

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE **ACTION** PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

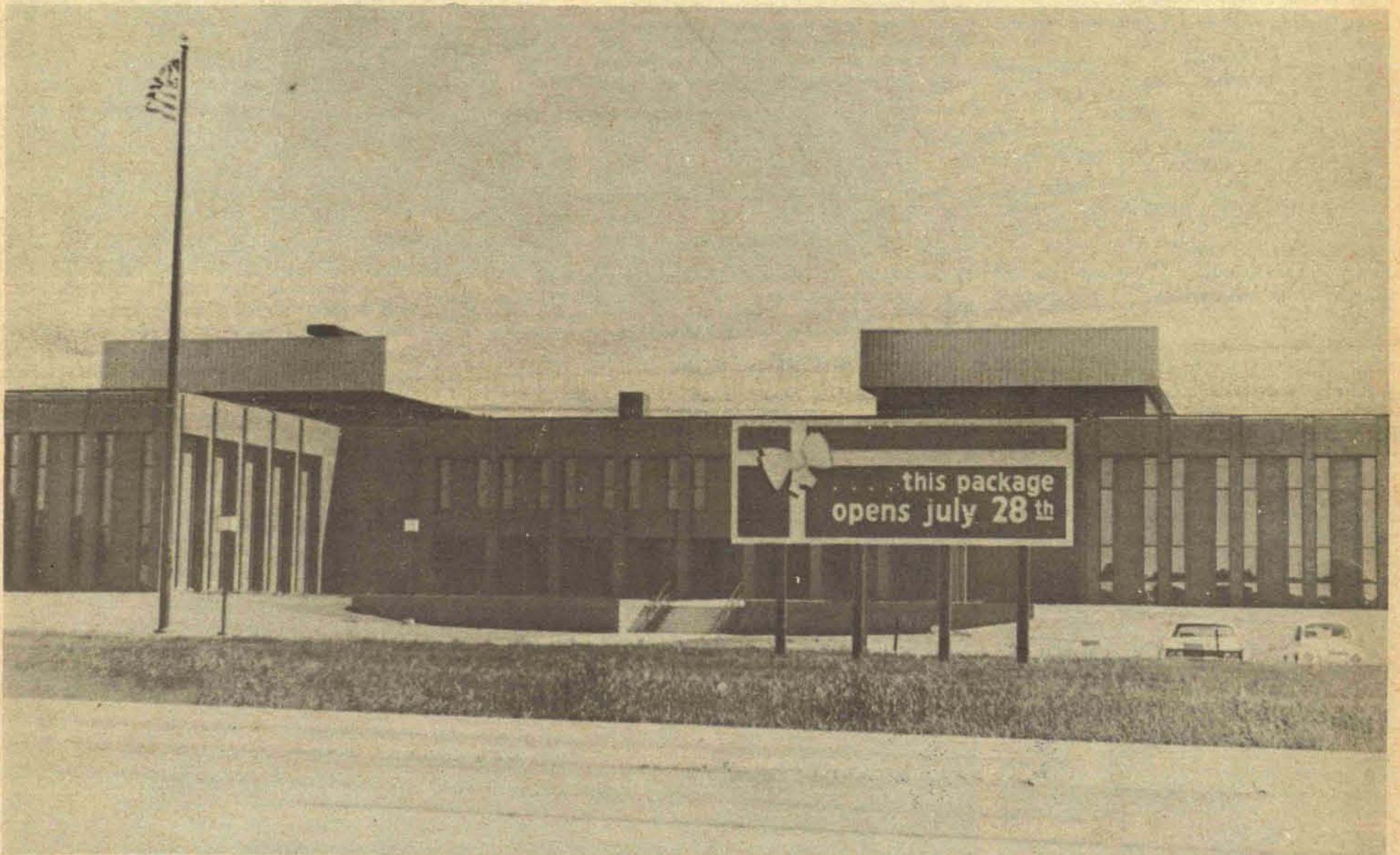
Vol. 50, No. 7

THE NEW **AGE**

July 1, 1971

FARM BUREAU CENTER OPEN HOUSE

7373 W. Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan
Wednesday... July 28, 1971... 10:00 a.m.



Program

Welcome To The Farm Bureau Center, Elton R. Smith, president, Mich. Farm Bureau.

*History of Project and Physical Characteristics of the Building . . . N. L. Vermillion,
Executive vice president, Farm Bureau Insurance Group.*

Dedication Address . . . The Honorable William G. Milliken.

Official Opening Ceremony . . . Governor Milliken and President Smith.

*Guided tours of the building following the official opening to allow all visitor's
to view the entire structure.*

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EDITORIAL . . .



The Power Of An Idea

Every human has many ideas but most of us do not take the time to sort out the good ones from the bad, the workable from the unworkable, so many go for naught. This world has been built on good ideas, well thought through and carried out.

In 1776 a group of people had an idea of how they would like to live and be governed, so declared their independence from a mother country and established a new nation. They carried out their ideas in their new government — a self governing system based on representation. They also spelled out some principles for every citizen of the new nation. They said every person should be able . . .

. . . to worship God in his own way without interference by government.

. . . to exercise freedom of speech and press, even if others disagree with what one may say or print.

. . . to pursue a personal ambition to the fullest extent of his abilities, regardless of family background, race or creed.

. . . to choose his own occupation, apply for any job, quit his job if he doesn't like it and pursue a better offer.

. . . to use his honestly acquired property and finances in his own way — spend it, invest it or give it away.

. . . to go into business for himself, be his own boss, work the hours he pleases and make a profit.

. . . to offer his services or products for sale on his own terms, even if he loses money on the deal.

. . . to buy or not to buy any service or product offered for sale without interruption so long as he pays the price asked.

. . . to be free to make his own decisions and to provide for himself so long as he does not infringe on the rights of others.

Under the guidelines of these principles a great nation has been built. We are less than six percent of the world's population on seven percent of its land, a heterogeneous hodge-podge of races and blood lines, with no more natural resources than some other areas of the globe, yet creating more new technical devices and industrial systems than all the other ninety-four percent together.

This same type of idea creativity helped form a farm organization fifty-two years ago. This organization, the Farm Bureau, whose purpose is to support agriculture, has also developed some beliefs and policies that say in part that . . .

. . . farmers can build their own effective marketing and bargaining programs, if Congress will provide the legal foundations .

. . . inflation is a serious threat to economic stability and excessive Federal government spending is the basic cause of our current problem of inflation.

. . . it is the obligation of each generation to make wise use of our natural resources with particular regard to the needs of future generations.

. . . private ownership and operation of the major portion of the nation's land resources is in the national interest.

. . . a dynamic, private competitive enterprise system is a major factor contributing to a more abundant life for all people.

. . . American agriculture has an important stake in a high level of mutually advantageous world trade.

The power of ideas has built both this nation and our farm organization. Every individual, as long as he does not violate the laws of justice, should pursue his ideas in order to bring about a better way of life for all mankind.

Carl P. Kentner

Commercial - Farmer Controlled Vehicle Regulations Revised

The Department of Transportation has announced its intention to revise its commercial vehicle driver qualification regulations insofar as they apply to drivers of certain vehicles controlled and operated by farmers. This action followed consultations and study within the Department, with the Department of Agriculture, with farm group representatives, and with other interested parties.

The Department's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) found that the seasonal and intermittent nature of interstate farm operations; the general short range of the majority of farm trips; and the lower incidence of exposure of farm vehicles to highway collision risks support revision of the regulations.

I. A new Section 391.2 would be added to Part 391 of the Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, reading as follows:

Section 391.2 General exemptions.

(a) Drivers of lightweight vehicles. The rules in this part do not apply to a driver who drives only a vehicle that:

(1) Has a gross weight, including its load, of 10,000 pounds or less;

(2) Is not transporting passengers for hire; and

(3) Is not carrying hazardous materials of a type or quantity that requires the vehicle to be marked or placarded in accordance with Section 177.823 of this title.

(b) Farm vehicle drivers of nonarticulated vehicles. The rules in this part do not apply to a farm vehicle driver who drives a non-articulated vehicle.

II. Section 391.3 in Part 391 of the Motor Carrier Safety Regulations would be amended by adding a new paragraph reading as follows:

(d) The term "farm vehicle driver" means a person who drives only a vehicle that is —

(1) Controlled and operated by a farmer;

(2) Being used to transport agricultural products or farm machinery and supplies to or from farms;

(3) Being used within 150 miles of his farm;

(4) Not being used in the operations of a for-hire carrier;

(5) Not carrying hazardous materials of a type or quantity that requires the vehicle to be marked or placarded in accordance with Section 177.823 of this title;

III. The heading of Subpart G of Part 391 of the Motor Carrier Safety Regulations would be amended to read as follows:

Subpart G—Limited Exemptions

IV. Section 391.67 in Part 391 of the Motor Carrier Safety Regulations would be amended and Section 391.58 is added to read as follows:

Section 391.67 Certain drivers of articulated vehicles.

(a) The following rules in this part do not apply to a farm vehicle driver who is at least 18 years old and who drives an articulated vehicle used to transport farm products to market and supplies to or from the farm.

(1) Section 391.11(b), (1), (8), (10), (11), (12) (relating to driver qualifications);

(2) Subpart C (relating to disclosure of investigation into, and inquiries about, the background, character, and driving record of drivers);

(3) Subpart D (relating to road tests and written examinations);

(4) So much sections 391.41 and 391.45 as require a driver to be medically examined and to have a medical examiner's certificate on his person before January 1, 1973.

(5) Subpart F (relating to maintenance of file and records);

Section 391.68 Drivers of vehicles used to transport farm harvesting machinery.

The rules of this part do not apply to drivers of vehicles used to transport farm harvesting machinery for use on farms.

V. The table of contents of Part 391 of the Motor Carrier Safety Regulations is amended (1) by adding after Section 391.1 a new Section 391.2 General exemptions, and (2) by amending the description of Section 391.67 to read "Certain drivers of articulated vehicles" and by adding after Section 391.67, a new Section 391.68, to read "Drivers of vehicles used to transport farm harvesting machinery."

The Director of the Bureau of Motor Carrier Safety is extending the expiration date of the exemption from certain driver qualification rules for drivers of certain light-weight farm vehicles. By virtue of this action, the special exemption, now set to expire on July 1, 1971, will expire on January 1, 1972.

The regulation affecting certain farm truck drivers, now scheduled to become effective July 1, will not become applicable until the revisions are ordered. Dr. Kaye said adequate time will be allowed to permit farmers to become familiar with the regulations.

Director Kaye said, "The previously published rules are intended to increase the safety of operation of all trucks and buses used for commercial purposes on the Nation's highways, and that continues to be the Department goal. I trust that this will clear up the misunderstanding about the applicability of these rules to farmers and let me add that it was never intended that the use of farm trucks for personal transportation by farm youth would come under these rules."

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN . . .

Farm Truck Regulations



The Federal Department of Transportation quietly adopted driver trucking regulations that would have crippled the farm operation if it had not been for the quick action of Farm Bureau and its members.

These damaging regulations were to have become law January 1, 1971, but farmer action torpedoed the plan. The major regulations detrimental to agriculture have been postponed, while the entire proposition, which was to take effect July 1, is now delayed for further review.

Strangely, at the first adoption of these regulations no official announcements were reported to the agricultural world. I suppose someone expected farmers to follow along like little puppy dogs, all in a line, and accept as gospel the rulings handed down.

When learning of the developing circumstances, Farm Bureau and its members took immediate action. National, state and county Farm Bureaus backed by our nearly two million family members contacted representatives in government and made them aware of the crisis. It was this action that drew attention to an otherwise "too quiet" attempt for unhealthy bureaucratic transportation regulations.

Our voice was heard throughout the country, and because of this effective action, the Department of Transportation plans to exempt agriculture from many of the paralyzing rules it had designed. The new rules will not become effective until January 1, 1972, a year later than the first announced date. In the meantime, the Department of Transportation is keeping its doors open for review of its total plan.

