the natural resources conference by Dr. William T. Durham, scientist directing division of pesticides, Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Other conferences scheduled on December 9 include: dairy, livestock, poultry, horticulture crops, Young Farmers and Ranchers, Farm Bureau Women, Safe-mark, and organization.

The 50th anniversary celebration on Tuesday night, December 9, will feature, the popular young singing group, "Up With People."

Fleming will make his annual report as secretary-treasurer of the Federation, Monday afternoon, December 8.

Rev. Edward L. Olson, chaplain, United States Senate, will be the speaker at the Sunday afternoon, December 7, Vesper Services of the convention.

Policy resolutions will be considered by the voting delegates of the member state Farm Bureaus on December 10, with final adoption on Thursday morning, December 11.

Food Prices Trail Cost-of-Living

By Janet Odell

Women's Editor

THE PONTIAC PRESS

A panel of high-powered speakers turned on the ammunition recently in Chicago in an effort to convince the nation's food editors that food is still a bargain. J. Phil Campbell Jr., Undersecretary of Agriculture; Dr. Max E, Brunk, professor of marketing at Cornell University; and Dr. Harvey J. Leventhal, President of the Council on Foods and Nutrition of the American Medical Association, were the speakers. Joining them in a question - and - answer period were representatives of a number of prestigious print media. The session was arranged by Os- tor Mayer and Co. and Super Market Institute.

Campbell noted that although food prices are up, they have been trailing the cost of living, not leading it. He pointed out that the amount of disposable income spent for food continues to decrease. At 16 to 17 per cent, it is less than the world average.

He also explained that many housewives who complain about their larger costs at the supermarket neglect to separate the food and non-food items in their shopping carts. At least 25 per cent of every supermarket dollar goes for non-food items.

Other reasons for higher food prices may be the size of the family and its ages, how much entertaining is done; and what kind of foods you buy.

He predicted a stabilization of food prices in the marketplace; future with a picture of plentiful supplies and the distant future. Best bargains right now, he said, are fruits.

DEMAND SERVICES

Dr. Brunk of Cornell thinks that the added services demanded by today's food purchasers have the greatest effect on prices. He attributed the keen sensitivity to food prices to the fact that "food is the largest single and most necessary item in the household budget."

But he thinks that we will continue to demand more food, better food and more services. Agreeing that food prices are high, he pointed out that a man works fewer hours to buy a pound of bacon than at any time in the past. This will not change in the future.

The supermarket owners point out that the consumer is the boss in the long run. If she does not like the food in one store, she can and should shop in another one. They all insisted that the wide selection of foods is the best way to keep prices down and that stores must meet competition. Careful planning on our part will save pennies.

Fifty years ago farmers from throughout the nation assembled at the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago to officially organize the American Farm Bureau Federation. From that humble birth has grown the largest general farm organization in the nation with over 1,850,000 members in 49 states and Puerto Rico.

A recent Michigan Department of Labor announcement indicates that the recent amendment to the Hittle Juvenile Employment Act now exempts high school graduates 17 years of age or over from work permit requirements and employment restrictions of the Act.

Barry Brown, the Department's director said the first group to be affected will be those graduating from summer school this year. Any 16 year-olds or younger who come under the provisions of another Act prohibiting all female employees from working more than 10 hours a day.

Michigan lost an outstanding educator and leader with the passing of Dr. Leroy Augenstein. Dr. Augenstein was a modern-day explorer ... he contributed to our well-being as a scientist, educator and public official in every means available to him. Much of it at his own expense. His chief goal was to awaken all of us to our problems. He wanted us to see new relationships, especially to examine our values in making decisions. Dr. Augenstein was a moral and ethical personage and his passing will be felt in every community in Michigan. A book by him. "Come, Let Us Play God," discussing current scientific, legal and moral issues was published in July.

The U. S. House of Representatives defeated by a vote of 196 to 171 a bill establishing a National Potato Promotion Board to promote the sale of potatoes and potato products and to carry on research in the use of potatoes. Had it passed, it would have been the first government promotion program of one food product against competing foods. Farm Bureau contended that this was an improper use of federal governmental authority and that it would establish a precedent for producers of other food crops to seek the same privilege of having the government collect funds for research and promotion activities.

Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative will join forces December 16 and 17 to host their annual meetings at the Lansing Civic Center. Farmers Petroleum Business Meeting will be held Tuesday the 16th.

More than 90 displays of FPC's products will be set up in the exhibition area showing new automotive, hydraulic and transmission oils, filters, information on diesel fuels and types of machinery maintenance.

Farm Bureau Services will hold their annual policy-making session, Wednesday at 10 a.m., open to stockholders and interested Farm Bureau members.

A complimentary luncheon will be served both days. The two organizations will host a banquet Tuesday evening featuring guest speaker Dr. Dale Hathaway, Head of MSU's Agriculture Economics Department. He will speak on "The Challenge of Change."

Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. each day.
Improved Inspection of Migrant Labor Camps Slated for 1970

By M. J. Buschlen, Manager
Michigan Agricultural Services Association

Further information has become available about what operations and inspections of migrant labor camps Michigan can expect in 1970 from inspections of their camps. This was the result of a meeting held recently at the Michigan Department of Public Health in Lansing. Attending the meeting were representatives of the Michigan Employment Security Commission, the U.S. Department of Labor and the Michigan Department of Public Health.

Bogus Buck auction award program and effective Bogus Buck members will attend the American Farm Bureau 50th Annual Meeting. This is an investment in my farming future!

December 1, 1969
Michigan Farm Bureau

Houghton County
First With '70 Goal

Houghton County President, Leonard Oliva, presented a check to President Elton Smith for his county's 50th Annual Meeting. This is the earliest any county has set a goal in recent years. With Houghton leading the parade, membership chairmen and committees across the state are preparing for an all-out membership drive in 1970.

To begin with a flourish, camp inspectors were presented with the opening moments of the MFB 50th Annual Meeting. This is the earliest any county has set a goal in recent years. With Houghton leading the parade, membership chairmen and committees across the state are preparing for an all-out membership drive in 1970.

Two Retirement Plans Announced

Pressured on one side by spiraling inflationary trends and by larger tax bites on the other, Michigan's agricultural community is becoming increasingly aware of the necessity for sound financial retirement planning.

Two more leading Michigan agricultural associations are now making tax-free retirement plans for their membership through the facilities of Farm Bureau Insurance Group.

About 1,600 Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) members and some 450 members of the Michigan Potato Industry Council (MPIC) will have the opportunity to participate in a tax-free Keogh Retirement Program in time to obtain tax benefits for 1969.

MACMA and MPIC retirement plan participants may make payments on an annual or semi-annual basis to the Bank of Lansing, acting as the trustee for the plan. In setting up his personal retirement program each worker chooses one of three investment opportunities:

1. Insurance Account - a guaranteed investment in life insurance or annuity contracts through Farm Bureau Insurance Group.

2. Common Trust Account - with both the risks and possibility of reward that such investments entail, funds are invested in a portfolio of selected securities through Bank of Lansing facilities.

3. Combination Plan - a portion of funds purchase the guaranteed security of life insurance and annuities, the remainder are invested in the selected securities portfolio.

