

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

Vol. 51, No. 5

MAKE IT HAPPEN

May 1, 1972

★ ELECTION YEAR '72 ★

Voters will have an important opportunity to go to the polls on May 16 and cast their ballot in Michigan's first presidential primary election since 1928. Shortly after the 1928 election, the Michigan Legislature repealed the presidential primary law.

However, the 1972 Michigan Legislature enacted a new presidential primary election law making our state the 24th to authorize such an election. The presidential primary election and the election of precinct delegates will be held on the third Tuesday in May of each presidential election year. This year the third Tuesday falls on May 16.

The objective of the Michigan presidential primary election is to require that delegates attending the national convention of their party reflect the views of voters

back home in supporting candidates seeking the party's nomination for President. In prior years, Michigan's delegates to the national convention were not firmly committed to support a particular candidate seeking the nomination for President. Many people have felt that the final presidential candidates named by delegates to the national conventions should more accurately reflect the views of the voters in the states.

Voters going to the polls on May 16 will vote directly for their preferred presidential candidate and a precinct delegate. Delegates must then commit their votes to the presidential candidates from their party in direct proportion to votes received by the candidates in the primary election.

For example, if Candidate A received 20 percent of the primary vote, he will be guaranteed the support of 20 percent of the Michigan delegates to his party's convention. The delegates will be committed to support Candidate A for two ballots, unless released by the candidate or he drops out of contention, whichever occurs

A candidate must receive at least five percent of the votes in the presidential primary election before any delegates would be committed to support him at the national convention. Uncommitted delegates would be divided among the presidential candidates who received five percent or more of the primary votes.

Precinct Delegates

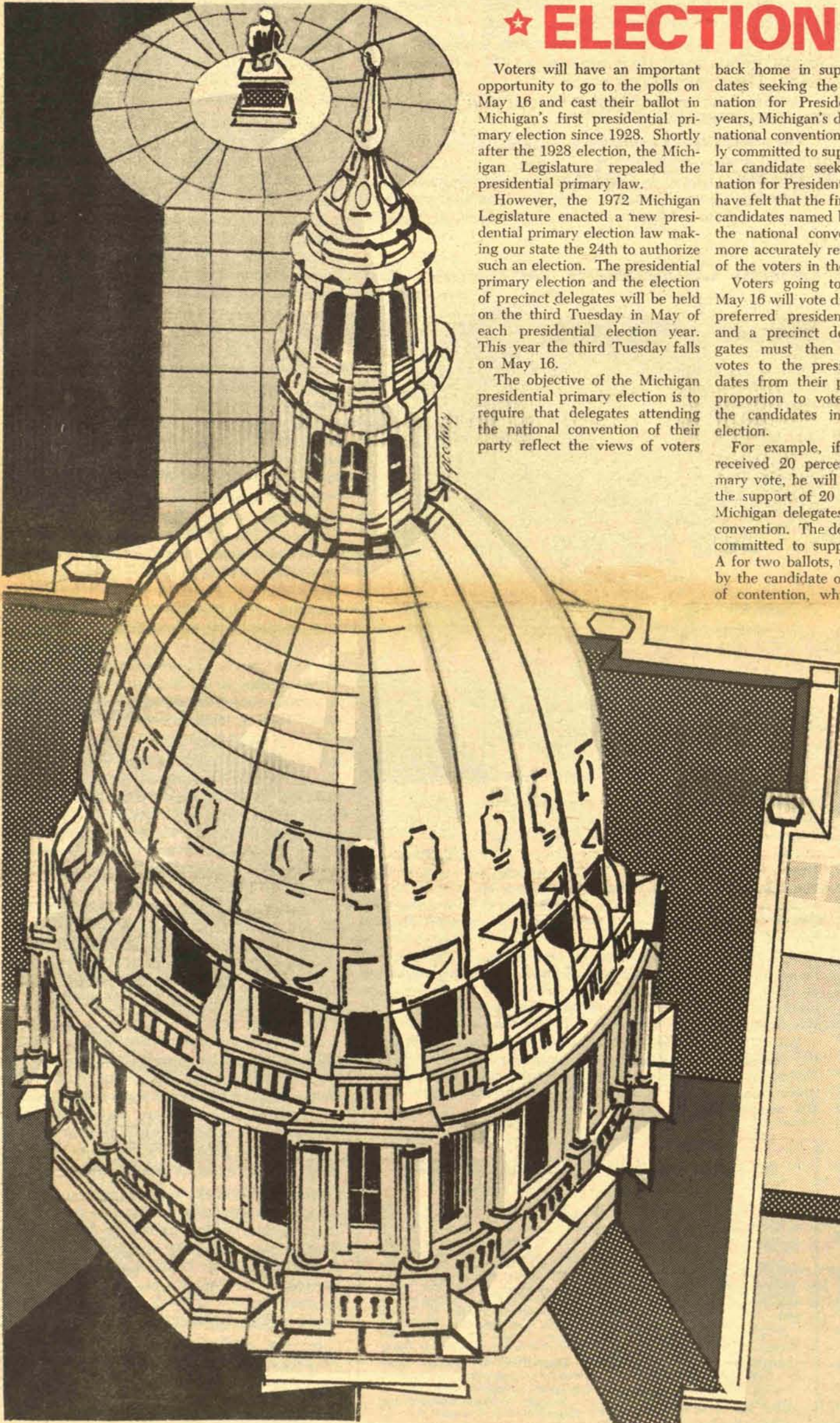
Persons voting in the May 16 presidential primary election will also elect a delegate from their respective precincts. Precinct delegates represent one of the most important positions in politics.

Precinct delegates attend their political party's County Convention as a delegate of the voters from their precinct. At the County Convention, precinct delegates formulate policy positions and choose delegates to their party's State Convention. Delegates to the State Convention choose delegates to the National Convention of their party and, during appropriate election years, nominate candidates to run for such important offices as Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Board of Education, Supreme Court Justices and Boards of our major state universities.

Few voters realize that when voting for a precinct delegate, they are taking the only official action available to citizens which leads to the nomination of many elected officials. It is common to find many precincts without an elected precinct delegate. Every voter is encouraged to make certain he has voted for a precinct delegate candidate in his respective precinct when voting on May 16.

Ballot Issues

The May 16 presidential primary will also give voters an opportunity to express themselves on at least two ballot proposals. One of the ballot proposals will be to permit a state lottery and the other will be to permit public officials to accept appointment or seek election to another public office while serving current terms of office. Additional information on these issues may be found elsewhere in this issue of the Michigan Farm News.



IN THIS ISSUE

Capitol Report
Page 3

Things You
Should Know
Page 4

National Notes
Page 5

Discussion Topic
Page 10

EDITORIAL . . .



Meat Prices?

There has been a war going on. A war by consumers against so-called high food prices, especially beef. Some of the news media have attempted to place the blame for high food prices on farmers. Some have gone so far as to say farmers are profiteering.

This is a challenge to agriculture. Farm Bureau has met that challenge with facts.

In a news release which was printed in many papers, Elton R. Smith, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau stated, "Recent attacks on livestock producers and suggestions that raw farm products should be included in price controls are unfounded." He also pointed out that despite 20 years of steadily increasing production costs and family living expenses, the livestock producer has just now attained a price about equal to that of 20 years ago for cattle.

In a later statement to the news media, which was printed in many papers and carried by radio throughout the state, including Detroit, Smith said he welcomed the public hearing on food prices the Price Commission was holding. He also commented, "I am sure the real culprits causing the food price increase will be exposed and the farmer will no longer be used as the scapegoat."

For many years, prices paid to farmers for their products have varied. These variations are usually connected directly to the supply that farmers produce and the demand created by those who wish to purchase the produce.

Let's take a look at beef and see what has happened. The per capita beef consumption was 56.1 pounds in 1951, but increased to 114.3 pounds in 1971. This means we are eating twice as much beef as we did twenty years ago. In 1951, one-third of our beef was choice grade, now 60 percent meets that grade. This is nearly four times as much choice beef as was available to consumers twenty years ago.

The facts show that during the past two decades, farmers' prices for food products have gone up six percent, while wholesale food prices increased 20 percent and retail food prices, those paid at the checkout counter by the consumer, have gone up 43 percent. The farmers' share of the consumers' food dollar has shrunk from 49 cents to 38 cents. During that same period, the nation's wage rate per hour of production of workers in manufacturing industries increased 2.3 times.

Last year the average annual food bill for an American family increased \$21, but the farmer only received one dollar of that increase.

Many consumers expected food prices to stay below the 2.5 percent ceiling for price increases on most products under the Administration's Phase II inflation control program. Phase II, like Phase I, does not apply to raw farm products. However, the guidelines under Phase II allow stores to pass higher prices for food products on to the consumer.

Consumers must also realize that wages under Phase II may increase up to 5.5 percent. This additional cost to processors, wholesalers and retailers will be passed on to consumers.

Today's retail food prices have not advanced as much as other main categories in the cost-of-living index. Yet, consumers today can buy food items prepackaged, precooked, premixed, prepeeled, prefrozen and prepared ready-to-cook for less of their take-home pay than in the past.

Twenty years ago, we spent 23 percent of our take-home pay here in the United States for food. In 1971, we only spent 16 percent and in 1972 it is expected to drop to 15.5 percent.

The correct facts must be told. The farmer is not the cause of higher food prices and food is one of the most reasonable buys available.

Carl P. Kentner

Scholarship Winners Announced

The Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Scholarship Committee has selected two outstanding Michigan State University students, James R. Main and John M. Skjaerlund, to share equally in the \$400 Marge Karker-Farm Bureau Scholarship Fund.

