

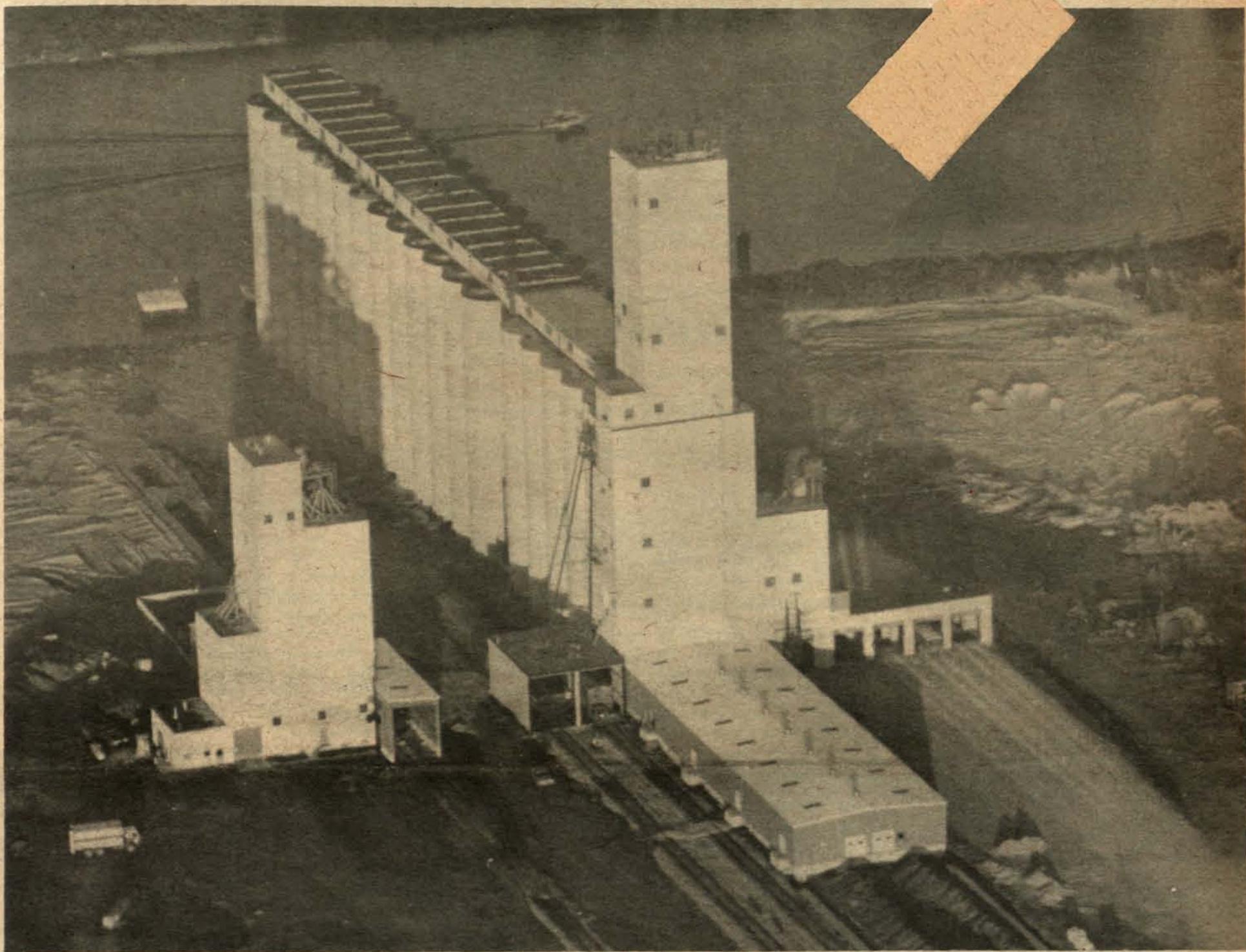
# MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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

Vol. 42, No. 9

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**TERMINAL COMPLEX — AS IMPORTANT AS IT IS IMPRESSIVE.** This photo of the new Michigan Elevator Exchange division grain and bean terminal clearly shows the Saginaw river channel which opens a new "gateway to the world" for Michigan farmers. Grain now, and beans later, will fill the terminal's two-million bushel capacity.

Nearby, Farm Bureau Services' modern feed mill (left) edges into full production. American Farm Bureau president Charles B. Shuman dedicates the new facilities Friday, September 4. The day's program is open to the interested farming public. See stories inside including special 8-page regional section. (Airphoto by Paul Rivas)

## People or Courts?

By Dan E. Reed  
Legislative Counsel

*What does the battle over apportionment now going on in Washington mean to Michigan?*

Probably not the same that it means to some other states; — Oklahoma, for instance, where the courts have invalidated the results of a regularly held election, or Illinois, which will elect "at-large" the 177 members of its House on a statewide ballot this fall.