Associations presently participating in similar Keogh Retirement Plans are Michigan Milk Producers Association (MMPA) and Michigan Live Stock Exchange (MLSE). MMPA began enrolling members in the retirement plan last December. MLSE participation began in September this year.

With such financial innovation, many questions arise. Here are the answers:

Q. Who is entitled to enroll in a self-employed retirement plan?
A. Generally, any participating member association with an earned income who is self-employed can enroll in the program. Whether your farming business is conducted as either a sole proprietorship or a partnership, or as an employee of another employer, you are entitled to participate in a retirement plan.

Q. Is there an age limit?
A. For setting up the plan no. But business owners and major partners must begin receiving benefits under the plan not later than the year they reach age 70 and one-half.

Q. Who do I contact?
A. Your nearest Farm Bureau Insurance Group office.

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FARM BUREAU

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An investment in my farming future!

The future of farming is bright - as long as farmers maintain a strong, effective agriculture by working together for their common good.

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With such financial innovation, many questions arise. Here are the answers:

Q. Who is entitled to enroll in a self-employed retirement plan?
A. Generally, any participating member association with an earned income who is self-employed can enroll in the program. Whether your farming business is conducted as either a sole proprietorship or a partnership, or as an employee of another employer, you are entitled to participate in a retirement plan.

Q. Is there an age limit?
A. For setting up the plan no. But business owners and major partners must begin receiving benefits under the plan not later than the year they reach age 70 and one-half.

Q. Who do I contact?
A. Your nearest Farm Bureau Insurance Group office.
Adapted by the Board of Delegates of the MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU 50th Annual Meeting — East Lansing — Nov. 10-12, 1969

MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

PREFACE

Our Farm Bureau is a farm organization. It must be an aggressive organization geared to serving commercial agriculture, membership opportunity should be provided to all interested in agriculture. Appropriate safeguards must be maintained to limit the voting rights to committed farmers. The distinction between regular and associate members must be made clear and concise. County Board must observe the spirit of such a definition which should be carried in the members.

In this our fiftieth anniversary year, we reflect with pride on a half-century of service to member farm families that have provided the backbone of our great state and community, of which agriculture makes up an important part. Our Farm Bureau members are concerned about getting understanding of our problems in agriculture when we consider these community problems.

Our success in feeding America is unquestioned anywhere. There has been a dramatic decrease in the cost of food to American families. Today, the average consumer spends only 16.5% of his disposable income for food — an accomplishment that is unparalleled and the envy of the world! The remarkable story can be best told by the consumers themselves, by the members, in our involvement and relationship with consumers in community functions - P.T.A., political parties, service clubs, and at other opportunities.

It's nice to spend time reflecting on the past, but we who make the future of the present are going to be judged on our contribution to the future. Our role is to ensure that Farm Bureau and our heritage and insure 50 future years of greater service.

We work hard at finding out what our farmer members need and desire in our policies and Farm Bureau programs. The Michigan meetings were held during the month of October at which thousands of our members discussed problems facing agriculture today. Our members are most concerned about problems concerning our country, recognizing that our growth and development in agriculture depends upon a stable economy, responsive government, and our land and our heritage.

They put this concern into more than 1,000 resolutions adopted at county annual meetings and forwarded to the Michigan State Farm Bureau. The representatives members spent six long days familiarizing themselves with the resolutions and recommendations. These resolutions concern into recommendations to the delegate body of our State Farm Bureau. The resolutions were sent to 50,000 member families.

The result of all of the discussion of proposals and amendments is contained in this, our 1970 report.

Dean Prigleman, Chairman
MFB Policy Development Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The recommendations on National and International Affairs adopted by the voting delegates at the American Farm Bureau Federation for use by the National Resolutions Committee, which is made up of representatives of every Farm Bureau, Michigan's recommendations will also serve as a guide for our voting delegates at the forthcoming Annual Convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The National and International Policies adopted at our National Convention will serve as the policy for all State Farm Bureaus. This is essential in order that there may be effective cooperation between our Farm Bureau organizations throughout the Nation.

The recommendations on National and International Affairs are available in County Farm Bureaus and others upon request.

PART I — POLICIES ON STATE AFFAIRS

APPRECIATION

The first session of the 75th Michigan Legislature has already acted on a number of Farm Bureau policy proposals, some of which include:

1. Further tax reform measures, including the granting of a farm management deduction. This provision is designed to increase tax savings for farmers through proper property valuations.
2. Legislation of land sales in the appraisal of farm property.

1970 State Farm Bureau Policies

SEVEN

1970 State Farm Bureau Policies

SENATEOR GARY BYER, 226TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT — presented a copy of the overruled State Farm Bureau resolution to Senator Elton Smith at the MFB annual banquet. The Resolution was introduced in the Senate and was in "Voticle to the Michigan Farm Bureau on the Fiftieth Anniversary of its founding." The Senate (in part) "recognized Farm Bureau and its individual members for their great contribution to all the citizens of Michigan through their production of foodstuffs."

HOUSE CONCURRENCE RESOLUTION NO. 260 — A Concurrent Resolution for the 75th Michigan Legislature was presented to the organization by Rep. Dennis O. Courtvans at the annual banquet. Other Representatives offering the Resolution were Edgar V. Root Jr., Richard O. Ditter, Ronald M. Stram, Quincy Coffin, William S. Bellenger, Raymond C. Kelso, Wayne E. Sackett, Dale Willman, Dennis Mason, Robert H. Endy, George A. Prescott, Joseph P. Swavell and William P. Hampton.

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2. Legislation of land sales in the appraisal of farm property.
We urge that legislative action be taken to increase the tax to a level in relation to the property taxes paid by homeowners. We believe that a statewide income tax is essential to the total educational reform, as statewide equality of local government revenues in lieu of taxes.

SALES TAX ON AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

The application of the retail sales tax to agricultural production inputs would place an unfair tax burden on agriculture. Farming is taxed on supplies and inputs on a state-wide basis.

Key to total educational reform, as statewide equality of local government revenues in lieu of taxes.

The larger private-owned commercial forest reserves are not owned by the State.

Since 1925, owners, at their option, have been permitted to sell timber for which they hold Commercial Forest Reserve (Pursem) Act. Certain qualifications must be met, including the requirement that such land be open to public use (hunting, fishing, etc.). Legislation to modify the law and increase the "in lieu of tax" income to local government passed the Michigan House of Representatives in 1965, but died in the Senate during the 1966 session. It was introduced in the 1967-68-69 sessions, but remained in Committee.

We will support legislation to achieve equitable taxation of these properties. We believe the State must recognize the unique nature of these lands, especially recreation, and at the same time eliminate the uncertainty of local government revenues in lieu of taxes.

MICHIGAN TAX COMMISSION

Presently, this body has no unique powers. In effect, the Commission promulgates rules, regulations and legislation which then sits as judge on appeals which may result therefrom.

We will support legislation that will resolve this ob- vious conflict of interest and create an appeals procedure that is fair, just, and efficient.