James is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard S. Main, farmers near Six Lakes, in Montcalm County. Mr. and Mrs. Hans Skjaerlund, Farm Bureau members from Whitmore Lake, Livingston County, are the parents of John.

James, who is doing graduate work in the field of Veterinary Medicine, maintains a 3.8 scholastic average. While attending the Lakeview High School, he held several F.F.A. offices and was vice-president of the Student Council. This is the third year James has been a recipient of this scholarship.

John was an honor student at Dexter High School and served on the student council. He is maintaining a 3.85 average at MSU in his chosen pre-veterinary course.

Both students received high recommendations from former teachers and associates.

The scholarship is a gift to the qualifying students and can be renewed after a yearly review.

Mrs. Harold Greenhoe, Carson City, served as chairman of the Scholarship Committee. Other committee members were Mrs. Leon C. Cooper of Mesick and Mrs. Gerald Smith of Hastings.

Griffin Co-Sponsors Marketing Bill



Senator Robert P. Griffin has co-sponsored the National Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act of 1971. This brings to 16 the number of Senate sponsors of this important bill.

The National Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act, known as the Sisk Bill, is strongly supported by Farm Bureau. The bill would provide a legal framework for farmers to use in building their own effective marketing and bargaining programs. It would establish a mutual duty to bargain in good faith on the part of processors and associations of producers.

Senator Griffin was elected in 1956 to the 85th Congress. He was re-elected to the 86th, 87th, 88th and 89th Congresses. In 1966, he was appointed to the U.S. Senate to fill the unexpired term of the late Senator McNamara. He was elected to the U.S. Senate for a full 6-year term in the 1966 general election.

Since 1969, Senator Griffin has served as Minority Whip of the Senate. He is also a member of the Senate Commerce Committee, Finance Committee, and Rules and Administration Committee. Senator Griffin will be seeking re-election to the U.S. Senate this year.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

The MICHIGAN FARM NEWS is published monthly, on the first day, by the Michigan Farm Bureau, at its publication office at 109 N. Lafayette Street, Greenville, Michigan.

Editorial and general offices at 7373 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan 48904. Post Office Box 960. Telephone, Lansing 485-8121. Extension 228. Subscription price, 50¢ per year.

Established January 13, 1923. Second Class Postage paid at Greenville, Michigan.

EDITORIAL: Editor, Carl P. Kentner; Artist, Norman Goodling.

OFFICERS: Michigan Farm Bureau; President, Elton R. Smith, Caledonia, R-1; Vice President, Dean Pridgeon, Montgomery, R-1; Administrative Director, Robert Braden, Lansing.

DIRECTORS: District 1, Arthur Bailey, Schoolcraft; District 2, Dean Pridgeon, Montgomery, R-1; District 3, Andrew Jackson, Howell, R-1; District 4, Elton R. Smith, Caledonia, R-1; District 5, David Morris, Grand Ledge, R-3; District 6, Jack Laurie, Cass City, R-3; District 7, Kenneth Bull, Bailey, R-1; District 8, Harvey Leuenberger, Saginaw, R-6; District 9, Donald Nugent, Frankfort, R-1; District 10, Richard Wieland, Ellsworth, R-1; District 11, Franklin Schwiderson, Dafer.

DIRECTORS AT LARGE: Walter Frahm, Frankenmuth; James L. Sayre, Belleville; Calvin Lutz, Kaleva.

WOMEN OF FARM BUREAU: Mrs. Richard Wieland, Ellsworth, R-1.

FARM BUREAU YOUNG FARMERS: William H. Spike, Owosso.

POSTMASTER: In using form 3579, mail to: Michigan Farm News, 7373 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan 48904

Second class postage paid at Greenville, Michigan

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN . . .



Paradoxical Situation

All of us engaged in agriculture are aware of the problems we have faced over the years in attempting to receive a fair market price for our commodities. This problem is not limited to any one item produced by the agricultural industry, but pervades throughout the entire industry.

Farmers, due to their individualism, have been takers of the price offered, rather than setting the price to be taken. In spite of our productivity, we have not shared proportionately in this country's economic growth and prosperity.

We in the industry have witnessed changes in the system of food processing, distribution and marketing, and the economic strength that has been attained by major industries and labor unions through large scale organization. These have all contributed to a decline of net return for our production.

Michigan Farm Bureau members have long realized the need for increasing their bargaining power, and ultimately their returns. Some three years ago, through the policy development process, they adopted a policy which, in essence, asked for state legislation to provide the legal framework upon which commodity producers would be able to build effective marketing and bargaining programs.

I, for one, cannot understand the objection on the part of many, otherwise intelligent people, to state agricultural marketing and bargaining legislation enabling producers of all commodities, if they so desired, to be more effective in obtaining a fair market price for their produce.

It appears to me, that any farmer or farmers' organization capable of analyzing the situation and then actively opposing the proposed legislation to increase the farmers' bargaining power, is more interested in who is doing what to whom than in what is being done.

We in agriculture have become a political minority. Not so much because of our decreasing number, but because of the detached outlook and the antiquated desire of some to be individualists. The time has passed when we can afford the luxury of allowing our individual differences to overcome the opportunity which would benefit all of those in agriculture desiring to voluntarily benefit.

I can readily comprehend that the prospect of meaningful improvement in the bargaining power of farmer controlled bargaining associations would be distasteful to those whose primary concern lies not in agricultural production or marketing, but in the pocketbook of stockholders.

Farmers in this state are repeatedly stressing the need for an increase in prices in order to make both ends meet. Yet, spokesmen for some commodity organizations, supposedly speaking in behalf of their members, are stressing that their particular commodity members do not need more voice in determining the price for their product. It is a paradoxical situation.

I have faith in the sound judgment of those engaged in producing food in this state. Given the necessary tools with which to effectively bargain, they will make decisions beneficial to the entire economy. I cannot picture them pricing themselves out of a market. Neither can I condone those who insult the farmers' intelligence by inferring that they would do so.

In view of the rapid changes in the farm marketing structure, farm marketing legislation must be broad enough to cover the needs of producers of all commodities who wish to use it. In this modern age there is no sound reason for farmers to be subjected to continued harassment and vilification when marketing or bargaining for a price for their products.

Elton R. Smith

Marketing Rights Bill Passes Senate

Perhaps the most controversial farm legislation in years passed the Michigan Senate late Tuesday afternoon, April 18. The bill, S. 1225, introduced by Senators Zollar (R-Benton Harbor) and Ballenger (R-Ovid), was designed to provide Michigan farmers with the legal tools essential to effective marketing and bargaining for a given commodity.

The bill, as introduced, carried out to the letter Farm Bureau policy developed through the policy development procedures and passed in final form by the voting delegates at the annual meeting in Grand Rapids.

Senator Zollar's leadership was instrumental in obtaining a favorable vote and was sufficient to overcome extremely strong opposition. Farm Bureau members came through with strong support for the bill in contacts with Senators, as did members of MACMA and other groups such as MMPA and Sugar Beet Growers supporting the legislation.

The bill, however, was amended before it passed the Senate to exempt from its provisions livestock and livestock products, poultry and poultry products, grain, dry beans, sugar beets and onions. This means that if the amendment stays in the bill that producers of those commodities would not be able to use the marketing and bargaining procedures. Another amendment was placed on the bill adding an expiration date of January 1975. Other amendments were technical in nature and did not affect the basic provisions of the proposed legislation.

Extremely strong opposition was generated to the bill by lobbyists for the Chain Store Council, Michigan Canners and Freezers Association and Michigan Food Dealers Association. Major opponents were firms and trade associations that buy what the farmers have to sell. Michigan Grain and Agri-Dealers Association, the processors of sugar beets, Bean Shippers, Chamber of Commerce and many other similar groups fought the bill. It was a no holds barred type of opposition. Much of the opposition generated resulted from implications, half truths and a general misunderstanding of the bill's provisions. There was an effort to divide farmers on the issue. The Michigan Cattle Feeders' Association, Michigan Livestock Exchange and the National Farmers Organization were on record as opposing "marketing rights" for farmers.

The legislation now goes to the House of Representatives. It can be expected that even the bill as amended by the Senate will be subject to even stronger opposition. The opposition is fully organized and time, effort and money will be no object as far as an all-out campaign is concerned.

Such all-out and costly opposition as has been generated by the processing powers, representing to a large degree huge conglomerates, is indication enough that the legislation is in the best interest of farmers. The same type of opposition has been generated on the Sisk Bill now before the U.S. Congress. It is obvious that a campaign has been waged among many growers trying to instill fear and doubt in their minds. Much information that has been circulated is erroneous and highly misleading, but the purpose of such a campaign is to create doubt and questions and not to gain understanding.

Rep. Stanley Powell (R-Ionia), a supporter of the legislation, summed it up very well in a written report for the West Michigan Farm News when he said "judging from the tremendous campaign of opposition being waged by the spokesmen for processors, it looks to me as though they fear that this bill, if enacted, would at long last give farm producers some real bargaining power and negotiating strength and muscle in the marketplace. With the purchasing of our farm products being constantly concentrated in fewer and fewer hands, it is obvious that we farmers will be in a drastically declining economic situation unless we have some mechanism which would give us a reasonable degree of bargaining power when the time comes to place the product of our labor and capital investment on the market."

