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

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

— Vern M. Bullen Photo

MICHIGAN WEEK — MAY 17-24 “LAND OF HOSPITALITY”

I'd hate to have to live down South where grass is always green...
Where Winter never comes around and snow is never seen.

I'm glad I live in Michigan where all these dreams come true...
Where Summer never lingers long but yields to Autumn's hue.

I like to feel the icy blast which makes the trees bow low...
I like to stand and gaze aloft and watch the falling snow.

And then the Spring with sunshine hair and rainy fingertips,
Comes skipping o'er the meadow to kiss the daisy's lips.

— David Cook
Editorial strength
freely given

There is joy at Farm Bureau Center, Lansing. It is reflected joy, having spread to the Michigan Farm Bureau from the communities and counties which produced brilliantly successful Roll Call membership drives. All over the state counties first reached and then surpassed membership goals. Some seem unable to turn off and new members continue to be signed!

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

Roll-Call membership drives without fear coercion or compulsion. Volunteer workers did the job, and in Michigan these gave tremendously of their time and effort -- often during the worst weather of winter.

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

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

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

The organized labor--more members are often not welcome. More often than not, they are severely discouraged or even refused admission by unions which have set limits on the amount of opportunity they will allow within one trade area.

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

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

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

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

Farm Bureau gains come totally from those willing to work voluntarily.

Farm Bureau volunteer effort is effective at hearings and before commissions. It is effective, with editors and newsmen and in all phases of legislation. It is especially effective in LOCAL AFFAIRS -- in solving water drainage, fire-warning and ambulance service problems, in pollution control, bonding issues, local school and local party.

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

Melvin WoeI

President's Column
let's do it first

When the state Topic Committee met last January, they picked 'Farm Labor Problems' for the May discussion by Community Farm Bureau Groups. They then have picked a more timely or important topic if they had tried.

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

Almost all of the labor in this country is organized. Included are truck drivers, policemen, nurses and office workers. Farm labor remains an occasional exception, but the idea that farm workers are somehow not being organized is simply not true. The labor union boycott of California table grapes is part of this test. So are bills introduced in the Michigan legislature which would set the rates for farm labor at no more than ten per day, 48 hours in a week and 6 days per week. Other bills would provide labor guarantees. Both these and similar bills have been sponsored by Michigan Representative James O'Hara (D-Detroit) and others.

Both bills are aimed at labor unions and other industries in attempting to extend the Labor Management Relations Act -- designed to fit commercial and industrial firms, to agriculture.

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

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

These are some of the reasons why I think farmers had better take the lead in writing the terms of two fair farm labor laws -- one for others and one for us. In forming up with our own legislation, we could protect ourselves and our workers by outlining certain prohibited acts.

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

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

"Featherbedding" as it is practiced in some unions, is something that farm labor needs under a fair act which would allow strikes at harvest or at other times which would result in the loss of a farm product.

I think we must pledge to fight without compromising on the kind of labor law which would allow strikes at harvest or at other times which would result in the loss of a farm product.

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

Elton Smith

Michigan Farm News
May 1, 1969

Cover Story
Bedding Plant Farmers

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

The late and young Mr. Penning started with one greenhouse 20 years ago and has transformed this modest beginning into 13 structures -- all but one plastic covered and each measuring 60 by 14 feet.

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

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

The Penning's grow more than 50,000 flats of flower seedlings and vegetables -- with a new project this year involving 50,000 potted flowering plants, putting them into year-round production.

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

Besides Farm Bureau, the Pennings are active in the Kalamazoo Valley Plant Growers Cooperative, with members growing more than 500,000 containers of seedlings each year. The 27 growers in the cooperative provide leadership for the rapidly expanding industry which in southwest Michigan alone annually produces an estimated two to three-million seedling flats.

Michigan Farm News


May 1, 1969

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

Roll Call membership drive
"about time you got back, been holding a crate with a couple 'a rabbits you ordered..."
Congratulations Continue: Michigan is Membership Leader

Western Union

DAN REED,
Secretary Manager, Michigan Farm Bureau.

