FARM BUREAU PRESIDENTS—State and American, join in a Golden Anniversary discussion of how best to serve farmers, now and in the next 30 years. Charles B. Shuman (left) President of the American Farm Bureau Federation and Elton R. Smith, President of the Michigan Farm Bureau, review progress in serving member-families "Farm Bureau's reason to exist."

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

—Vern M. Bullen Photo
**Editorial**

**SUPER-market struggle**

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

The slogan "Slavery is illegal, don't buy California grapes" issued by the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee in Michigan rallies, underscores the lengths to which the AFL-CIO will go in closing their grab for power behind the cloak of emotionalism.

Intense interest shown in promoting the grape boycott by the U.S. Consumer's Union and C. W. Post College. This student group has assuring a free flow of food to the American public. The boycott and assuring a free flow of food to the American public.

"Why the grape boycott must be ended" — a copy of the leaflet printed by the "Consumer's Union." Here is a current list of some products upon which the union game of helping the American public is aggressively playing. Some activist ministers have lent responsibility to the movement, "Who America's grape growers have proven that you have solid confidence in your future as a farm organization within the agriculture of this state. The degree of 'health' of a state Farm Bureau is best shown by its degree of concern for member-service and by its lack of factionalism. If you have an organizational sickness, it is most apt to show within the board of directors and in how they react.

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

In informal conversation with the board and members of the Michigan Farm Bureau staff, Shuman underlined the reasons for Farm Bureau's existence as an organization.

Our only justification for being around, he said, "is to be of service to Farm Bureau families. Mind you — not just farm families — but Farm Bureau families. To properly account for the tremendous resources in time and money spent, we must serve Farm Bureau families just as all farm families as well."

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

**President's Column**

**INVITATION!**

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

Now, June 25 will be a red-letter day in cooperation history for Michigan. The new feed plant is opened on that day for public inspection.

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

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

It was hard to visualize at that time how much new technology, new equipment, new products, new day-to-day operations will be gaining for the state in this new feed plant, just as they are gaining nearly a dozen other important production and distribution facilities over the state's geographic area. From a business standpoint, Farm Bureau Services is a series of successful farm enterprises.

Michigan cooperatives have a long history of serving the needs of Michigan farmers and Farm Bureau Services has long been a leader among cooperatives. A further step in this cooperative trend is Farm Bureau Services was joint-owner along with Illinois and Indiana Farm Bureau supply cooperatives at a food mill at Hammond, Indiana.

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

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

However, automation can't do everything — in fact it can't do the most important thing of all — make us all healthy, happy... So Farm Bureau Services' management must do that, and in Paul Mollneux, we have a top man to direct operations. Paul has many valuable years of feed-production experience in all phases of the farm-food business. A further advantage is his deep experience and understanding of the cooperative concept. At one time he farmed in Missouri, and he managed a feed plant in Indiana for the past 16 years.

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

We'll have the official dedication on June 25 to attend the Open House for the new plant, take part in the tours, enjoy a noon-time meal and the program which follows. Program details are printed elsewhere in this issue. I hope every one of you will be able to make it. I hope to see you there.

Elton Smith
Citizenship Seminar

...a deep concern

SEMINAR COUNSELORS — Kathy Geiger and Harry Wilson.

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

Purpose of the Seminar is to instill the deep concern Michigan Farm Bureau has for the strengthening of the free enterprise system in the United States, citizen responsibility to their country, and to offer constructive aids to improve the American way of life.

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

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

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

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

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

Harry is a member of the Holt high school Student Council and school band. He has played varsity basketball for four years, baseball for two years and is a member of the school choir. Harry has also been prominent in many school activities and is a member of the Greater Lansing Youth Council.

He represented Ingham county at Boy's State in 1968 and also attended Michigan Farm Bureau's Citizenship Seminar last year. He plans a Pre-Med course at Western Michigan University.