HOW THEY VOTED ON MARKETING RIGHTS (S. 1225)

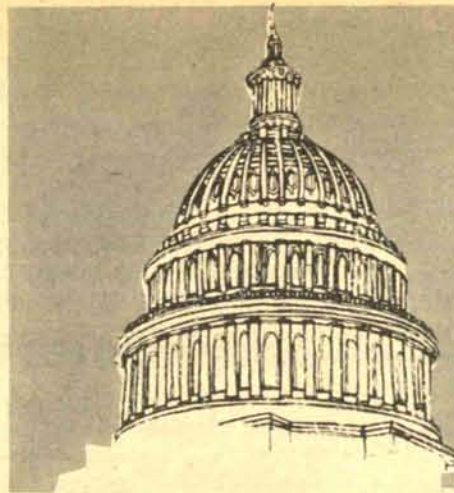
YES - 21

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| Ballenger | McCullough |
| Bouwsma | Novak |
| Davis | O'Brien |
| DeGrow | Plawecki |
| Faust | Pursell |
| Faxon | Richardson |
| Gray | Toepp |
| Hart | VanderLaan |
| Lane | Zaagman |
| Lodge | Zollar |
| Mack | |

NO - 12

| | |
|---------|-----------|
| Bishop | Fleming |
| Brown | McCauley |
| Bursley | Pittenger |
| Byker | Rockwell |
| Cooper | Rozycki |
| DeMaso | Stamm |

Present, but not voting: Bowman, Cartwright, Youngblood.
Absent: Fitzgerald, Young.



CAPITOL REPORT

Robert E. Smith

Ballot Proposals and Tax Packages

MAY 16 BALLOT PROPOSAL

Michigan voters will have a new voting opportunity on the new May 16 presidential primary. Michigan voters will, for the first time in many years, declare their preference for the nomination of presidential candidates. They will also decide on one of the most important positions in politics—that is the election of precinct delegates (see special article elsewhere in this issue).

There will also be two important constitutional amendments on the May 16 ballot. Proposal A will read as follows: "PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW THE LEGISLATURE TO AUTHORIZE LOTTERIES AND TO PERMIT THE SALE OF LOTTERY TICKETS. This amendment would allow the legislature to enact laws to authorize lotteries and to permit the sale of lottery tickets. Shall this amendment be adopted? Yes _____ No _____"

It is estimated that legalization of lotteries in Michigan would bring in as much as \$40-50 million of new revenues. Passage of the amendment would also permit bingo to be legalized.

Those in opposition to the proposal argue that legalization of lotteries could lead to more gambling and crime associated with gambling. Those supporting the proposal maintain that gambling is now illegal with no effective control and the profits go to the criminal element; they maintain that control by the state would cut illegal gambling and the crime associated with it. It is a controversial issue for the voter to decide.

Proposal B will read as follows: "PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PERMIT MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE TO RESIGN AND ACCEPT ANOTHER OFFICE TO WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN ELECTED OR APPOINTED. This amendment would permit members of the legislature to be elected or appointed to another civil office during the time for which they were elected. Before accepting that office they would be required to resign from their legislative office. Shall this amendment be adopted? Yes _____ No _____"

The amendment is very clear in its intent. Very often a Legislator would like to run for another office while he still is holding office. Sometimes, he also has an opportunity to be appointed to some other position. The proposal would permit this and would permit him to resign from the office previously held.

ASSESSMENT TAX PACKAGES INTRODUCED

As partially reported in the last Michigan Farm News, 18 bills have now been introduced to carry out the recommendations in the report of the Subcommittee on Assessment Practices. The bills begin with number H. 6059 and go through number H. 6076. They would do the following:

- Allow two or more counties to establish a joint equalization department to assist county Boards of Commissioners.

- Allow State Tax Commission to promulgate qualification requirements for township boards of review. This would restrict that position to only those who could meet whatever qualifications might be set up.

- Stipulate that members of township boards of review be elected at the same time as other township officials.

- Allow the Tax Commission to charge fees to local assessment districts for the cost of special assessment and equalization studies.

- Prorate cost of assessing property among local units of government and school districts; also, special tax districts. Proration of charges would be in proportion to the tax revenues received.

- Repeal the exemption from property tax that applies to special tools, dies, etc.

- Require separate equalization of real property by categories, such as residential, income residential, commercial and industrial.

- Require an assessor to sample sales price averaged over a previous five-year period to establish a range of values within which assessments would be made.

- Provide for the increased assessment value to be printed on the ballot in tax elections.

- Require the complete updating of assessments every three to five years.

- Require that property tax assessments and taxation records be available for public inspection and for copying.

- Appropriate \$25,000 for printing of annual Tax Manual by the State Tax Commission.

- Require that assessment districts have certified assessors. If not certified, assessment would be done by county Equalization Department or the State Tax Commission.

- Permit taxpayers to appeal equalization decisions to the State Tax Commission before the first Monday in July.

- Stipulate that assessments reviewed by the Tax Commission would not be changed for one year. Presently, they cannot be changed for a three-year period.

- Require the seller of a land contract to file an affidavit with the Register of Deeds giving complete information on the sale, including price. This report would be mandatory and without it no action could be taken on the contract.

- Make transfer of personal property interests and mineral rights subject to the Conveyance Tax. An affidavit would be required for exemption, including information on the value of the property handled.

- Insure that residents and mortgagees are entitled to notice of assessment increases. Presently, such notices must be given to the owner.

Other legislation resulting from the special assessment practices study is expected to be introduced. This may include a new bill relating to assessment of farmland. It is expected that such a new bill will be different from the present farmland assessment bills that have been introduced.

REDISTRICTING

The problem of redistricting both congressional and state legislative seats continues. An example of the issue involved is the plight in which Rep. Richard Allen (R-Ithaca) finds himself. In an effort to dramatize the problems created by redistricting, Rep. Allen has had buttons made with the inscription "Save Allen Somehow." The reapportionment plan that is presently before the Supreme Court splits Rep. Allen's district five ways.

The Democratic reapportionment plan that pits many incumbents against one another is expected to be accepted by the Supreme Court. Some Legislators that lived on the edge of their districts now find themselves in a different district and must move in order to be able to represent most of the same people they have represented in the past few years. Mr. Allen's district is unusual in the five-way split. He views it with good humor and has quipped that even "Gaul was only split three ways."

YOUNG FARMER COMMITTEE MEMBER NAMED

Donald J. Bell of Chippewa County has been appointed to the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee from District 11. He farms, in partnership with his father, a 375 acre farm near Sault. He is a graduate of Michigan State University. Don and his wife Lauretta have one child.

S W M P H A

The Southwestern Michigan Polled Hereford Association members have breeding stock available at all times. Attend our Spring Show and Sale at the Kalamazoo County Fair Grounds, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1972

SHOW 9:00 a.m.

SALE 1:00 p.m.

Performance tested bulls of breeding age from the Association Test Station and an excellent representation of females (many with calves at side) will be available for sale.

For catalogs or information contact:

B. E. Bowersox, Sales Manager
Route 2, Vicksburg, Mich. 49097
Phone 616-649-9025 or

Mrs. Marty Engels, Secretary
8499 East EF Avenue
Richland, Mich. 49083
Phone 616-629-2631

Fine Michigan Agricultural Livestock

Topics for Y.F. Discussion Meet

The topics for the 1972 Discussion Meet have been announced by the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee.

At county, district, state and national levels of the contest, the topic to be discussed will be determined by drawing a subject from the following list:

- 1) What is agriculture's role in improving environmental quality?
- 2) How can farmers in the 70's adjust to the changing farm labor situation?
- 3) How can farmers create additional markets for their products?
- 4) What is the impact of vertical integration on agriculture?

The Discussion Meet is more than just a contest. It provides a means whereby young active farmers can increase their knowledge and understanding, as well as contributing ideas and suggestions for the solution of some of the pressing problems facing agriculture.

Contestants in the Meet may be male or female, must be between the ages of 17 and 30 be-

fore November 1, 1972 and must not have passed their 31st birthday by that date, must be a Farm Bureau member. If under 21 years of age, parents must be Farm Bureau members.

The participant's responsibility is to exchange ideas and information in an effort to provide a possible solution to a particular problem. By attempting to cooperatively shed further light on the problem, while retaining a flexible position, he is free to say what he believes and to change his mind whenever new information and ideas make that a reasonable thing to do.

District winners and their spouses will be guests of Michigan Farm Bureau the day of the state contest. The state winner will receive an expense paid trip for two to the AFBF Annual meeting in Los Angeles in December.

Individuals interested in obtaining information about their county Discussion Meet should contact their county Farm Bureau secretary or Young Farmer Committee chairman.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE NOTES

by AL ALMY

National Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act of 1971

The National Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act of 1971 has been introduced by 88 members of the House and 16 Senators. Generally known as the Sisk Bill, (H.R. 7597 and S. 1775), this legislation would establish a mutual obligation of a handler and a qualified producers' association to meet at reasonable times and negotiate in good faith with respect to the production and sale of commodities under contract. The bills have been referred to the House and Senate Agriculture Committees. Public hearings were completed last fall and closed executive sessions on the bills are being held.

Transportation Strikes

Settlement of the West Coast dock strike did not resolve the need for enactment of permanent legislation to prevent similar prolonged and devastating strikes in the future.

New legislation has been introduced in the form of S. 3232 to provide a means of prompt and permanent settlement of transportation strikes. S. 3232 would give the President authority to issue an 80-day injunction against transportation strikes in the event of regional as well as national emergencies.

The President would also be given authority to use one or more of the following options to settle a transportation strike: (1) Extend the 80-day injunction for an additional 15 days; (2) Limit the strike to specified portions of the total industry; and (3) Provide for arbitration by a panel of arbiters which would choose either the final offer of management or the final offer of the union.