And in Michigan's present situation of gerrymandered districting, the action in Congress may not mean as much as an expected court test of the legality of the action taken by the Michigan Supreme Court!

In majority decisions of June 15, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that both houses of a state's legislature must be apportioned on the basis of population.

Following the fateful decisions of that day, the Michigan court reached into thin air to take jurisdiction over a matter not before it and ordered an unreasonable action by requiring an impossible

action of the Apportionment Commission.

When the Commission could not meet the unrealistic deadline, the court reapportioned Michigan, selecting a plan drawn by two of the four Democrats who were members of the Commission.

The Michigan court went beyond the U. S. court mandate and ignored political boundaries to create its gerrymandered districts.

Joining with other organizations, Farm Bureau will test the Michigan court's action.

The whole "One Man — One Vote" campaign waged in Michigan by Gus Scholle, Michigan AFL-CIO President, is a "phony."

In 1952, in a hotly waged campaign, where the issue was well discussed and debated, voters clearly chose a balanced legislature over the straight population plan proposed by Scholle and the CIO.

And they did it on the basis of One Voter — One Vote!

In the statewide balloting on two constitutional amendments, voters clearly turned thumbs down on the CIO plan, which received only 924,242 favorable votes. The balanced legislature plan drew 1,415,355 "Yes" votes.

And each voter cast one vote!

Again, in April, 1963, Michigan voters again rejected Mr. Scholle's advice, and adopted the new Constitution, setting up a legislature with the Senate having some recognition of area.

And again, each voter casting one vote, the people approved the plan!

Now the federal and state courts are saying—"We must protect the people from themselves!"

## A.I.C. Meeting

## "Tremendous Experience"

"A simply tremendous cooperative experience," — that was the voiced opinion of at least one nationally-known cooperative leader who took part in the 36th annual meeting of the American Institute of Cooperation, August 9-12.

Held on the campus of Michigan State University, East Lansing, the sessions drew an estimated 2,500 to 3,000 persons, among them nearly 1,000 young people from all parts of the nation.

The Institute has been described as a "floating college" and is officially chartered as an University. It is sponsored by local cooperatives, many from Michigan, who are pledged to work together to promote cooperative programs and ideals.

Chairman of this year's conference was George Dike, Extension Specialist in Agricultural

Economics at Michigan State University. Chairman of the Youth section and general all-around host, was LA Cheney, Secretary-Manager of the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives.

Among Farm Bureau leaders from Michigan who appeared on the program were: E. F. Steffen, MFB Legal Counsel; Jack McKendry, Manager, Farmer's Petroleum Cooperative; Stanley Sherman, Michigan Elevator Exchange division and M. J. Bushlen, Farm Bureau Services.

Dozens of other Farm Bureau officers and leaders took part in hosting the meeting and in acting on committees or in workshops.

As a concluding item of business the officers selected the University of Missouri for the location of next year's meeting, and set the dates for August 8-11.



## Editorial

# MORE Market-Power

In Charles Shuman, American farmers have a stout champion.

He is a successful farmer who understands the farm business.

He is a man who knows his own mind and as president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, he is an outspoken defender of American agriculture.

Friday, September 4, Michigan farmers will have an opportunity to hear Shuman speak at the official "Open House" of the new Michigan Elevator Exchange grain and bean terminal on the Saginaw river near Zilwaukee.

His appearance at the 1:00 p.m. dedication program will attract farmers from all parts of the state.

As president of the world's largest farm organization, Shuman will salute a multi-million dollar, farmer-owned enterprise, now providing Michigan farmers with a new gateway to markets of the world.

The new facility, with its approximate two-million-bushel grain and bean holding capacity, its ship loading, rail and truck facilities, its modern feed mill and proximity to Farm Bureau Services' fertilizer plant—is a good example of the kind of cooperation among farmers that Shuman expounds.

Up to now, the market promise of the St. Lawrence Seaway remains largely unfilled.

Through the terminal, Michigan's famed beans will more easily reach the world, and direct shipments of Michigan grain to ports of the seven seas will make it more competitive. Farmers will save freight charges in moving their crops from the grain-rich Thumb and Saginaw-Valley region to local, national and international markets. Local grains will be converted to local feed.

"The big item in bringing along farm income in the years ahead is the development of new economic power for farmers who market and bargain through their own association," Shuman is quoted as saying.

He believes that most farmers have decided that better incomes are a "do-it-yourself" project as contrasted to government "do-it-for-you" programs. He believes that political action is no way to solve economic farm problems and that farmers themselves hold the best solutions through their own efforts.

"Marketpower is that power which producers themselves develop as contrasted to power of government," Shuman says.

As examples of the kind of government "help" farmers have been receiving, the Farm Bureau president lists two recent happenings that have cost farmers millions of dollars in lost income.