EDUCATIONAL FINANCE REFORM

We believe that school finance is unsatisfactorily a major key to total educational reform, as statewide equality of educational opportunity cannot be achieved unless the method of financing is first restructured to achieve equity.

We urge the Legislature to provide for the fair, just, and efficient procedure of insuring that property taxes are levied and collected to support the public schools.

We support the passage of legislation to achieve equitable taxation of these properties. We believe the State must recognize the unique nature of these lands, especially recreation, and at the same time eliminate the uncertainity of local government revenues in lieu of taxes.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Educators in Michigan should have the responsibility of providing all citizens with an opportunity to become and remain competitive in an ever-changing economy. Existing educational programs should be an integral part of the total education process. A recent statewide committee, the State Vocational-Technical Curriculum Committee recommended a vertically integrated occupational curriculum that extends from the elementary through the post-secondary levels. Such an integrated program could develop positive attitudes about work, create awareness of the vast occupational opportunities and provide knowledge and skills to meet the demands of a constantly changing society.

Vocational centers are also rapidly developing, many through existing local educational units, including community colleges, junior colleges and high school districts.

We support these programs and believe that the ultimate goal should be to develop and implement effective occupational and technical programs for all age groups. Such training opportunities should, wherever feasible, include "on-the-job" training for school credit in cooperation with local businesses.

We urge the Legislature to adequately finance construction of vocational centers on both secondary and post-secondary levels and operation of all such programs, also for the transportation of students. Local property cannot be expected to assume this additional tax burden.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

The demand for more teachers of vocational and technical agriculture continues with the advent of specialized programs on both secondary and post-secondary level.

Michigan has a total of 114,052 miles of roads and streets (46% inadequate). The State Highway Department has the responsibility to develop and maintain 9,500 miles of road. This includes the 1,100 interstate highway system. Our excellent interstate system is presently planned, in progress, and existing. Excessive school districts are financially unable to increase their capital expenditures for transportation. Many are unable for school buses to service the need for transportation. Michigan highway departments have the return of state highways to the counties creates an administrative crisis. Michigan is a growing state with increasing revenue. With the return of state highways to the counties creates an administrative crisis. Many are unable for school buses to service the need for transportation.

We urge the Legislature to provide for the fair, just, and efficient procedure of insuring that property taxes are levied and collected to support the public schools.

We support legislation that will resolve this obvious conflict of interest and create an appeals procedure that is fair, just, and efficient.

We recommend:

- Any needed increase in revenues be met through the fair, just, and efficient procedure of insuring that property taxes are levied and collected to support the public schools.

- Match existing requirements for local roads and streets.

- Local road service for the transportation of students.

- Bridge replacement and reconstruction match should be eliminated or substantially reduced, as they represent a specific problem and are extremely costly.
POLICIES REFLECT:

POLICIES for All Members

— Federal highway aid should be increased for County and local needs instead of the Michigan interstate system from near completion.

— State and Federal highway authorities should recognize the importance of high-speed interchange and make the provision of proper provisions and make proper provisions to maintain high-speed interchange.

— Consideration be given to counties with large areas of public recreation lands, not only because of the high, but also for general contracts on such counties, but adequate roads can be placed in the uninsured motorists fund should be adequate to finance highway-related programs.

— That no alterations be made in the distribution formulas of the Motor Vehicle Highway Fund until such time as the Michigan Interchange Study is completed.

— There should be no further increases in weight, width and length limitations of trucks using any road system. No changes should be made to accommodate even the existing loads.

— Routes should be chosen to avoid diagonal highways and the use of productive agricultural lands where feasible. We endorse the current Highway Needs Study, however, special interest of county and local road systems should be carefully considered.

DEDICATION OF HIGHWAY FUNDS

We re-emphasize our well-established position that revenues derived from the taxation of motor vehicles and motor fuel should be used exclusively for highway purposes. Michigan now maintains an auto insurance fund, which is put in the uninsured motorists fund should be adequate to finance highway-related programs. We urge the Legislature to pass the necessary enabling legislation to fully implement this act.

COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONS

The Board of County Road Commissioners is a unit of local government responsible for maintenance and construction within a county. The three-member Board have sixty-staggered terms and are in, March, June, August, and November of even-numbered years. We believe this system has insulated the jurisdiction of our county road system from direct politics and has resulted in maintenance and construction of roads throughout the years. We continue to support the Board Commission resolutions and will continue to support the Board of County Road Commissioners.

1. Use of plastic-type decomposable containers; or
2. A required return value on glass beverage containers; or
3. A tax being placed on the beneficiaries of these bottles to help cover the cost of cleaning them up from our roadsides.

LITTERING

Littering is a costly nuisance and much of it is thrown on Michigan’s farm lands. Clean-up of highway litter is a cost to taxpayers. Over 10,000 truckloads of bottles, cans, paper and other litter will be picked up by hand on State highways this year alone. The Michigan State Highway Department estimates that the recently-passed Anti-Litter Law can help in curbing littering. The judge may levy a fine and costs against the offender to pick up litter along a specified mileage of highway.

It is difficult to apprehend and identify litterers. We urge parents to teach our children respect for public property. We urge the use of signs posted along State and County roads and in the view of motorists.

UNINSURED MOTORFUND

We feel that the $1 fee which is charged on motor carriers in a particular fund should be eliminated. If the fund needs money, charge the uninsured to cover the cost of the program.

INTOXICATED DRIVERS

No operator of a motor vehicle makes it more hazardous to the person who drives under the influence of an intoxicant. Measures must be taken to increase the effectiveness of our laws in preventing this practice.

We urge the State Legislature to update our impaired consent law to meet the established federal standards. If we do not conform with these standards, we could jeopardize -Michigan’s share of federal highway funds.

RURAL POVERTY

Writers in the public press tend to dwell on the problems of poverty in the urban area and fail to recognize the increasing problems of rural poverty.

The report of the President’s National Advisory Commission on Rural Poverty, published in 1967, pointed out that there are more than “14 million rural poor.” This figure would be much larger had there not been a steady migration to urban areas. Unemployment and underemployment are major problems in rural America.

Poverty in rural areas is often more serious than in urban areas. Many of the costs of living may be higher, educational, cultural and many recreational facilities are not readily available; many public and private assistance programs are not available; distances and transportation are added problems.

It is estimated that some three-quarters of a million people in rural Michigan live under poverty conditions. Unfortunately, most of the poverty resources have been siphoned off into urban areas. Society's responsibility is just as important in rural areas as in urban areas.

We believe that there are presently sufficient agencies, public and private, to deal effectively in a coordinated manner with these problems. One of the most effective agencies with long-term experience in helping people to help themselves is the Cooperative Extension Service.

We believe that the Extension Service can provide valuable in-step, short-term solutions to the problem. Expansion of such services should be properly funded and should not result in a reduction of present services.