Hearings are being held by the Senate Labor Committee and it is expected to report a bill.

Egg Industry Adjustment Act

The Senate has defeated a proposed Egg Industry Adjustment Act by a 48-23 vote.

The legislation would have provided a program requiring slaughter of a portion of each producer's total flock of egg-producing hens. Flocks of less than 15,000 would have been exempted from the program. The mandatory slaughter was to have been put into effect when the Secretary of Agriculture determined average egg prices were below the cost of production for a ninety-day period. The program would have been for a period of two years.

Highway Trust Fund Revenues

Use of revenues in the Highway Trust Fund has become a controversial issue. Recent federal-aid highway acts have preserved the basic concept that Highway Trust Funds should be used only for highway construction and highway-related purposes.

Currently, however, the use of

Highway Trust Funds for purposes only remotely related to highway use are being advocated and appear to be gaining support.

Numerous bills and proposals are under consideration by the House and Senate Public Works Committees. Farm Bureau has contacted members of these committees opposing use of revenue in the Highway Trust Fund for nonhighway related purposes.

Truck Accident Reporting

The Bureau of Motor Carrier Safety of the Department of Transportation has proposed new revisions to regulations relating to reporting of truck accidents. This revision would require all private carriers to conform to the reporting requirements of common carriers.

If adopted, this proposal would increase by about 23 times the number of trucks for which accident reports must be made to the Bureau of Motor Carrier Safety. Common carriers and other for-hire carriers operate an estimated 780,000 trucks. Private carriers operate an estimated 17 million trucks.

Any private carrier, including any farmer, engaged in interstate commerce, would be required by this proposed regulation to submit accident reports in triplicate on forms which he would be expected to obtain from the Bureau of Motor Carrier Safety. A person would be considered to be engaged in interstate commerce if one or more of the trucks he operates crosses a state line for purposes connected with his business.

Farm Bureau has written to the Director of the Bureau of Motor Carrier Safety protesting the proposed revision and its impact upon private carriers.

Farm Labor

A new farm labor relations bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives with strong bipartisan support. Known as the Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1972 (H.R. 13981), the bill would create an Agricultural Labor Relations Board with jurisdiction over agricultural labor disputes. The Board would have essentially the same powers as the National Labor Relations Board.

Strongly supported by Farm Bureau, the Agricultural Labor Relations Act would permit the development of rules and regulations suited to the needs of producers of perishable farm products. Included in the provisions of the proposed act are a prohibition of secondary boycotts and a secret ballot election to permit workers to decide for themselves whether or not to be represented by a union.

The House Farm Labor Subcommittee has begun hearings on several different pieces of farm labor legislation, most of which would bring agriculture under the National Labor Relations Act.

Dependable Eptam stops weeds in dry beans
Selective Herbicide

Other bean weed killers, new or old, can't compare with Eptam herbicide for sure control of nightshade, nutgrass, pigweed and most other major grass and broadleaf weeds. And Eptam is economical, too. Boost your yields of clean stain-free dry beans with dependable, low-cost Eptam. See us now.



Where Your Farm Comes First

Farm Bureau
FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC

RAMBLING RHYMES

Like poetry? If you do and if you like philosophy and country rhyme, you would appreciate this book.

The author is a retired farmer who has spent most of his active years on a farm or in farm organization work. For many years he has contributed verse for the Clinton County News and other publications.

The 135 poems in RAMBLING RHYMES will be mailed you for \$2.00 postpaid with return privilege if not fully satisfied. Address the author, Warren E. Dobson, 16343 Wood Road, Lansing, Michigan 48906.

Asparagus Price Set

The Michigan Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Association (MACMA) Asparagus Marketing Committee offered members' asparagus to processors earlier last month at a base price of 25 cents per pound on a 90 grade score basis. Asparagus processors have responded by agreeing to pay MACMA members the 25 cent price, reports Harry A. Foster, manager, Asparagus Division. Other sales terms, in addition to the price, agreed to by the MACMA Asparagus Marketing Committee and the asparagus processors are: (1) each buyer agrees to pay, in addition to the price paid to the grower, \$2.00 per ton for asparagus research; (2) processors have agreed to make MACMA association member fee deductions; and (3) delivery and receiving arrangements.

The factors considered by the MACMA Asparagus Marketing Committee in arriving at the 25 cent price recommendation were acreage and production; stocks of asparagus on hand, March 1; per capita consumption, and processor demand for raw product.

The 25 cent per pound base price represents a 1.5 cent per pound increase over the 1971 price. The fact that MACMA and the asparagus processors have reached this agreement indicates that the MACMA market analysis and price recommendation are realistic and in line with market conditions.

The MACMA Asparagus Marketing Committee has expressed its appreciation to the processors for reaching this price agreement two or three weeks prior to the harvest season.

NUGENT NAMED DIRECTOR



Elton R. Smith, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau, announced that the board of directors has appointed Donald W. Nugent as Director of District 9. Nugent will fill the unexpired term of Eugene Roberts who recently resigned.

Nugent, his wife Gail and their two children live on a 513 acre fruit farm in Benzie County near Frankfort. They operate the farm

in partnership with his father, raising cherries, apples and strawberries.

He is presently serving his second term as President of Benzie County Farm Bureau which he joined 10 years ago. Nugent has served as manager of the membership drive in his county and on several Michigan Farm Bureau committees, including the Young Farmers Committee, Policy Development Committee and the Fruit Advisory Committee.

A graduate of Michigan State University, Nugent is an active member of the Michigan Horticultural Society and has served as vice-president of the Benzie-Manistee Horticultural Society for eight years. He is a member of the Frankfort Rotary and chairman of the Benzie County Planning Commission. The family is active in the Blaine Christian Church.



The closest you'll get to guaranteed crop profit.

Guaranteed profits are rare in farming. To survive and profit, it takes good management and top yields.

That's why it makes sense to plant the best seed you can buy ... Michigan Certified Seed. National Drill-Box Surveys show that Certified Seed increases net profit per acre.

Invest in "Super Seed" while supplies last. See your Michigan Certified dealer now.

MACMA Membership Kickoff

The Michigan Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Association (MACMA) fruit and vegetable divisions have just completed a series of membership task force kickoff meetings.

The membership task force was appointed by the MACMA marketing committees to involve a greater number of MACMA members in committee responsibilities. One of the many committee responsibilities involves the perennial chore of new member sign up. Emphasis is being placed on consolidating the present member stockholders' membership in the active divisions, as well as contacting new member prospects. The task force will also serve as a liaison between the marketing committees and the membership.

According to Harry A. Foster,

manager, fruit and vegetable divisions, the meetings were well attended, and members were enthusiastic about expanding MACMA marketing activities, as well as increasing the volume of products represented through new member sign up.

The marketing committees in all fruit and vegetable divisions are making plans to effectively establish the right market price for MACMA members' products in 1972.

In 1971, MACMA members produced over 60% of the processing apples in Michigan and nearly one-half of the tart cherries and asparagus. Expanding marketing programs, along with new member sign up, give MACMA needed positive impact in the market place.



MRS. HOWARD (BONNIE) EBENHOCH, Chesaning, was selected as "Mrs. Safety 1972" at the 42nd Annual Michigan Safety Conference last month. Shown with Bonnie is her husband, Howard, president, Saginaw County Farm Bureau; and Mrs. Laura Jo Wetzel, Madison Heights, chairman of the Women's Division, Michigan Safety Conference.



THE CLARE COUNTY Farm Bureau Young Farmers recently sponsored a county-wide informational meeting to acquaint members with pending legislation and tax reform. Young farmers taking an active part in planning the meeting were (seated l to r) Carol Shively, Bonnie Walter and Beverly Magnus; (standing l to r) Jim Walter, Al Almy, who was the evening's speaker, Clare County Farm Bureau Queen Charma Kleinhardt, Glen and Fran Fancou, Charles Magnus, Connie and Richard Kleinhardt and Richard Shively.



EIGHT COUNTY Farm Bureaus in the commercial soybean producing areas have organized and named producer representatives to the MFB Soybean Division. The commodity division approach is a method to allow members an opportunity for greater participation through the organization to solve issues facing their commodity. Persons attending the Soybean Division meeting last month at Farm Bureau Center included President Elton R. Smith; Dewell R. Gandy, Secretary American Soybean Producers; Donald Tolles, Alden Knight, Leonard Puetz, Clinton County; Alfred Cain, St. Clair County; Francis Diffin, Bernard Neuenfeldt; Lee Dodak and Steven Seamon, Saginaw County; Fred Schettenhelm, Washtenaw County; Melvin Reaume and LeRoy Dohm, Monroe County; John Pajtas, Charles Kridner, Bruce Conklin and Ward Perry, Shiawassee County; Arlie Pickles, Lenawee County; Robert Robson, Wayne County; Roman Waltz and Howard Smith, Ingham County.

6% to 7 1/2%
INTEREST ON DEBENTURES

FOR \$100.00 OR MORE YOU CAN PURCHASE

- 6% - 5 Year Maturity
- 6 1/2% - 10 Year Maturity
- 7% - 15 Year Maturity

FOR \$1,000.00 OR MORE YOU CAN PURCHASE

- 6 3/4% - 10 Year Maturity

FOR \$5,000.00 OR MORE YOU CAN PURCHASE

- 7 1/2% - 15 Year Maturity

This is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation to buy these securities. The offering is made only by the prospectus.

Clip and mail this coupon to:

MR. C. A. MORRILL
 Farm Bureau Services, Inc.
 P. O. Box 960
 Lansing, Michigan 48904

I would like a copy of the prospectus and a call by a registered sales agent.