"The dumping of hundreds of millions of bushels of feed-grain by the Secretary of Agriculture in 1961-62, was deliberately done to depress market-prices to the point where farmers who didn't sign up for the Feed Grain Program would be penalized," Shuman said.

He said that this indiscriminate selling of feed grains resulted in extra feeding of livestock, encouraging increased production of cattle and hogs, and was a main cause in the crack-up of livestock prices.

"The second cause is the present Wheat Certificate plan which is now depressing feed grain prices. Again the Secretary of Agriculture is dumping surplus stocks on the market, and again both grain and livestock men will suffer.

"It's high time that farmers themselves have something to say about the prices they get for their products," Shuman believes.

That's where Farm Bureau comes in.

Farm Bureau and affiliated organizations such as Farm Bureau Services, Farmers Petroleum, Farm Bureau Insurance and the Michigan Elevator Exchange, are all important parts of the farm-income boosting "team."

The new Saginaw terminal is another.

Through it, new world-wide grain and bean market-power has been assured for Michigan farmers.

M.W.



"ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA"—The United States of America, represented at a farm meeting in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, by board members of the American Farm Bureau Federation. Second from left is Walter Wightman, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau. (See President's Column.)

## Dedication Program

SEPTEMBER 4, 1964 — 1:00 P.M.

Michigan Elevator Exchange Grain and Bean Terminal  
and  
Farm Bureau Services Feed Plant

1. Presentation of Colors

2. Invocation —

Alfred Roberts, Director of Farm Bureau Services, Inc. and Manager of Cooperative Elevator Company, Pigeon

3. Dedicatory Remarks —

Elton Smith, President of Farm Bureau Services, Inc.

Maynard Brownlee, General Manager of Farm Bureau Services, Inc.

J. S. Sherman, Manager of Michigan Elevator Exchange, Division of Farm Bureau Services, Inc.

4. Introduction of Speaker —

Walter Wightman, President of Michigan Farm Bureau

5. Dedication Address —

Charles Shuman, President of American Farm Bureau Federation

## The Slaughter Continues

If this is a "normal" year, 35 Michigan residents WILL DIE in gruesome highway accidents during the long Labor Day weekend, unless there are sudden, drastic changes in driver attitudes and habits.

Nationally, 560 persons will not return home alive from their weekend "vacations." All signs point to one of the worse highway slaughters of the year, pointing up again, that although the automobile is one of America's greatest industrial achievements under free enterprise, it is also the number-one cause of accidental death and injury.

How can you avoid becoming a statistic? How can you help check the soaring death toll?

- (1) Safety check your car before leaving home.
- (2) Fasten your seat belts. Their use reduce traffic accident injuries and fatalities by more than one-third.
- (3) Be "adjustable." Adjust your driving to road, traffic, weather.
- (4) Make courtesy your code of the road — and "think ahead." Think toward what may happen — the other person may not.

## MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

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## President's Column

## Poverty — Self-Imposed

(Editor's note: Walter W. Wightman, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau, was one of four American Farm Bureau Federation board members who represented the United States at a recent Latin American farm conference in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. His observations follow.)

If anyone has reservations about what freedom to operate private industry, plus a free agriculture, means to the economy of a country — all they need to convince themselves is to spend a little time in one of the Latin American countries.

It seems almost impossible that a country like the Dominican Republic (only a short two-hour ride by jet from Miami) could be so different and so backward.

Here is a country with almost an ideal climate, with a temperature that seldom gets much above 90 degrees or below 70 degrees, and with plenty of rainfall, at least certain times a year, to grow good crops.

But the population is 47% illiterate and subsists on a deficient diet, particularly in protein.

They have about one-half the meat per capita that we have in the United States. They have the potential to produce much more but do not have the incentive to do so. Most of the beef cattle slaughtered would weigh between five and six hundred pounds. The cattle are fed mostly on grass, although they can raise corn well.

There are 15 sugar mills in the country; all but two are owned by the government. None of the mills operate to capacity because the workers refuse to work more than four or five hours a day.

We were told that they could have produced 100,000 more tons of sugar last year if they could have gotten the cane harvested. They doubled the piece-work rates in the cane harvest and the result was that the laborers still only worked four or five hours per day instead of eight.

The sugar industry could contribute a lot to the economy of the country since it is the largest industry there. But it really can't under present conditions since the mills are not operating up to capacity and are losing money.

The farmers who attended the meeting of the "Asociaciones Agropecuarias Americanas" (The American Association of Farming) were much concerned about agrarian reform which to them means dividing up the large government land holdings among farmers who have the same ability to operate it with some efficiency.

This would be done much the same as we did 80 to 100 years ago with our Homestead Act. They also talk about reducing the large land holdings by remunerating the owner for part of their holdings — some of which are not very efficiently operated.

