THE UNITED STATES FLAG — represents Freedom to me. Freedom of speech, freedom of religion and the right of self-government. The flag means Home to me. A place where I can go and be happy and do the things I want to do. I can go to the Church of my choice and read the books I want to read. The United States flag represents Safety, a place where there are laws to protect me.

— Taken from the prize-winning Freedoms Foundation essay written by 13 year-old Elaine Johnson, Tustin, Michigan —

THE UNITED STATES FLAG — represents Courage to me. I think courage is represented by the stars and stripes. The stars on the blue background seem to represent the exploration of the skies. The stripes seem to represent the men who have lost their lives for the flag. The red stripes represent bloodshed and the white ones represent the souls of courageous men who fought for their country and their flag.

— Taken from the prize-winning Freedoms Foundation essay written by 13 year-old Elaine Johnson, Tustin, Michigan —

ON THE INSIDE: Law and Order "Battle for the Editorial Vineyards" Property-Tax Breakthrough Page 2 Page 3 Page 4 In the Service of the Farmer Pages 6-7 Elkton-Pinconning F. B. Services Page 11 Discussion Topic Page 14
Whether we find it palatable or not, we must accept the reality. Warren E. Burger put it this way a while ago: "Color it grey."

White situations. Color the problem confused. The future may look dark. There are Troubled Times. Troubled Times come too heavy a case-load for real rehabilitation.

But it returns. One man has been jailed 40 times on 40 separate offenses! More than 70% of all crimes are committed by youths. Yet it is a crook" and indeed there are statistics to prove it. The Michigan Department of Corrections "put on the record in 1968 that 1,500 inmates. A ratio of 1 to 100 would still mean 2,750 girls had been readmitted. First time in is an "A". Many parolees told me they had committed crimes not knowing it was a crook" and indeed there are statistics to prove it. The Michigan Department of Corrections "put on the record in 1968 that 1,500 inmates. A ratio of 1 to 100 would still mean 2,750 girls had been readmitted.

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I asked Father Healy to write a series of articles on the grape strike in California because he was so experienced in this kind of research. He is a man who was on a farm in Iowa, he was able to understand the problems of the grape picker and the grower. He is a man who has long been trying to organize the grape pickers in California. And he knew that he was not only effectively championing their cause, but also that he was being enthusiastically championed by the workers themselves. The articles that he wrote were well-received and were widely read. This reflection aroused my curiosity about the involvement of the Jesuits in the grape strike. I thought it was a good idea to have Father Healy come to California and work on this issue. He did, and the results were amazing. The articles he wrote were some of the best written on the controversy. They are a distinct contribution to the cause of Catholic teaching, as applied to the grape strike in California.

-American farmer's story, COYNE 1969
When the land is sold, it would be subject to additional taxes referred to as "roll-back" taxes. Such a roll-back would be for a period of three years and would be the difference between the taxes paid as farmland and the taxes applicable to the value for the new use.

H.2533 is similar to the part of the California legislation on this subject and is similar to the New Jersey plan. Rep. Spencer was able to amend the bill in such a manner that it is now believed that it meets the requirements of Michigan's constitution.

H.2533 finally passed the House by a vote of 59-45. Forty-five Republicans voted YES, seven voted NO and three did not vote; 16 Democrats voted YES, 36 voted NO and three did not vote. The bill could not have passed without support from several metropolitan legislators who recognized the need for Michigan to follow other states in encouraging preservation of farmland for future needs, open spaces, better water quality, reduction of air and water pollution and flood control.

These voting YES on H. 2533 were Representatives: Allen (R-Macon); L. D. Anderson (R-Pos- tiac); T. J. Anderson (D-South- gate); Ballenger (R-Ovid); Bishop (R-Buchanan); Brennan (R-Sagin- aw); J. Brons (R-Mason); T. L. Brons (R-Lansing); Callanan (D- Mt. Morris); Courthorne (R-Mani- tert); R. W. Davis (R-St. Ignace); DeShieter (R-Hudsonville); Die- tzen (R- Traverse City); Fair- worth (R-Plainwell); Folks (R- Benton); Geering (R- Mon- gom); Great (R-Battle Creek); Guastello (D-Utica); Hampton (R-Bloomfield Hills); Henve (R- Battle Creek); Hoffmaw (D-Dollar Bay); Hoffman (R-Applegate); Holbrook (R-Chane); Horigan (D-Flint); Jacobetti (D-Nega- nee); Jessett (R- Port Huron); Kohers (D-Mount; Michmel (D-Brumfield); Mitten (R- Benton Harbor); G. Montgomery (D-Michigan); A. Montgomery (D-Detroit); Mrozowski (D-Ham- tramck); Ogowski (D-Detroit); L. F. Montgomery (D-Detroit); Paujat (R-Kingsford); Parra (R-Be- chaman); Petrepan (D-West- lind); Pittenger (R-Lansing); Poulis (R-Jonai); Prestert (R- Tawas City); Rohlis (R-Akron); Root (R-Bangor); Seckert (R- Portage); Sharpe (R-Howell); J. F. Smith (R-Davison); Smith (R- Ypsilanti); Spencer (R-Attic- ); Silies (R-Manitou Beach); Strong (R-Sturgis); Strange (R- Mt. Pleasant); Starns (R-Ass- pena); Twerp (R-Garden City); Tindle (R-Midland); Turner (D-Bay City); Varrum (R-Manistie- que); Waldron (R-Grose Pointe); Werner (R-Detroit); Wirtz- bicki (D-Detroit); Yeager (R- Detroit); Ziegler (R-Jackson).

Another portion of Farm Bureau's tax relief breakthrough is the capability of any property to be assessed in the county by the owner would have to make a written application each year. A property, which it is zoned.

The agent from among those suggested in a state-wide Michigan Week poster contest. Her prize-winning poster was captioned "Don't Do Your Thing if it's Littering." Pictured with her is Rep. Nelson Tisdale, who along with Rep. Albert Horigan offered the resolution.
New State ASCS Committee—(Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service) is pictured at swearing-in ceremonies conducted by Howard Waters, Midwest Area ASCS district director. Named chairman is Nicholas (Nick) Smith, Hillsdale county (far right). Other members are Arthur Rowley, Macomb county, (center) and Wm. Vanderbeek, Gratiot county. All are Farm Bureau members. Smith represents Dist. 2 on the Mich. Farm Bureau board. Waters is former vice-president of the Iowa Farm Bureau.