As an active farmer, you realize the importance of the operation of farm trucks to your farm. Following are some major changes to show you the seriousness of what could have become regulations without your support.

Complete exemptions include new driver qualification rules for all drivers of farm vehicles under 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight; a lowering of the minimum age to 18 (from 21) for drivers of farmer-controlled and operated trucks, and selected exemptions from some other requirements.

A total exemption for single vehicles and limited exemptions for multiple-unit types of farm vehicles used within 150 miles of the farm are also being considered.

We can see that an important portion of our independent farming freedom would have been parked on the farm if such regulations had become effective.

As farmers we can salute the many Michigan congressmen who supported agriculture. While this was not a legislative matter, Congressman James Harvey, of the 8th District, introduced legislation to free farmers from these proposed regulations. His action and that of our other friends in Congress helped to bring results from the Department of Transportation.

We can't expect to operate farm trucks on the highway without some regulation. But the regulation should not hinder effective operation.

For farmers, this issue is evidence that when we stand together, unreasonable regulations no matter how unintentional can be defeated.

We, as farmers, can remember from this issue that good government is not a gift, but the hard earned right of citizens. It is a hard earned liberty that is most easily lost in silence.

Organized farmers must be the watchdogs of our industry. No one else can understand it as completely. No one else can better care for it.

Elton R. Smith

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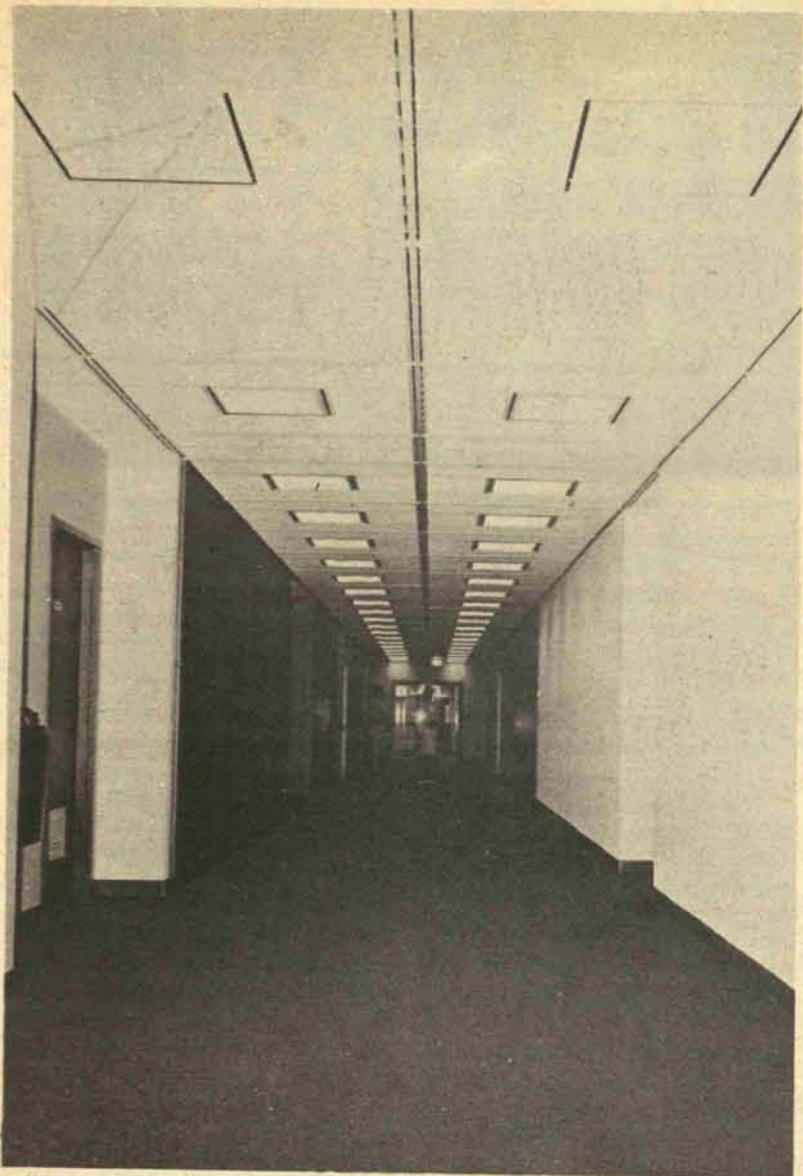
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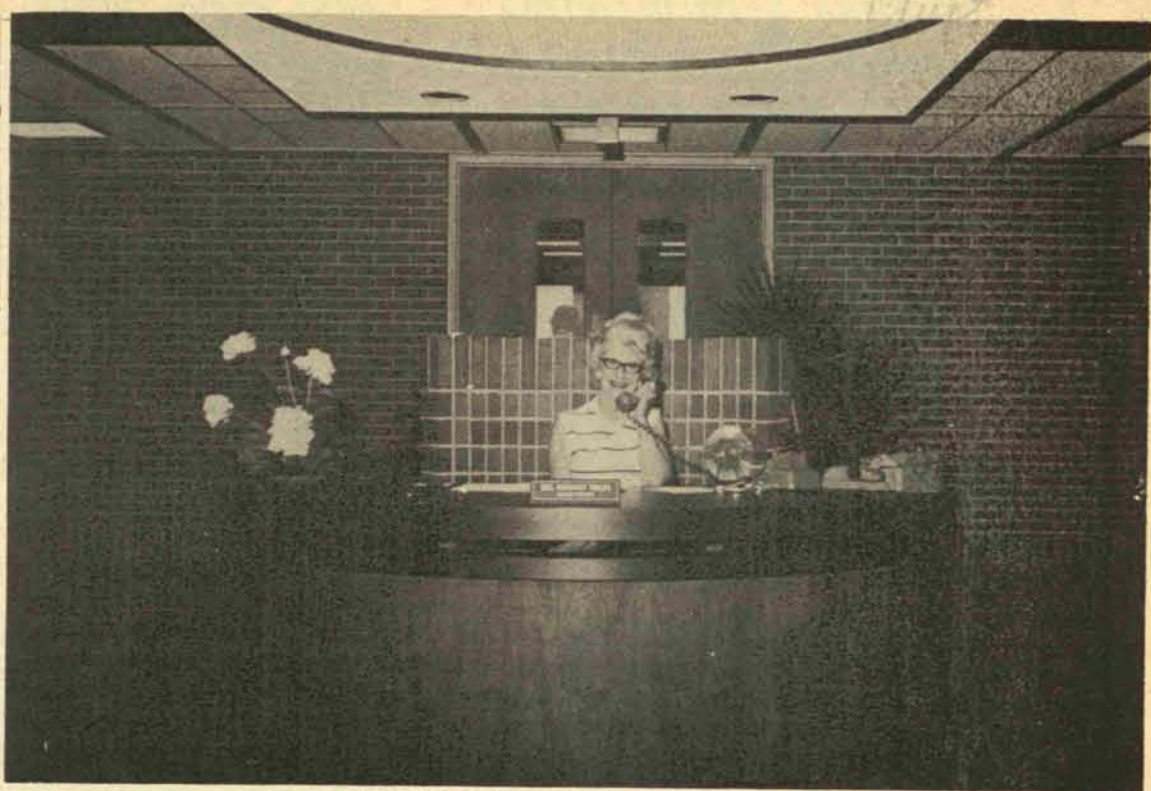
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A Pictorial Preview of the New Farm Bureau Center...



Expansive Halls of Vinyl and Paneling



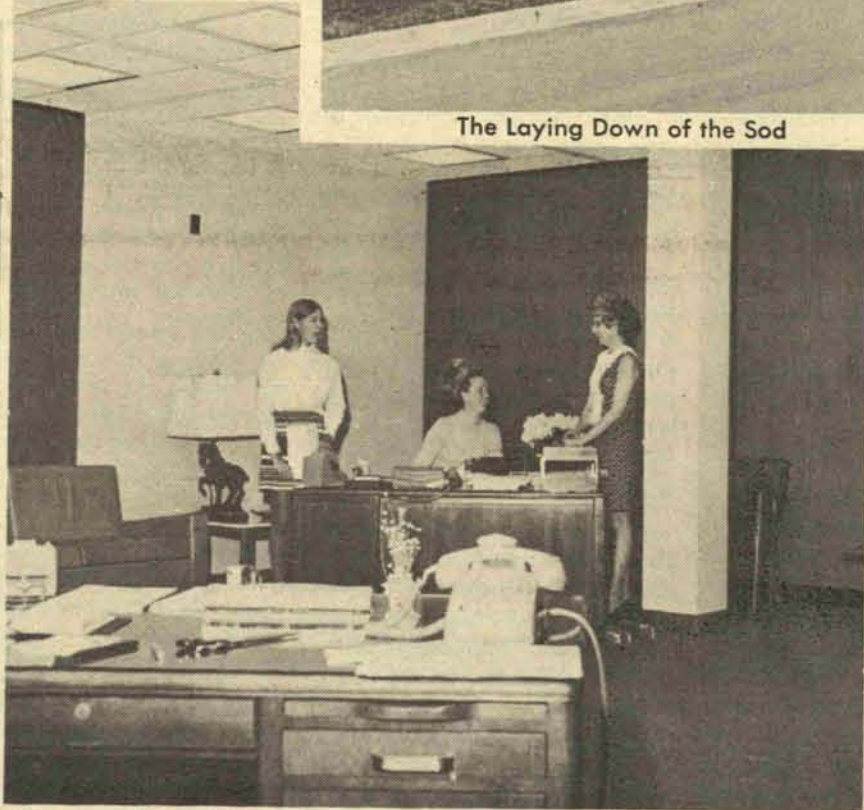
The Voice With A Smile (Main Reception Center)