NAME _____
 ROAD _____ RFD # _____
 CITY _____ COUNTY _____
 PHONE _____

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| ARMADA Armada Grain Co. | 313/784-4111 313/784-4341 |
| CARSON CITY Kellogg Elevator Co. | 517/584-6543 |
| CARSON CITY Central Bean & Grain Co. | 517/584-3101 |
| Vickeryville Branch | 517/261-2521 |
| CHESANING Chesaning Farmers Coop | 517/845-3040 |
| CONCORD Joers Farm Center | 517/524-8906 |
| DECATUR Decatur Seed & Supply Co. | 616/423-4881 |
| ELKTON Elkton Coop Farm Produce Co. | 517/375-2281 |
| EUREKA Gowers Elevator | 517/224-2695 |
| FRANKENMUTH Star Of The West Milling Co. | 517/652-9971 |
| Gera Branch | 517/652-9971 |
| Richville Branch | 517/652-9971 |
| HUDSONVILLE Farmers Coop Elevator Co. | 616/669-9596 |
| Vriesland Branch | 616/772-2515 |
| Bauer Branch | 616/669-9618 |
| IDA Ida Farmers Coop | 313/269-3325 |
| LAKE ODESSA Smith Bros., Vette & Co. | 616/374-8871 |
| MARLETTE Marlette Farmers Coop Elevator | 517/635-6911 |
| MONTROSE Frutchey Bean | 517/639-6118 |
| PIGEON Coop Elevator Co. | 517/453-2851 |
| SEBEWAING Sebewaing Farmers Coop | 517/883-3030 |
| SPRINGPORT Springport Elevator | 517/857-2610 |
| ST. JOHNS St. Johns Coop | 517/224-2381 |
| WESTPHALIA Westphalia Milling Co. | 517/587-4531 |

MICHIGAN CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
 P.O. Box 1008, East Lansing, Mich.



Talk to the Power People they have the seven additives you asked for.

Like all fuel companies, the Power People at Farmers Petroleum fell in love with their additives. The gasoline has HPA for extra kick. The diesel fuel has HPAD for extra pulling power.

You told Farmers Petroleum you wanted more than just High Performance fuels, so they added 7 more additives: service, quality, price, information, emergency deliveries, complete product line and budget pay plans. Talk to the Power People. They listen. They hustle.

Where Your Farm Comes First

Farm
Bureau
FARMERS PETROLEUM



Certainly Lasso® plus atrazine controls fall panicum.

Plenty of growers last season learned that the "foxtail" they thought grew through their herbicide was really fall panicum.

And plenty of growers this season will learn that if you tank mix Lasso plus atrazine, you won't find fall panicum. Nor will you find giant foxtail, crabgrass and most other grasses...or lots of broadleaves like smartweed, pigweed, cocklebur.

Lasso plus atrazine gets 'em all in corn.



That's what you expect from your herbicide.

SEE YOUR FARM BUREAU DEALER FOR LASSO NOW!

Allegan - Allegan Farmers
Co-op/673-2508

Alto - Bergy Bros./868-
2321, 868-2331

Battle Creek, Climax -
Farm Bureau Services
746-4286

Bay City - Farm Bureau
Services/893-3577

Breckenridge - B&W Co-op
842-3104

Buchanan - Buchanan
Co-ops/695-6823

Caledonia - Caledonia
Farmers Elev./891-8108

Caro-Akron - Caro Farmers
Co-op/673-3101, 691-4571

Charlevoix - Charlevoix
Co-op/547-6721

Chesaning - Farmers
Co-op/845-3040

Coldwater - Farm Bureau
Services/278-2213, 279-9404

Coldwater - Branch County
Grain Co./278-4561

Coopersville - Co-op Elev.
Co./837-8051, 837-8196

Charlotte - Eaton Farm
Bureau Co-op/543-1160

Fowlerville - Fowlerville
Co-op/223-8821

Fremont - Co-op Produce
924-3851

Hart - Farm Bureau
Services/873-2158

Hastings - Farm Bureau
Services/945-2223

Highland - Producers'
Ass'n./685-1503

Hillsdale - Farm Bureau
Services/437-4487

Holland - Cooperative
Co./396-6526

Howell - Co-op
546-3450, 546-3960

Hudsonville - Farmers Co-op
Elev./669-9596, 669-1114

Jeddo - St. Clair County
Farm Bureau Services
327-6315

Kalamazoo - Farm
Bureau Services/381-0596,
381-0593

Kent City - Farm Bureau
678-5022

Lapeer - County Co-op
664-2907, 664-6382

Imlay City - Lapeer
County Co-op/724-4915

Leslie - Leslie Co-op
589-2191

Marcellus - Farm Bureau
Services/646-2341

Mendon - Farm Bureau
Services - 496-2385

Mt. Pleasant - Farm
Bureau Services/773-3670

Pinconning - Farm Bureau
Services/879-3411

Remus - Farm Bureau
Services/967-3511

St. Johns - St. Johns
Co-op/224-2381

Schoolcraft - Farm
Bureau Services/679-4063

Scottville - Farm
Bureau Services/757-2594

Stanwood - Farm Bureau
Services/823-2081

Sterling - Farm Bureau
Services/654-3142

Three Rivers - Farm
Bureau Services/279-2550

Traverse City - Farm
Bureau Services/946-5836

West Branch - Farmers
Co-op/345-0428

Yale - St. Clair County
Farm Bureau Services
387-2202

Saginaw - Farm Bureau
Supply Center/753-3457

Union City - Farm Bureau
Services/741-8921

And other dealers carrying
Farm Bureau pesticides.

Where Your Farm Comes First

Farm Bureau
FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC

The best mastitis treatment ever developed still costs you profits. Why not help prevent mastitis with



bovadine[®]
teat dip

as part of a Herd Hygiene Program. Bovadine—the Tamed Iodine[®] teat dip.

west



agro-chemical, inc.

A SUBSIDIARY OF WEST CHEMICAL PRODUCTS, INC. LONG ISLAND CITY, NEW YORK 11101

"Environmental Protection" Endorsement Explained

Early this year, Farm Bureau Mutual introduced an expanded protection concept for Michigan farmers . . . the "Environmental Protection" endorsement (Personal Injury Liability), for Farmowners policies. Questions regarding this unique "first," designed specifically for Michigan's modern farmer, are answered below.

Q. Exactly what is the "Environmental Protection" endorsement and what does it cover?

A. This new Farmowners policy endorsement, officially titled the "Personal Injury Liability" endorsement, will completely protect the Michigan farmer from any suits claiming damages for personal injuries arising out of one or more of the following offenses:

1. *False arrest, false imprisonment, wrongful eviction, wrongful detention, malicious prosecution or humiliation.* Farmers have the same exposure as retail merchants. An encounter with a suspected thief can bring a suit for damages under one of these headings.

2. *The publication or utterance of a libel or slander or of other defamatory or disparaging material, or a publication or utterance in violation of an individual's right of privacy.* A confrontation can expose farmers to a suit for damages.

3. *Wrongful entry or eviction, or other invasion of the right of private occupancy.* This coverage does not extend to damage to employees, but recent court cases have broadened the civil rights of employees. An encounter with anyone on your premises to visit any employee could expose you to a suit for damages. In addition, an employee's family could sue for invasion of privacy if their home (which you own) is entered without permission.

4. *Assault and battery not committed by or at the direction of the insured, unless committed for the purpose of protecting person or property.* Confrontations between farmers and hunters, snowmobilers, vandals, etc., are becoming commonplace. This coverage protects the farmer if he is sued for damages caused by assault and battery if the farmer is protecting his family or property.

5. *Contamination or pollution arising out of the accidental discharge, dispersal, release or escape of smoke, vapors, soot, fumes, acids, alkalis, toxic chemicals, liquids or gases, waste material or other irritants, contaminants or pollutants into or upon land, the atmosphere or any watercourse or body of water.* Covers any suit for damages alleging contamination or pollution regardless of reason or validity of the suit. In short, Michigan farmers can protect themselves against any suits claiming these types of damages. This is the broadest protection policy in the farm insurance industry.

Q. When was the "Environmental Protection" endorsement effective?

A. For current Farm Bureau Mutual Farmowners policyholders, the Personal Injury Liability endorsement became effective at

their policy's renewal date beginning December 24, 1971. New Farmowners policyholders were eligible for the expanded protection endorsement January 1, 1972. In all cases, policyholders have the choice of accepting or rejecting the endorsement.

Q. What is the reason for the new Farmowners endorsement and what does it do for the farmer?

A. New environmental responsibilities and liabilities face today's farmer . . . farm odors, dust, noise, hired hands, migrant workers, trespassers. Farm Bureau members brought the new environmental legal liability hazards to the attention of Farm Bureau Insurance Group's research specialists.

Q. What doesn't the "Environmental Protection" endorsement cover?

A. Basically the coverage does not apply to personal injury resulting from direct or indirect willful violation of any penal statute or ordinance. For instance, if a farmer were found guilty of violating a local penal ordinance, he might be fined and an injunction against future operation of his farm could be issued. The Personal Injury Liability endorsement would not pay the fine, court costs, or loss of the farm or lost profit. If a neighbor had sued for damages because of the violation, then the Personal Injury Liability endorsement would pay damages and court costs.

This protection concept follows that of auto insurance. A person is not insured against a traffic ticket or against loss of a driver's license, but he is insured against any damage done in the process. Obviously, this protection concept is both fair and vital to the modern Michigan farmer.