They recognize that this could bring more efficiency of agricultural production and improve the food supply. It will also build a tax base to support the government. Private ownership of industry would do the same thing.

It doesn't take long after a short visit to one of these underdeveloped countries to understand what the competitive free enterprise system has done for the United States.

In the Dominican Republic, there are no veterinary schools, no technical assistance available in the educational system. People must have education before they can have land to operate. With 47% of the population illiterate, this is a problem that can't be solved quickly.

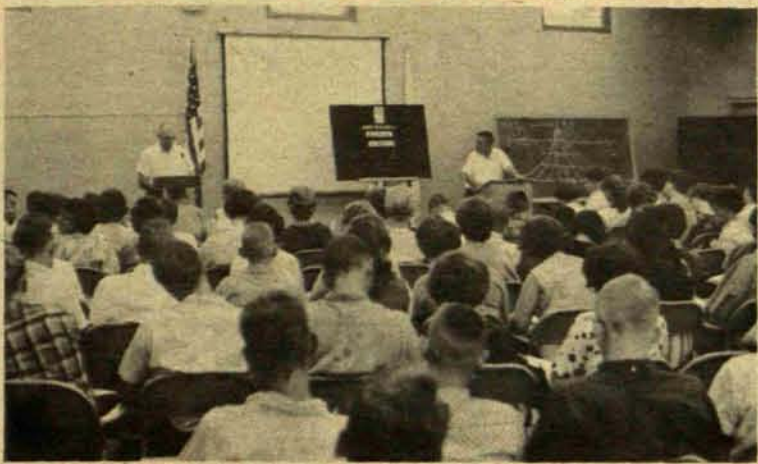
We do have problems in the United States, but they are not caused by a shortage of food, or lack of education. We have developed into a great, prosperous industrial and agricultural country.

God forbid we ever lose our freedom and power because we become too fat and lazy.

W.W.



## Seminar is Solid Success



"BRAINWASHING"—was one of the topics of discussion at the Citizenship Seminar, July 13-17. Shown are J. Delbert Wells (left), manager of the Family Program Division, and Hugo Kivi, U.P. regional representative, as they give a flannel board presentation on this subject to the 140 attending young people.

Watching the alert, eager faces of the 140 young people who participated in the Citizenship Seminar, July 13-17, Camp Kett, and listening to their searching questions and knowledgeable responses to the outstanding program, gave a feeling of confidence and pride to attending members of the "older generation." Their verdict: "America's future is in good hands."

Selected and sponsored by county Farm Bureaus, local school leaders and other interested people and groups, the young people were the "cream of the crop"—chosen for their ability to absorb and use the information gained from the five day seminar.

Junior and senior high school students from 65 counties attended the sessions, which began with the "Concepts of Americanism" presented by Dr. Clifton Ganus, vice-president of Harding College, Searcy, Arkansas.

Dr. Ganus explained that to be able to show the threats of Communism, one must clearly understand the concepts of Americanism. His talks centered on Religion and Moral Values, Constitutional Government, the Open

### Market System and Incentive created by Competition.

Cleon Skousen, well-known author of *The Naked Communist*, received a 10-minute standing ovation from the Seminar students following his four presentations wherein he outlined the history, goals and techniques of the Communist conspiracy.

There are two lines of thought, Skousen explained, the "soft line" and the "hard line," with "soft line" advocates believing in eventual peaceful co-existence with Communism—brought about through U.S. military disarmament, and a gradual changing of our country to better fit into the Socialist pattern.

The "hard line" advocates, he pointed out, believe that Communism should and can be eliminated and that the best bet for a free world is to have a strong, free America.

Other speakers included—J. Perez Sabido, who discussed Cuba and Castro-style Communism; D. Hale Brake and J. Delbert Wells discussing how to maintain our freedom through political action; Professor George Dike, MSU Ag. Econ. Department; Ray Dixon of the National Association of Manufacturers, and Dr. Lewis Lloyd, economist for the Dow Chemical Company.

J. Delbert Wells, manager of the Family Program Division, who coordinates the activities of the Farm Bureau Young People, reports that present plans are to continue the Citizenship Seminars on a yearly basis.

## Sommerfeldt Appointed Field Services Manager



GLENN SOMMERFELDT

The employment of Glenn Sommerfeldt (41), Grand Haven, as Manager of the Field Services Division (formerly Organization Division), Michigan Farm Bureau, effective September 1, has been announced by Clarence E. Prentice, Secretary-Manager.

Sommerfeldt comes to the Michigan Farm Bureau from the Cooperative Extension Services where he was District Extension Agent in charge of community development. He replaces Roger Foerch, who submitted his resignation July 1st after many years of service to the organization. Foerch held the title of Manager of Organization since 1959. Prior to that, he worked as a Farm Bureau Services salesman, co-op assistant manager, regional membership representative and Insurance Relations Coordinator.