WELFARE

Welfare costs have been rising at an alarming rate. In Michigan, last year alone, the cost was $337,650,000 to the State, $288,100,000 Federal, and $147,800,000 to the Counties. We believe that welfare programs should be redirected. A new welfare program should include:

1. Incentive to become productive. Welfare benefits should not be reduced by 100% of earnings until the welfare beneficiary is self-sufficient.
2. Local administration.
3. Reclassify State and Federal financial relations.
4. Job training and placement programs should be expanded.
5. Food stamps to welfare recipients should be included as a method of insuring a percent of the welfare payments being spent on food.
6. Federal administration should be through Social Security contracting with State Government, to enable all assistance programs to be co-ordinated and paid to recipients in one monthly welfare check.
7. Day care programs should be included to enable welfare mothers to work.
8. The extension of hospital care to an emergency, or "last resort," program and should not be allowed to become a way of life.

9. Dole Boll, Director, Michigan Dept. of Agriculture, received one of the Awards for Service to Agriculture at the annual banquet. Mr. Boll’s award was based on local, state and national service to agriculture.
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING AND BARGAINING ACT

We shall develop and support an Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act which will clarify the rights and limitations of bargaining associations.

Provisions of this legislation should:

1. Define an agricultural bargaining association.
2. Provide standards for recognition of bargaining associations and the products of interest.
3. Provide that failure of a buyer to negotiate in good faith in the establishment of an association shall constitute an unfair trade practice.
4. Improve and strengthen marketing rights and the enforcement of the law.
5. Redefine and broaden the rights of bargaining associations.

This approach would provide the necessary legal framework on which farmers can build their own effective marketing organizations.

We will support and work for legislation that will enable Michigan dairymen to form a Superpool. We ask that 51 percent of the growers with two-thirds of the total milk production of the state be included in the growers with 51 percent of the products of the commodity by growers. This legislation should provide for a period of transition or review to make sure that the association is adequately serving the dairy industry.

We will support legislation to provide that buyers of perishable and specialty agricultural commodities can establish fair and competitive prices by setting limits on advertising, artificial high prices. Money collected under marketing orders should be used only for administrative, consumer, and marketing purposes after the completion of the first year. It is clearly evident that advertising and artificial high prices are a deterrent to orderly marketing and to the solution of our water pollution problems. We urge the Michigan Farm Bureau in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Agriculture to support the Superpool with the Michigan Farm Bureau in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

We will promote the marketing and promotion of the dairy industry to remove some of the legislative barriers related to the dairy industry.

The Superpool is designed to remove some of the legal and financial barriers and will enable Michigan dairymen to support the Superpool through their dairy organizations.

We recommend that all processors and handlers offer contracts to producers for the production of vegetables which will be contract offered, including contract terms and financial arrangements in contracts offered to Michigan producers. Michigan producers have fewer market outlets and are forced to make marketing decisions without adequate information. Michigan producers recognize that there is an urgent need for producers to have a greater voice in their determination and other marketing conditions.

The largest farm organization in the state, we are concerned about dairy marketing problems faced by Michigan dairymen. If dairy farmers were able to organize statewide organized marketing has been conducted by the Michigan Farm Bureau, which is working with County Farm Bureau in producing-counties.

We stand ready to assist bean producers with organizing and operating marketing programs when such efforts meet the needs of the producers and justify the expenditure of Farm Bureau resources in such activities.

We urge:

1. All bean producers to participate in marketing according to the principles of the cooperative marketing system utilizing producer contracts and advancing concepts.

PRICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

At times, fruit and vegetable growers have had to deliver produce to processors without the benefit of knowing the price at which the product will be sold. We urge the Michigan State Advisory Committee to establish a program of price announcements to processors who purchase fruit and vegetables as a part of their business.

We believe that a marketing order should meet the following criteria:

1. Be market-oriented; used to maintain and expand the market for the product.
2. Provide opportunity for new producers to enter the market and existing producers to expand their share of the market.
3. Provide facilities to produce periodic reports.
4. Allow a majority to petition for reorganization or dissolution of the association.
5. Include provisions for the orderly expansion or contraction of the association.
6. Be administered by an advisory committee with the Secretary or Director of Agriculture having authority to make sure the law is properly carried out.

One of the results of the marketing programs produced for processing should not require producer approval when confined to raw agricultural commodities.

FARM BUREAU should be keenly aware of producers' needs for marketing leadership in meeting these needs. Farm Bureau should:

1. Provide for evaluation and information to affected producers.
2. Obtain a "feedback" of ideas from producer-members of an association.
3. Support recommendations for reorganization or dissolution of the association.
4. Provide information to remember producers prior to referendum, including recommendations developed by committees.
5. Follow through to gain appointments of responsible producers to advisory committees.

EXPANDING MARKETS FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS

We should develop a program of high quality dairy products represents a dynamic segment of Michigan agriculture. Dairy substitutes continue to challenge and compete with dairy products in the market for dairy products. We also commented the efforts of the dairy industry to develop and financing strong programs for market development, to open new sources of demand for dairy products. The Michigan dairy industry is working on the dairy industry and will continue working together with dairy organizations in the competitive problems facing dairymen.

POLITICAL MARKETING

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We strongly urge legislation to require buyers of Michigan-produced poultry to post adequate bond for the protection of producers in their marketing operations.

We commend the Governor of Michigan and the Governor of the five State Governors for their nationalistic contributions to pollution clean-up of Michigan's surface and underground water.

We commend the Michigan State Advisory Committee to the Michigan Department of Agriculture in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Agriculture to support the Superpool with the Michigan Farm Bureau in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

We support the activities of the Midwest Egg Producers Cooperative Association.

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MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

December 1, 1969

ELEVEN

SEDIMENTATION AND EROSION CONTROL.
Farm people have worked hard over the years adapting themselves to various practices to the extent that we can prevent water and wind erosion from their fields. but we are not yet in a position to control erosion. We urge the enactment of legislation that will require construction of fences and local municipalities to control erosion from their work areas.

RACCOON SEASON
Excessive population of raccoons and damage to crops continues to be a problem in some areas. We favor an extension of the present four-month season.

FEEDLOT REGISTRATION
Presently, state law prohibits cattle over 18 months of age from being brought to a market for further feeding. Cattle 18-12 months of age are permitted to enter the market. We recommend the Michigan Department of Agriculture. All calves under 12 months of age may be kept without permit. We believe that livestock producers should be permitted to market livestock at an earlier regulatory system. Such permission should require registration of the feeders when handling older cattle. In this manner, the possibility of disease outbreaks could be eliminated.

ANTIBIOTICS
The use of antibiotics in livestock is essential to modern-day livestock production. The use of antibiotics in animal agriculture products are usually the result of misuse. In case of infection, state and federal authorities have threatened to deny their use to farmers if residues show up in food products. We urge all farmers who use antibiotics to follow directions carefully and be judicious in their use.

Calfhood Vaccination
We support the enrollment of Michigan in official calfhood vaccination (Disease) for 60% of parity, have tried to provide housing and immunity to the Federal law for calfhood brucellosis vaccination. On September 1, 1969, the age limit under Federal law for calfhood brucellosis vaccination was changed to three to eight months. Scientific evidence now indicates that vaccination at three months confers same immunity as does vaccination at four months. The older a calf is at the time of vaccination the greater the chances of a decline in immunity up later.

In light of this knowledge and the change in age limits for calfhood vaccination under Federal law, we recommend the State of Michigan to make official calfhood vaccination between the age of three months to eight months.