Q. How much does it cost?

A. Ten dollars per year.

Q. Where can I get further information?

A. Call or visit your local Farm Bureau Insurance Group representative.

Depend on Sutan[®]
Selective Herbicide
for dry year weed control

You beat grassy weeds in corn with Sutan even in a dry year. You don't need rain to make it work, because you put Sutan in



the soil where it controls grassy weeds as soon as they sprout. Sun and wind don't reduce its power. Sutan stops the tough grasses . . . nutgrass, fall panicum, Johnsongrass seedlings, wild cane, foxtails and many others. Get Sutan now.

Where Your Farm Comes First

Farm Bureau
FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC

DREAM of Hawaii

In December when Michigan is blanketed with snow, many MFB members will be enjoying beautiful scenery and fresh ocean breezes in the warm sunshine of Hawaii. You can be one of those members.

Michigan Farm Bureau is sponsoring two tours to Hawaii in December. The tours offer the advantage of attending the American Farm Bureau annual meeting in Los Angeles.

The first tour departs on November 28 for a complete four island tour of Hawaii, returning to Los Angeles on December 10 in time for members to attend the American Farm Bureau Convention, and will return home on December 14.

The second tour leaves December 10 for Los Angeles and the AFBF Convention, leaving Los Angeles on December 14 for a two-island tour of Hawaii. Members on this tour will arrive back in Michigan on December 22.

If you would like a brochure concerning these tours to Hawaii, please complete the coupon below and mail to the Program Development Division, Michigan Farm Bureau.

To: Program Development Division
Michigan Farm Bureau
P. O. Box 960
Lansing, Michigan 48904

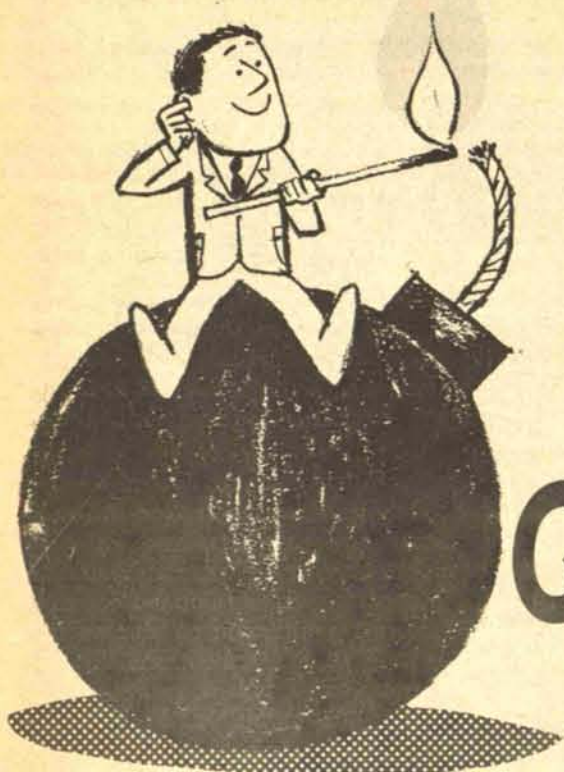
Please send me a brochure giving details on the December tours to Hawaii.

Name _____

Address _____

DISCUSSION TOPIC

by Ken Wiles
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS



TOWNSHIP UNIT GOVERNMENT

GOOD or BAD?

The origin of Michigan townships dates back to 1787, the year the Northwest Ordinance was passed. Under the provisions of this ordinance, township boundaries were arbitrarily drawn on maps to facilitate surveying and selling of land. Most lower peninsula townships originally had 36 square miles. Today, many townships have much less territory and some have even gone out of existence when they were incorporated or annexed to cities.

The laws of Michigan provide for two types of townships—those organized under the Northwest Ordinance and those organized under the Charter Township Act of 1947.

Governing Body

The governing body is the township board, composed of the supervisor, clerk, treasurer and either two or four trustees. A township with a population of over 5,000 or 3,000 registered voters may choose by a general election to elect four trustees and to dispense with the annual township meeting.

Candidates may be nominated in a primary election and the candidates must declare themselves members of political parties, as all elections for township offices must be held on a partisan basis.

Township elections must be held on the November election day of the even numbered years. The term of office is two years, except the term of trustees who serve staggered four-year terms. Officers are elected on an at-large basis.

The township supervisor acts as the chief administrative and executive officer in addition to performing a variety of other services. One such extra duty is to assess real and personal property in the township for tax purposes.

The board has a rather wide range of appointive powers. It may appoint all officers, agents, employees or members of statutory boards of the township who are not elected. Among these are the zoning board, planning commission, urban planner, fire and police administrative boards, building inspectors, clerical employees, fire and police department personnel (if an administrative board for these functions has not been established), township nurse, traffic officers, township attorney, township engineer, auditors and township assessors to assist the supervisor in his property assessment duties.

The pay of elected township officers is determined by the voters at the annual township meeting, or in regular or special elections. The compensation of those appointed to paying positions is determined by the township board.

Ordinances and Powers of Regulation

The township board may adopt ordinances regulating public health, fire protection, licensing and/or use of bicycles, traffic, parking and sidewalk maintenance and repairs.

Ordinances may be adopted at any regular board meeting by a majority vote of the board. Such ordinances must contain the effective date and the penalty if assessments are made for violation of the ordinance. If a penalty is to be imposed, it may not become effective until 30 days after the date of its publication. If no penalty is to be imposed, the ordinance may become effective immediately upon publication.

A recent ruling by Michigan's Attorney General states that townships have no authority to require all commercial establishments to obtain licenses or permits to operate on a yearly basis. The official opinion said state law now allows townships to regulate hawkers, vendors, peddlers, solicitors, circuses, carnivals and public amusements only. He said state law allows them to require permits for establishments which affect the public health, safety or welfare, but not for all commercial enterprises.

Service Powers

It is the duty of the township to care for and maintain its cemeteries and may also contribute to the care of cemeteries owned by another unit of government if the township benefits from a cemetery located outside its boundaries. Money for cemetery care and maintenance comes from the general fund.

Township boards may appoint a park commission to acquire and operate a park system, but must submit the question of establishing such a commission to the voters at the next regular election held in the township. Townships may borrow money to construct a township hall and if bonds are issued, the board is required to impose additional taxes to pay off the bond charges.

There are several laws under which a township may provide police protection for its inhabitants and property. However, the attorney general has ruled that township police officers have the duty to preserve the peace and good order and have the power to arrest only for a breach of peace committed in their presence. Township police officers have no authority to enforce state law beyond the powers of arrest accorded the ordinary citizen. Township police officers may receive the powers of peace officers if they are deputized by the county sheriff. This arrangement makes a township policeman subject to a county officer, but it relieves him of liability in a court suit if he should, in good faith, arrest an innocent person.

Townships may provide fire protection by special assessment or by purchasing the service from another municipal corporation, but most townships provide it through their own fire departments.

Townships have been given the authority by state law to make public improvements by constructing sewers and water mains, grading, curbing and paving of streets, by the maintenance and improvement of parks and by the installation of elevated structures for foot travel over highways. However, Michigan townships have only a limited control over the maintenance and construction of streets and highways.

Prior to 1931, the township exercised a responsibility to build and maintain streets. Since then, streets and highways have been under jurisdiction of the county road commission. Townships have the power, without a vote of the people, to levy a tax in order to create a highway improvement fund. These funds may be used to make street improvements, but since the streets are actually a part of the county street system, the township may make improvements only with the consent of the county road commission. In fact, a township may not perform any of these functions without approval, even though it is willing to pay the entire cost.

Zoning Powers

Zoning power of townships has been one of uncertainty and considerable change, and has resulted in considerable misunderstanding.

Basically, the township zoning board may provide for the establishment of zones and for the regulation of land use and structures; the height, area, size and location of buildings; open spaces necessary to provide light and ventilation of buildings; and density of population. The zoning board must submit its plans to the county zoning coordinating committee for its recommendations, but need not follow the recommendations.

Planning Powers

Township boards may create planning commissions without referring the matter to the voters. The resolution creating a planning commission becomes effective 60 days after its publication, unless a petition of the voters objecting to the commission is presented. In such a case, the proposal must then be submitted to the voters in the unincorporated portions of the township.

The planning commission has full power to review all plans relating to streets, parks and public buildings as well as the right to review all subdivision plats proposed in its township. Recommendations of a planning commission may be overridden by a majority vote of the township board.

Taxation

Townships do not have complete control over their rates of taxation and, therefore, their expenditures. Tax rates must be approved by the county allocation board and are faced with certain restrictions on expenditures which may or may not be realistic in a particular case.

Since townships have little direct control over tax rates, they have little budgetary flexibility. Almost any increase in services or quality of services in townships must be tied to a request for additional special-purpose taxes. Thus, township officials are less than eager to support public improvements and public service increases unless, of course, there is clear and widespread public demand for such increases or improvements.

Charter Townships

A charter township and its officers have all the powers of an ordinary township (Northwest Ordinance) unless the statutes expressly provide otherwise. The regular officers are the supervisor, clerk, treasurer, four trustees and constables, all elected, with four-year terms for the trustees and two-year terms for others.

In charter townships, the fiscal year is the calendar year; the board may hire two assessors to work under the direction of the supervisor; employ a township superintendent; levy up to five mills without action of the allocation board and by action of the voters may levy up to five additional mills.

A charter township's general purpose money is carried in a contingent fund. Its revenue is derived from general property tax; its share of liquor license fees for liquor law enforcement purposes; its share of state sales tax on a per capita basis; its share of state intangibles tax on a per capita basis; and its share of state income tax on a per capita basis. Additionally, a charter township may levy special assessments for specific purposes and may receive gifts, charge service fees and certain license fees.