Grass Sled Invention

The shortage of harvest labor and the increasing cost of housing, wages and other employment benefits have caused several large commercial growers to seek mechanical methods for the harvest of asparagus.

James Thor of Keeler township, Van Buren county, a Farm Bureau leader and former member of the Board of Directors of the Mich. Farm Bureau, decided to do something about these many problems on his acres of asparagus. He developed a one-row asparagus harvesting sled that is not only simple to construct but economical as well.

The "grass sled" is made of heavy plywood, resembles a bobsled as it is pulled on two-by-four runners and has three sides. The front is indented into a v-shape, with two cutting blades. The asparagus is cut, thrown back asparagus sled' is made of heavy plywood, resembles a bobsled as it is pulled on two-by-four runners and has three sides. The front is indented into a v-shape, with two cutting blades. The asparagus is cut, thrown back against a foam-rubber protected collecting area and when the sled is full, it is taken to the truck, dumped, and readied for another trip to the field.

Thor has long experimented with ideas for easier and quicker harvesting of asparagus. In his 25 years of producing grass he has come up with several ideas, one of them being the riding rig used by many growers.

The Michigan Farm Bureau wheat advisory committee (the producer-committee which advanced the Michigan Elevator Exchange and the Michigan Farm Bureau on the marketing of program wheat) viewed the 1968 crop on turn as very acceptable, considering the difficult marketing year. Participating producers recommended several changes in the program which will make it even more attractive to wheat growers. A major change this year will be that the sign-up deadline has been extended from the previous Nov. 15 to March 15 date, harvesting time in their area of the state. This means that producers can wait until they deliver wheat to decide if they want to consign wheat to the Program, sell for cash and forfeit any chance to benefit from increases in price, or store and take their chances on an uncertain market.

The Michigan wheat crop is expected to be about 23.8 million bushels—down 25% from the 1968 crop and 86% smaller than the 1967 crop. Approximately 5% of all the eastern white wheat is grown in the state.

Participating wheat growers have the option of consigning all, a portion, or none of their 1969 crop wheat to the wheat marketing program. The program provides growers with another market alternative—one which has many advantages in addition to the strength gained through volume sales and orderly marketing.

Michigan Farm Bureau members are eligible to place wheat in the program. They must sign an agreement and deliver wheat to one of the 33 participating cooperative elevators throughout the state. Agreement forms are available at county Farm Bureau offices, by calling the Michigan Farm Bureau area office, and from county Farm Bureau wheat committee members.

Investment Pays!

By Norm Veliquette

MBF Marketing Specialist

A commodity that costs 6% to produce gets a 16% increase in price when it sells for 11%. A 10% commodity that costs 6% to produce gets a 25% increase in profit when it sells for 11%. In other words, the profit increases from 4t to 5t.

This could be the case with a number of Michigan fruit and vegetable crops. Many producers have recognized this fact and have invested in getting their extra 1t or 2t per pound. Producer members of Farm Bureau and MACMA marketing programs cooperatively invest up to three percent of their gross sales in acquiring greater market knowledge and bargaining power. These members reap tremendous rates of return on their investment.

For example, two percent deducted from the 11% already mentioned would leave $10.78 per pound—not a 19.5% increase—a net of .7t on the investment of $2 per pound for marketing the commodity. A return of over 300%!

The case cited is not an actual case, but is extremely practical in evaluating an investment in a marketing association.

In the long run, it is difficult to compute the exact value of a marketing investment, but maintaining a position once achieved must be recognized as extremely valuable.
In the Service of the Farmer

Troubled Times

The multitude of demands for service presented a crisis point to key positions almost anyone he thought capable, regardless of that person's experience. Even more serious was the fact that all departments were set up on a large scale basis even before the feasibility of any one department was determined. Many established firms from of an ingrained dislike of cooperatives, downright refused to deal with the Bureau.

Those firms that would do business with the Bureau were likely to sell the departments low-quality materials and products. The farmers who then bought such merchandise from the Bureau were not likely to remain customers. And then to the misfortune of the Bureau, the post-war period was a time of general declining prices. A commodity bought today would sell at a loss tomorrow. In the face of the government's dumping its surplus wool on the market, the Bureau's Wool Pool continued to take in wool from growers, advising them that tomorrow. In the face of the declining market for wool in the Bureau would one day provide. The operations ceased altogether to buy wool, members expected a bright future. The roof began to fall in on Bingham. The the operations 1920, farmers consigned 3,700,000 pounds of wool to the Wool Pool. Though the farmers had ceased altogether to buy wool, members expected the Pool to pay them anywhere from $6.00 to $10.00 a pound. (Finally, in 1923, members accepted a settlement of 8c to 15c per pound for the wool.)

To store the wool consigned to the Bureau, the Bureau bought for $50,000 the National Coal Company building on Cedar Street in Lansing, from the Reo Motor Car Company, borrowing $2,500 from four banks in Lansing to make the down payment. The Board of Directors endorsed these notes. (None of the directors lost a cent in the transaction, since the building was converted into offices for the Bureau as the wool was disposed of.) Some farmers were demanding service from other hastily-set up departments, even before paying dues to the membership. But the Bureau in settling up its departments was feeling the effects of the decline of the early 1920's. Prices were declining and would continue to do so through 1922.