CROP REPORTING
We recognize that crop forecasts and estimates may be used to advantage by either buyers or sellers in the market to determine market conditions. However, both buyers and sellers require accurate crop estimates. We urge the Crop Reporting Service to establish a program of crop reporting. We support the Crop Reporting Service as an unbiased party in making these crop and livestock estimates and in giving market price reports.

We urge the Crop Reporting Service and the Statistical Reporting Service to continue developing and using the reliable methods of estimating crops and livestock and giving market price reports.

In addition to present reports, we urge the Crop Reporting Service to continue developing and using the reliable methods of estimating crops and livestock and giving market price reports. We urge the Crop Reporting Service and the Statistical Reporting Service to continue developing and using the reliable methods of estimating crops and livestock and giving market price reports.

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UTILITY PIPELINES

There is increasing construction of utilities across the state land - and water-related -- and many landowners are unaware of their legal rights and are seldom informed of a utility route until land leasing begins. Present laws, rules and regulations are designed primarily for safety with little consideration of land conservation or for landowner rights. We recommend that legislation be enacted to protect all the rights of landowners including the right to protect land deterioration, vegetation destruction and tile line and open drainage. Moreover, landowners should also be needed to require utility companies to file public notice of impending projects and their route.

UPPER PENINSULA EXPERIMENT STATION

Agricultural and timberland enterprises in the U.P. have progressed to the point where scientifically. The Experiment Station can continue to serve the farmland owners and timberland owners.

We need to ensure that one experiment station in the central part of the U.P. can furnish in the further development of agriculture, timber, and timber management. Some of the research projects needed under U.P. conditions include:

1. More test trials in small grains on disease resistance and production.
2. Alfalfa and forage diversity.
4. Field demonstrations in potato, rutabaga and other cash crops.

We urge that the Chatham Experiment Station be maintained.

PART II - OUR FARM BUREAU

FARM BUREAU MEMBERSHIP

Our Golden Anniversary year, 1969, has been one of accomplishment for our Michigan Farm Bureau. For the first time in the history of our organization, every county experienced a gain in membership. Sixty-four Counties exceeded the target goal established by the Farm Bureau Board of Managers. As a result of the outstanding work done by volunteer workers, Farm Bureau membership increased by over 2,000 families. We commend these people whose efforts have contributed to this achievement.

The effectiveness and financial well-being of our organization depends greatly on the number of dedicated families who give their time and voice to the Michigan farmer, it is important that a majority of the farmers in each county join us.

With this in mind, we urge the 1970 membership goal of 10,000 in our local units. We further urge each county to actively participate in local programs and to encourage each county to accept its proportionate share of the 455 member increase.

MEMBER RESPONSIBILITY

We have in Farm Bureau a very democratic organization with a constant need for new members to accept their responsibilities as good farmers. Good citizenship consists of rights and responsibilities.

We urge that we establish and maintain a strong farm organization in the future and with minimum government interference in the future.

UNDESIRABLE MATERIALS AND PROGRAMS

American adults and youths are exposed to a mounting flood of potentially undesirable programs — in the movie theaters, on the networks, in the bookstores, and, to some extent, on television programs. This is a contributing factor to immorality and delinquency.

We do, however, commend movie theater operators for their efforts to prevent movies which are not suitable for young people, with the cooperation of the Motion Picture Association in identifying films inappropriate for young age groups.

We feel that it is important for the Michigan Farm Bureau to establish a strong community group program. It is a good way to develop farm programs and facilities through which we can encourage participation on a voluntary basis, rather than allow this privilege to pass to government.

In similar fashion, we believe the news media must work together to maintain a correct portrayal and quality business standards, and the acceptance of public-interest films and television programs. The public-health problems resulting from the growth of their own industry and as the best assurance that they will be allowed to continue, we believe that agriculturalists are doing their part. In doing so, they are making a contribution to the nation’s well-being.

DRAINAGE LAWN

We urge that Michigan drainage laws be recodified. Future legislation should emphasize understandable general provisions rather than specific legislation fitted to special situations.

Lands owned by public agencies, such as School Districts and the Department of Natural Resources, often receive direct benefits from drainage projects which are financed and paid for by adjoining landowners. We support legislation to provide for assessment and payment in cases of mutual benefit.

FARM BUREAU WOMEN

We commend the Legislature for its action in providing for part-time assistance to aid these volunteer officers. We urge that there be appointed adequate state funds to provide a distinct role for each Soil Conservation District. The use of part-time or full-time aides would provide greater efficiency. We mince our resources by requiring trained conservationists to do routine office work.

SOIL CONSERVATION AND SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Responsibility for the use and improvement of land and water resources within the state and city limits as well as rural. Cities are dependent on rural land not only for their water supply, but also for their water supply. The annual increase in our population places a definite responsibility on agriculture and the nation to safeguard our nation’s future food production facilities. Farm owners and other rural citizens as well as urban population, must be aware of the need for intelligent use and conserva-

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COUNTY COOPERATIVE COUNCILS
Cooperatives have been organized to serve farm people. In many instances, members and leaders of one cooperative are leaders of other cooperatives. Several counties have organized cooperative councils, made up of leaders from all cooperatives which operate in the county. The purpose of this council is to create an understanding of all organizations, an opportunity for leaders to become more familiar with each other, and to solve problems involving cooperatives.

We encourage County Farm Bureaus to take a leadership role in operating and promoting County Cooperative Councils.

MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS BY DISTRACTION
Farm Bureau affiliate companies have been organized to serve Farm Bureau members. The rapid growth in programming and the need for services has sometimes outstripped our ability to keep our members informed. Faced with the fact of low farm prices, the need for programming in every area of the cooperative enterprise, the threat by corporate farming, the rapid change in agricultural technology, and the interference of the Federal Government, we accept the challenge to shape the future to the benefit of the family farm. We believe that the formation of the Farm Bureau Affiliate Companies (FBAC) will provide a forum for disseminating the news and events of interest to Farm Bureau members. In this manner, the FBAC will be able to keep Farm Bureau members informed of the work of the Association, and the activities of the state and national Farm Bureau, as well as the activities of the Farm Bureau Affiliate Companies.

PRODUCTION AND MARKETING PROGRAMS
We believe that farmers should act through their own organization, the Farm Bureau, in order to solve their problems. Faced with the fact of low farm prices, the need for programming in every area of the cooperative enterprise, the threat by corporate farming, the rapid change in agricultural technology, and the interference of the Federal Government, we accept the challenge to shape the future to the benefit of the family farm. We believe that the formation of the Farm Bureau Affiliate Companies (FBAC) will provide a forum for disseminating the news and events of interest to Farm Bureau members. In this manner, the FBAC will be able to keep Farm Bureau members informed of the work of the Association, and the activities of the state and national Farm Bureau, as well as the activities of the Farm Bureau Affiliate Companies.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING
Agricultural marketing is of great concern to farmers. We recognize the need to improve our present marketing methods if we are to receive a more equitable net income. As a product of our efforts in the area of advertising, the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) and Farm Bureau Services are utilizing current marketing tools to advertise the superior quality of Michigan-grown produce, thus helping to justify the increased costs of production and processing facilities and marketing. Use of such tools can be helpful in ensuring a successful future for Michigan agriculture.