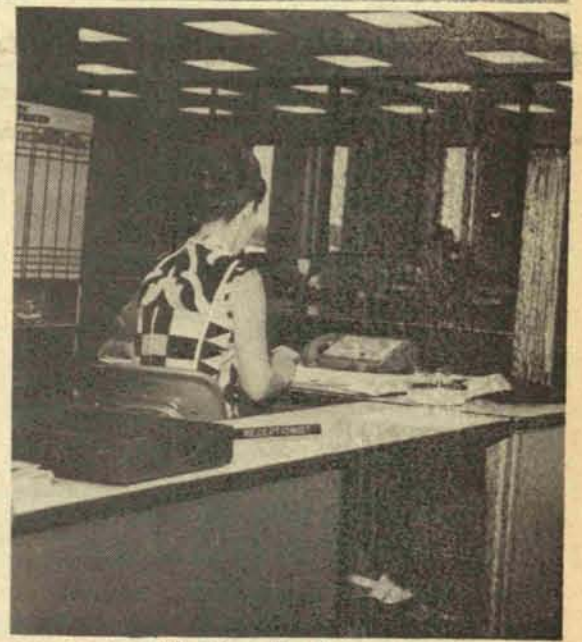
The Laying Down of the Sod



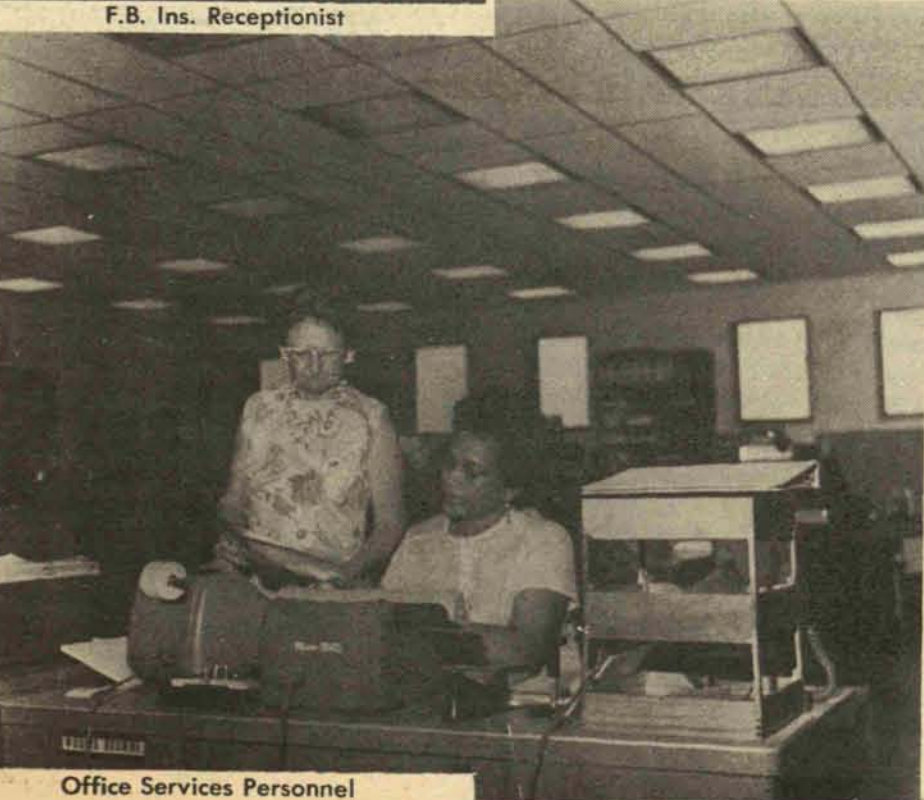
F.B. Ins. Receptionist



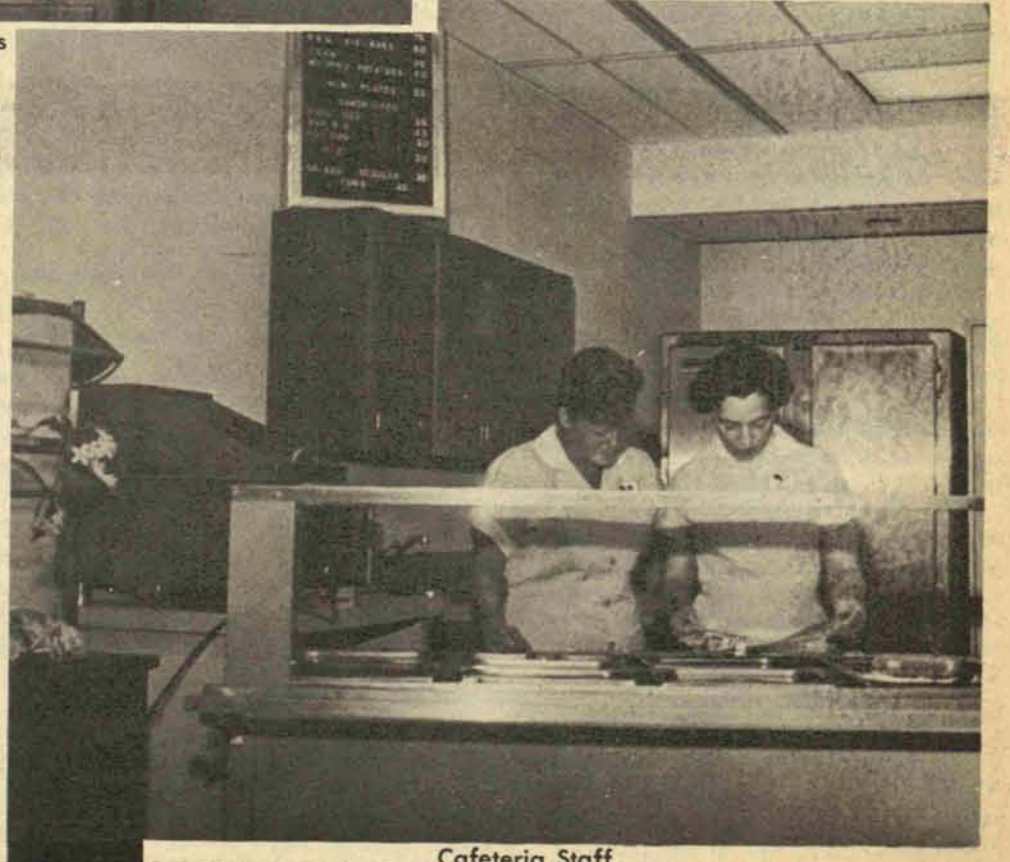
"Secretarial Session" . . . F.B. Services



Mich. Elev. Ex. Receptionist

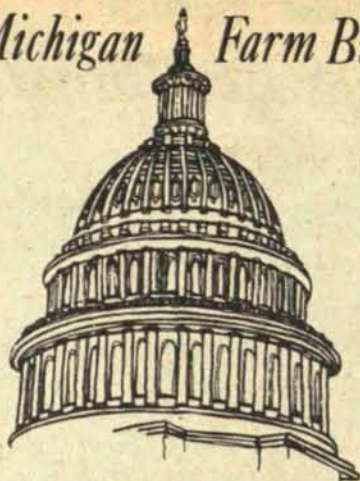


Office Services Personnel



Cafeteria Staff

Michigan Farm Bureau



CAPITOL REPORT

by Robert E. Smith

1971 Michigan Farm Bureau Policy Development Committee

District	Name	County
1	Burton Stafford	Cass
2	Alvin Wells	Hillsdale
3	Frank Smith, Jr.	Monroe
4	Wayne Musbach	Ionia
5	R. Lee Ormston	Clinton
6	Bruce Leipprandt	Huron
7	Charles F. Houghton	Mecosta
8	Carl Quackenbush, Vice Chairman	Saginaw
9	Larry Luther	Wexford
10	Bernell Hershburger	Montmorency
11	Richard Trepanier	Dickinson
Farm Bureau Young Farmers		
	Karl Howard	Sanilac
	Robert Harms	Eaton
	Daniel Robotham	Benzie
Farm Bureau Women		
	Mrs. Marvin Lott	Ingham
	Mrs. Lawrence Rhoda	Kalamazoo
	Mrs. Raymond Postma	Chippewa
At Large		
	Dean Pridgeon, Chairman	Branch
	James Sayre	Wayne
	John Laurie	Tuscola

The State of Michigan will have reached the end of its fiscal year on June 30 — and perhaps the end of its financial rope unless the Legislature shows more activity during the final week than it has during the past several months. Governor Milliken said that unless the Legislature adopts a budget before July 1, he would have "no alternative but to put all departments of state government on notice that emergency measures may be required at that date." He warned that the impact will be severe, particularly upon education, welfare and mental health, which represent our greatest areas of expenditures.

There is no question but that the budget will be higher than that recommended by the Governor and that additional tax revenues must be voted. An attempt was made in the equally divided Senate to take the income tax bill from the table (S. 616), but it failed. Senator Zollar said that it did not seem possible for the Senate to act, therefore it was up to the House to send the Senate a revenue bill.

It is now estimated that it will require an income tax increase of 1.3 percent to meet the expected budget. This is in spite of the many spending cuts that the Governor has made. His recommended \$1.98 billion will need to be raised, primarily due to the spiraling welfare costs (which, together with federal matching, will be over one billion dollars), plus additional monies needed for education and cities. The total budget may be as high as \$2.08 billion.

PROPERTY TAXES

Elimination of property taxes for school operation is possible if the Legislature will permit the issue to be put on the ballot this fall. Three resolutions are under consideration. One in the Senate, "M", (Davis, Byker, et al), and "FF" in the House (Folks and 41 others). Each of these would eliminate the property tax for school operation and permit six mills for enrichment, but, most important, would cut the 50-mill tax limitation down to 30 mills. The third resolution, "GG" (L. Anderson, R. Smith and 43

others) would cut the total tax limitation to 26 mills and allocate within the Constitution millage to counties, townships, community colleges, vocational education and special education, thus limiting each unit of government and eliminating the present allocation process.

A problem has arisen in that the Democratic leaders want the question of a graduated income tax to be put on the ballot in the same proposal as the elimination of the property tax. This means that a voter would possibly be forced to vote for something he did not believe in in order to vote for something else that he felt should be passed. Other Legislators maintain that if the two issues are on the ballot they should be separate in order to permit the voter to make a decision on each issue based on its own merits.

ASSESSMENTS

The general public will have an opportunity to appear before a special House Subcommittee on Assessments, as meetings are being held throughout the state. Farmers are taking advantage of this opportunity to let the committee know firsthand the effect of assessments on agriculture. The remaining hearings will be in Benton Harbor on Friday, July 9; Bay City, Monday, July 19; Houghton, Friday, July 23; Marquette, Saturday, July 24, and Detroit, Monday, August 2. Notices have been sent to Farm Bureau leaders indicating that they may wish to take advantage of this opportunity.

The farmland assessment bill, H. 4100 in the House, may yet be considered before summer recess. The identical bill, S. 130 in the Senate, is under consideration by the Senate Committee. However, there may be major revisions, as it appears that the three-year rollback will not be acceptable, but must be extended to at least five years. A possible substitute also contains a provision for a heavy penalty if the land is shifted from agricultural use before an initial five-year agreement terminates.

More environmentalists are beginning to support the idea. Governor Milliken continues to support the concept and in a major speech before conservationists at the annual meeting of MUCC at Escanaba, pointed out that Farm Bureau was a leader in the effort to encourage preservation of prime agricultural lands and proper land use. The number of states now having some type of legislation is 25. New York, Ohio and New Hampshire Farm Bureaus tell us that legislation is in the process of passage in those states.

ENVIRONMENT — (See other article elsewhere in this issue)

H. 4948, known as the Inland Lakes and Streams Bill, would have affected agriculture and could have created a great deal of expense for farmers by requiring a \$100 permit from the Department of Natural Resources for most anything that might affect water headed toward streams. Tile drains were originally exempted, but water structures, ditches, irrigation canals, etc. would have come under the act. Farm Bureau has been a leader in achieving an agreement to exempt agriculture from the act as it was in the previous law.



THREE OF THE 14 EXPERTS . . . appearing on Michigan State University's Seminar on Agricultural Land Taxation were left to right, Don Collin, California, formerly with California Farm Bureau and presently a tax expert for the California Senate Committee for Revenue and Taxation; Dr. Al House, chairman, MSU; and Samuel Garrison, rural resources, New Jersey Dept. of Agriculture. Others participating in the program included experts from Maryland, Connecticut and the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Another environmental bill, H. 4709, supported by Soil Conservation Districts and Farm Bureau, would set up a model ordinance for soil erosion and sedimentation control resulting from development of new land uses. The ordinance would be drafted by representatives of Soil Conservation Districts, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources Commission. Land developers, highway builders and others developing, grading or building on land would be required to submit a plan indicating control of soil erosion and sedimentation.

H.B. 4963, still another important bill to agriculture, would exempt farm ponds impounding less than five acres from having a permit or from the inspection fee. This bill needs some work on it, but it is essential to many farmers planning farm ponds.

S. 162 could harm some farmers, while at the same time helping others, as it would permit taxation of property in an area for main sewage lines whether or not the property received any direct benefit, but might "potentially" be served by the water or sewage trunk line. Presently, in some areas, such mains are assessed on a front footage basis, which places an extreme tax burden on some people.

Another bill, S. 155 (Ballenger), would establish a revolving sewer, water and drain fund to pay for such extensions with the fund to be repaid through "tap-in fees" when connections are made at a later date.

FARM SAFETY

One bill, H. 5258 (Brennan), could be costly for most farmers, as it requires rearview mirrors to be placed on slow moving vehicles, such as tractors and implements, when used on the road. It makes little sense that a rearview mirror should be placed on an implement and it would be costly for farmers having three or more tractors, as such mirrors cost from \$8 to \$15 and on most tractors would require special brackets to be made. This was strongly debated in the House by Rep. Powell and other outstate farm Legislators.