Though the new departments drove mightily during the depression of 1920, even in ordinary times they would hardly have satisfied the demands the membership put on them. As it was, the county Farm Bureaus sent up some loud howls when they were sent here for cooperation from the administrative bureau. Disillusionment grows

The disappointment of the farmers mounted. And this was not all. The solicitors, under Bingham, had claimed that the Michigan State Farm Bureau would be the one farm organization of consequence in Michigan. Bingham wanted a strongly centralized and all-powerful organization. The Grange, the Michigan Milk Producers Association, the Michigan Potato Growers Exchange, and the Michigan Live-stock Exchange, who had from the beginning supported the Farm Bureau, began to fear that Bingham meant precisely what he said. Hale Tennant, Extension Marketing Specialist at Michigan Agricultural College, who had helped establish the Michigan Fruit Growers Exchange, the Michigan Livestock Exchange, and the Michigan Fruit Growers, Incorporated, was particularly aroused. Tennant wanted a decentralized federalization that would be supported by cooperation from the independent cooperatives according to the services rendered them. Furthermore, the claims made by Bingham's solicitors that the Bureau would dominate MAC policies worried the administration of MAC. Bingham so far had been cold to offers of cooperation from the administration of MAC and he was ignoring counsel of the county agents.

Bingham is blamed

The roof began to fall in on Bingham when members started to fall off about August, 1920. It became increasingly clear that the Bureau would not be able to fulfill its promises to the farmers for some time to come. The departments were operating unsatisfactorily. The expense of recruiting members was far exceeding the receipts from dues. Solicitors and county agents were feeding. Some solicitors were becoming arrogant, demeaning the work of the agents as against what the Bureau would one day provide. The disabused farmers were expressing their ire and disappointment in the Bureau to county agents, who were the nearest people on hand associated with the Bureau. In turn, the county agents, who now saw their positions being discredited by the Bureau, reasoned that they had supported the drive for individual membership, Bingham and his solicitors deserved any troubles that would befall them. The agents were not reluctant to put the blame right on Bingham's shoulders. Finally, the executive committee was also unhappy and embarrassed about the bad turn that matters had taken.

Someone had to be blamed, and that person was Bingham. The operations of the Bureau, it must be said, had been too much Bingham's exclusive province. If it had continued to prosper under him, all the credit would have been his, and he would have accepted it gladly. But instead the going got rough and he had to bear the blame. The fate of leaders will ever be so.

New Leadership Found

The summer's supporters of Bingham at this point sought a new leader. They found him in Hale Tennant. Tennant, as already stated, over the past few years, helped establish the Michigan Livestock Exchange, the Michigan Potato Growers Exchange, the Michigan Fruit Growers, Incorporated, and the Michigan Elevator Exchange. He had tried to work with Bingham in tying his cooperatives to the Michigan State Farm Bureau.

What has gone before

In last month's installment of the Brody book "In the Service of the Farmer"—former Michigan Farm Bureau Secretary-Treasurer Manager Clark L. Brody told of the increasing disappointment of farmers following the First World War. Farm prices were down while other industries continued to make substantial gains. Out of this atmosphere of dissatisfaction emerged Farm Bureau, a new of a number of organizations built by farmers to meet their needs. But organizations are made up of men and women, and among the powerful personalities described by Brody was Charles Bingham, first Secretary of the Michigan Farm Bureau. This month's excerpts of the Brody book recount the turbulent years of the new organization—problems with people, with programs and with finance.

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

Michigan Farm Bureau

50th Anniversary

1919-1969

Some 50 years ago we started to unite. Farm Bureau grew from this—to ease the farmer's plight.

SIX

July 1, 1969 MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

Our Golden date is here — to start still greater things . . .

For what the Future brings!

Gladye Ames
HALE TENNANT

Former Extension Marketing Specialist at Mich. Agricultural College (now MSU) and a founder of several Michigan Co-operatives. His efforts and opinions greatly shaped the future of the Michigan Farm Bureau. He violently opposed the opinions and work of 1st Secretary Charles Bingham.

But Tennant actually believed that the Bureau should be little more than a federation of independent marketing cooperatives. He did not hold with individual farmer membership, and even when the Bureau was being flooded with receipts from new members, he maintained that individual membership was but a paper record of things. It was Tennant, that is to say, who was wholly opposed to Bingham as to what the policies of the Michigan State Farm Bureau should be.

DISSENTION ENTERS

Bingham had been a farmer, pure and simple. Tennant’s father had been sheriff of Berrien County, and Tennant had gained a ty, so Tennant had gained a

Tennant had become concerned over the future of his independent cooperatives when Bingham had first claimed in 1919 that the Michigan State Farm Bureau had been effective in expediting a number of devices. Tennant had virtually scorned Tennant’s gestures toward cooperation, but steadily Bingham’s proposals began to dwindle and as disapproval of Bingham mounted, the Farmer’s Bureau lost many agents, and members became persuaded of the merits of Tennant’s plan.

Bingham must have sensed what was in store for him, when, in October, 1920, the Executive Committee directed the treasurer to pay Tennant $1,000 a year as an honorarium to the Bureau. But evidently Bingham was too self-assured to be concerned over the threat. Tennant, however, made the most of his time once his connection with the Bureau became official. At his instigation, a “Field Committee” was appointed. The Committee’s plan for decentralization was to be a disinterested one, but it was actually an instrument for undermining Bingham.

Now both Tennant and Bingham believed to the death in their programs. Bingham was a proponent of individual advantage of the Bureau. Tennant realized that the role of the Executive Committee, most of whose elections he had sponsored, had changed with the advent of the Bureau. Indeed, receipts of dues were carried on by a two to one margin, and Tennant’s slate over Bingham’s by a two to one margin, and Tennant’s slate won over Bingham’s by a two to one margin, and Tennant’s slate over Bingham’s by a two to one margin, and Tennant’s slate won over Bingham’s by a two to one margin, and Tennant’s slate won over Bingham’s by a two to one margin.

The New Officers

“Tennant’s slate” of officers (those who supported a general reorganization of Farm Bureau) included: James Nicol (re-elected) President, defeating Charles Bingham, M. L. Noon, Vice President, defeating Ray G. Potts. New members of the Executive Committee: Mrs. Edith Wager, Monroe county; Fred Smith, Ann Arbor; Waldo Phillips, Van Buren county; George Friday, Berrien county; M. L. Noon, Jackson county and E. A. Beamer, Lenawee county.