In his announcement, Prentice said, "We welcome Glenn to this very important position and feel confident that his many years experience in working closely with the farmers of Michigan will be of real value in his capacity at Farm Bureau."

Sommerfeldt held various positions with the Extension Service including 4-H Agent, Agricultural Agent, County Extension Director and Program Consultant. His home offices during this time were in Macomb, Mackinac, Berrien and Muskegon counties.

As he takes over the reins of the Field Services Division from acting manager, J. Delbert Wells, at the beginning of the new fiscal year, one of his first duties will be to put into motion Roll-Call plans already underway. He will direct the nine-man field staff in an accelerated effort to put Michigan "over goal" in the 1964-65 membership drive.

As manager of the Field Services Division, Sommerfeldt will also coordinate Farm Bureau activities throughout the state.

The new manager received his BS degree in agriculture and his MS degree from Michigan State University. He is married and has two daughters, 9 and 18. The Sommerfeldt family is planning an early move from Grand Haven to Lansing. It will be a familiar area to Glenn and his wife, Alice, both of whom spent their early years in nearby Fowler.



### "PHONE TOWN AND CHECK THE LATEST PRICES"

When you're buying or selling, a little dip in the market price can make a big difference to you. To come out ahead, you need all the information you can get... and you need it quickly.

That's one reason why your telephone is so important. Nothing beats

the speed and convenience of a phone call for keeping you up to date, or for ordering equipment or supplies.

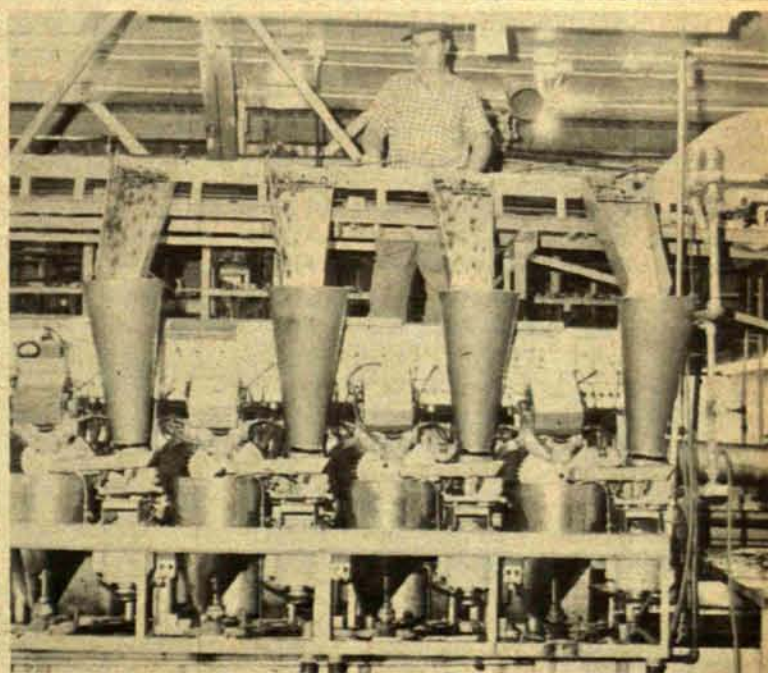
Think of the time and trips your telephone has saved you during the last couple of weeks. Nothing in your whole budget gives you so much service and value at such a low cost.

**MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY**

### RED TART CHERRY DAY



BERRIEN COUNTY FARM BUREAU MEMBERS Herbert Teichman and John Steimle and prominent orchard equipment inventor and manufacturer David Friday (left to right) are discussing mechanical harvesting of cherries at the recently held Michigan Red Tart Cherry Day near Eau Claire. Demonstrations of the latest mechanical harvesting equipment were held on the Teichman and Steimle farms during the day. Part of the crowd in attendance is shown in the background.



ELECTRONIC RED TART CHERRY SORTING MACHINES have been put into operation at the Burnette Farms Packing Company plant at Keeler. These machines were viewed during the tours of the plant by those attending the Michigan Red Tart Cherry Day held July 16. Electronic sorting machines are now replacing many of the less efficient hand sorters in Michigan cherry processing plants.



(In keeping with the Saginaw Valley-Thumb Area theme of this special issue, we salute the Farm Bureau Women of Districts 6 and 8 and their chairmen, Mrs. George Southworth and Mrs. B. H. Baker, in the seventh of a series featuring the State Women's Committee members.)

## A Better World...

"I believe that our Women's Committee is trying to make this a better world and I am glad to do what I can to help," says Mrs. George Southworth of her job as chairman of the District 6 Farm Bureau Women.

Mrs. Southworth (Florence) lives on a 320 acre farm in Elkton located in the Thumb area of Michigan. The Southworths raise registered Polled Hereford cattle and now have about 85 head.