Governor Milliken has signed into law S.B. 440, Michigan's Occupational Safety Standards Act, which complies with the new federal Occupational Safety and Health legislation. The Department of Labor will be required

to have legislative approval for any new rules. On May 29, the U. S. Department of Labor published nearly 400 pages of regulations, some of which apply to farmers, such as those dealing with handling and storage of anhydrous ammonia, farm labor housing, pulpwood operations, and slow moving vehicle operation on highways. Farm Bureau has supported bringing state laws into uniformity in order to prevent confusion and also maintain inspection control within the state, which has proved to be, in most cases, more realistic than federal inspection. Other state legislation will be required before complete uniformity is achieved.

AGRICULTURE

One bill on the Senate calendar that has received little attention and is extremely important to fruit and vegetable farmers is S. 577, which provides for licensing of food processors, canners, freezers, etc. In so doing, it also repeals numerous other old regulatory and licensing statutes. One of the repealed statutes, known as the Canning and Preserving Act, contained protective provisions for growers denying a license to any canner who had not "reimbursed producers for purchases of fruits and vegetables during the preceding year unless otherwise provided by a written contract."

Farm Bureau offered an amendment to return this provision to the new act and to require that a renewal license be denied if the producer had not been paid for agricultural products during the preceding year and also upon complaint of nonpayment within 60 days after purchase, a hearing would be held to consider a suspension or revocation of a license unless other provisions were made through a written contract between the producers and the purchaser. Without this amendment, fruit and vegetable producers would lose the protection that they have had under the previous law, which would be repealed under S. 577. However, the Farm Bureau amendment would go further and apply to all agricultural products and also, for the first time, give farmers some recourse if they were not paid within 30 days of delivery. In some instances, some processors through lack of prompt payment have had the advantage of using the grower's money interest free.

Notes From All Over . . .

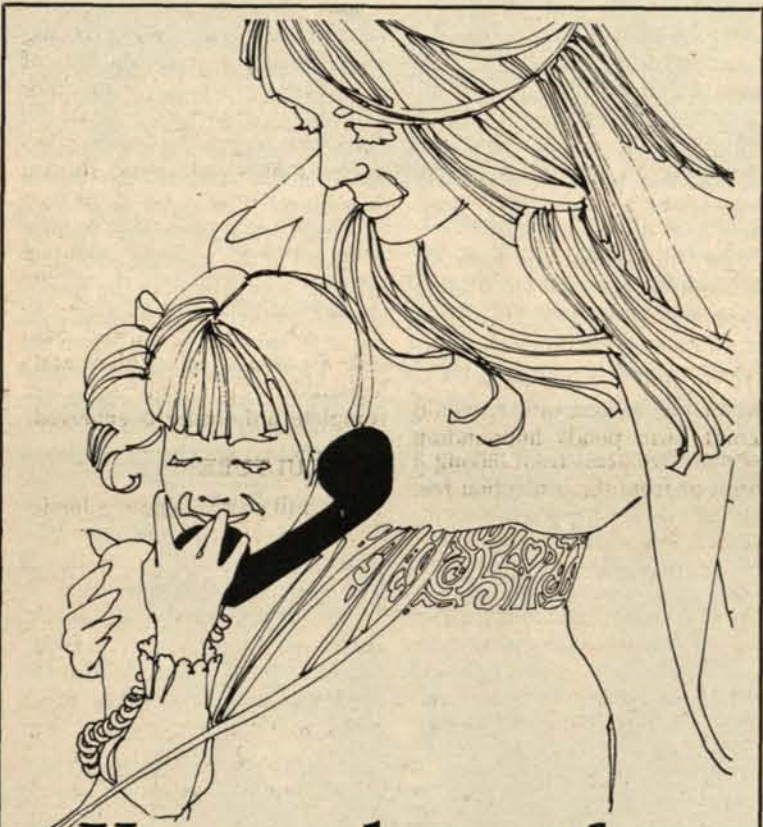
Wayne Playford is the new manager of the Farm Bureau Services' Egg Marketing Divisions Field Operations Department. Wayne Served as flock supervisor and manager of the Brighton Processing Plant.

Dan P. Crowle assumed the managerial position of the Egg Sales and Operations Department of the Egg Marketing Division, effective May 24. Mr. Crowle served as a flock supervisor and manager of Field Operations for the past three years.

Both announcements were made by Clyde I. Springer, vice president, Egg Marketing Division, Farm Bureau Services.

William J. Kuhfuss, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, has been named a member of the National 4-H Service Committee. The Service Committee provides a central national source for educational publications and visual aids. Currently, a record 4 million boys and girls are active in 4-H programs.

Several Farm Bureau members have been named to official positions for McDonald Cooperative Dairy Company. Arthur Forbush, Jr., Gaines, (Genesee county) is the newly elected chairman. Vice chairman is Edward Weiss, Frankenmuth, (Saginaw county); William Brook, East Lansing, (Ingham county), is secretary and Carl Middleton, Mayville, (Tuscola county), treasurer. Other F.B. members on the board are John Friesen, Perrinton, (Griott county), William Brodbeck, Lake Odessa, (Ionia county), James Reilly, Brown City, (Sanilac county), James Berrens, Marion, (Osceola county), Ronald Haines, Gladwin, (Gladwin county) and Gibson Strickling, Mason, (Ingham county).



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F.B. Backs Wheat Exports To Mainland China

The American Farm Bureau Federation has urged the Nixon Administration to authorize the sale of U.S. grains and other farm products to Mainland China.

Farm Bureau also urged removal of cargo preference and part-cargo restrictions on sales to Communist countries.

In a letter to President Nixon, AFBF President William J. Kuhfuss said the following statement was adopted by the AFBF Board of Directors in Phoenix, Arizona, on June 8:

"We strongly support inclusion of grains and other farm products in the list of commodities reportedly under consideration for authorized sale to Mainland China under general license.

"We also urge removal of cargo preference and part-cargo restrictions on sales to Communist countries.

"We favor such sales when they are consistent with national security and when made by the private trade on commercial terms without credit guarantees by any agency of the U.S. government."

President Nixon on June 10 announced that farm products and fertilizer would be included among the commodities for which export sales may be made to Mainland China under general license. The President also announced that he was eliminating cargo preference restrictions on sales to all Communist nations with which trade is now permitted. Embargoes continue in effect on U.S. trade with Cuba, North Korea, and North Vietnam.

MAFC Chairman Testifies

Glenn Hanson of Howell, president of the board of the Federal Land Bank Association of Ann Arbor and chairman of the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives, appeared before a U.S. Senate committee in support of a bill to increase the lending services available from units of the Farm Credit System. Hanson cited provisions in the Farm Credit Act of 1971 which would remove the restrictions that presently prohibits Federal Land Banks from financing more than 65 percent of the value of a farm.

He also pointed out that the removal of the restriction would give Land Banks and local Associations more flexibility in financing today's modern agriculture and could be especially important to young farmers.

Other provisions in the bill permit Production Credit Associations to finance certain businesses that provide on-farm services to farmers and for the Banks for Cooperatives to finance a wider range of credit needs of farmer cooperatives.

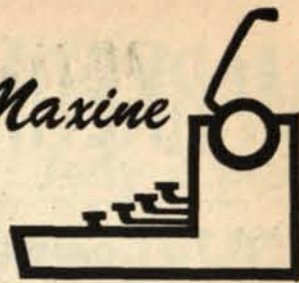
The Farm Credit System is owned by a million farmers and 4,000 farmer cooperatives and provides more than \$14 billion in credit to agriculture each year.

El Crane, long-time employee of the Kent City Farm Bureau, is now working on special assignments for the Retail Division of Farm Bureau Services. The change was effective June 1.

"A minute with Maxine"

MAXINE TOPLIFF

STATE WOMEN'S CHAIRMAN



Summer is here. It is a busy time, but let's not be too busy to think "Safety." Safety comes in many forms. Think about a few of them . . . water safety, playground safety, automobile safety, motorcycle safety, tractor and machinery safety, and I'm sure you can add a few more of your own.

Strawberries are in our freezers now ready for our enjoyment when winter comes. Some people say they have trouble getting their families to eat them after they have been frozen. I'd like to share this recipe a good friend gave me and I hope you will enjoy it.

Frosty Strawberry Squares (Serves 12)

- 1 cup flour
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts
- 1/2 cup butter or oleo

Mix together to form crumbly mixture. Bake in 13x9x2 pan 15 minutes at 350 degrees. Cool. Stir up with a fork and remove half to sprinkle over the top.

- 2 egg whites
- 2/3 cup sugar
- Beat until stiff peaks form.
- 2 cups frozen strawberries partially thawed. (Do not drain.)
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- Combine with the egg whites. (It will be rather thin and syrupy.)
- 1/4 oz. package of Dream Whip. (Whipped as directed on box.)

Fold Dream Whip into the strawberry mixture. Pour over the crumbs. Top with remaining crumbs. Cover and freeze. May be made as much as a month ahead and kept in freezer. Serve frozen.

Have a Happy Summer.

Mrs. Jerold (Maxine) Topliff

State Winner Named In Freedoms Foundation Contest

Cara Bobrowski was selected as the Michigan winner in the fourth annual Freedoms Foundation Essay Contest sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance Group. Cara and her parents live at 732 North State Street, Jackson.

An eighth grade student at St. Joseph School, Jackson, Cara will receive a four-day, all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D. C. for herself, her parents and her teacher, Mrs. Rita Fullerton. The sight-seeing trip is expected to be August 6-9, 1971 and will include tours of Washington, Alexandria, and the U. S. Naval Academy.

In addition to the trip, Cara received an engraved presidential desk flag and her school was presented a large stand-up display flag. Presentation was made by Bob Nelson, representative of the Farm Bureau Insurance Group Agency located in Jackson, during a school honors assembly on June 9th.

Judges for this year's contest were: John B. Swainson, Michigan Supreme Court Justice; Earl E. Nelson, State Representative from Michigan's 57th District; Charles E. Chamberlain, Congressman for Michigan's Sixth District; Dr. Clifton Wharton, Jr., Michigan State University President; and Detroit Free Press Columnist Bob Talbert.

A record 179 schools and 4,000 students participated in the contest which was conducted through 52 Farm Bureau Insurance Group offices around the state.



CARA BOBROWSKI

The first essay contest, "What The United States Flag Means To Me," was conducted in the Lansing area in 1968. Encouraging youth to seriously consider the heritage and future of America, competition was expanded statewide in 1969. Theme for the 1970 and '71 contests was "What I Can Do For My Country."

As a result of the 1970 competition, Freedoms Foundation conferred the Honor Certificate on Farm Bureau Insurance Group Washington Honor Medal awards for previous essay contests.

The award is inscribed: "Be it known that the Farm Bureau Insurance Group is awarded this Honor Certificate . . . an outstanding accomplishment in helping to achieve a better understanding of the American way of life."

MARKETING AND COMMODITIES

MFB To Comment On USDA Crop Reports

The Michigan Farm Bureau is preparing comments and suggestions relating to USDA's proposed streamlining of crop and livestock estimating programs. Proposed are a number of modifications relating to the frequency of issue, content, and publication dates of reports on livestock, dairy and poultry.

Earlier this year, reporting procedures were modified for field, fruit and nut crops.

USDA said objectives of the proposed modifications are to identify reports that may no longer be sufficiently reliable be-

cause of adjustments taking place in agriculture. The Department hopes to be able to identify those data series that can no longer be accurately measured by historic sampling procedures. It is also trying to determine if some reports are issued too frequently or not at the best time for interested users.