QUIET AFTERMATH

The annual meeting of delegates broke up quietly. No one was interested in ideas that had been hotly debated. The centralized plan was to be put into effect, not even Tennant, who had displayed Bingham’s desire for power, seemed to me, had ultimately worked to defeat the decentralization of the Bureau.

CONFRONTATION

The next meeting of delegates was to be the last of the two men spoke. Both motions actually had an equal oppor...

Tennant, on the other hand, was a political tactician par excellence. He always emphasized to his supporters that Bingham should not be attacked personally, a personal attack would only stir up sympathy and win supporters for Tennant. He outlined to his staff and supporters the weaknesses in Bingham’s plan in great detail. In effect, Tennant maintained, the campaign should emphasize that the plan, not the man, counted, and Bingham’s proposals were made a valiant last effort to swing the tide his way. Tennant spoke calmly and sincerely. Victory was his and now he only wanted to assure the delegates of his everlasting concern for the farmers. The voting for officers and for Executive Committee members was just a formality. Tennant’s slate won over Bingham’s by a two to one margin, and Tennant’s slate over Bingham’s by a two to one margin, and Tennant’s slate won over Bingham’s by a two to one margin, and Tennant’s slate won over Bingham’s by a two to one margin, and Tennant’s slate won over Bingham’s by a two to one margin, and Tennant’s slate won over Bingham’s by a two to one margin, and Tennant’s slate won over Bingham’s by a two to one margin, and Tennant’s slate won over Bingham’s by a two to one margin, and Tennant’s slate won over Bingham’s by a two to one margin, and Tennant’s slate won over Bingham’s by a two to one margin, and Tennant’s slate was to be confirmed. Bingham had displayed Bingham’s desire for power, Tennant’s lust for power anywhere near ap...
CHOICE CUTS OF PORK - were on display, some grilled, some broiled or barbequed. Hosting the day-long Pork Promotion were Mrs. Russell (Shirley) Rowe (left) and Mrs. Jerold (Maxine) Topliff, state Women's Chairman — along with other Ingham county Farm Bureau women.

"TOPP" — Tractor Over-run Prevention and Protection!

Farm safety, both in the home and in the fields and barns, is being stressed by the Farm Bureau Women as a part of their 1969 program of work. They have emphasized the use of the Slow Moving Vehicle emblem and are now endorsing the use of reflectorized license plates.

Farm Bureau's policy on reflectorized license plates reads:

"One of the most common accidents occurring on our highways is the rear-end collision. This happens frequently when visibility is poor or when a vehicle is stalled on the highway.

"Thirty-four states and the District of Columbia now require reflectorized license plates to add 'margin of safety' to vehicles at night. Statistics prove that where reflectorized license plates are used, rear-end collisions drop considerably.

"We urge enactment of legislation that would require Michigan vehicle license plates to be reflectorized with any extra cost being added to the cost of the plates."

Tied to the reflectorized license plate and the slow-moving vehicle emblem programs is a program to promote tractor-driving safety. A farm operation must function smoothly and according to plan to come out ahead. Accidents can disrupt well-functioning farm plans, play havoc with schedules, snatch away profits, even break up the farming enterprise as well as the families dependent on it.

Statistics gathered by the National Safety Council show that each year nearly 600 persons in the United States are killed in tractor upset accidents. An additional 5000 persons suffer injuries, many of them permanently disabling. It is estimated that three of four persons now killed in tractor upsets could be saved if their tractors were equipped with protective frames or crush resistant cabs and safety belts.

A few basic rules, if followed by the farm family, could prevent an accident and save lives. It is recommended that the tractor owner read and be familiar with the instruction manual for the farm equipment; keep yourself in good physical and mental condition by getting enough rest, dressing comfortably, working at a pace within your physical abilities, and taking mid-morning and mid-afternoon rest breaks.

A program called Tractor Overturn Prevention and Protection — TOPP — also recommends that the farmer avoid operating on steep slopes, and stay clear of ditches, embankments and the like; drive slowly on rough or muddy slopes and surfaces, or when visibility is poor ... such as when moving in high grass; reduce speed when turning or near ditches; keep guards and shields in place, and shut off the power before unclogging or servicing machinery.

Avoid dropping a wheel off on a soft shoulder or in the ditch; keep children off and away from farm machinery; don't use "boy-sized" machinery for "man-sized" jobs and when on the road, display the Slow-Moving Vehicle (SMV) emblem. It is becoming universally recognized as designating a vehicle, such as a farm rig, traveling at less than 25 miles an hour.

TOPP's hope is that all farmers will practice tractor safety all year around ... but emphasizing it during National Farm Safety Week, July 20-26. Sunday, July 20, has been set aside as "Beverence For Life" day: a time to take care; Monday, "Safety Begins at Home" day; Tuesday, "Farm and Home Chemicals" day; Wednesday, "Prevent Falls"; Thursday, "Rural Highway Safety"; Friday, "Farm Machinery" day and Saturday, "Recreation Safety".
John B. Heim has joined the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association staff as Field Representative in Northwest Michigan. In his new position, John will be serving members in all MACMA divisions in the area from Manistee north. The major programs in this area involve red tart cherries, with over 200 members. Processing apples are also important, and there is limited acreage of asparagus. The new Feed Pig Division of MACMA, established in January of 1969, has all of its membership currently in this area.

Heim is married and has three children. He is a native of the Traverse City area. He and his family will continue to live in Grand Traverse county.

He has been employed by Farm Bureau Services for the past five years, first at the Traverse City branch and later as area feed fieldman. Before this, he farmed in partnership with his father.

Heim succeeds John Willsie, who has served as MACMA Field Representative in the area for the past 18 months. Mr. Willsie has accepted the position of Director of Field Services for the National Red Cherry Institute. In his position, Mr. Willsie will be headquartered at East Lansing.

GORDON KINGSFORD JR. — is a new employee of MACMA — the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association — for the summer months. His father is a well-known Farm Bureau member in the Fremont area of Newaygo Co.

ELDEN SMITH — former Regional Agricultural Representative in the "Thumb" area of the state for the Michigan Farm Bureau, and later Personal Director for Farm Bureau Services, has resigned to become Administrator for the city of DaWit.