Their "finest crop," however, Florence proudly explains, is their brood of grandchildren — 16 in all, ten boys and six girls — ranging in age from two to 16.

Responsible for this fine crop are the Southworth's four children. One of their sons farms, the other works for Chevrolet. One daughter is a farmer's wife and the other is the wife of an engineer.

Florence has worked with the Huron County Farm Bureau Women since they were first organized. She has served as secretary and chairman of the county group and as vice-chairman of the district. Husband George is also an active Farm Bureau member, having served as county chairman and on many committees.

Community and church ac-

tivities play an important part in the life of the District 6 Women's chairman. She has taught the Adult Sunday School class for over 20 years, and has held every office in the Women's Society of World Service. She served on the board of the Elkton Community Schools and was treasurer for four years.

Her hobbies are knitting and raising African violets.

Mrs. Southworth explains her devotion to Farm Bureau Women's activities in this way: "I feel that our work is important, that we need to do our part in helping to get the best legislative program passed that is possible."

"... we need to educate city people to know our problems, to keep our young people in school and see that they learn the principles of our American heritage."

## The Bean Baker

Although Mrs. B. H. Baker (Martha) of Merrill calls herself a "chicken choreboy" — a name derived from her work with the hens she raises "to keep my city customers happy" — to many folks she is better known as the best cook in the county.

Topping this list of "fans" who think so, are her husband, Bernie, two sons, one daughter, two daughters-in-law, one son-in-law, and especially her six grandchildren.

Others who place her in this category are the judges at the Saginaw County Fair who awarded her 17 prizes out of 21 entries, and those at the Bean Bake-offs — where she has won the sweepstakes three out of the past five years.

Partly-retired, the Bakers operate only a part of their 120-acre farm raising wheat, soy beans, corn and hay. Mrs. Baker's 300 hen flock has been reduced to 150. She likes to care for them, she says, and thinks a farm seems dead without the noise of cattle and chickens.

Martha, chairman of the District 8 Farm Bureau Women, has served as secretary of their local community group and on the county board of directors for 20 years; has been Roll Call manager for the west half of Saginaw County for two years and also has served as county women's chairman and district secretary.

In her community, Martha is well-known for her many activities, including service as treasurer of the local school district, township clerk, United Fund, Red Cross, the St. Johns Lutheran Church, and of course, she is

called upon repeatedly for weddings, dinners, and anywhere that good food is needed.

Hobbies, besides her baking (which she prefers to do in her old wood range even though she has an electric oven), include gardening and sewing — for herself and "for my girls."

The District 8 Women's chairman speaks highly of her organization's activities. "I think it is an important way of doing together things that we can't do alone. Through training programs, many of our farm women have been able to become leaders and be active in community affairs."

"As the farm population decreases, the need for organization becomes greater," says Martha Baker. "We farmers have too great an investment to ignore the local, state and national economic situation."



MRS. BAKER IS A BAKER — and a very good one — as anyone in the Saginaw area will testify. The District 8 Farm Bureau Women's chairman is shown whipping up one of her famous specialties.



HER FINEST CROP — proudly proclaims Mrs. George Southworth — is 16 grandchildren! The District 6 Farm Bureau Women's chairman is shown presiding at a picnic for a portion of this "crop."

## Wheat Moose Tightens

Most farmers have now received their 1965 Wheat acreage and price control notices, and — as predicted — will find that Secretary Freeman has cut the program to mean less income from wheat. Those signing up will get less money, those staying out will find it tougher, and it's still called "voluntary".

(In Michigan only 23% of the wheat farmers representing about 33% of the wheat acres signed up for the 1964 program).

The 1965 loan rate is cut 5¢ (to \$1.25). This means that Secretary Freeman can penalize non-complying farmers by dumping surplus wheat on the market at about 6¢ a bushel below the 1964 dumping price. (7.5 million bushels were effectively dumped the first week in July, 1964 compared to 1.9 million in July, 1963).

Only 80 % (down from 90%)

of a farm's "normal" production on its allotted acres will qualify for certificates. Domestic certificates worth 75¢ will be received for 45% (the same) of the normal yield, and 35% (down from 45%) will receive export certificates worth 30¢ (up 5¢).

Diversion payments for the mandatory 11.11% (same) cut in acreage are eliminated. Payments

will be made on additional diverted acres at the per acre rate of 50% of the support price on normal yield only (higher than 1964).

New provisions include: permit the substitution of wheat for feed grains, allow the establishment of bases on oats and rye, and storage, under bond, of excess wheat. Farmers must also stay within all other allotments.

For Michigan farmers it adds up to a smaller allotment, lower support to force compliance, smaller amount of the crop eligible for certificates and less income from wheat.

The noose tightens!