ORIENTATION OF EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS
The employees of the Michigan Farm Bureau and all of its affiliated companies represent Farm Bureau and its marketing programs to farmers around the state, and the public-at-large. Information available to agents in any affiliate may contribute to a poor or weak image of Farm Bureau, which in turn gives to operators or operations of other organizations an opportunity to exploit the impression of Farm Bureau among the employees of our affiliate companies. As the largest and leading statewide farm organization, we must concern ourselves with the responsibility to establish standards for the training of people in the field. Through our cooperation, we can help to create an understanding of all organizations, an opportunity for leaders to become more familiar with each other, and to solve problems involving cooperatives.

FARM BUREAU WHEAT MARKETING PROGRAM
We approve the idea of farmers being more involved in the marketing of their wheat. The Farm Bureau Wheat Marketing Program is a step in the right direction. We commend the efforts of Michigan Farm Bureau and the participating members for organizing and supporting the Wheat Marketing Program.

We urge all wheat producers to consider the merits of marketing their wheat through this orderly marketing program. It is important that these programs were called for by members. The farmers, through the Farm Bureau, should be directed towards the expansion of MACMA or other appropriate agencies.

REGULAR BUREAU MARKETING STUDIES
Farm Bureau marketing activities have made much progress in the last few years. Many of the tasks that were not considered feasible ten years ago or have not been thought of yet are now being carried out. We urge all wheat producers to consider the merits of marketing their wheat through this orderly marketing program. It is important that these programs were called for by members. The farmers, through the Farm Bureau, should be directed towards the expansion of MACMA or other appropriate agencies.

FARM BUREAU COMMODITY ACTIVITIES
Modern farmers are rapidly shifting from the production of several commodities to large scale specialization and production of one or a limited number of commodities. Farm Bureau, although defined as a general farm organization, is serving the specific commodity interests of its members. Much of the Farm Bureau legislative effort does directly or indirectly affect the marketing of specific commodities. Farm Bureau marketing activities have made much progress in the last few years. Many of the tasks that were not considered feasible ten years ago or have not been thought of yet are now being carried out. We urge all wheat producers to consider the merits of marketing their wheat through this orderly marketing program. It is important that these programs were called for by members. The farmers, through the Farm Bureau, should be directed towards the expansion of MACMA or other appropriate agencies.

ELTON SMITH WAS RE-ELECTED-PRESIDENT — of Michigan Farm Bureau at the November 20 Board of Directors meeting. Other members of the Board are, seated, left to right, Carl Howard, Sanilac county, Young Farmer Representative; Dean Pridgen, Vice-President, Dist. 2; Mr. Smith, David Morris, and Member, Executive Committee, Dist. 5; Mrs. Jerold (Maxine) Topliff, Women's Committee; Standing, 1, to, Andrew Jackson, Dist. 3; Arthur Bailey, Dist. 1; Richard Wieland, Dist. 10; James Spore, Director-at-Large; John Lewis, Dist. 6; Walter Flesher, Director-at-Large; Eugene Roberts, Dist. 9; Carl Lutz, Director-at-Large; Frank Schwiderson, Dist. 11; Kenneth Bell, Dist. 7 and Harvey Leuenberger, Dist. 8.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

December 1, 1969

THIRTEEN

POLICIES TO GUIDE OUR ORGANIZATION

PHOENIX, PEAC, FEAR

PROCESSED PEACH, PEAR

FOUL MARKETING

FOWL MARKETING

POSSIBILITY OF FARM MARKETING

POSSIBILITY OF FARM MARKETING

FOOD MARKETING

FOOD MARKETING
The Committee felt that the future of Farm Bureau is tied to its success in the area of marketing. The Committee decided that the success of Farm Bureau would be dependent upon the development of new products and expansion of its marketing activities.

The Committee noted that the profit margin of the commodity values of Farm Bureau has been its legislative activities. This will continue to be true in the future. The Committee felt that Farm Bureau should expand its activities with working legislative bodies in getting the Farm Bureau policies enacted.

The Committee viewed member involvement as the key to maintaining a strong Farm Bureau. It was asked that greater emphasis be given to the areas of Young Farmer activities, and the Community Group Programs. These two programs provide an opportunity for members to become active in their organization and the leadership ability, which is needed in agriculture.

The Committee asked that several activities be somewhat curtailed. One was to reduce television activities. It was felt that Farm Bureau should continue to make newscasts of people and events available to television stations. We should not attempt to make regular or feature programs unless issues around the time and expense involved.

Another activity, which will be continued is the Farm Bureau Record Keeping Program. This activity has been carried on for the past four years. It has not been operating on a financially sound basis. Therefore, the program will be continued on a direct-mail basis between members and the Iowa Farm Bureau, which has done the processing of records.

The Committee expressed concern over the prospect of a deficit budget for Farm Bureau. The members of the Committee reiterated that the major purpose of Farm Bureau is that of inflation. Costs have increased in the last few years. They recognized that Michigan Farm Bureau does have a reserve fund. This reserve fund is equal to about a half year's operation. The Committee felt that this fund was not adequate.

The Committee felt that more income must be generated for Farm Bureau. A proposed subsidy by affiliate companies was considered. This was rejected. The Committee adopted the philosophy that Farm Bureau should be a dues-financed organization.

The Committee recommended that the bylaws of Michigan Farm Bureau be amended to allow for Farm Bureau dues increase to 1971. This 1971 increase would be divided, 84 to Michigan Farm Bureau and 16 to the County Farm Bureau.

We applaud the members of the State Study Committee for their dedication and willingness to serve agriculture and our state as members of boards, commissions, committees, and advisory groups on which our agricultural representatives are appointed.

Often this service is rendered without any reimbursement for time and expenses involved.

Within our own organization we are also many who give of their time and talent to make Farm Bureau the effective organization we strive to make it.

We commend these people and recognize them for their unselfish service to agriculture.

MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION ANNUAL CONVENTION

Currently, the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention is held in early December. State Farm Bureaus must therefore conduct their annual meetings in November. This hands members, who are active farmers, an engaged in crop harvest at that time.

We ask that consideration be given to the necessary action to make the AFBF annual meeting dates to early January.

STATUSES OF PREVIOUS POLICIES

The policies adopted at the last annual previous annual meetings are hereby reaffirmed except as they have been modified or superseded by later policies.

Resolved, that the Bylaws of this corporation be amended, as follows, Section 1, Article I, Section 1. Annual dues. Except as to life membership, the annual dues required to be paid by members of the corporation shall be $25.00 per year effective for the 1971 membership year, and such dues shall be distributed between this association and the respective County Farm Bureau as determined by the Board of Directors, and shall include the annual dues of the American Farm Bureau Federation and an annual subscription for the association's publication. The amount of such dues shall contain the provision that no County Farm Bureau from voting additional local dues to be used for local purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION AMENDMENT — INDEMNIFICATION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Resolved, that the Bylaws of this corporation be amended as follows, Section 13, Article VIII, which Section shall read as follows: "In the event of any suit or proceeding instituted in which he may be made a party defendant by reason of his being or having been a director or officer of the company, the director or officer shall be indemnified to the extent of his duties as such director or officer, and in no event shall any such director or officer be indemnified to the extent of his duties as such director or officer, and in no event shall any such director or officer be indemnified to the extent of any liability he would be subject to by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence, or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of his office. The foregoing right of indemnification shall not be exclusive of other rights to which any director or officer may be entitled as a matter of law. Said indemnity shall also inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such person.