The Future

What the future holds for township unit government as we know it today, only time can tell. However, it is interesting to note that the March 6, 1972 Report of the Governor's Special Commission on Local Government made some recommendations which may affect townships.

Among their preliminary recommendations was the suggestion that all local units of government be permitted to levy taxes within wider limits and without voter approval. They said townships, cities and villages should all be permitted to impose 20 mills tax without a vote of the people, which would be over the present 15-mill limitation.

They also recommended that counties be permitted to tax property up to 15 mills. This, added to the recommendation for township taxation, totals 35 mills. In addition, they recommend an income tax up to a two percent total be permitted for local government, such as villages, townships and counties.

While the recommendations are meant to be long-range in nature, they are an example of the thinking of many as to ways of increasing the effectiveness of local government by providing means of increasing revenue through the use of property taxes.

Topic Summary

The March discussion topic dealt with "Tax Reform". The responses given to the questions reflect a continuing concern of Farm Bureau members regarding the need for equality in taxation.

1. What is the total amount of mills presently levied in your school district for school purposes? The average mills reported was 26.25.
2. How many mills, in addition to those levied for school purposes, are levied by your township? By your county? Mills levied by townships ranged from a low of zero to a high of 34.5. Counties reportedly are levying from .04 to 46 mills.
3. Do you feel that your property tax will continue upward? If yes, how much? Ninety-eight percent thought property tax would increase and their estimates of the amount of increase ranged from .5% to 100%.
4. Is the assessed valuation of your property, as shown on your tax statement, one-half of what you consider the fair value of your property? Yes: 68% No: 32%
5. All of us enjoy some benefits from things provided by property taxes. Which one service provided by property taxes would you be willing to do without in order to lower property taxes? Most groups indicated they could not agree on any one service to be eliminated. Among the services suggested for elimination were: O.E.O., ambulance service, dog warden, library, airport and State Board of Education.
6. In your opinion, what property should be relieved, in whole or in part, of property tax? Farmland, senior citizens, all property, church and parsonage, homesteads.
7. Comments on tax reform included: need a balance between increasing cost of living and farmer's income; legalize gambling; it is too bad to be punished for owning land; eliminate some of the overlapping agencies; improve assessment procedures; non-profit organizations' property which brings in income should be taxed.

DISCUSSION TOPIC

The Discussion Topic and Report Sheet for the discussion topic on the opposite page is furnished for use of community group members who may wish to review it prior to their group meeting. If used by a Community Group, in lieu of report sheet furnished the Discussion Leader, please forward answers with minutes to Michigan Farm Bureau. If used by individuals, please forward answers to Information Division, Michigan Farm Bureau, P. O. Box 960, Lansing, Michigan 48904 on or before June 1, 1972.

COMMUNITY FARM BUREAU

Discussion Exercise and Report Sheet

May 1, 1972

Community Farm Bureau _____
County _____ Please indicate the number of people taking part in this discussion _____

TOPIC: Township Unit Government

1. With modern transportation and communication facilities available, coupled with diminishing rural population, should the township government in predominantly rural counties be combined? Yes _____ No _____
2. How could township government be financed by other than property taxes? _____
3. In your opinion, should the townships in Michigan be abolished, and their functions assumed by county government? Yes _____ No _____
4. In your opinion, should all townships be permitted to do away with the annual township meeting? Yes _____ No _____
5. In your opinion, have township governments lost their responsiveness to the wishes of the voters? Yes _____ No _____
6. Comments: _____

A MATTER OF RECORD

The 1972 Michigan Farm Bureau "open period" for members carrying Blue Cross and Blue Shield is now complete.

Final figures are not conclusive as yet, but it is clear that over 1300 Farm Bureau members elected to join the Farm Bureau sponsored group health care program. Over 80% of all eligible members are now covered under the Blue Cross and Blue Shield plan.

It appears that most people consider health care protection a necessity of life. This is borne out by some national statistics pertaining to health care in this country.

- The U.S. spends 7% of its Gross National Product on health, far exceeding, in both relative and absolute dollars, the spending of any other nation.
- 7% is almost triple what the U.S. spent in 1960.
- U.S. spending for all health services amounted to 67.2 billion during fiscal 1970 and is expected to jump to an unbelievable 156 billion by 1980.
- Of that 67.2 billion, 58 billion went for personal health services, the rest went into research, construction, remodeling, etc.
- For the individual, health expense came to \$324 per person on the average, but averages are misleading. By age groups, the over-65 population spends the most, \$791 per person; and the under 19 population, understandably enough, is the least hard hit by medical costs — only \$123 per person. By 1980 the average per person health bill is expected to leap to \$680.
- 88% of all Americans have some form of private health insurance.
- What each of us can do to slow down the rising trend in health care costs will be examined in a future article.

SHAVER STARCROSS PULLETS

"THE MONEY BIRD"

THE CHOICE OF PROFIT MINDED EGG PRODUCERS THE WORLD OVER

CAGE & FLOOR GROWN PULLETS AVAILABLE CALL FOR AVAILABILITY

DeWitt's HATCHERY - Zeeland, Mich. Ph: (616) 772-4668



OFFICE CALLS

Question:

How do we add our latest child to our Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverage? He was born six months ago.

Answer:

Farm Bureau members can add dependents to their Blue Cross/Blue Shield coverage by means of a special procedure. Simply

contact your local county secretary and complete a form to add the child. Coverage for the new dependent will not be effective immediately, but at a future date based on the quarterly billing cycle. The secretary can advise you of the specific date.

Members should add new dependents to their contract within 30 days to insure uninterrupted coverage for that dependent.

FARM BUREAU MARKET PLACE

SPECIAL RATE TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS: 25 words for \$2.00 each edition. Additional words, 10 cents each. Figures such as 12 or \$12.50 count as one word. NON-MEMBER advertisers: 15 cents per word one edition, two or more editions, 10 cents per word. Copy deadline: 20th of the month.

8 FARM EQUIPMENT

NEW AND USED PATZ MATERIAL handling equipment. Barn cleaners, cattle feeders, manure stackers, manure spreaders, silo unloaders, conveyors and other items. One of the best parts stock in Western Michigan. Individual parts or complete rebuilt like new ready to install — parts and units factory direct to farmers. Cow stalls and free stalls, 1/4 to 10 HP motors in stock. Booms Red & White top silos at early order discount. 3 years to pay . . . 5% on unpaid balance. Wyngarden Equipment, Route # 3, Fremont, Michigan 49412. (tf-83b)

FREE BOOKLET: Wholesale Farm Filter Catalog plus farm equipment maintenance hints. J. A. Baldwin Manufacturing Company, Dept. 8, Kearney, Nebraska 68847. (2-4t-20p)

WANTED: ALLIS-CHALMERS Round Hay Baler, any place, any condition. Alf Roeder, Seneca, Kansas. (5-2t-14p)

14 FOR SALE

FARMS FOR SALE: Cadillac area farms. No. 402-F almost 200 acres, level land, some under irrigation, beef feeding set-up, cage layer unit, irrigated strawberries and truck crops, fine modern home. High volume of business. No. 400-F grade A dairy with parlor on 240 acres level land. Good buildings and anxious to sell. There is still time to get on either of these good farms. Dean's Michigan Farm Real Estate Headquarters, Coldwater, Mich. 49036. Phone 517-279-9748. Evenings call Ken Brown. 517-437-3538. (5-1t-84b)

FOR SALE: Asparagus Plants for the 1972 planting season; also Holland Transplanter, Model 1900. Green Tip Farm, Paw Paw, Mich. 49079. Call evenings 616-657-5003. (4-8t-20p)

14 FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Surprise collection freshly cut African Violet leaves, 12 for \$3.00. Leaves with roots 12 for \$4.00, different and labeled. Plants at the house. Dime brings list. Theo. Jensen, 4090 West Barnes, Millington, Michigan 48746. (4-3t-33p)

20 LIVESTOCK

FOR SALE: 300 HEAD OF DAIRY CATTLE. Farm close-out sale of 300 top quality Wisconsin Holstein Heifers — 18 fresh in May; 40 fresh in June; 20 fresh in July; 50 fresh in September; 56 ready to breed; 52 near ready for breeding; 35 few months from breeding; 29 — 10-12 months old; 2 registered bulls. All cattle bred to registered bulls. T.B. and bangs tested, de-horned. Every one will be guaranteed as represented. Any quantity to any buyer, gate cut. Certified check on delivery, F.O.B. farm. Sold by owner, no commissions. These are daughters of Wisconsin's finest dairy cattle, no polish, just as they came through the winter. Two percent discount on total herd. Don Thomas Farms, 519 Tecumseh Road, Clinton, Michigan 49236. For appointment and inspection call evenings 313-456-4965. (5-1t-124b)

FEEDER LAMB SALE: Charlotte Fair Grounds, Saturday, May 20, 1:00 p.m. Lambs will be sold in groups of four; some pairs of two and a few singles. There will be some top reg. ewe and ram lambs sold in nearly all breeds. This sale is an opportunity for 4-H and FFA members to get started in a sheep project. Michigan Sheep Breeders Association — Harold Dingsman, Bellevue, Michigan, Auctioneer. (5-1t-66b)

CHAROLAIS BULLS FOR SALE: Improve your beef cattle with Charolais Bulls. Come and see them. Eddie Shrauger, Falmouth, Michigan, Phone Merritt 616-328-2671. (5-3t-22p)