## "Blackbird Bye-Bye"

Help may be in sight for farmers and others who are suffering from extensive damage by heavy concentrations of starlings, blackbirds and other undesirable birds.

Damage to fruit crops in Berrien County has been estimated at \$2.5 million per year by Frank Madaski, County Extension Director.

Large acreages of corn and other crops are destroyed annually in Monroe County, particularly along marsh areas. Recently, Christmas tree growers in northern Michigan were finding serious damage to terminal buds by flocks of Canadian grosbeaks.

An advisory group, meeting with Michigan Director of Agriculture George McIntyre, assured him that help was needed and urged the State to match federal funds to start control work in Michigan. A staff of five fed-

eral-state men have been working in Ohio for about seven years.

"Damage to crops and aircraft, and transmission of disease by migratory birds such as blackbirds and starlings, must be solved on a multi-state basis," delegates to the Michigan Farm Bureau convention said last November.

Director McIntyre agreed to request a budget item for the control work. He pointed out that support of farmers and others would be needed if the funds are to be granted by the Legislature.

## THE HEART-BEET OF MICHIGAN

During 1963 Michigan farmers harvested and delivered over one million tons of beets to the state's five sugar factories for processing. This crop produced over 279,000,000 pounds of pure sparkling sugar for sale exclusively in Michigan during the current marketing year.

In an average year, the beet sugar industry of Michigan will derive from \$25,000,000 to \$30,000,000 from the sugarbeet crop. From this crop Michigan sugarbeet growers will receive approximately \$15,000,000 in company and conditional payments.

These dollars which the sugarbeet growers and processors of this state receive for sugar produced in Michigan affect economic units all around their own horizons and far beyond Michigan's 17 county beet producing area. Remember, every time a sugar beet grows — so does Michigan.

BEET SUGAR INDUSTRY OF MICHIGAN



## Special Report

## Saginaw Valley-Thumb Region



THE MEXICAN BEAN BEETLE AND THE GREEN CLOVERWORM have been doing considerable damage in the Saginaw Valley-Thumb area, and spray planes such as this, flying near Cass City, work continuously to halt the destructive insects.

## "Michigan's Breadbasket"

Some of North America's best farming land is found in Michigan's Saginaw Valley and "Thumb" regions. It is land so rich that it may sell from \$800 to \$1,000 per acre. However, sales are rare, and much of it passes along within family groups.

From this region flows a near unbelievable amount of golden grain and Michigan's famed "Navy" or pea-bean. Nearly half of Michigan's 40,000,000 bushel wheat crop is grown here, plus 90 to 95% of the entire United States pea-bean supply.

The popular white pea-bean moved into Michigan with German immigrants and soon became a major farm commodity.

German and Dutch influence continues elsewhere throughout the regions as attested by neat dairy barns, well trimmed fields and the personal initiative that has produced them.

In keeping with its agricultural importance, the regions have produced many farm leaders of stature. Two former presidents of the Michigan Farm Bureau have come from the Thumb—Clarence Reid from Avoca; and Ward Hodge of Marlette.

Hodge now serves as a member of the board of directors of the Michigan Farm Bureau and has been president of the American Dairy Association of Michigan.

Both former Michigan Farm Bureau Secretaries, Clark Brody and Jack Yaeger, had Thumb-area backgrounds. Brody worked as an Agricultural Agent in St. Clair county, Yaeger worked at one time as a writer for the Lapeer County Press.

Clarence Prentice, present Secretary-Manager of the Michigan Farm Bureau is a former Sanilac County Extension Agent. Glenn Lake, president of both the Michigan Milk Producers and the National Milk Producer's Federation, farms at North Branch.

Farm Bureau plays an important role in the Saginaw Valley and Thumb regions where more than 20,000 farm families are enrolled as members. Saginaw holds the record as the largest County Farm Bureau in the state, with 2,705 members. Huron County boasts the largest number of active Farm Bureau Community Groups, with 67 meeting on a regular schedule.

High-value swine, beef, and poultry enterprises, help balance the fields of grain and sugar-beets. Five modern beet factories turn out a combined 2,800,000 tons of Michigan's famed brands, "Pioneer" (Michigan Sugar Company) and "Big Chief" (Monitor Sugar Company).

Grain, beans, sugar, livestock and milk products, flow daily into international trade, opening Michigan's "breadbasket" to markets of the world.

## Michigan Beans "In the Soup?"

*"Bean soup in Michigan should be made with Michigan beans!"*

That statement was made repeatedly in a recent meeting of bean producers held in Saginaw. Present at the Farm Bureau sponsored meeting were bean producers from the seven leading bean producing counties in the state.

*Unlike the name-calling, finger-pointing emotional meetings held by some groups in the area, this meeting was a serious discussion of people seeking answers to the problems around them.*

While Michigan produces a lot of dry edible beans, other parts of the nation and the world produces beans too. Brazil alone produced 36 million bags in 1963 compared to the United States production of 21 million bags.