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

O. R. LONG, Director Field Services Division

STATE SENATOR - Mrs. N. Loraine B levee of Decatur (12th District) is pictured at a recent social function where she secured a presentation from several grape boycotters. With her (right) is Jack Angell of the American Farm Bureau. The filling was done by the Information Division staff of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

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

former board member

Edgar O. Diamond, prominent Alpena county Farm Bureau leader and educator, died March 31. He was 62 years old.

In the years from 1942 to 1966, he served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Michigan Farm Bureau, representing District 10.

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

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

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

TOURS ANNOUNCED

SCANDINAVIA - September 8

See Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark in the fall. Most necessary expenses included in tour cost.

HAWAII - Oct. 14

Two weeks duration... visit four islands. Hotel, sightseeing, tips included in tour cost. Early reservations necessary.

CALIFORNIA CRUISE - Oct. 25

Air to Los Angeles, bus up the Pacific Coast and a slow boat back to Los Angeles. Early reservations necessary.

SOUTH PACIFIC - Nov. 1

An ideal tour to visit the island of the South Pacific including Pago Pago, Bora Bora, Tahiti and Samoa.

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

Information Division,
Michigan Farm Bureau,
4000 N. Grand River Ave.
Lansing, Michigan 48904
Phone: 517-485-8112

VACATION!

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

THE ORIENT - June 12

One month tour... Japan, Korea, Formosa, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, and the Philippines.

THE NORTHWEST - June 30-July 12

A 3 week tour of Europe... visit nine countries plus the Island of Victoria.

EUROPE - August 5

A 3 week tour of Europe... visit nine countries plus the Island of Majorca.

CANADIAN ROCKIES - Aug. 9

All the way to the West Coast and into the Canadian Rockies by bus and train and then by ship to the Island of Victoria.

MEXICO - Aug. 17

Ten day tour via jet-air, hotels, sightseeing and some meals. Under $500.

state senator declares boycott action a fraud

By Vern M. Bullen

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

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

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

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

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

In California, one state Senator has offered his full year's salary as a reward for the identification of "Favce Jusita," the little half-starved and dirty girl shown on newsreels. In the "Thumb" region, became first in families are furious because the man, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, has announced 50 of the state's 71 Farm Bureau counties "over goal" - one region reporting 100 per cent of its county, and a state membership of 54,200 Farm Bureau families for the 1969 year.

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

Senator Beebe visited District 9 - the "Thumb" region, became first in the state to report all goal counties.

"Although some lack goal, nearly 100 per cent of all communities have gained in membership over last year, with Michigan now sure to be recognized at the December annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau as one of the rare every-county gain states. Michigan remains substantially ahead in membership of arch-rival, Ohio Farm Bureau - which although reportedly also a "gain" state is said to be dragging as it nears the finish line. This has caused Michigan membership workers to make it known that they will be happy to allow Ohio to drag the tail-end trophy back across the border "where it belongs... .

In answer to the question of how we in Michigan can help, the Senator said "Ninety per cent of all perishable foods will be counted against the boy-cott. We must stand together."

The Perry group said that the grape workers are now being paid hourly wages higher than those proposed by the striking union and that the unions are using the "strike" to increase their personal income and power. They said that if encouraged the union campaigns are far more serious handicap both producers and consumers..."
achieved by manual means. A roiler was an instrument of measure, to be found in the shop of authority, also. Nor did the teacher hesitate to employ it. I should like to imagine that schools revert to its use, but as a man's heart is sometimes reached, a roiler, once occasionally his mind can best be approached circumlocutorily from the rear.

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

The anecdote, the trivial inci- dent that had been elaborated upon imaginatively, was the most popular kind of humor. Someone began by recounting a day's experience of no serious consequence, in which he saw coinci- dences, or apparitions, or going on at his own expense. In the retelling by others, the story was often somewhat warped, and part of it exploited. The stories most enjoyed had a very, self-deprecia- tion about them, such as it was, in- cluding the telling. This kind of humor had to be dashed as a safety valve. If a person who could talk some fun at himself is likely to be the one who under every condi- tion maintains his balance and sense of direction.