20 LIVESTOCK

HEREFORD BULLS — pure bred herd sires. Ready for service. Also, registered heifers and calves. Egypt Valley Hereford Farm, 6611 Knapp St., Ada, Michigan. Phone OR 6-1090. (Kent County) (11-4t-25b)

MILKING SHORTHORNS: Young Bulls, yearlings and calves for sale. Write for tabulated pedigrees or better yet, pay us a visit. Stanley M. Powell and Family, Ingleside Farm, Route #1, Box 238, Ionia, Michigan 48846. (7-4t-33b)

SERVICE AGE YORKSHIRE, DUROC BOARS, AND OPEN GILTS. Sonaray information available on most of the boars. Robert Harper, R#1, Vicksburg, Michigan 49097. Phone: 616-649-2803. (12-6t-25p)

REGISTERED YORKSHIRES and CHESTER WHITES — Top quality boars and gilts. Guaranteed to satisfy. Will deliver. Bill McCalla, 4100 Stone School Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. Phone: 313-971-1804. (12-6t-27p)

26 POULTRY

KLAGER'S DEKALB PROFIT PULLETS — Order your started pullets that have been raised on a proven growing program. The growing birds are inspected weekly by trained staff, vaccinated, debeaked and delivered by us in clean crates. If you keep records, you will keep KLAGER DEKALBS, KLAGER HATCHERIES, Bridgewater, Michigan. Telephones: 313 429-7087 and 313 428-3034. (tf-50b)

26 POULTRY

SHAVER STARCROSS 288 — Started pullets available most every month. Get wide and try these top profit makers as your next flock. MacPherson Hatchery, Route #3, Ionia, Michigan. Phone 527-0860. (tf-28b)

DAY OLD OR STARTED PULLETS — The DeKalb profit pullet. Accepted by the smart poultryman for high egg production, superior egg quality, greater feed efficiency. If you keep records, you'll keep DeKalbs. Write for prices and catalog. KLAGER HATCHERIES, Bridgewater, Michigan. Telephones: Saline HAZEL 9-7087, Manchester GARDEN 8-3034. (tf-46b)

36 MISCELLANEOUS

DEALERSHIPS AVAILABLE. Prefabricated Goedessic Domes for cabins, cottages, residences, agricultural, commercial, industrial buildings. Different, economical. Strongest, easiest construction kit. People are fascinated by this new structure. Has built-in advertising for any business. Excellent Profits. Dome Industries Corporation, Box 682, Farmingdale, New Jersey 07727. (4-2t-42p)

ANY MAKE WRIST WATCH cleaned, repaired, parts included, total price \$6.95. 7-day service. 20th year in mail order. Elgin trained experts. Send for free mailer. Hub's Service, 344 N. Alfred, Elgin, Illinois 60120. (5-4t-35p)

COUNTRY RECORDS — and tape cartridges — fiddle tunes — Blue Grass, etc. Free circular. Uncle Jim O'Neal, Box A-MFN, Arcadia, California 91006. (4-6t-20p)

COTTAGE FOR RENT: Eagle Crest Park near Holland, Michigan. Open August 12-26. Write Harold Kleinheksel, RR #5, Holland, Michigan 49423. (5-1t-20p)

36 MISCELLANEOUS

GOOD OLD COUNTRY MUSIC, 2 sample records and list \$1. Guaranteed. Oatmore Stars, Box 9039, Little Rock, Arkansas 72209. (5-2t-19p)

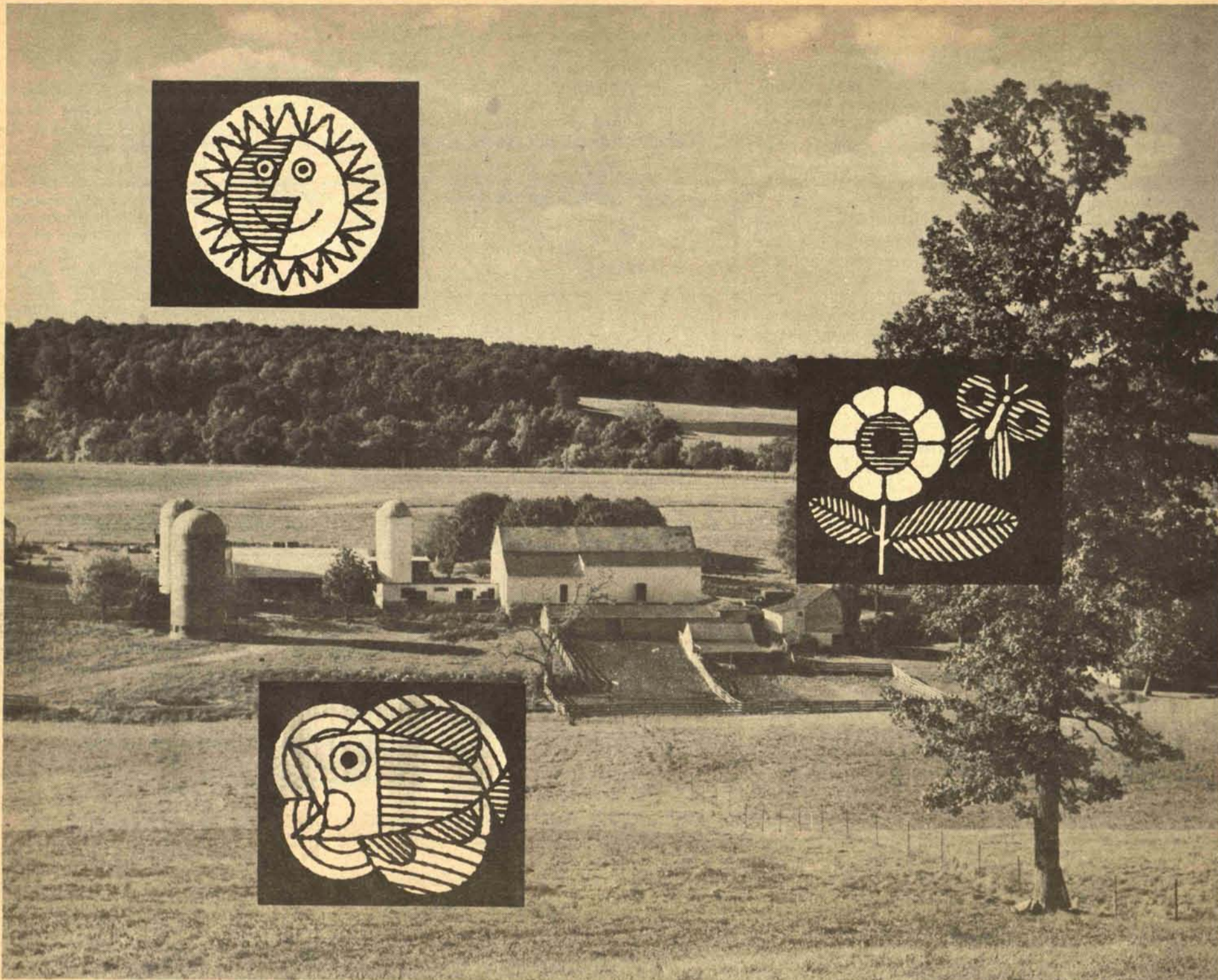
ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS AC and DC by Pincor. Tractor PTO, Portable and Stationary Engine Plants, Camper Units, Battery Chargers, Designed for Heavy Duty Motor startings. Also Electric Motors, Heavy Duty for Home, Farms or Industry. Discount priced. Decatur Electric Motor Service, R#1, Box 281, Decatur, Michigan 49045. (5-4t-48b)

STOP RUSTY WATER FROM RUINING WASH, staining fixtures. Proven filter keeps complete water system free of rust, sand, tastes, odors and other impurities. Uses economical, washable filters. 30 day trial offer. Free information. Write: RUSTRAP, 836-AC W. 79th, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55420. (12-4t-41b)

"HOME WORKERS" WANTED: Can earn \$100.00 weekly and up utilizing mail service opportunities. We'll send you circular listings from which you select. Send 25¢ and stamped, self-addressed business envelope to WJR Enterprises, Box 44068, Dept. M-7, Cincinnati, Ohio 45244. (1-tf-40p)

"1001 THINGS FREE" (64-Page book) \$1 — MAILMART, Carrollton, Kentucky 42008. (1-tf-11b)

Old style sleigh bells. 30 - 1 1/2" diameter heavy nickel plated 7' strap \$20.00. Red White Blue 10 ring spreader straps, \$10.00 pair. Alfred Jensen, Little Falls, Minnesota 56345, Phone: 612-632-8240. (1-6t-30p)



**YOUR BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT IS CHANGING.
AND SO ARE WE.**

New environmental responsibilities and liabilities face today's farmer . . . farm odors, dust, noise, hired hands, migrant workers, trespassers. Now we can help you handle these responsibilities. We're adding a unique "Personal Injury Liability" endorsement to our Farm-owners insurance policies.

This exclusive new coverage will provide defense costs and pay any judgment for damages resulting from:

- Contamination or pollution
- Assault and battery
- Wrongful invasion of private property
- Libel and slander
- False arrest, imprisonment, and wrongful eviction or detention.

(A full explanation of coverages and restrictions is being mailed to each of our policyholders at their next renewal.)

You can't buy this protection package anywhere else. In fact, many insurance companies are intentionally restricting these types of coverage. As Michigan's largest farm insurer, we think you deserve better. Your insurance needs are changing. So are we.

That's Why We're Called The Farm Experts

**FARM BUREAU
INSURANCE
GROUP**