TWO SPACEMEN, COMPLETE WITH SPACE SUITS — distributed special certificates to the 71 Farm Bureau County presidents attending the 50th Anniversary annual meeting on December 11. Farm Bureau staff members Norman Goodling and Ron Jensen were the spacemen.
Another Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting is now past history. Without a doubt the hundreds of people that attended the business sessions, Commodity programs, the Farm Bureau Women's program and luncheons, Young Farmer program, the President's banquet and the evening banquet, will agree that the 50th Anniversary observance was indeed a success.

Two new members were elected to the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors at the 50th Annual meeting. Arthur Bailey, Kalamazoo county, replaced Harry Nye, St. Joseph county, representing the First district and Frank Schwindt, Chippewa county, will represent the Eleventh District (Upper Peninsula). Clayton Ford, Cornell, was the former Director.

Shuman Outlines Need for New Farm Program

"The near record crops of wheat, corn and feed grains harvested this year again demonstrates the impossibility of controlling production by individual crop acreage controls," Charles Shuman, President, said.

No census takers are to be hired for the 1969 Census of Agriculture, according to the U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

The agriculture census will be conducted entirely by mail in January of 1970. Every operator of a farm or ranch will receive a census form by mail in early January and will be asked to fill it out and mail it back.

The decision to use the mail out-mail back method, reached after tests showed a high percentage of response, is the latest in a series of plans designed to gain in efficiency and economy by using the mails to the greatest possible extent in conducting all censuses. The Census of Business and the Census of Manufactures are now conducted entirely by mail. The 1970 Census of Population and Housing will be on a mail basis in most city delivery areas with enumerators being used in rural areas and in some parts of the inner cities.

In addition to the number and acreage of farms, the agriculture census will ask farmers for an estimate of the value of land and buildings, the amount of cropland harvested, acreage of irrigated land, acreage in major crops, the number of farm operators by age, value of farm products sold, the amount of time farm operators worked off-farm jobs, and the number of autos, trucks, tractors, combines and corn pickers.

The completed questionnaire for each farm, ranch or other agricultural operation will be completely confidential. The information obtained, without names or clues to identity, will be grouped in statistical totals and published by counties and States as well as for the entire nation.

At Christmas-Time

At Christmas-time, those are the things I know: Fragrance of pine; air-frosted, keen with snow; laughter of children, raised in glad surprise; breathless expectancy; the smiling eyes of friends with gifts white clad and cherry tined; odor of good things cooking... There abide the dearest things I know in all the earth, home, and loved ones, friendship, song, and mirth. Holly gracing windows, sprigs of mistletoe hanging in the doorways, colored lights aglow. Friendly voices calling messages of cheer, "Merry, merry Christmas, and a gay and glad New Year."

All the world is wishing peace, goodwill to men, Since the Christmas spirit is in our hearts again.

—Enola Chamberlin

Use Christmas Seals.

It's a matter of life and breath.

FILL IT OUT MAIL IT BACK

JANUARY 1970

Farm Census to be Taken Entirely by Mail

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UNABLE TO SELL THEIR HARVEST THIS FALL — fruit growers in the West Central Region had just about decided to let the fruit stay on the trees. But they reckoned without their wives. They knew that this meant a loss of money to all. Farm Bureau ladies in the eastern part of the region wanted fresh quality fruit at reasonable prices. So, by means of telephone, the Oceana County Farm Bureau secretary contacted the Chairman of the Women’s Committees in Clare, Osceola and Isabella counties. Just two days after the initial phone call, a “member-to-member service” became a reality. Francis Hawley, President, Oceana County Farm Bureau and Bud Gilmore, Isabella County Farm Bureau president, unloaded the first truck load of prune plums, cling peaches and apples to Isabella County Farm Bureau Members. Fruit picked that morning in Oceana county was also delivered that same day to buyers in another part of the West Central region. Bob Hukill, Oceana county fruit grower, also delivered fresh fruit and later in the day, Farm Bureau members were able to buy fresh fruit at Farm Bureau Services Elevator in Mt. Pleasant. All a matter of cooperation and working together. A characteristic that has made Farm Bureau “click” since the organization began.

Young Farmers’ and Ranchers’ Convention Plans Announced

The next half century in Farm Bureau will be highlighted during portions of the American Farm Bureau Federation’s Golden Anniversary annual meeting in Washington, D.C., next month. The future of Farm Bureau and its programs will be explored as discussion meet contestants consider the topic, “Can Farm Bureau Survive Another 50 Years?” The discussion meet is the responsibility of the AFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee. The Committee is also responsible for the talent program on Sunday evening, Dec. 7.

Young farmers and ranches attending the annual meeting will have an opportunity to participate in all regular activities of the convention, in addition to the special programs designed specifically for them. One new innovation this year will be a young farmer and rancher reception at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, December 8. The reception will replace the traditional Monday luncheon program.

VAN BUREN CHARTER MEMBERS — attended their county annual meeting in Paw Paw. Present were Mr. and Mrs. Ward Hood, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley R. Cornish, Mr. and Mrs. John Fritz, Dean Foster, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Hartford, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Thomas. Rena Buskirk and Leua Webster.

OAKLAND COUNTIES FIRST MEMBER TO BE SIGNED UP — was Herbert Baynes, center. Mr. Baynes was signed up by Charles Bingham in 1919. Mr. Baynes attended Oakland county’s Annual Meeting. Greeting him was Andrew Jackson, District director and Edwin Erwin, County president.

Be the “Toast of the Town” and solve all your Winter Comfort

2-SPEED
“STANDARD” HUMIDIFIER

$79.95

Humidifies over 2500 sq. ft. with two-speed output control (900 and 1100 RPM). Features include “water wheel” action, front-filling, removable 8½ gallon rust-proof reservoir, automatic shut-off, humidistat and red “refill” indicator light.

See your local FARMERS PETROLEUM Dealer or Branch
Happy Holidays. This December is one of great activity throughout the world. Here in Michigan it’s no different as trimmings are being applied for many festive occasions. Many of those trimmings include buying of gifts, and some set, or set, or set up business on business of borrowing money and utilizing credit so items can be gift wrapped and delivered.

Credit business in the U. S. involves tens of billions of dollars in loans each year. In 1968 alone an estimated $810 billion was accounted for consumer credit. The convenience of buying by credit is great, sometimes the executive tax was favored over the costs of borrowing for the consumer is expensive. Sometimes, a four times more than the buyer ever realizes. But this holiday season will be different because of the new Truth in Lending Law which requires lenders of money to reveal the true costs of products to the buyer.