HONORED EDITOR RETIRES... Two years ago at the 48th annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau, Jean Worth, editor of the Escanaba Daily Press joined the select ranks of those few persons who over the years have received the "Distinguished Service to Agriculture" award of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

In presenting the citation, Michigan Farm Bureau President, Elton Smith, said: "If all newsmedia presented the farm picture in the same manner as does Mr. Worth, our city cousins would have a much better understanding of farmers and agriculture.... Recentlly, Mr. Worth was the guest of honor at another gathering, this time one to pay tribute upon his retirement as editor of the Escanaba paper.

At the occasion, a telegram from the Michigan Farm Bureau was hands him:

"We of the Michigan Farm Bureau are both pleased and sorry to note your retirement. You have been a very real friend to Michigan agriculture, the Michigan Farm Bureau and the great Upper Peninsula. We are counseled by the knowledge that you have built well and that others will now follow the path you have marked. May your retirement be a happy one."

The telegram was signed by state president, Elton Smith.

AGROPLAN answer to hazard

A unique and exclusive farm protection package was introduced July 1 by Michigan's largest farm insurer, Farm Bureau Insurance Group. The new program — AGROPLAN — expands free, casualty and liability coverage to all owners, EconoFarmowners and County Estate insurance policies. Each of these policies will be automatically converted to broadened AGROPLAN coverages at renewal time. Farm Bureau Insurance Group representatives will contact all Farmowners, EconoFarmowners and County Estate policyholders to advise them of the expanded coverages and numerous optional endorsements. AGROPLAN will significantly broaden the protection required by smaller agricultural businesses through EconoFarmowners and County Estate policies. The new program is exemplified by the following AGROPLAN coverages and options which have been added to the Farmowners policy — exclusive and unique Michigan farm insurance protection:

AGROPLAN ADDS.

House and Contents: Theft Extension Coverage — theft from unlocked cars covered up to $200 ($50 deductible applies); Credit-card coverage — additional protection for credit cards, depositors forgery and counterfeit money loans; Optional coverages include: dwelling coverage for absentee owners; personal property and liability protection for tenants; flexible programs; replacement cost coverage.

Farm liability: Employer's liability and employee medical coverage — employee medical insurance is extended free to the first two employees. A charge of five dollars for each additional employee will be billed annually. The billing will be based on an audit conducted at the end of the new AGROPLAN policy period. Unlimited snowmobile liability — along with outboard motorboat liability; Available options are comprehensive liability for business activity unrelated to farming; endorsement coverage for business activities incidental to farming operations; named persons medical coverages.

Farm Personal Property: All Risk Protection — mobile agricultural equipment and equipment on or off the farm; A flexible deductible program — designed to meet specific policyholder needs. Farm Personal Monthly Endorsement — designed for widely fluctuating farm person property values; Additional options include consequential loss damage endorsement and a livestock mortality program.

Barns and outbuildings: Special rating — for commercial-type or superior incombustible buildings. A flexible Deductible Program — fitting the policyholder's specific needs. Optional coverage for loss of income from outbuildings; Three Workmen's compensation plans for large, medium and small farming operations — and Farm Umbrella Liability providing one million dollars or more protection for catastrophic damage over and above normal losses — can also be included in the AGROPLAN package.

The convenience of this comprehensive package is enhanced by the availability of convenient monthly payments through the facilities of the Community Service Acceptance Company.

Adding to the unique emphasis of AGROPLAN are new policy, declaration and endorsement designs and artwork which make the already marketable protection package an attractive policyholder item.
hard work...skill (and a bit 'o luck!)

No doubt about it. There are many factors which determine the success or failure of a family operation. It takes no small amount of hard work, sound management skill and a little luck here and there.

All of which fits the Pridgeon farm situation, located as it is near Montgomery in Branch county and owned and operated by the family since before the Civil War. Three generations of Pridgesons are represented in the photo; reading this article, with Glen, Dean and Mike Pridgeon (left to right) shown looking over the Pridgeon homestead.

The family's ability to look beyond today's horizon has assured the operation's continued existence and financial success. A farm, just as any other complicated business enterprise must keep one foot in the past the other in the future — with a program of continuity stretching between. Ideally, the farming plan should guarantee the operation's continuation through preparation for any contingency.

The Pridgesons had long recognized their need to establish a financial plan for transferring the farm from generation to generation, for example, had not taken the time to get it done. Then they were contacted one day by their Farm Bureau Insurance Group agent and a special estate-planning consultant.

"We liked the idea they had and began setting up a program that very afternoon," Dean said.

The completed plan gave Glen the opportunity to reduce his participation in the operation and qualify for Social Security benefit. And grandfather in a family partnership, remaining share. Dean's brothers and sisters, not involved in the farm, were provided an equitable financial agreement for the future. An agreement designating Dean and Mike as partners was drawn, allowing Glen to retire from the operation with a rent income. Dean's other son, Bill, now 17, was assured an equal share of the partnership upon reaching age 21. Again, the agreement was funded through life insurance.

The Pridgeon Farm has come a long way since the 1850s, from a 160-acre homestead cut from the wilderness to a prosperous, flourishing agribusiness. It has been, is, and probably always will be the home, livelihood and love of the Pridgeon family.

FARM INVESTMENTS
In 1961, Dean began his expansion program. "I invested in hired labor, improved the hog and corn storage buildings," Dean recalled. "The most important step toward establishing a financial plan is that the younger generation doesn't have to wait to take an active interest. We knew the terms of our agreement and were certain the farm would be ours. We started building." Many younger farmers have hesitated to plunge whole-heartedly into development of their family farm, not knowing what part, if any, will eventually be theirs; and if so, when, at what price and on what terms.

INCLUDES 1100 ACRES
The Pridgeon family settled on the original farm of 160 acres before the Civil War. Today, the corn-hog operation includes 1100 acres and has earned the right to be called one of Michigan's finest, marketing approximately 2500 hogs each year.