Similar proposals are planned later for vegetables and potatoes, farm labor, and prices. Copies of the proposed changes are available from Press Service, Office of Information, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

MARKET WHEAT THROUGH F.B. WHEAT MKT'G PROGRAM

July is wheat-harvest month in Michigan. Soon wheat producers will be combining the golden grain and it will be ready to market.

Now is the time that wheat producers must find an answer to the question — **How do I market my wheat to maximize my income?** All producers have the option of selling their wheat at harvest, storing for later sale or feeding to livestock. Farm Bureau members have another marketing alternative for their 1971 crop — the Farm Bureau Wheat Marketing Program.

During the past several years, many members have discovered the advantages of consigning wheat to the Farm Bureau Wheat Marketing Program. These members received a cash payment at harvest time and benefitted from price increases that occurred after harvest was completed.

All wheat producing members have the opportunity to participate in a marketing program that has proven successful. Since the Program was started in 1967, each year it has paid members more per bushel for their wheat than was paid by the program the previous year.

The 1970 crop Program paid a record high final payment of 40.4¢ per bushel at the completion of the marketing year. This was in addition to an advance payment at harvest which averaged \$1.10 per bushel. The total net return to participants was substantially above the 1970 harvest time market price.

Members find that it is relatively easy to participate in the Program. The simple procedure is as follows:

1. Deliver wheat at harvest to any local cooperative elevator. All of the 75 elevators listed on this page are receiving wheat for the Program. No wheat will be accepted after August 31.
2. Tell elevator employee that wheat is to be in the Farm Bureau Program. Members that have signed an agreement during previous years will present an Authorization-to-Deliver card. Agreements are available at the elevator for first year participants.
3. Sign Delivery and Settlement form prepared by the elevator. Immediate completion of the form after delivery will assure prompt payment.

4. Receive check for advance payment. The advance payment rate is not the same for every elevator. It varies according to the freight rate zone of the elevator.
5. Receive check for final payment. All producers will receive the same payment per bushel at the end of the marketing year, probably in March or April.

The Program is an orderly marketing system jointly sponsored by the Michigan Farm Bureau and the Michigan Elevator Exchange Division of Farm Bureau Services, Inc. The Michigan Farm Bureau Wheat Advisory Committee, comprised of 10 wheat producers, advise on the marketing of Program wheat.

All wheat producing members are being urged to consign their wheat to the Program. Orderly marketing will increase a producer's wheat income during most marketing years. A large amount of wheat marketed through the Program is important, as bargaining for price is improved as more wheat comes under the control of a single marketing agency.

Delivery of Program wheat can be made to any of these participating cooperative elevators in the following counties:

- ALLEGAN — Allegan Farmers Co-op; Hamilton Farm Bureau Co-op; Moline Co-op Milling Co.
- ALPENA — Wolf Creek Farm Bureau
- ARENAC — Farm Bureau Services, Sterling
- BARRY — Farm Bureau Services at Hastings; Nashville Co-op Elevator
- BAY — Farm Bureau Services, Pinconning
- BERRIEN — Buchanan Co-op; Three Oaks Co-op
- BRANCH — Farm Bureau Services, Coldwater and Union City; Branch Co. Grain Co., Coldwater; Quincy Flour Mill
- CALHOUN — Albion Elevator Co.; Battle Creek Farm Bureau
- CASS — Cass Co-op, Cassopolis; Farm Bureau Services, Marcellus
- CHARLEVOIX — Charlevoix Co-op Co.
- CLINTON — Farmers Co-op Elevator, Fowler; St. Johns Co-op Co.

EATON — Eaton Farm Bureau Co-op, Charlotte; Grand Ledge Produce Co.

GRAND TRAVERSE — Farm Bureau Services, Traverse City

GRATIOT — Breckenridge-Wheeler Co-op

HILLSDALE — Farm Bureau Services, Hillsdale

HURON — Elkton Co-op Farm Produce Co.; Farmers Co-op Grain Co., Kinde; Co-op Elevator Co., Pigeon; Ruth Farmers Co-op Elevator; Sebewaing Farmers Co-op

INGHAM — Leslie Co-op; Producers Co-op Elevator, Williamston

IONIA — Lake Odessa Co-op; Portland Co-op Co.

ISABELLA — Farm Bureau Services, Mt. Pleasant

KALAMAZOO — Farm Bureau Services, Climax, Kalamazoo and Schoolcraft

KENT — Caledonia Farmers Elevator; Kent City Farm Bureau

LAPEER — Lapeer Co. Co-ops, Imlay City and Lapeer

LENAWEE — Blissfield Co-op Co.

LIVINGSTON — Fowlerville Co-op Co.; Howell Co-op Co.

MACOMB — New Haven Elevator; Farmers Elevator Co., Richmond

MASON — Farm Bureau Services, Scottville

MECOSTA — Farm Bureau Services, Remus and Stanwood

MISSAUKEE — Falmouth Co-op

MONROE — Ida Farmers Co-op Co.; Michigan Elevator Exchange Terminal, Ottawa Lake

MONTCALM — Farm Bureau Services, Greenville

MUSKEGON — Ravenna Co-op Co.

NEWAYGO — Fremont Co-op Co.

OAKLAND — Highland Producers Assoc.; Oxford Co-op

OGEMAW — West Branch Farmers Co-op

OCEANA — Farm Bureau Services, Hart

OTTAWA — Coopersville Co-op Elevator; Holland Co-op Co.; Farmers Elevator, Hudsonville; Zeeland Farmers Co-op

SAGINAW — Chesaning Farmers Co-op; Hemlock Farmers Co-op; Michigan Elevator Exchange Terminal, Saginaw

ST. CLAIR — Farm Bureau Services, Yale and Jeddo

ST. JOSEPH — Constantine Co-op; Farm Bureau Services, Mendon and Three Rivers

SANILAC — Marlette Farmers Elevator Co.; Farm Bureau Services, Sandusky; Snover Co-op Elevator Co.

TUSCOLA — Caro Farmers Co-op Elevator, Akron and Caro

WASHTENAW — Saline Mercantile Co.; Ypsilanti Farm Bureau Assoc.

1971 FIELD CROPS ADVISORY COMMITTEE



MEMBERS OF THE . . . 1971 MFB Field Crops Advisory Committee (and their counties) are: standing, (left to right) Dale Haney, Ionia; Harvey Leuenberger, Saginaw; Elton Herford, Huron; Raymond Schaub, Gratiot; Doug Smith, Branch; Basil McKenzie, Gratiot; John Lyster, Van Buren and Herman Rader, Montcalm. Seated, left to right, are Ed Powell, chairman, Mgr., Michigan Elevator Exchange; Noel Stuckman, Market Research Mgr., secretary and Larry Luther, vice chairman, Wexford county.

Strawberry Growers Meet

Representatives of strawberry-growing Michigan Farm Bureau members met May 17 in Chicago at the American Farm Bureau Federation's office. Growers from California and Oregon, the two major strawberry processing states, met with the Michigan group. Also attending were representatives of the AFBF legislative and marketing staffs.

The U.S. market has been under extreme pressure from Mexican-grown strawberries during the past two years. Foreign frozen strawberry imports, 95% of which are of Mexican origin, increased their share of the U.S. market by approximately 15% between 1968 and 1970.

An analysis of the 1971 strawberry market at the Chicago meeting revealed that the distressed market had become so unfavorable to Mexican growers that extensive acreages of strawberries were abandoned in the fields of Mexico this year.

The demoralized market for frozen strawberries has discouraged California growers from delivering to processors and production of frozen berries in California is presently running about 20 million pounds behind the 1970 level. Similar trends are expected in Michigan and in the Pacific Northwest. The result could be a rebound in the strawberry market.

Those at the meeting concurred that the turn around in the market would weaken any possible case for U.S. growers to go before the U.S. Tariff Commission to request corrective measures. Farm Bureau had been leading an investigation into the extent and results of strawberry imports into the U.S. market.

Attending the meeting from Michigan were Elton R. Smith, President, MFB; Calvin Lutz, director at large, MFB; Edwin Radewald, strawberry growers, Niles; and Norman Veliquette, fruit marketing specialist, MFB.

Tuesday, August 31st, has been set aside as "Agriculture Day" at the Michigan State Fair. The fair will run from August 27 through September 12 this year. Of special interest to farmers is the fact that agricultural groups, such as Farm Bureau members, will be admitted at a half-price rate. Special entertainment will also be offered in the Band Shell.

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- AGRICULTURE IN ACTION - LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL -

F.B.S. Securities Sales Representative

Elden T. Smith, former Michigan Farm Bureau and affiliate companies personnel manager, has been appointed Securities Sales representative. The announcement was made by Clifton A. Morrill, manager of Securities Promotion Dept., Farm Bureau Services, Inc.

Mr. Smith was also a field representative for MFB. He was with Michigan Farm Bureau from 1958 to 1969 when he left to become a DeWitt city employee.

Prospectus and additional information may be obtained by writing: Farm Bureau Services, Inc., P.O. Box 960, Lansing 48904 or P.O. Box 278, DeWitt 48220.



National Farm Safety Week . . . July 25-31

Those that work with "heavy" mechanical equipment are apt to forget that the eyes, ears, hands and lungs are in need of protection as well as the back, arms and legs.

Agriculture has long been known as a hazardous occupation. But . . . at long last . . . several new techniques and studies are yielding improved methods of building safer farm equipment. Included are such devices as protective cabs and frames, in fact full shielding to protect the entire operator.

Another new development is the enactment of the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act, compulsory Workmen's Compensation for farm workers and the Hazardous Occupations Order in Agriculture. These actions are bound to reflect agricultural safety.

According to Leon J. Urben, Mgr., Nat'l Safety Council Farm Department, there were about 200,000 disabling injuries in agriculture in 1970, with 2400 fatalities. He stresses that the farmer or rancher should use adequate personal protective equipment in his operations. Employees and family workers should also be trained to know why, where and when and how to wear it and the care of it.

Safety Hats

Head injuries are frequent occurrences. Safety hats (or helmets) protect the head (when worn) from impact and flying objects. Non-conductive types also protect the wearer from electric shock. There are several types from which to choose. Each individual type has distinctive merits and should be considered to fit the type of job.

Eye Protection

Harvesting, haying and other field jobs involve dust, chaff and other foreign material that can

cause havoc to the eyes. Low hanging branches, farm structure construction and maintenance, spraying (both chemicals and paint) and the handling of feeds and soil can be a hazard unless the eyes are protected. Spectacles with impact-resistant lenses, flexible or cushion fitting goggles and chipping goggles are recommended types of protective eye wear. Side shields are also advisable for those that wear regular glasses.

Ear Protection

Noise pollution is the third pollution (in addition to air and water) that afflicts all of us. Noise is a product of our modern society . . . a product that is gradually robbing people of their natural ability to hear. Noise is generated by powerful machinery such as tractors, harvesters, grinders, choppers, conveyors, chain saws and power mowers . . . all contributing to the noise problem on the farm.

There are two basic types of ear protection: insert and muff types. The insert type (rubber, soft or hard plastic, wax and special cotton-like fibers) is placed in the ear canal. Plain cotton is a poor noise suppressor and offers little protection. Don't use it. Don't use swimmers ear plugs either.

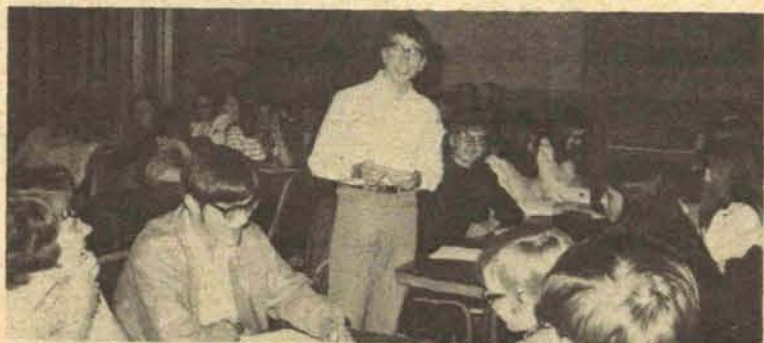
Muff or cup type devices cover the external ear . . . looking like earphones.