NATIONAL CAR RENTAL OFFERS DISCOUNT TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

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

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

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

Adding appeal (especially for those who have driven H-Green stamps with car-rental payments.

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

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

That Grape Boycott

Reprinted from the Grand Rapids Press

The California grape boycott which has flared here and in other Michigan cities, as well as in many other states, is a bold attempt by a union—the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee—to use retailers and consumers for its own ends.

Those ends are to organize California grape workers, the great majority of whom apparently want nothing to do with the UFWOC. The UFWOC's membership probably represents less than 3 per cent of all California farm workers. Wages paid California grape pickers — at last report $2.52 an hour — are relatively high for farm workers. There is nothing to stop them from joining any union if they wish. The UFWOC is using virtually every known tactic to enroll them. In some instances it has signed contracts with producers covering their workers without giving the workers a chance to vote on whether they want to belong to the UFWOC. Strikes, many of them marked by violence and conducted in large part by persons having nothing to do with the grape industry, have had a disruptive effect, but they haven't stampeded the workers into the union.

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

Services OPEN HOUSE at Battle Creek!

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

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

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

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

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

A noon-time barbecue will be served to the public, with several thousand persons expected, including cardinals from local co-operatives and from Community Farm Bureau groups.

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

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

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A dedication to progress...

...And you're Invited!

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

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

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

OPEN HOUSE
June 25, 1969

PARK at the Kellogg Regional Airport, west side of Battle Creek, Business Route I-94 at 28th Street. Shuttle buses will take you to and from the mill.
APRIL 11, 1965

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

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

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

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TRAGIC SCENES

Silos were toppled. A calf, hip crushed, lay in the yard now relabeled as a junk yard. Feathers of chickens searched the wreckage for food. Machinery lay tangled in a mass of steel.

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

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

AFTERMATH

It added up to a $23 million loss for Michigan. After the dust had cleared, neighbors and, often, strangers, pitched in to lend a helping hand. Local Farm Bureau members and those from neighboring counties poured into the stricken areas armed with chainsaws and other tools necessary for "cleaning up." Teenagers removed and burned debris. Neighbors furnished food and shelter.

NEEDS QUICKLY MET

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

All Farm Bureau Insurance claims were handled by Farm Bureau's own Agents and Adjusters. Additional adjusters were brought in on a temporary basis from other parts of the state, and repairs, in some cases, were begun the day after the storm.

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

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

A TUMBLED SILO — was just one of many losses suffered by this Hillsdale county farmer and his family during the Palm Sunday tornadoes of 1965. The storm ripped the roof off their home, disintegrated several farm buildings and scattered 300 bales of hay over the countryside.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

June 1, 1969

FIVE
One day in the spring of 1923, the Governor's secretary, Major Hezekiah N. Duff, telephoned me to come to the Governor's office. This was the first call from Governor Alexander J. Groesbeck in the two years that I had been secretary of the Michigan State Farm Bureau. His voice was thin and reedy, but in the background of his voice there was a note of unhappiness that was obvious. The Bureau was urging the Legislature to enact a gas tax; the Governor opposed the tax.

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

Automobile traffic necessitated new and better roads. In 1919 the Legislature voted a $50 million bond issue to build highways. It was obviously unjust to worsen the economic plight of the farmer by taxing him under the Covert Road Act for roads that would mainly benefit the city people, who owned most of the cars. Farmers felt those who used the roads should pay for them. Accordingly, county delegates instructed the Bureau to press for a tax on gasoline. By 1923 Governor Groesbeck dominated the state. He dictated law to the legislature and policy to state agencies. His power was seldom opposed. He had appointed me to the State Board of Agriculture soon after I became secretary of the Michigan State Farm Bureau. I had been told by political leaders that the Bureau was comprised of "radicals"; officers of the Bureau were not then readily taken in as members by civic organizations. My appointment to the State Board of Agriculture was a sign of the important recognition to be accorded the Bureau, and it was a great privilege for me to work closely with the Governor, the most influential farmer in the state.