Operated by Dean Pridgeon, Vice President of Michigan Farm Bureau, the farm today represents the sweat and devotion of five generations of Pridgeons, and develops a smooth operating labor management plan including the farm's sweat and devotion of five generations of Pridgeons, and develops a smooth operating labor management plan.

The Michigan Agricultural Services Association can fill a definite need of its members by pre-planning and providing labor management solutions to these new concepts of labor management. Farmers are being told how they will conduct their hiring and labor management practices. Social agencies are beginning to take an active interest in farm labor problems. Labor unions hope to increase their membership by organizing farm workers.

The Michigan Agricultural Services Association is the only organization that is set up specifically to help farmers understand the problems involved and find solutions to these new concepts of labor management.

The Michigan Agricultural Services Association can fill a definite need of its members by pre-planning and providing labor management solutions to these new concepts of labor management policy. More than 500 farmers have already subscribed to the Newsletter Service and obtained the "Employer's Guide to Farm Labor Management."

The MASA farm-labor management newsletter costs an initial $1 membership fee and a yearly $10 subscription; total: $11. It can save embarrassment, legal entanglement and possible costly losses for those who hire farm labor. Members who wish this service may fill in and mail the coupon.

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE GROUP representative, Martin Crabill, reviews the family's estate plan with Dean (center) and Mike Pridgeon. Through ideas provided by Farm Bureau Insurance Group's Family Financial Planning experts, the Pridgesons have built an equitable method of transferring the farm from generation to generation. Established in 1960 for Dean and his father, Glen, the plan has been expanded to include Dean's sons, Mike and Bill.
A TRUCK LOAD OF PREMIUM GRADE — Special Bean Fertilizer is checked out by Don Cook (left) Sales Manager of the Fertilizer, Seed and Chemical department; Pinconning farmer and member of the Pinconning Farm Bureau Services Advisory Board, Wayne Carruthers, (center) and Elevator Manager, Eugene Fischer.

TONS OF SPECIAL BEAN FERTILIZER — are stored in Pinconning's Farm Bureau Services Elevator. Manager Eugene Fischer and Don Cook proudly inspect the "specialty of the house."

BINS OF FERTILIZER — at the Elkton Cooperative receive visual inspection from Services Don Cook, Elkton Coop manager Barney Licht and Carl Forseall, Services Fieldman for District 4. Truck driver Jim Nickerson checks the load, following the directions of Al Licht, (left) Blending Plant superintendent, and Don Hobkirk, manager of the Blending Plant.

WITH the opening of the Elkton Cooperative Farm Produce Company's new fertilizer blend plant, farmers in the trading area are offered one of the most versatile scientific blend plants. Farm Bureau Services and the Elkton Cooperative hosted 69 Farm Bureau leaders and their wives to a banquet and open house celebration. These leaders were local area cooperative managers and boards of directors, local financial people, Farm Bureau community leaders, Farm Bureau Insurance Group representatives and Farm Bureau Services.

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WILLIAM GUTHRIE, Executive Vice President, Farm Bureau Services, informed the guests about the farmer owned fertilizer manufacturing plants and blend plants. Mr. Guthrie said that the Elkton Plant is one of 12 in Michigan, and that he expects the number to increase by another 10 to 12 within the next year.

The blend plant at Elkton, according to Mr. Barney Licht who has been manager for the past 23 years at the Elkton Cooperative, has a storage capacity of approximately 2,000 tons of straight materials for accurate formulation according to the soil's need for these materials. These are available in bulk to serve local farmers and area cooperatives in the thumb. During the open house, over 800 tons of straight materials, blends and premium mixed special fertilizers were booked by the farmers who attended. This blend plant is unique in that the farmers have an opportunity here to acquire all their crop needs: seed, chemicals for insect and weed control, fertilizer, straight materials and the premium mixed specials.

Pinconning Farm Bureau Services Elevator has added additional storage facilities, improved processing and fast unloading to better serve Bay and Arenac County farmers. A modern, complete addition to the former elevator offers facilities for the processing of over 20,000 pounds of beans daily, with storage space for all grain. A new grain dryer has been added which can dry up to 1,000 bushels per hour (depending upon moisture content).

A full line of farm supplies are available according to Eugene Fischer, Manager. These include bulk or bagged feeds, bulk or bagged fertilizer (a special premium grade bean starter has been very popular this spring) and farm hardware.

The entire remodeling has been done to better serve farmers in the area.
NEW TO STAFF

DAVID MEAD - Frankfort, has joined the Michigan Farm Bureau staff as Regional Representative for the Thumb area. Mead attended Central Michigan University and recently completed four years of service in the U.S. Air Force. His region includes Huron, Iosco, Missaukee, Wexford, Tuscola counties.

GOLDEN MEMBERSHIP GOAL — both State and American, continues to be reason enough for celebration at Farm Bureau Center, Lansing, where office employees were treated by the Field Services Division to a giant, specially decorated cake in honor of the occasion. Accepting pieces are (left) Charles Burkett, Director of the Field Operations Department, and Dan E. Reed, Michigan Farm Bureau Secretary-Manager.

AGRICULTURE IN ACTION — PICTORIAL REPORT

LISTENERS BY THE BUSHEL — tune to WTHM in Lapeer, for the latest in news, weather, music, and ACCENT AGRICULTURE — the Michigan Farm Bureau radio program. Station manager Ed Oyster (left) helped start the station a few years ago — reports that listeners can now hear Farm Bureau at 2:45 each Wednesday. In the southwest corner of our Great Lakes state, Harold Sparks, farm director for WNIL, Niles, airs ACCENT for early risers at 6:15 a.m. Wednesdays.

A CUP OF MICH. BEAN SOUP — is thoroughly enjoyed by Rep. Thomas Guastello (D-71st Dist.) left, and B. Dale Ball, Director of the Mich. Department of Agriculture during a Capitol Bean Day held on the capital lawn. The affair was hosted by the Mich. Bean Commission in cooperation with Gratiot Farm Bureau Women and other grower-representatives. Guastello is vice-chairman of the House Committee on Consumers and Agriculture.