Basically the new laws centers around two disclosure rules which requires sellers to give clear printed easy-to-read information of the true costs of products for the consumer is charged when buying is an item.

In effect since July only the “Truth in Lending Law” is no longer known as the Federal Consumer Credit Protection Act, which former President Lyndon Johnson approved in early 1969. Credit to individuals for personal, family, household or agric. operations is more than $5. In addition, up to $7.50 back which depends on the state the law is used as collateral, except in the case of a mortgage to Finance the purchase of a dwelling.

EXEMPTIONS
Installation purchases of no more than $35 are exempt from any of the new lending law requirements. The exemption also applies to items costing $25 to $75 if the finance charge is less than $5. In addition, up to $75 in credit charges are allowed on purchases of more than $75 without revealing finance charges.

NEWSPAPER ADS AFFECTED
The new law also protects the consumer in newspaper advertisements, which mention credit terms. For instance, “so much down and so much a month,” statements now must include more pertinent information such as the total cash price, the finance charge both in dollars and cents as an annual percentage rate and the number, amount, and date of payments due.

CREDIT PLAN AGREEMENT EXAMPLE
The annual percentage rate in the contract below is easy to read as well as additional expense the consumer is required to pay. However, other terms of the agreement can be confusing if not carefully read. The new “Truth in Lending Law” is a great aid for farmers in knowing the true price of goods.

CREDIT PLAN AGREEMENT—Notice to Buyer: Please read this Agreement before you sign it. In consideration of your selling merchandise and services to me on the Extends-A-Charge Account, I agree to the following terms: 1) all purchases hereinafter made by me of the privilege of a 30-day grace period, in which case I will pay the cash price in full for all merchandise within 30 days of the billing date of each bill. I do not pay all for merchandise is within 30 days of the billing date, I shall pay the sales price for all purchases, consisting of the cash sale price and shipping charges plus a finance charge of 14% of the unpaid balance of the grace period. Minimum charge is $5. I receive a monthly statement as a specified billing date determined by you showing my unpaid balance. I will pay each monthly installment in accordance with your published schedule of payments within 30 days of billing date; however, if within 30 days from billing date, I pay the full amount shown on the statement, no finance charge on such amount will be charged on any subsequent statement. My scheduled monthly payment will not decline as my unpaid balance is reduced. I may at any time pay my entire balance. If I do not comply with any provision of this Agreement, the entire unpaid balance shall, at your option, become immediately due and payable. In such event, I agree to pay the entire unpaid balance upon demand. You may in any event limit the amount of my account balance.

NEW AND ADD-ON CUSTOMERS

SIGN HERE
[Signature]

Wife’s Signature

Date

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS
December 1, 1969

SEVENTEEN
Action Through Community Groups

Do you want to participate more fully in your organization? You will find that participation makes an organization more meaningful to you. How can you participate? By joining a Community Group.

What is a Community Group?
A Community Group is an opportunity to be with people like you. It is a chance to discuss issues with them. It is an opportunity for you to learn events. It is a method in Farm Bureau for members to direct the policy of the Farm Bureau organization.

What else can I get from a Community Group?
By taking part in a Community Group you will find that you are informed on Legislative issues facing you as a farmer. Each Community Group has a Minute Man who receives information on activities of Legislative bodies both in Washington and Lansing. At each meeting these Minutemen will report to you. Many Community Groups also have speakers on local issues. Do you know what the welfare budget for your county is and how it is spent? What is being done in your county on county wide zoning? Many county group members know the answers to these and other questions because they have had a speaker on these matters.

One thing agriculture and this country need today is more and better leaders. Opportunity for leadership development is a part of Community Group. By serving as a group officer you will let your true colors show. With the practice you receive by being a leader in a small group you will be better qualified for greater leadership opportunities in your county. By belonging to a Community Group, one can also feel a sense of belonging to the organization. Finally, members feel that a Community Group offers them an opportunity to do something for their community in an organized manner. Some county groups carry on projects regularly. One Community Group maintains a township park. Another group maintains a township cemetery that had no care. Another group was able to organize a township volunteer fire department. One group, near an urban area, made arrangements with a school in the city and set up a schedule for classes to visit farms of the members of the group.

How often does a group meet?
Most groups meet once a month. Some take a vacation in July and August. Many of them meet 12 times a year, however. Often a group has a summer picnic for members and their families.

What does it cost to belong to a community group?
The old saying, "The best things in life are free" is true in the case of Community Groups. A Community Group is free to Farm Bureau members.

How do I join?
Contact your County Secretary. She will see that you are invited to join in an existing group or you may be assisted in starting one.

Once you are participating in a group you will know more about Farm Bureau. You will find that it means more to you. You will see the value of Farm Bureau.

Contact your County Secretary today. Tell her you are interested in belonging to a Farm Bureau Community Group.

Season's Best Wishes

We pause at this time of year to thank you for your continued patronage and wish that this holiday season and the coming year will be the best you have ever enjoyed.
December 1, 1969

STAGGERING STATISTICS
Sell a woman a dairy product she doesn't think looks or tastes just right and you have made a real enemy, according to a dairy products buying survey of 341 housewives in southeastern Michigan.

The Michigan State University survey showed that many women will change brands on the basis of a product, just as many as they would contact the store manager for replacement of the product.

A California farm leader, and an official of the California Farm Bureau, in commenting upon the grape boycott, says, "Repeal laws that they can or can't buy in the marketplace." The rights of consumers of California grapes—a device that has been used, not as a protest by consumers as a way to compel retailers to accede to labor union wishes by forcing them to remove grapes from store shelves, thus arbitrarily narrowing consumer choice. The Farm Bureau believes producers' freedom to market their goods is fundamental to the preservation of a free economy.

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ONIA COUNTY SECRETARY—Mrs. Irma Covert accepted a certificate from Michigan Farm Bureau's secretary-manager Dan Reed at Ionia County's annual meeting. Mr. Reed presented the certificate in recognition of her dedicated years of service.

3-BEDROOM, CONTEMPORARY SECTIONAL HOMES
We believe in: A GOOD HOME FOR GOOD PEOPLE—AT A PRICE THEY CAN AFFORD TO PAY
The 26' x 22' model for $11,995 (1224 sq. ft.) Approved for city or country—completely furnished.
BAKER'S COMMUNITY HOME
214 W. Pine Street
Elkton, Michigan 48831

PETROLIUM'S Newest
Huge Transport

The newest addition to the Farmers Petroleum transport fleet is a Diamond-Reo tractor and custom semi-trailer combination.

FOOT ROT SALT
Economical—yes, because Hardy gives you protection from foot rot problems. Feed it safely to all classes of livestock, even cows in milk production. Also provides salt and all the necessary trace mineral requirements. Available in bags or blocks.

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The Gift That Never Wears Out...

From infancy, through childhood, school years and retirement, your gift is always ready. As a guarantee for sound education, as a low interest loan, as an added retirement benefit, your child or grandchild will always remember your gift. No other present is so personal, so thoughtful, so far-sighted, so remembered as...

...Life Insurance at Christmas

FARM BUREAU
INSURANCE
GROUP

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