The conferences were concerned with the training of agents in education in disease and pest control, and with intercounty projects such as drainage. The first two conferences also dealt with problems connected with the war—draft deferment, crop and livestock production, and the procurement of farm supplies.

In 1917, Dr. Elben Munford, State County Agent Leader, urged the Michigan Farm Bureau to federate to gain strength. Moreover, at that moment, prices of farm products had declined, but the cost of many farm supplies remained high. The farmer obviously had to organize if he were to stay on the farm, but how could he organize effectively?

Dr. Munford, encouraged by Dr. Frank Kelzlie, President of MAC, and by Dean of Agriculture Robert S. Shaw, suggested that the county Farm Bureaus be united under a state-wide Farm Bureau. (According to Article II of the by-laws, "the object of this organization shall be to encourage, aid, and correlate the efforts of the county Farm Bureaus, to provide ways and means for concerted action in the solution of agricultural problems of state or national scope.") Membership dues would be $50 a year for each county Farm Bureau, and individual farmers would pay nominal dues of fifty cents or one dollar. The state Farm Bureau was to have a president, vice-president, and two vice-presidents, treasurer, and secretary.

The first slate of officers was: Roland Morrill, a fruit grower from Berrien county, President; Ray G. Potts, a dairymen from Macomb county, Vice President; F. M. Vandenboom, a general farmer from Marquette county, Secretary. The four counties were the nucleus of the Michigan Farm Bureau, with a national scope.

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

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SECRETARY BINGHAM
Charles A. Bingham was in his fortieth when elected Secretary of the Michigan State Farm Bureau. Except for the active role he had played at the conference of farmers in 1918, Bingham might have remained in the background. However, the increased need for co-operation among farmers to deal with the problems of world war, and the desire of farmers to become more effective in influencing the activities of state and federal government, led to his election. Bingham believed that the Bureau need not be limited to activities related to the farm, but that it should have a wide scope of action and that farmers should have a voice in matters affecting their lives.

Bingham was elected in 1919, and his tenure lasted until 1942, when he was succeeded by Charles B. Scully. Bingham was succeeded by Charles B. Scully, who served as Secretary of the Michigan State Farm Bureau from 1942 to 1952.

In 1919, the Michigan State Farm Bureau was formed to provide a voice for farmers in the state. The Bureau was created to address the needs of farmers, and it quickly became a powerful force in state and national politics. Bingham was a strong leader who was able to bring farmers together to work on common goals.

Bingham was a strong advocate for the growth of the Bureau, and he worked tirelessly to expand its influence. He was able to secure funding from the state government and from the federal government to support the Bureau's activities. Bingham was also successful in securing support from the business community, and he was able to attract many important individuals to the Bureau.

Under Bingham's leadership, the Bureau grew in size and influence, and it became a powerful voice for the farmers of Michigan. Bingham was a strong leader who was able to bring farmers together to work on common goals, and he was able to secure funding from the state government and from the federal government to support the Bureau's activities.

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**SPRING SERIES**

_**ELECTIONS ARE ANNOUNCED**_

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

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

- Mrs. C. G. Lee (Alice), Addison, was elected chairman of District 2 at their April 30 meeting held in Adrian, Lenawee County.
- Mrs. Dale Couch (Ruth) was elected vice-chairman.
- Mrs. Couch is from Grass Lake.
- Mrs. Gerald Smith (Lorene), Hastings, was elected District 4 chairman and Mrs. John Rhodes (Evelyn), Clarksville, elected vice-chairman for District 4 at the April 13 meeting. Chairman for District 6 for the coming year is Mrs. Harland Welke (Margaret), Marysville, and Mrs. Howard Mahaffy (Doris), Marlette, vice-chairman. Both Mrs. Welke and Mrs. Mahaffy were re-elected.