GOVERNOR DISHES IT OUT

LIVELY WITH THE LADLE — is Governor Wm. Milliken, taking his turn in dishing out cups of Michigan’s famed navy bean soup on the capital lawn. Receiving a steaming portion is Representative Harry Rohls (R-84th District) — an ardent supporter of the bean event and himself a Thumb-area bean grower.

OFF THE BOARD — but not out of Farm Bureau leadership is Mike Satchell, youthful Tuscola farmer honored recently upon his “retirement” as Young Farmer representative on the MFB board of directors. “I’m about as involved now as I ever was” says Mike — while Mrs. Satchell looks on.

“RETIERING” BOARD MEMBER

DANIEL POHL — Fowler, is the new Regional Representative for the “Thumb” area. Pohl spent two years in Peru with the Peace Corps, attended Michigan State University where he received a degree in Animal Husbandry this June. His region includes Huron, Iosco, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford, Tuscola counties.
new feeder-pig program...

Newest of Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) Divisions — The Feeder Pig Program — as set up by a state Swine Advisory Committee, is rapidly becoming one of the most active operations in the state. More than a year ago the Farm Bureau advisory committee, under the direction of Chairman Eugene Roberts, completed a study and made recommendations to the Board of Directors concerning improved swine production and marketing services that could be made available to Farm Bureau members.

One of the major recommendations that has resulted from the committee's study is the establishment of a feeder pig production and marketing program, using the producer-oriented vehicle, Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) to direct the operation.

The feeder pig program was formed to serve producers now

the business; to supply the large volume of feeder pigs now required from out-state markets, and to produce an efficient, high-quality feeder pig marketable to both buyer and seller. The MACMA feeder pig program currently provides services to producers in a number of communities in Michigan, it is providing an additional marketing for gift and hogs bred for our purebred producers in Michigan; it is providing an additional marketing for gift and hogs bred for our purebred producers in Michigan. It is providing an additional marketing for gift and hogs bred for our purebred producers in Michigan, and it is supplying the buyer-demand for quantity and quality.

Feeder pig producers in northeast Michigan have joined together under MACMA marketing agreements to start this new project. Participants having ten or more sows of suitable quality, for the program by paying a 60 membership fee and a 50 interest-bearing investment.

Producers deliver their pigs at a weight of 40-50 pounds to the MACMA assembly point. The assembly point operates one day every other week. The pigs are weighed and vaccinated, received in, ear marked, vaccinated for erysipelas and inspected for general health. The producer notifies the MACMA fieldman of his intended day of sale to assure more orderly marketing.

MACMA provides complete marketing services to assist feeder pig producers in caring out a proper selection, feed, health, and marketing program.

MACMA feeder pigs are sold on order to demanding buyers every other week. The pigs are guaranteed to be vaccinated against the problem of sale, and are in a healed condition; that all pigs will live for 24 hours.

Prices are quoted to prospective buyers delivered or f.a.b. MACMA assembly point. All prices are based on a 40-pound head, plus 15c per pound over 40. A yearly production of 6,500 head has been signed at this time by producers. Plans call for an expansion of the operation to around 12,000 head annually, with new areas of the state being studied as possible production areas.

The MACMA Feeder Pig marketing service is available to any swine producers who can join together at last 5,000 head in a 30-mile radius.

THE HAPPY SMILE — on Bill Byrum's face tells a story: he is happy about the weight of the feeder pigs on the scales at the assembly point. Keith Miller is a willing assistant each pick-up day.

FAT AND HAPPY FEEDERS — push each other down the ramp from the truck to the scales at the assembly point, unaware that they are in a race for a series of shots and a short stay before shipping to new homes.
Law and Order

Brutal newspaper headlines shout the story: "Girls Found Slain..." "Mystery Killer Strikes Near Ann Arbor..." "Arson Suspected in Sunday Blaze..." "Ex-Convict Charged in Kidnapping..." "Teen-Ager Held for Theft..." and on and on.

Behind the headlines are shattered lives, mute testimony to the fact that crime in these United States is rising nine times faster than is the population.

In Detroit, grocery store owners who support the boycott close their stores to flee to Canada. "I can't count how many times I was robbed and burglarized" he blurs. "You never know when the machine gun figure it out. My stores look like a zoo... bars in the windows, cages over everything. I have to give it up before we all get killed..."

Detroit robberies rose 32% in just the year from 1966 to 1967, and a marked increase in all crime has caused President Nixon to announce a permanent anti-racketeering office to be opened in Detroit. Detroit robberies rose 32% in just the year from 1966 to 1967, and a marked increase in all crime has caused President Nixon to announce a permanent anti-racketeering office to be opened in Detroit. But our big city is not alone when it comes to an increase in Michigan crime. Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Ann Arbor, Lansing and many other population centers report more of the same. Everywhere another major crime is committed in the United States and there is no proof that Michigan rates any better.

Inventors have developed elaborate protection devices to prevent shoplifting. One such involves "nonsense" in direct proportion to consumer pressure. It is constant sub-atomic signal cancelled only by going through checkout lanes, but which sets off alarm systems if it is carried directly through store doors and not past the cash register.

Most farms are poorly equipped to understand the pressures and persuasiveness which comes with big-city living — the impersonal attitudes which build whereby respect for law and order is lost.

But in many experts say that although slums, poverty, depressions, are contributing factors, they are not prime causes of crime. Causes go much deeper than that. For example, there is some evidence that wealth causes crime, and surely the United States is now at an unheard of height of prosperity.

A booklet on crime and its causes prepared by Ambassador College, Pasadena, California, contains this passage: "Crime stems from a lack of character, not a lack of money. When people are allowed to think — even are taught to think like criminals, the end result is quite obvious — people will BECOME criminals.

Quoting from the booklet: "In the words of FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, "A rising contempt for law and respect for law and order lies at the heart of the growing violence in America today..."

The booklet continues: "Our young people are being taught that there is no real right or wrong... that each individual decides for himself what is right or wrong..."

Obviously the fault lies within personal experiences well in ADVANCE of a committed crime. Persons fall because homes fail. Students not because they are SUPPORTED in their anarchy from home. This support comes in the form of unalike checks from doting parents, in new cars — in removing from the student the privilege of working for what he needs — in home encouragement of "social" dining — in parental attitudes toward church — in freely giving material things unbalanced by spiritual or moral support.