Tip-top mechanical shape farm equipment is the best protection.

Other Protection

Gloves (suitable to job) and protective creams and lotions will protect the hands. The lungs can be severely irritated by dust, molds, bacterial infection, chemicals, etc. When applying chemicals, two kinds of respiratory devices are generally used: chemical cartridge respirators and gas masks. Farm dealers can best recommend the type of lung protection to use.

U.P. Citizenship Seminar



MORE THAN 50 . . . junior and senior high school students from the Upper Peninsula attended a three day Citizenship Seminar in Escanaba in early June. American and Michigan Farm Bureau staff personnel conducted the annual event.

West Central F.B. Women Tea



FARM BUREAU WOMEN . . . in the West Central Region have been busy preparing for their annual Sewing and Craft tea. Mrs. Lloyd Wilder, (right), Pentwater, served as one of the judges, and in appreciation of her efforts, Oceana Co. F.B. Women's Committee chairman Mrs. James Ramthun, (left), presented her with a chrysanthemum plant. Mrs. Helen Wynn, Shelby, the second judge, is not pictured.

Barry Co. Y.F. Parade Entry



"EVERYBODY LOVES A PARADE" . . . the Barry County Young Farmers included. Early in June, Hastings (county seat of Barry county) celebrated its 100th birthday with a Centennial Parade. The Young Farmer parade entry was led by a whistle blowing steam engine pulling an antique grain thresher. A 1928 tractor pulled a stationary baler and a pair of work horses drew an old milk wagon. Their entry was climaxed with a one horse buggy carrying the Barry county F.B. queen, Christina Wenger.

1971 STATE FARM MANAGEMENT TOUR

Several farms owned by Michigan Farm Bureau members are to be featured on the 1971 State Farm Management tour August 5-6.

Three northwestern Michigan fruit and vegetable farms are on the tour schedule for August 6. These hosts will be Fruit Haven, owned by Calvin "Pete" Lutz, Kaleva; the Roy Howes farm, Copemish, and the Bowling Fruit and Vegetable Farm, Inc., Bear Lake . . . all in Manistee county.

Eleven specialty farms will be visited August 5. These Farm Bureau farm hosts include Nugent Farms, (Don Nugent), Beulah, a fruit operation using trickle irrigation; Stone and Sons, Inc., (Lee Stone), Thompsonville, Christmas tree production and Stone and Sons, Inc., (Gene Stone), Beulah, a certified farm market . . . both in Benzie county. Reino Lagerquist, Brethren, (Manistee county), a pulpwood operation and Jay Roundhouse, Manton, (Wexford county), a trout producer.

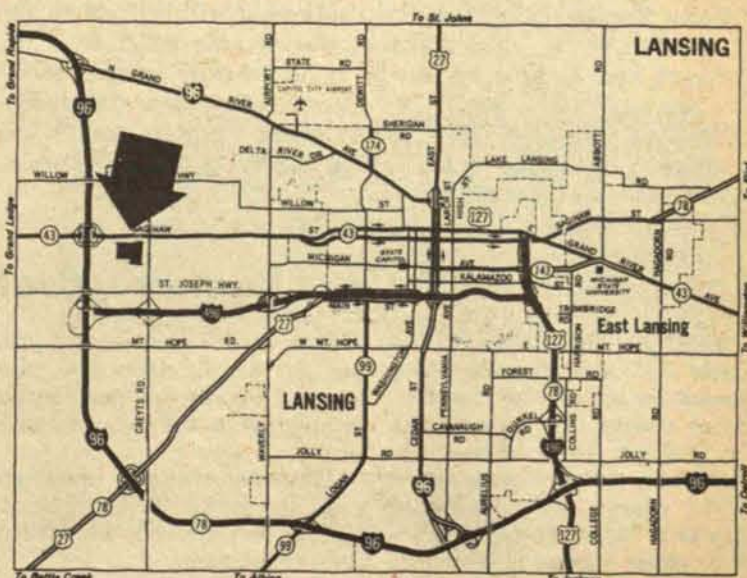
Other farms to be toured August 5 are those of Loy Putney, Beulah, (Benzie county); Ken Baushke, Fountain, (Mason county); Donald Lundberg, Pentwater, (Oceana county) and Walter Edwards, Jr., Mesick and Donald White, Harrietta, both of Wexford county.

Genesee Co. Rural-Urban Meeting



DR. LAWRENCE LIBBY . . . MSU Public Affairs, Natural Resource Department, center, a native of New York, was the guest speaker at the Genesee County Rural-Urban dinner. His topic was "Rural Land Planning." Mrs. Marvin Tiedeman, left, Genesee County Farm Bureau Women's Committee chairman and Donald Hill, right, county F.B. president, acquainted Dr. Libby with a few Michigan products. The Genesee County Farm Bureau Women's Committee sponsored their fourth annual Michigan Week program through their Rural-Urban dinner held in mid-May at the Munday Town Hall in Rankin. Women's Committee vice chairman is Mrs. Donald Hill, Mrs. Ralph Walker is secretary and Mrs. Arthur Sobey, treasurer. The committee, along with other Genesee County Farm Bureau women, hosted the dinner for the 185 guests. Michigan products decorated the tables.

Here We Are!



Public Hearing On Nonreturnable Bottles

By ALBERT A. ALMY

Approximately 40 persons testified recently at a public hearing on three bills dealing with nonreturnable beverage containers. The testimony, lasting nearly three hours, was heard by the House Consumers and Agriculture Committee.

The three bills before the committee are: H.B. 4685, which would ban nonreturnable beverage containers and require a ten cent deposit on returnable beverage containers of 20 ounce volume or less; H.B. 4152, which would require redemption of returnable bottles by retailers who sell them; and H.B. 4170, which would ban nonreturnable beverage containers and require a minimum six cent deposit on returnables.

Only a handful of the more than 40 witnesses supported the bills. These persons represented agricultural, environmental and student interests and one labor union group. Opposition to the bills was expressed by a majority of the witnesses who represented industry, Chambers of Commerce, several labor unions and retail food stores. The labor unions had arranged for their members to be present in large numbers to show support for their position.

Witnesses for the labor unions cited loss of jobs to those employed in the manufacturing of nonreturnable bottles as their major objection. Representatives of the bottle manufacturers threatened that passage of the bills would reduce their annual tax payments by one-half. Spokesmen for the food stores claimed it would cost retailers several million dollars annually if the bills were enacted. They labeled the proposals as "Cash-for-Trash" legislation.

Few alternate solutions were offered by the opponents to help solve the many problems caused by nonreturnable bottles. Most of the solutions suggested are the same ones that have been offered and tried for many years without noticeable success. Such solutions serve only to maintain a status quo position.

The only statement presented to the committee representing the farmers' viewpoint was given by Farm Bureau. It was stressed that nonreturnable bottles are more than just "litter" to farmers—they are a nuisance and a hazard.

Farm Bureau also noted that rural roads and adjoining fields are popular disposal sites for nonreturnable bottles. When tossed into fields along our rural roads, the bottles become a major hazard to expensive tractor and implement tires. Nonreturnable bottles being run through forage chopping equipment, shattering the glass and blowing it into loads of hay and silage are common occurrences. It was also noted that glass from bottles that might be picked up in the harvesting of crops used for human food is potentially hazardous to consumers if undetected at the processing plant. Copies of letters (see June issue of Michigan Farm News) received from farmers documenting the hazards of nonreturnable bottles were presented to the committee.

Relief from the problems caused by nonreturnable bottles suggested by Farm Bureau include:

1. A required return value on all glass containers in which alcoholic or carbonated soft drink beverages are sold. The deposit must be large enough to create an incentive for the return of these bottles or their collection from along roadsides.
2. Requiring businesses selling alcoholic or carbonated soft drink beverages in glass containers at retail to redeem such containers.
3. Holding the registered owner or driver of a vehicle legally responsible for the violation of litter laws committed by anyone in the vehicle.
4. Establishment of an intensive research program financed by state and industry, to develop a sound disposal and recycling system for solid wastes. This program should recognize glass beverage containers as a part of the total solid waste problem to develop an efficient means of collection and recycling of this "resource-out-of-place."

Farm Bureau spokesmen are continuing with efforts to develop support for legislation that will provide relief from the nuisance and hazards caused by nonreturnable bottles. Members are requested to send letters documenting their experiences with these bottles to the Public Affairs Division and to express concern to their State Representative and Senator whenever possible on this issue.

Low Cost Health Care Plan Proposal

Michigan Blue Cross-Blue Shield and the Michigan Farm Bureau are considering the offering of a lower cost optional plan for Michigan Farm Bureau subscribers in the very near future.

The present low cost option plan is a \$50.00 hospital deductible which applies to adults on the subscriber's contract. The new option would eliminate the availability of this program and

require those members now having the \$50.00 deductible plan to select the new low option plan or up-grade to the comprehensive plan.

The comprehensive would remain the present Ward or Semi-Private hospital and the MVF-1 doctors program.

The proposed new low cost option would offer the member the same benefits as the high option

"BEDDING PLANT WEEK" RESOLUTION PASSED



A RESOLUTION . . . proclaimed "Bedding Plant Week" was passed by the Michigan House of Representatives the last week of May. During the House session, Representative Raymond Kerhcs (Monroe) (center) presented a framed copy of the resolution to Dr. William H. Carlson, Michigan State University horticulturist (left). The resolution, in part, read "Whereas, . . . about one out of every ten bedding plants sold in the United States is grown in Michigan;" and "Whereas, . . . Michigan growers annually produce . . . bedding plants with a wholesale value of six million dollars . . . etc." Dr. Carlson accepted the resolution, with thanks, saying "These producers are ecologists in action; that is, horticulturists who think that man can improve his environment, and they are proud to be able to produce their product in Michigan." Frank Smith, MFB Vegetable Commodity Advisory Committee Vice-Chairman, represented the growers. Several other growers attended the session.

with the member sharing the cost as indicated below.

Blue Cross (hospital)

Member pays 30% of the cost of a hospital admission for any member of the family but not more than \$600.00 of covered benefit expense. This applies to each admission.

Example:

Total Hospital Charge	\$600.00
Member Pays 30% or	180.00
Blue Cross pays	\$420.00

Blue Shield (doctor)

Member pays 30% of a doctor or doctors covered benefit charges for any member of the family.

Example:

Total Doctor Charges	\$300.00
Member pays 30% or	90.00
Blue Shield pays	\$210.00

With the member sharing the cost of needed health care expenses the obvious advantage to the member would be lower subscription rates. The exact cost figures have not been determined but should result in a monthly rate reduction of approximately 25% less than the comprehensive plan.

If the new plan is approved by the Michigan Farm Bureau and Blue Cross-Blue Shield, all Farm Bureau subscribers will be notified and given the opportunity to select the coverage they desire.

Agriculture Included in 1899 Refuse Act Permit System

On December 23, 1970, an Executive Order was issued by President Nixon implementing permit provisions under the 1899 Refuse Act. The purpose of this order was to regulate the discharge of pollutants and other refuse matter into the navigable waters of the United States or their tributaries.

Subsequently, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed regulations and guidelines to carry out the intent of the Executive Order. Included in the regulations is a requirement that anyone discharging pollutants into navigable waters or their tributaries must file a permit application for such discharge with the nearest field office of the Corps of Engineers by July 1, 1971. Each permit application must be accompanied by a \$100 fee.

Although the permit program was developed primarily as a method of controlling industrial waste discharges, it also applies to agricultural discharges. Farmers have been confused as to their responsibility under the permit program and have asked many questions without obtaining a satisfactory answer.