District 10-west Farm Bureau women elected a new chairman at their meeting April 29. Mrs. Williams Farmen (Bertha), Charlevoix, accepted this position and Mrs. Edward Shoakhan (Philo), of Cheboygan, was elected vice-chairman.

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

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

**APOLGY FOR... NAME OMISSION**

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

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

** springtime in Rockies**

*bustyme in Michigan!*

"When it's Springtime in the Rockies . . ." Yes, I was just out to Utah and it's all the song says and more. Mom went out to visit daughter Carolin and husband Mike. Seems like a long time they have been away. They are both working on their Master's degree, and no doubt to say they are both busy. I enjoyed every minute of my visit with them, the mountains and mountain trails we traveled, the deer, elk, and raging waters coming down from the mountains, and a visit to Idaho to call on friends we hadn't seen in 23 years. Then it was back to Michigan and it's just as beautiful, but in a different kind of setting.

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Even through my typewriter is on the shelf, it works quite well, except for one or two keys. I have wished many times that it worked perfectly. It is true that these are forty-sis keys that function well enough, but just one key, not working makes the difference!" So let's all get out of our comfortable rut and start working together to accomplish those things we can't do alone.

Mrs. Jerold (Maxine) Topliff

**EIGHT**

**June 1, 1969**

**MICHIGAN FARM NEWS**

**FARM BUREAU WOMEN**

**working, not waiting . . .**

**APOLGY FOR... NAME OMISSION**

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

**WEAVER GEBHARTS 68th ANNIVERSARY**

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

April 18th they celebrated their 68th Wedding Anniversary. Life-members of Farm Bureau, they have 4 children, 11 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

**what's a funny place for a phone?**

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

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June 1, 1969

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

your money is used... to propagandize you

By Dan E. Reed
Secretary-Manager, Mich. Farm Bureau

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

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

Office of Economic Opportunity
Puts YOU in Printing Business

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

A front-page story in the March-April, 1968 issue of "The Spokesman" says -- "If you want action, come join me in my fight for identity, equality, not civil rights but human rights."

The Spokesman is published with the encouragement and financial support of the Office of Economic Opportunity. An O.E.O. handbook -- "The Printed Word" -- encourages publication and distribution by community action agencies of newsletters or house organs and financed with federal money.

Not What Congress Intended:

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

"I am unalterably opposed to government ownership or control of newspapers because it leads inevitably to government control of the news," said Senator Byrd as he introduced the amendment. "I believe we have too much government management of the news already without this additional weapon being put into the hands of federal officials." Publications such as 'The Spokesman' and 'The Neighborhood Journal' have no connection with these activities of a government supported agency -- the publications continue!

Taxpayer Supported
Propaganda Efforts

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

The Post Office Department is still running a heavy deficit in the handling of outgoing mail. The Office of Economic Opportunity is trying to balance the postal budget, President Nixon has recommended another increase in postal rates.

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

"Not at Government Expense"
Remains Expensive Propaganda

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

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

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

By Robert Smith
Legislative Counsel, MFB

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

H. 3533; originally introduced by Rep. Spencer (R-Attica) and six others, was reported out in substitute form and provided:

Upon written application of the owner... with the local board of review prior to March 1 of each year, land, exclusive of buildings, zoned specifically for agricultural purposes shall be exempt 50% of the state generalized value thereof.

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

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

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

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

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

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

S. 231; (DeMaso R-Battle Creek) and H. 3553; (Bishop R-Rochester) were identical bills and both have been reported out of committee. They will require assessors to consider "zoning, existing use and income capability" when assessing property.

Two County Boards of Supervisors (Genesee and Livingston) have passed resolutions supporting legislation to assess farmland according to its agricultural use. Genesee County is a metropolitan county, but receiving good farmland for future use and the fact that open spaces need to be preserved as an aid to water and air pollution control, prevention of flooding and realistic land use planning.