Isolated as we were, and hav- ing few books, we had no radio, television, or telephone, and the only personal conversation was as essential to our well-being as bread. Seedling, milking, banking, and selling farm produce were done to the steady accompani- ment of talk. Strings of words would wind around us, and without them, we kept one another from becoming bored down in the next winter.

The pattern of isolation on oc- casion broke down. At harvest the farm would be invaded by neighboring farm families who had come over to help us with our crops, and additional field hands would be taken on. The fresh faces, the good talk, the XVI-17 seven days a week, seemed like a holiday. In the au- tumn, after the bustle of canning, the children were busy cutting apples to cider-ers, friends gathered around, our table would be crowded with the results of the previous year.

In the winter there was the excitement of butchering and salting six or eight legs and of curing hams, again, with the help of friends.

Young people who had a passion for the outdoors found it was only necessary to hitch a horse to a cart, drive ten miles, and dance until two in the morning. While the exhausted driver rested as best he could on the carriage seat, the members of the crew would take up the empty skyline. The next morning a farmer might find the horse grazing at the front gate or at the watering trough, his head reared, the reins long fallen from his hands.

We made a weekly trip to six or eight miles to Constantine or Traverse Rivers for supplies and to pick up the mail and newspaper. By nine o'clock on Saturday the towns were doing business on a big scale, and the hitching posts were crowded. Mother would be looking at dry goods or traded news with friends along the street.

Father would be watching the horses shod or tied. We children would be latering on the side- walks chewing spice gum, de- siring a penny stick of hal- hurd candy, or shaking two cents worth of peanuts.

I remember walking with fa- ther from the main street into the initial semi-darkness of the stores. My nose immediately scented the freshly ground coffee," the spices, the sea pickles, and the store cookies. In a moment my eye could distinguish the rows of bar- rels that contained crackers, sugar, salt, flour, dried peas and beans, the bags of fine cut tobacco, and the shelves of canned goods. Coal and dilignted, the grocer, arm bands on his sleeves, would greet us.

How excellent a station in life town people seemed to have, white collars, shielded from the weather, with decent working hours. We received for better and eggs so plentiful. But the farmers believed that he was exploited by everyone. It was a rare farmer who did not find his added political and economic status. The organization of farmer associations Garages, The haying and Pool Alliances — sprang from this dis- content.

On Saturdays saloons were well patronized. Children would stand around watching the doors swing accessibly back and forth, wondering what in that dim, aromatic place human eyes saw.

Licensed saloon keepers were usu- ally responsible people, cutting off a youth's drink in good time. Not so the "blond pigs," the unlicensed saloons. Many an erstwhile pub- lican had to lean against a hitching rail or pole, or carry to an alleyway to sleep off the ef- fects of his libation.

It seemed to me as a child that drink almost always brought out the meanness in a man. In freezing weather horses would be left unblanketed for hours outside a saloon. A man who had bent his elbow a few times might stuff out a cigar on a horse's nose, and the poor frightened animal would tear away from the hitching rail and careers dangerously up the street — or a man might, out of the mainness, beat a horse all the way home. Women avoided the neighborhood of saloons, per- haps not so much to avoid offense as embarrassment and inconven- ience. I remember mother was dismayed one day that the only person at a hitching rail was a woman. In the street — and the women were of a mind to give us, and they set the price of what we bought as well. A whole year of work on a farm could go for naught, it appeared, if town people were of a mind to say it should. The government could g~ for naught, it appeared, if town people were of a mind to say it should. The government could g~ for naught, it appeared, if town people were of a mind to say it should.

In observance of that event, portions of a book dealing with sig- nificant battles in Roman his- torv. Attention was re-enforced today — poems like "Snowbound" rules for letter writing, and dates...
national talk-meet-winner—John Nye

"Young Farmers Must Be More Active..."

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

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

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

"Problems in agriculture and labor are closely related," John said. "There is a great need for stronger management practices on the part of the farmer if he plans to meet the problems facing him. Farmers are going more and more into specialized farming and to further improve their farming operation, management training must be included as part of their overall preparedness to becoming an efficient farmer. The ability to purchase mechanical equipment and supplies to take the place of the ignorant labor that is no longer available to us plus the ability to earn the money to purchase this equipment is necessary.