Respect for Law...

1969 Farm Bureau Policy

Responsible citizens throughout the nation should protect the concept that ours is a government of laws, not of men. We must emphasize adherence to laws and respect for properly constituted authorities.

Lawlessness of many types is prevalent in the United States. Recent Supreme Court decisions provide greater protection to the accused than to society. These make the task of law enforcement more difficult.

We condemn the acts of those who incite or participate in riots, defy the flag, or burn draft cards. We recognize the right of citizens to dissent, but protests and demonstrations should not interfere with the rights of others and must be permitted to deteriorate into civil disorder and anarchy. Each individual should be held liable for his actions when participating in or inciting such disorders.

Our campuses must be returned to their traditional role as centers of reason and intellectual pursuit. Student activities, non-student extremists, and the faculty members who support them in lawlessness or interfere with the orderly operation of educational institutions have forfeited any right to remain in the educational community. They should be summarily expelled and dismissed and if necessary put under peace bond not to return. Any who descend to killing in sympathy with those who have been removed should be suspended or expelled depending on their actions.

Law Enforcement

"What went wrong? — We gave him everything" sobbed the mother whose only son was discovered to be the brains behind a teen-age thrill slaying gang. True, the parents had given him every thing — except those things least tangible and most important, such as the solid influence of a balanced home life.

Instead, the youngster was allowed to identify almost solely with his peer group — the "gang" which set the accepted form of behavior. His parents, because they were ministers, often abandoned the pulpit to lend their time and prestige to the sit-in and the boycott — to the deliberate breaking of "law". "We are setting the church example..." said the influences we are spiritual power and that as a stabilizing influence. Surely this is partly due to these ministers and church leaders who commit the horizontal as well as the vertical, as the church as a political leader — writes nationally syndicated columnist, Henry J. Taylor.

Church involvement in the AFL-CIO grape boycott probably in a case in point.

But there are encouraging signs that many Americans are becoming fed up with lawlessness and are calling for stronger law enforcement. Overtones of changes reflected in President Nixon's recent appointment of Judge Warren E. Burger as Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

A recent Gallup Poll showed strong majorities of the public calling for courts to deal more severely with criminals — for a double sentence for crimes committed with a gun — for stricter penalties for persons convicted of murder and still penalties for persons convicted of such other major crimes as dope peddling.

Far more significant within the same poll was a strong trend of support for attacking the real causes of crime in the community and in the home.

MAY TOPIC SUMMARY
Farm Credit Problem

There were 5,108 families in 693 Community Groups taking part in the discussion concerning farm labor. The average of 7 families were represented in each group.

Of these, 2,212 families hired a total of 17,829 workers during the year. About half of the families felt they were "somewhat informed" concerning present state and federal labor-hiring rules, but only 15% felt they were "well informed" and 35% considered themselves "not well informed".

A majority had no idea where to go should they need the skilled help of a labor lawyer. Half of the families knew about the Michigan Agricultural Services Association's private labor-management Newsletter, and 71 of them made use of it and subscribe to the service as a result of the Group discussion.

NEXT MONTH: Farm Public Relations
Unfortunately not every Farm Bureau member is privileged to be part of a Community Farm Bureau Group. Besides missing the fellowship and fun, they miss out on lively discussions on such important topics as the one for July on "Law and Order".

But this month there is no need to miss taking part in the discussion and in the selection of future topics for inclusion in months ahead in the FARM NEWS. After reading the discussion material on the opposite page, you may express your opinions by filling in a few blanks in the areas provided and then "register" your opinion by clipping the sheet and sending it to the Department of Education and Research at the Michigan Farm Bureau (address below).

True, your scissors-work won't improve the appearance of this month's copy of FARM NEWS, but your action will improve the entire discussion procedure through a two-way flow of ideas and opinions between yourself as a member, and those staff persons assigned to this work.

Every opinion will be counted and reviewed equally with those reaching the Michigan Farm Bureau by the regular Community Farm Bureau route. So — why not get a pencil, and let us know what you think?

— OPINION EXERCISE AND REPORT —

In the Discussion materials we have established that there has been a dramatic rise in crime in recent years. What do you feel are primary causes for this increase? List at least six, and try to place them in order of preference:

CAUSES FOR INCREASE IN CRIME:

(1) ____________________________ (2) ____________________________
(3) ____________________________ (4) ____________________________
(5) ____________________________ (6) ____________________________

Now, having pin-pointed your feelings concerning prime reasons why there has been a sharp increase in crime . . . think through what people such as yourself can do about them. List several of your best suggestions:

Please list the topics you would like to see included in articles prepared for future issues of the FARM NEWS. List as many topics as you might like to suggest, but be sure to place the six you prefer as the first six on the list. Topics should be of statewide or national interest, with local and county issues more appropriately brought to the attention of your county Farm Bureau.

(1) ____________________________ (2) ____________________________
(3) ____________________________ (4) ____________________________
(5) ____________________________ (6) ____________________________

OTHERS:

Clip and send to: Education and Research, Michigan Farm Bureau
Box 960, Lansing, Michigan 48904.
A three-generation plan

... to keep Pridgeon Farms in the family. And growing. And growing. And growing.

It's called the Family Financial Planning Service—from Farm Bureau Insurance Group. Our specialists have helped three Pridgeon generations develop financial programs to keep their farm in the family. And reduce estate transfer costs. And build for tomorrow.

We've helped hundreds of other Michigan farm families the same way. Maybe we can help you too. For example, we can:

1. Provide ideas for keeping your farm in the family—and building an equitable inheritance for children who do not stay on the farm.

2. Help you reduce the high cost of estate transfer—including Federal Estate Tax, State Inheritance Tax and Probate/Transfer costs.


4. Provide ideas for a partnership continuing agreement—protecting your operation in case of a partner's retirement, disability and death.

Just call your Farm Bureau Agent. He'll arrange an appointment with one of our Family Financial Planning consultants—to work with you and your attorney.