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

FARM LABOR
Over 100 labor bills were introduced that directly or indirectly could affect agriculture. Most of these remained in committee. Some of those reported out of committee affecting farmers include one on Wages and Hours, P. 3012, which would bring more farm workers under federal W/C by eliminating the present "13 or more consecutive weeks" and inserting "six weeks." Two other W/C bills, H. 3534 and S. 794, (both 83-page longs), would revise the entire law, but make no substantive changes. It is hoped that one of these bills will pass, thereby helping to prevent the passage of H. 3012.

strong links in radio chain

"ACCENT AGRICULTURE" -- Farm Bureau's weekly radio service is aired on 50 Michigan stations including WAGP - Ann Arbor, where Howard Heath (left) air's portions during his mornings and noon-time farm show. Larry Simon (right) manages WJKM, where Accent Agriculture is featured at 4:35 on Saturdays.
wheat marketing program now open to Farm Bureau members

By: Noel Stockman
Manager, Market-Development Division

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

As the leading general farm organization, Michigan Farm Bureau is offering wheat producers a marketing program to serve their marketing needs. The overall objective of the wheat marketing program is to increase the dollar returns to participating Farm Bureau members from the sale of their soft winter wheat. Traditionally, farmers have marketed their wheats on an individual unorganized basis. The wheat marketing program offers producers a chance from individual unorganized sales to a coordinated method of marketing. The marketing of a large volume of wheat is an orderly manner increases the likelihood for higher prices to producers. Operation of the wheat marketing program is simple. Producers have until harvest time to decide whether to participate and sign-up in the program. Delivery of program wheat can be made to any participating cooperative elevator until September 1. At the time of delivery a cash advance will be paid to the producer. Following harvest, the wheat will be sold throughout the marketing year by professional grain marketing personnel.

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

The wheat marketing program provides a key marketing alternative for Farm Bureau members in 1969. Each wheat producer can evaluate the market situation at harvest and decide whether to sell for cash and accept the harvest time price, store wheat for later sale and attempt to outguess the market; or consign wheat to the wheat marketing program and receive a cash advance. Participation in the program also provides an opportunity to share in normal seasonal price advances following harvest. Every wheat producer is urged to consider participating in the 1969 Farm Bureau wheat marketing program. This program provides a real opportunity for wheat producers to advance an important marketing principle and increase their profits from the marketing activities of their Farm Bureau organization. Additional details may be had from your County Farm Bureau and most local cooperative elevators.

Start Marketing Now!

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

In the years from 1945 to 1951, Norris served as a director on the Michigan Farm Bureau board, representing the 7th District. He continues to live near Casnovia in Muskegon county where he has spent a lifetime of public service — much of it in positions of public service.

For example, during his years with the Medical Care Facility, and because of his intense interest in the care of aged and ailing, the present new structure was built.

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

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

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

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

Some time (now 78) — took part death process in member- ship in Farm Bureau, and became Muskegon county's first president, a position he held for 5 years.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MACMA Marketing Co-op Annual

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

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

1100 POTATO VARIETIES — two hills of each, were planted this spring at the 80-acre Montcalm Experimental Farm, located 9½ miles west of Stanton — by Farm Bureau member Leon Alwood, (left) Charlotte, and MSU potato-seed specialist and student — Meer Hussain of Pakistan.
COMMODOITY PROMOTION — "It is important that farmers promote the increased sale and consumption of farm products with duplication of effort. We support — and will continue to seek improvement of — sound, well coordinated promotion programs ..." (from Farm Bureau's policy statements — 1969)

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

Gratiot bean smorgasbord

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

Vermontville syrup festival

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Elkton, Michigan 48831
Discount Topic: Tax Reform

By: Melvin L. Woell

Tax Reform

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

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

Such is the framework within which farmers must operate in seeking a balanced tax structure, one which does not give unfair advantage to agriculture but which also does not take advantage of a land-owning minority whose acres are always evident as taxing areas. Where are we now in terms of Michigan taxes? They have DOUBLED and more, in ten-year's time! Why? For example, a 1965 study by the Michigan Citizens Research Council revealed that in urban areas property taxes as a percentage of family income ranged from a high of 41% to a low of 2.9%. In sharp contrast, U.S.D.A. data shows that farm real estate taxes as a percentage of net farm income are three to four times higher.