Most farmers find that more and more they are having to depend on their own families for help at harvest time. Local help is not always available and the migrant help becomes more difficult each year."

Mr. Cook was curious as to what affects John's winning the National Discussion topic had had on his farming career and thinking. "Actual affects?" John asked, "there has been no change in my beliefs other than now I know more than ever that the farmer must stop thinking of himself as 'low man on the run'. He has to come into his own and make up his mind that he has to employ some of the same ideas and practices that other big businesses use to promote his products and that the day of the road-side stand to make his living is gone. We must have markets and must have equal marketing opportunities and prices to allow all of us to make a good living."

The Nyes were part of the annual Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Legislative tour that visited Washington, D.C., taking part while John was Berrien County's Young Farmer Director. John is firm in stating that this tour was one of the greatest experiences in his young life. He saw that the elected representatives actually are interested in the farmer and that Michigan Farm Bureau's opinions are valued and receive a great deal of respect.

"Now I think the time is right to show many of our Community Group's Young Farmers the necessity of promoting the Young Farmers program and practices."

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

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

When John competed with the other state contestants in Kansas City, Mo., last year, he said, in effect: "Young Farmers must be active. We must be part of a Community Group that can plan, talk and carry out progressive farming methods. We need to know all we can learn of means to help farmers earn on an equal basis with salaried workers in our country. Agriculture is the number two industry in our state and it's time we promoted it on an equal basis with the promotion given to the products of the automobile industry."

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

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

Michigan Week will be with us in a couple of weeks and I hope you are planning to emphasize Michigan, our products, spots of interest, vacation opportunities, and most of all our pride in Michigan. Learn all you can about Michigan and tell others about Michigan and our products, spots of interest, and most of all our pride in Michigan. While in high school, he held several FFA offices and was the Science Club president. Kathleen was an honor roll student at Ellsworth Community High School and served as class secretary and business officer. She is maintaining a 3.30 average at MSU, in her chosen home economics-teaching course.

Both students received high recommendations from former teachers and associates. The scholarship is a gift to the qualifying student and can be renewed after a yearly review.

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

one more fast-time defeat!

Another attempt to place Michigan on Daylight Saving Time has been defeated — this time by the actions of the state Court of Appeals in turning down a case brought by two Grand Rapids law students against the state Board of Canvassers. The Court of Appeals cited a "lack of merit" in the case made by the students who had sought to overturn the certification of the Board of Canvassers through a technicality. The students said that exact dates for Daylight Saving Time's clock-changes should have been placed on the ballot.

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

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

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

I thought maybe you'd like this . . .

COMPASSION

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

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

Mrs. Jerold (Maxine) Topliff

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

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

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

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Mrs. Maxine Topliff, Ex-Officio member, Eaton Rapids.

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

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

What's a funny place for a phone?

That depends on what you think is funny. If rushing in from the barn or back forty to answer a telephone leaves you out of breath, then perhaps an extension telephone is the answer. You can put an extension telephone in any funny old place you'd like. But not at the dump.

We believe in: A GOOD HOME FOR GOOD PEOPLE — AT A PRICE THEY CAN AFFORD TO PAY

"IN THE SPRINGTIME, A NEWLYWED'S FANCY . . ."

3-BEDROOM, CONTEMPRI SECTIONAL HOMES

Baker's Community Homes
Phone (517) 865-5480
214 W. Pine Street
Elsie, Michigan 48831

"We approve for city or country — completely furnished"

Approved for city or country — completely furnished

Michigan Bell Telephone Company of Michigan
Part of the Nationwide Bell System

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Mrs. Jerold (Maxine) Topliff
Taxes ... a necessary "evil" to maintain our accepted ... and expected way of life.

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

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

Taxes ... an item on each landowner's tax bill that allots ... in some areas, 70¢ or more of the total tax bill for education.

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

At the December 1968, annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau, one of the policies adopted reads, "Recent sessions of the Legislature have adopted revised and improved versions of the state school aid formula and have requested versions of the state aid proposals to be developed to assist school districts in meeting the cost of building-needed facilities; -- the state's share of operational cost should continue to increase, in order to achieve tax equity and provide ... equal share of operational cost should be guaranteed even though income tax within the district yielded only a fraction of that amount.