Many of these questions are answered in a recent statement by William D. Ruckelshaus, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, before the Committee on Agriculture of the U. S. House of Representatives. The statement provides much needed clarification of the intent to apply the permit system to agriculture.

Following are quotes from the statement which farmers should find helpful:

"Looking at feedlots alone, our estimates are that there are approximately 3,400 feedlots in this country having 1,000 animal units or more. There are 33,000 feedlots with 500 animal units or more, and 105,000 feedlots with 100 animal units or more. An animal unit, for program purposes, is based on the biochemical oxygen demand equivalent of one beef steer. One thousand animal units is calculated to equal 700 dairy cows, 4,500 butcher hogs, 12,000 sheep, 35,000 feeder pigs, 55,000 turkeys, 180,000 laying hens, or 290,000 broilers. If the Permit Program were applied to small feedlot operations, the regional staffs responsible for administering the program would be swamped.

"On the basis of these considerations we have determined, as a matter of administrative discretion, that the Permit Program, at least at this time, should be limited to those large feedlot operations which have a high volume of animal waste, i.e., those of 1,000 or more animal units and which discharge their waste from a single point source.

"We have decided that the Permit Program should be applied only to feedlots which had an inventory of 1,000 animal units or more at any time during the preceding calendar year."

"Some persons have asked whether the Permit Program applies to agricultural runoff and irrigation return flow. In order to prevent any misunderstanding, I would like to clarify our position. We have decided that these sources of pollution will not be covered by the Permit Program at this time."

Those producers who own feedlot operations with a capacity of 1,000 or more animal units and which discharge their waste from a single point source should contact the District Office of the Corps of Engineers, P. O. Box 1027, Detroit, Michigan 48231, and review application procedures with appropriate officials.

An additional quote from Mr. Ruckelshaus' statement has considerable implication to agriculture and is as follows:

"In order to provide a guide for future Federal action in the agricultural pollution area the Council on Environmental Quality has announced that it will conduct a study in conjunction with EPA, USDA, and other agencies. This study will analyze major pollution problems resulting from agricultural activities; consider alternative solutions to such problems; and recommend measures that the Federal Government might adopt to reduce or eliminate these problems."

The above statement should be given serious consideration by all farmers. If additional Federal environmental protection requirements such as the 1899 Refuse Act permit program are to be avoided, farmers must make a dedicated effort to prevent and control environmental damage from agricultural pollution sources.

Michigan-Ohio Farm Safety Survey



Approximately 3,000 Michigan and Ohio farmers are participating in a study of farm machinery use which will give accident frequency rates for tractors, combines, balers and other farm machinery.

The study is sponsored by the American Farm Bureau Research Foundation in cooperation with the National Safety Council and

the Michigan and Ohio Cooperative Extension Services.

Typical of the twenty persons conducting the survey is Mrs. Howard Ebenhoeh, Saginaw county, who is collecting information from all types of farming enterprises, large or small, in Michigan and Ohio. Mrs. Ebenhoeh interviewed Norbert Birchner, a Michigan dairy farmer, on his farm, Birchcrest Farm.

The machine accident rates will be useful in: 1) avoiding bad farm legislation; 2) designing safer machinery; 3) establishing reasonable insurance rates; 4) improving safe machinery operation training programs carried out by 4-H, FFA and other organizations; 5) making farm management decisions and 6) improving machinery storage.

Rep. Garry Brown Adds Support To 1971 Agricultural Marketing-Bargaining Act

Rep. Garry Brown, (R.), Michigan's Third Congressional District, has introduced H.B. 9221 in support of the National Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act of 1971. (Rep. James Harvey announced his sponsorship earlier in June.)

The bill, first introduced by California's Representative B. F. Sisk in April, is strongly supported by Farm Bureau. It is de-

signed to improve the bargaining position and the bargaining power of farmers by establishing a mutual duty to bargain in good faith on the part of processors and associations of producers.

Seventy-two members of the House of Representatives announced their sponsorship previously.

Michigan farmers, because of production of diversified process-

ing crops, could be expected to be major users of the measure. Plagued by unprofitable prices and rising costs, farmers have sought to bargain for the sale of commodities.

The Administration, the Department of Agriculture and both political parties have given verbal support to the efforts of the farmers to improve their condition.

New Service-To-Member Program Announced - Auto Rustproofing

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James C. Foley, Owner
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Adrian, 49221
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Marvin Wintermeyer, Owner
Bobby Smith, Manager
142 E. Hoover
Ann Arbor, 48104
(313) 761-8089

James Pelloni, Jr., Owner
379 W. Michigan
Battle Creek, 49017
(616) 965-6014

Dan Lorenz, Owner
Jack Thomas, Owner
2185 M-139
Benton Harbor, 49022
(616) 927-3137

Harry Meyer, Owner
Don Wilson, Owner
Body Rustproofing Co.
1038 W. 14 Mile Rd.
Clawson, 48017
(313) 585-8850

Nick Van Ryswyk, Owner
14960 - 68th Ave.
Coopersville, 49404
(616) 837-6947

Harry Meyer, Owner
Don Wilson, Owner
2900 E. 8 Mile Rd.
Detroit, 48234
(313) TW. 2-7060

Auto Body Rustproofing, Inc.
George Krausmann, Manager
14700 Harper Avenue
Detroit, 48224
(313) 372-9884

Glenn C. Snow, Owner
15229 Mack Ave.
Detroit, 48224
(313) 882-6022

Alex Mashour, Owner
15551 W. Warren
Detroit, 48228
(313) 846-2252

Oswald L. Denys, Owner
Ziebart Auto Truck Rustproofing
of East Detroit
24509 Gratiot Avenue
East Detroit, 48021
(313) 772-5878

Earl Herweyer, Owner
Rust Prevention, Inc.
4144 Oak Park Dr., S.E.
Grand Rapids, 49508
(616) 392-2235

Cliff Shinn, Owner
Paul Frey, Owner
1514 E. Michigan
Jackson, 49202
(517) 783-5354

Greg Mattison, Owner
534 S. Burdick
Kalamazoo, 49006
(616) 381-8414

Greg Mattison, Owner
Jim Pelloni, Owner
Dick Edmister, Manager
437 N. Larch
Lansing, 48912
(517) 484-2559

Pat Donofrio, Owner
3405 Dix Ave.
Lincoln Park, 48146
(313) 383-8080

Robert Lowry, Owner
Robert McKeon, Owner
14583 S. Dixie
Monroe, 48161
(313) 242-3311

Jim Tuttle, Owner
1185 Third St.
Muskegon, 49440
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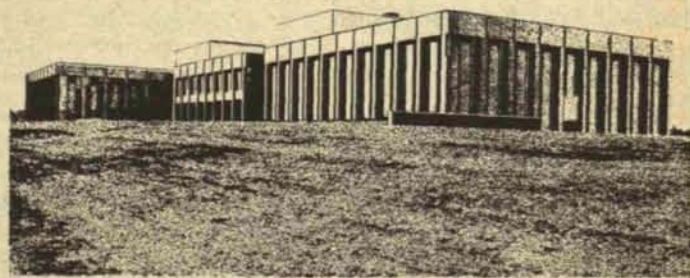
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Open House, July 28, 1971

Save the LAND

If we were to look at a thirty-year-old land-use map of Michigan, we would see vast oceans of green indicating agricultural land and island of grey representing our population centers. Looking at a 1971 land use map, the reverse is true. We would see vast areas of grey, but only islands of green. The pattern jars our senses as to what the result might be thirty years hence — will green land and open spaces be gone?

Take the green fertile agricultural land just in the southern half of our Lower Peninsula. Urban sprawl is moving like an octopus to smother this productive food land. Each time its tentacles push out to build yet another housing development, another grave for our food and fiber supply is sealed. Two-thirds of Michigan's dynamic agriculture is produced in 22 of our 83 counties and no less than 20 of these 22 fertile counties in southern Michigan could virtually disappear within 30 years because our state lacks the necessary guidelines for intelligently controlled growth.

This crisis grows larger each day because state and local governments get most of their funds from property taxes. According to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, farmers pay over 20 percent of their net income for property taxes — four to five times greater than non-farmers.

According to the U.S.D.A., land values have zoomed. Starting in 1850, an acre of land was worth about \$11 in the United States. By the turn of the century, \$20. In 1950, \$65. And today, \$195.

These are only averages. For instance, in New Jersey you can't touch an acre of land for less than \$1,000. On the other hand, Wyoming's land is worth some \$36 an acre, the lowest in the nation.

In southern Michigan's Eaton County, typical of urban and suburban growth overrunning the rural areas, property values are soaring.

A comparison of rural land assessment values that has remained primarily rural land, full assessed valuation has about doubled since 1958. Property in 1958, fully assessed at \$100, is now \$195. Another which sold at \$80 is now \$200 an acre, all tillable land.

Nearer the population centers, tillable land value assessed for its full value, tripled, quadrupled and skyrocketed much more than primarily rural land. One piece selling in 1958 for \$120 an acre, today is \$500 an acre. Another which was at \$150 an acre in that span of 13 years, is now \$1,000 an acre for tillable land. Some is fully assessed at \$7,000 an acre. Asking price for one piece of land is as high as \$22,000 an acre.

Although farmland values have increased astronomically in past years, a slowdown has occurred. The national increase per acre between November, 1969 and March, 1970, was only one percent, the smallest gain since 1960.

The reason for this, explains the U.S.D.A. in part, is due to inflation. But, they say there have also been gains in productivity on the land increasing capital improvements, changes in government programs and, above all, market demand.

The strongest gains in farm real estate values nationally were in the north and southeast U.S. during 1970. In both cases, these increasingly unbanished areas bolstered values in the land market and continued to strangle sources of our best food supply.

The number of farms in the U. S. fell in 1970 to 2.9 million from three million the previous year. In comparison in 1952, there were 5.2 million farms.

Even a more dramatic shift of land use is indicated in the 1910-1920 period which hovered around the 200,000 figure, while in 1971 the number of farms in Michigan is about 85,000.

These 85,000 Michigan farms comprise approximately 13 million acres, down a full 6 million acres from the 1910-1920 era when use of Michigan farmland was at its peak.

The significance is that the most fertile of these lands throughout the United States generally surround urban areas.

Michigan Farm Bureau Policy Booklet on "Agricultural Land Use," reports:

"The United States has 1.9 billion acres of land. Of this amount, only 458 million acres are cropland, and of this amount only 72 million are in Class I land — and over half of this highly fertile Class I acreage is in urban areas! It is in these areas that the population explosion is creating demands for all kinds of land for a variety of public and private uses. Prime land is becoming an extremely limited resource. It is estimated that, in the U. S., 1.5 million acres disappear each year — one-third of which is good cropland. In Michigan, it is estimated that, at the present rate, urban sprawl will eliminate 20 of the 22 best agricultural counties within 30 years. Such changes in land use are permanent and irrevocable and can be disastrous to the total environment. Pollution of water and air can be reversed — what is done to land is often irreversible!"

Mr. Raleigh Barlowe, Chairman, Department of Resource Development, Michigan State University, at a recent land use seminar said suburbanization around our cities is Michigan's foremost land use problem. He said a measure of rural land disappearance is found in an M.S.U. study during the period 1958 to 1965. In southern Michigan alone, it was found that urbanized land use increased from 669,000 acres in 1940 to more than two and a half times that in 1961 or to 1,722,000 acres. From 1955-1961, rural lands were shifting to urban use at the rate of 303 acres per day.

Solutions In Taxation Reform

The millage increase for school finance has played a large part in increased property taxes. Another pressure is the rise in assessed valuation of property. Both factors generally increase in tax as the degree of suburbanization increases.

But if school districts throughout Michigan continue to suffer millage defeats at the polls as they have in recent years, action to reform property taxation will receive yet a bigger boost.