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

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

The balancing of Michigan's tax structure should result in every citizen paying his fair share toward the support of his schools and other local and state government services.

FARM BUREAU POLICY ON... TAX REFORM

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

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

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

Property is no longer a good measure of wealth or ability to pay. For example, a 1965 study by the Michigan Citizens Research Council revealed that in urban areas property taxes as a percentage of family income ranged from a high of 41% to a low of 2.9%. In sharp contrast, U.S.D.A. data shows that farm real estate taxes as a percentage of net farm income are three to four times higher.

We feel that the state income tax must be used as one of the major sources of funds for our schools.

Adding to the problem are great differences between districts in both costs and valuation. Averages mean little — some districts pay as high as $304 in some areas, while in others it may be in excess of $1,300 per pupil.

Why this tremendous range? Do low-cost areas pay teachers less? Not necessarily — much of the difference in operating cost may be tied to curriculums, with higher cost districts usually offering broader, comprehensive curricula in schools. It is bad. Again, not necessarily. It depends upon the local viewpoint and ultimately, upon taxpayer's willingness to pay. Knowledge continues to expand while the world shrinks and people and time. Yesterday's training is unsuitable for tomorrow's citizen, many feel.

As our globe shrinks, national policies and international economics become more important too. A smaller world makes foreign language much less of an important part of our educational system.

School Money Problems

No one doubts that Michigan schools are in deep financial trouble. To rural residents, both the problem and solution appears clear. In fact, 100 per cent of property taxes go to school purposes — yet this is not enough. As is the case with other "governmental" costs, school expenses are on a dramatic incline. Property is no longer able to supply a sufficient tax base. Effective taxpayer revolts are taking the form of refusal to pay millage or bonding issues. Plainly citizens are sensing that other sources of revenue must be found. Farm Bureau members feel that the state income tax must be used as one of the major sources of funds for our schools.

APRIL TOPIC SUMMARY

Pollution and Pesticides

726 Groups, composed of 5,445 families reporting.

Within these families, 7,377 persons said they use farm chemicals during the year. 5,925, or 80.3% of these people said they are paying substantially more than a fair-share of the total tax load.

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

The real question is: "Is everyone paying his or her fair share of total taxes (including farmers) but no more?"

Sufficient funds should be appropriated to do about these problems, most of the costs are tied to teacher salaries... with higher cost districts usually offering broad, comprehensive curricula. It is bad. Again, not necessarily. It depends upon the local viewpoint and ultimately, upon taxpayer's willingness to pay. Knowledge continues to expand while the world shrinks and people and time. Yesterday's training is unsuitable for tomorrow's citizen, many feel.

As our globe shrinks, national policies and international economics become more important too. A smaller world makes foreign language much less of an important part of our educational system.
ST. CLAIR FARM BUREAU MEMBERSHIP WORKERS HONORED AT PARTY

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

Named top salesman was Charles Rodzos, signing 18 membership toward the 993 county total. Vice President Fred Schultz (right in picture) presented the award to Rodzos while other top officers join in. They are (from left): Robert Wilson, county president; Wm. Reid, Roll-Call chairman, Rodzos and Fred Schultz.

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

Canadians Reject Supply Management

By: Creston J. Foster
American Farm Bureau Federation

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

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

Canadian Findings

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

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

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

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

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

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

Broad Approach Better

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

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

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

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

In warning against supply management, the task force says:

... a major expansion of output could be marketed through exports or reduced imports if our marketing institutions are not excessively rigid.

VERNON SPENCER

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

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

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

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

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