In order to pay for the additional state aid, the plan would create a State Educational Tax Fund, to be funded by an increase in the state personal income tax up to 2%, in which case the state would guarantee $20 per pupil per mill, or a total of $100 per pupil.

Still another example of a district with an average valuation per child, $15,000, and raising 20 mills of property tax — presently, this would amount to $38 per pupil. Here again, the property tax could be cut to 12 mills and the district would receive more money — $550 per pupil.

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

A public hearing was held on this program on March 27. The House floor and galleries were filled. Representatives of 20 or more organizations testified, including Farm Bureau. All were in support of the program. If this, or any other new school finance plan, receives serious consideration it will no doubt be amended. For instance, Farm Bureau is looking into the possibility of placing a limit on school property tax not to exceed a percentage of income.

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

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

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

Mr. R.B. Board of Directors is also studying Rep. Roy Smith's (R-82nd Dist.) plan to petition for a constitutional amendment removing the operating cost of schools from the property tax. This has broad implications. Any results from this proposal could not be implemented before 1971, at the earliest, unless voted on until November, 1970.

At least four measures are now before the legislature that would provide the elimination of farm lands on their agricultural use rather than "potential" value. The importance of this part of the whole tax problem.

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

PRILLWITZ NAMED

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

The appointment was made to fill a vacancy declared on the resignation of Joel Chapin, Mascouta county. A director of the Berrien county Farm Bureau Oil Company, Prillwitz operates a 320-acre farm near Clay Township. He is a past president of the East Claire Fruit Exchange.

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March 6, 1969

OHIO MINKING SHORTHAIR BREEDERS SHOW & SALE OHIO HIGHLIGHTS INVITATIONAL

We hope you will attend and enjoy one of Ohio's finest breeds.

Show 10:30 A.M. — Sale 1:30 P.M. — Show ring located at the West Branch Farm Bureau Office, 72 Main St., West Branch, Mich. 49097

The Candy Bar will be located at the rear of the arena.

Judge John C. Johnstone, West Branch, Mich. 49097

For Information Contact:

Richard Stowell, P. O. Box 128, West Branch, Mich. 49097

Feb. 25 — Flyer

OHIO HIGHLIGHTS INVITATIONAL

We hope you will attend and enjoy one of Ohio's finest breeds.

Show 10:30 A.M. — Sale 1:30 P.M. — Judge John C. Johnstone, West Branch, Mich. 49097

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OHIO HIGHLIGHTS INVITATIONAL

We hope you will attend and enjoy one of Ohio's finest breeds.
Farmers Reminded of Compensation Rules!

By: John Leary
Farm Bureau Insurance Group

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Employee coverages are subject to audit by the issuing insurance company to determine the amount of involved exposure. Work records should always be kept by name, amount of time worked and amount paid each employee. Payment includes items such as housing or room and board.

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

READ THE LABEL

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

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

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

Hardy ZEo TABS

Regenerate Lazy Water Softeners

Zeo Tabs restore full softener capacity, give you more soft water. Conveniences, dependable Zeo Tabs dissolve completely, act fast without sludge — for trouble-free soft water all the time. Excellent for all types of softeners.

Hardy

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FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.
Cottawa Heights, Michigan
FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.
Hastings, Michigan
Moline, Illinois
Onekama, Michigan
FALMOUTH CO-OP COMPANY
Fremont, Michigan
FALMOUTH CO-OP COMPANY
Merrill, Michigan
SOMERS CO-OP
Newaygo, Michigan
KIT CARLING, Michigan
FALMOUTH CO-OP COMPANY
Merrill, Michigan
FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.
Traverse City, Michigan
MERRILL IRWIN MEMORIAL LEADERS — gather following a highly successful dinner honoring the late Gratiot county farm leader. County Farm Bureau president, Dale Stoneman, (left) thanks board member Don Root who served as "M.C." Others pictured represent farm groups with whom Irwin worked. From left: James DeMott, Mich. Animal Breeders; Eugene Erskin, Mich. Milk Producers and Mich. Farm Cooperatives; Harry Lund, Ag-Extension and Loren Brown, Gratiot PCA.