People generally agree that schools need money, but as voters, they are saying the method is wrong. Property taxes can no longer bear the burden.

Governor Milliken's recent recommendation for complete elimination of property taxes for school operation has accurately reflected the mood of the property taxpayer. His request to the legislature for a constitutional amendment would put this issue on a special election ballot in November, 1971. The proposal would eliminate property taxes as a base for school operating funds, but permit up to six mills by vote of the people for special programs.

It would cut the 15-mill limitation down to ten mills.

And in those counties with limitations up to 18 mills, cut the rate to 13 mills.

Furthermore, it would cut the total millage limit in the Constitution from the present 50 mills down to 30 mills.

The new base for school operating funds would come from the state income tax. It provides a sound method of equitable taxation and would alleviate the economic pressures on farmland, thereby slowing its disappearance from the landscape. All citizens would participate, whether they live in a trailer or in a house. Income tax based revenue for school financing would be shared more equally by all.

Green Acres

On another front in the tax struggle to protect and save the farmland of Michigan, is current legislation to save open land in the "Green Acres" bill. It is House Bill 4100 and Senate Bill 130. It can help save agricultural land by assessing it for taxation only for agricultural purposes and not for its development potential. (For further information, read the Michigan Farm News Capitol Report page of recent issues.)

Arguments against the idea of this bill are quick to declare that agriculture should not receive a "free ride," but this is far from any semblance of truth. The bill clearly points out that if agricultural land were ever sold for another purpose besides agriculture, a special roll-back tax would be enforced to equalize any tax relief the land had received in the past.

Speculators

Can land developers be held at fault for the disappearance of this country's most valuable natural resource? Growth is healthy and as a state, our growth and progress is important to its residents for their very quality of living. What Michigan's problem is, however, is lack of controlled growth. Unregulated. Damaging progress. Certainly we need to grow, but in the case of land speculators in their dollar and cents ventures and to meet the demand of a growing population, it is natural for them to follow the path of least resistance.

With the inequities of taxation and the lack of protection for our farmlands, it is not surprising that the weakest chain of resistance is agricultural land. Even the zoning laws, if zoning is utilized, can be defeated in municipalities which bend to the call of the dollar.

Only recently has fickle society been forced to look at its environment, see the damage it is doing and take action to correct this damage. Saving open spaces, such as agricultural land, should be part of every environmental salvage plan. Action in the state legislature and local government can help cure the problem. The majority of states are either working on such action or already have adopted corrective measures such as the "Green Acres" bill. Michigan must share the foresightedness of these states.

These steps are not curable for land reform, but are steps to allow time for more effective land use planning.

Mr. Barlowe of M.S.U. sums it up eloquently . . . "This prospect prompts the question: What do we want in Michigan? What do we want our southern counties to look like in another 10 or 20 years? Answers to these questions naturally involve value judgments. If we like the changing look of our countryside, or if our chief interest is in making money through real estate speculation, there obviously is little reason for concern. But if we are concerned about the blighting of prime agricultural areas by urban incursions, if we feel that our best agricultural lands should be preserved for future food production purposes, if we feel that open spaces and the rural landscape around our cities should be protected as part of our environmental heritage, or if we feel that a more orderly and efficient process should govern the development of rural lands for urban-oriented uses, then we have genuine cause for concern."

Farmers can help by visiting with their governmental representatives in person, by phone or by postman.

No one can discount the value of our food producing lands. Synthetic foods will not replace the nutritious fresh products of the land and no building will replace its environmental value. Man is tied to the land and to safeguard it for ourselves and future generations, the bungled use of it must be brought to hand with wise land use planning.

Farmers must be very vocal to create concern and action to save the land. As farmers and as citizens, you can make the difference.

DISCUSSION TOPIC

by

GARY A. KLEINHENN

Director, Education and Research

Why lose to FOOT ROT?

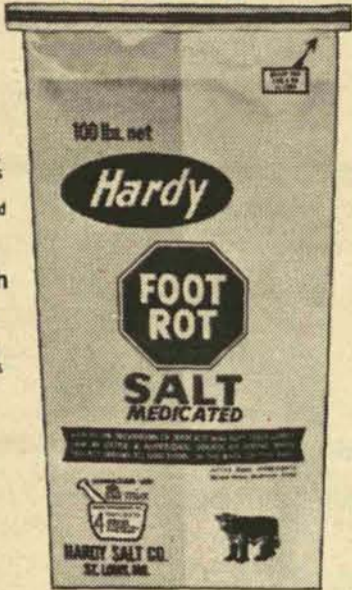
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LIVESTOCK FEEDLOT STUDY PROPOSED

A resolution proposing a study of livestock feedlots has been introduced in the House of Representatives and referred to the Committee on House Policy. Sponsors of the resolution are: Representatives Richard Allen (R-Ithaca); John Engler (R-Mt. Pleasant) and Frank Wierzbicki (D-Detroit).

House Resolution No. 123, if approved, would create a special five-member committee of the House to study livestock feedlots now and during the interim period between the 1971 and 1972 regular sessions of the legislature. The committee would report its findings and recommendations to the 1972 legislature. An appropriation of not more than \$3,000 would be used to finance the study.

The resolution cites actions by state anti-pollution agencies against livestock feedlots in violation of air and water pollution laws and regulations. It also cites the need for answers to the questions of how to effectively regulate livestock feedlots and to provide adequate facilities or systems to prevent air and water pollution from these sources.

Further, the resolution states that it is necessary for the legislature to determine essential guidelines for regulating livestock feedlots and associated waste disposal systems. It also recognizes the ability and interest of the

Michigan Department of Agriculture in protecting our essential livestock feedlot industry.

Voting delegates to the 1970 Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting approved a policy which states that "technological changes and environmental concerns dictate a need for study of any problems connected with concentrated commercial (livestock and poul-

try) operations and the feasibility of licensing them."

House Resolution No. 123 was not introduced at the request of Farm Bureau. However, Farm Bureau spokesmen have contacted the sponsors and offered to provide whatever information might be helpful to the committee should the House take favorable action on the proposed resolution.

DISCUSSION TOPIC SUMMARY—MAY

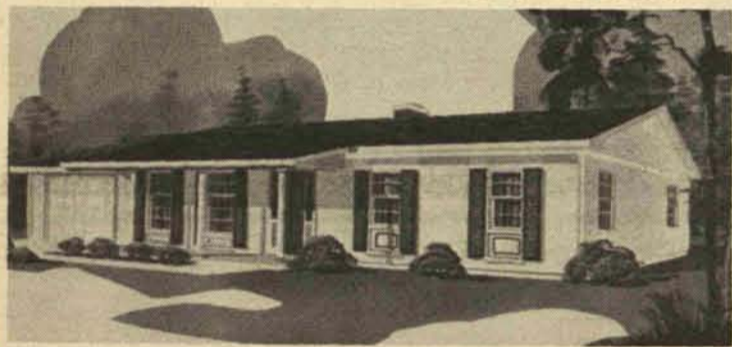
Discussion held on the May topic, "What Is The Farm Bureau Member's Responsibilities?" numbered 682 groups reporting with an approximate total of 5,572 members taking part.

Q: What is the fundamental responsibility for a member to help his organization grow? A: Get new members—talk to neighbors about Farm Bureau policy and benefits. 188 groups; Be active and help Farm Bureau to grow by encouraging others to grow. 66 groups; Be active, participate, be willing to serve. 56 groups; Support Farm Bureau policies and programs after they are properly approved. 42 groups; Believing in what you are promoting—enthusiastic support. 30 groups, and Use all the service of our organization and encourage others to use them. 26 groups.

Q: What is the members basic responsibility? A. Overwhelmingly replied—PARTICIPATION—support policy, attend meetings, study and vote on farm issues, elect delegates to attend annual meetings, serve on committees. 466 groups.

Q: What areas do we have to work at to be better members? A: Participation in all areas. 210 groups; Keep legislators informed of our positions on issues. 62 groups; Be informed. 60 groups; County meeting attendance, accept responsibility, voice opinions, 56 groups, and Membership and organization of more discussion groups. 48 groups.

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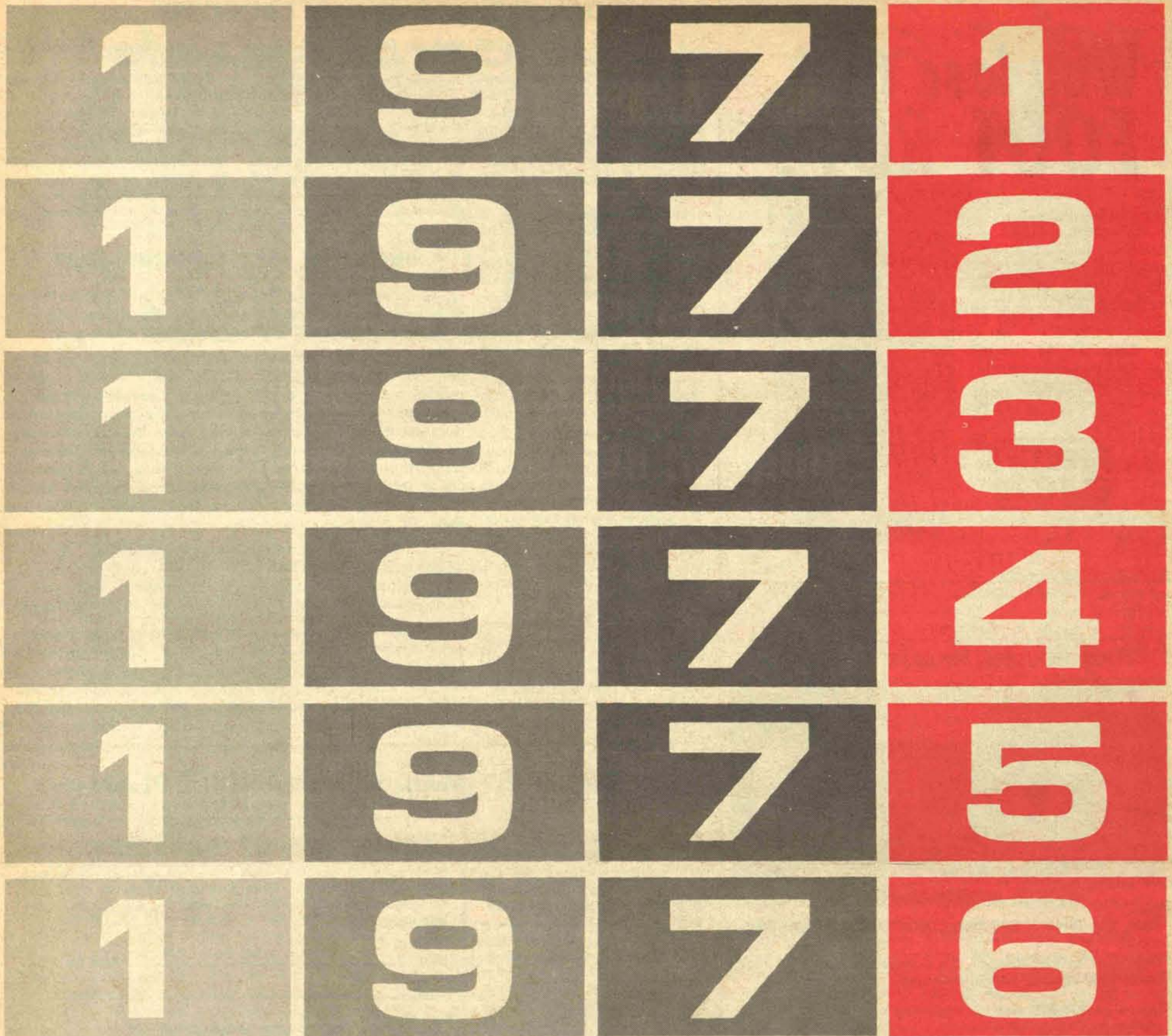
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