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

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MICHIGAN FARM NEWS  May 1, 1969
EXCELLENT APPLES — typical of those on the sorting table are shown by Harry and John Nye — father-son partners of rural St. Joseph address (Berrien county). Father Harry is a member of the Mich. Farm Bureau board. Son John is national Young Farmer Discussion Meet winner.

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

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

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

Then Use The Best Diesel Fuel by a "Country Mile!"

You can depend on Farmers Petroleum to keep ahead of the rest, to give you Tomorrow's fuel Today. The new diesel high performance additive, HPAD, makes outstanding Power Balanced Custom Diesel Fuel better than ever. Get quicker starts . . . more power . . . and less smoke from Custom Diesel with HPAD. Increase your tractor life with a tankful today and get that extra "Country Mile" right now!

* Power-Balanced gasoline is best for all your other highway and farm vehicles.

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FARMERS PETROLEUM

LANSING, MICHIGAN
Farm Labor Problems

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


By: Melvin L. Woell

Although Michigan has an impressive agricultural industry in many ways it might be termed a “labor” state. Organized labor has made its mark on the industries which support the agriculture of the state. Michigan has unions which have attained a sizable membership and which have made public demands in a public forum. These union organizations have been given a certain amount of recognition by the industries which have employed Michigan workers. The unions have been able to establish a foothold in the agricultural industry, and the results have been felt by the workers and the public alike.

The author, Melvin L. Woell, discusses the impact of farm labor on the agricultural industry in Michigan. He addresses the issue of how to manage farm labor and the challenges faced by farmers, unions, and state regulations.

**DISCUSSION Topic**

**COMPULSORY FARM UNIONISM**

Organized labor is moving quietly in giving strong support to a bill which would allow the capture of millions of agricultural workers by compulsory unionization. In support of the bill, the author, Melvin L. Woell, provides an analysis of the bill's impact on the agricultural industry.

**INFO SELF REGULATION**

Farm labor-management keys

Information and self-regulation appear to be keys by which farmers may retain their farm labor-management freedoms. New, highly restrictive and extremely costly farm labor regulations are proposed in Washington and Lansing. They propose to add to the many laws and regulations which already cover the production and harvesting of farm crops in our state. Meanwhile, public controversies over farm labor and related subjects are increasing daily, and it has become vital that farmers recognize and understand the many and oftentimes very confusing sanitation, safety, housing, and wage laws which exist and that they carefully observe them.

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

- Be informed: a yearly subscription to Farm Bureau's MASA (Mich. Agricultural Services Association) labor-management information newsletter service will provide clear, factual material on state and local labor problems. It is an inexpensive method of keeping informed.
- Prepare written work agreements with those you hire!
- Abide by the law in full detail pertaining to minimum wages and Workmen's Compensation.
- Prevent trouble. Take positive action toward labor management relations. Human relations are often so simple that they are overlooked. However, proper human relations are much more satisfactory and much more economical than any legislated compulsory labor management which could result from even simple misunderstandings.

**HELPFUL HUMAN-RELATIONS RULES:**

- Remember, people want to feel important—that they are a part of the success of any operation. Help them “belong.”
- People want to be respected. Everyone has self-respect needs. Respect for work and for property begins with self-respect.
- People desire recognition. Recognition for work well done is often better “pay” than money.
- People want to make progress—in both earnings and status. They need to know where they stand—and they need to know this regularly. Will they advance? Will they get what they want? Is the pay equal to the effort? A regular basis is the best form of worker-employer human relations.
- People are concerned about their relations with fellow employees. Teamwork is important. Requests gain more if in a kindly manner.

**NEXT MONTH:**

Texas, school finance...
But then . . . new ideas and insurance firsts are "old hat" at Farm Bureau Insurance Group. For twenty years you've relied on broad Farm Bureau Insurance protection. Now, AGROPLAN adds unique and exclusive Michigan farm coverages like:

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