Complicating the fact is that along with Michigan, three other states have increased acreage and production in recent years, particularly Nebraska where the bulk of the Great Northern beans are produced. These are the beans that commonly find their way into "Michigan bean soup."

*Forty percent of the beans grown in the United States are produced in Michigan. Cash receipts from marketing these beans brought Michigan farmers \$46 million in 1962, and only sales of dairy products, cattle and calves and wheat brought larger receipts.*

*It is estimated that about 4 million bags of navy beans are consumed each year in the United States. The remaining stocks must be sold abroad or used in some government program. Farmers would much rather expand foreign markets.*

Bean producers also know that government stocks, support price, marketing agencies, processors and other factors influence bean prices.

Finally, farmers are concerned about the market cost spread between farmers and consumers.

*As the 1964 harvest arrives, producers find good crops estimated in Europe, increased carry-over stocks in elevators, increased CCC holdings from a year ago, and another large crop in Michigan and the nation. These factors add up to a downward pressure on price.*

The producers in the Saginaw meeting agreed that their own organization could help in obtaining market information for growers. They felt that research by our university on marketing problems, new uses and production methods would greatly aid the industry.

A Bean Commission to promote the consumption of beans and aid in market development would also help.

As the producers left Saginaw, the feeling was, "either through a Bean Commission or through Farm Bureau we are going to help ourselves as bean growers, and we'll put Michigan beans in the bean soup in this state."



## Outstanding Farmers Serve



**UNLOADING UNLOADERS**—Walter ("Wally") Frahm, rural Frankenmuth, is pictured putting together pieces of two self-unloading wagons used in work on the Frahm's 355 acres. Wally and brother, Ralph, farm in partnership on the home place where they were born and raised, and where dairy and cash crops are important operations. Wally serves as a "director-at-large" on the Michigan Farm Bureau board. In the picture, a new generation of Frahms "help" connect the head-bolt to the tailgate, or something.



**"LLOYD SHANKEL AND SONS"**—Richard, Valdo, and Larry—operate a highly productive 365 acres in rural Wheeler, Gratiot county. Beans, wheat, corn, oats and sugar beets are principal crops. Lloyd (seated in car) represents District 8 on the MFB Board of Directors.

Meet the members of the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors who live in the Saginaw Valley and Thumb areas of Michigan. They farm in the great dairy, grain, bean and sugar-beet sections of the state. As working, life-time farmers, they are typical of those who serve Farm Bureau.

### WALTER E. FRAHM

A new member of the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors, Walter ("Wally") Frahm was appointed as Director-at-Large in May, 1964 to fill the unexpired term of Anthony Kreiner, Brown City, who resigned.

Frahm, 36, operates 355 acres in partnership with his brother, Ralph. An excellent dairyman, he is a strong supporter of the Guernsey breed, and is serving currently as Secretary of the Michigan Guernsey Breeders' Association.

For four years (1960-63), Frahm acted as Chairman of the Michigan Farm Bureau dairy advisory committee. A dairy herd of nearly 100 head occupies much of his time, even though he is milking only about half that number.

Beans and sugar-beets are a big

part of the Frahm cash-crop operation with time-out somehow found for church work (Wally is an Elder in the Presbyterian church)—and for serving as president of the Frankenmuth School Board.

Wally and wife (Sally) have five children, from 2½ to 13 years of age.

### LLOYD SHANKEL

"District Eight"—made up of the counties of Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Midland, Saginaw and Gratiot (where he lives)—is represented on the Michigan Farm Bureau board by Lloyd Shankel.

Included in the region is the highly productive "Saginaw Valley" where the same beans, wheat, corn and sugar-beets that are mainstays on the Shankel farm, are widely grown.

A former president of the Gratiot County Farm Bureau, Shankel has been an active Farm Bureau member for a quarter-century. He and Mrs. Shankel (Lillian) are strong supporters of the Gratiot County Bean Smorgasbord, an event that annually attracts hundreds of persons and much favorable publicity.

Shankel's leadership has been



**PICTURED WHILE PRESIDENT**—of the Michigan Farm Bureau (1954-1958), Ward Hodge is shown in action during an annual meeting. Prior to his election as president, Hodge served as vice president and had been a director for eight years. He succeeded Carl E. Buskirk.

### WARD G. HODGE

Nearly 40 years of farming—more than half of that time spent in helping build Farm Bureau, is the record of Ward G. Hodge, District Six director on the Michigan Farm Bureau board.

The Hodge farm home is located in the Thumb near Snover, Sanilac county. Other counties of the district include Huron, Lapeer, St. Clair and Tuscola.

A past president of the Sanilac county Farm Bureau, Hodge has held nearly every important Farm Bureau post from those of his community group through the presidency of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

The original 40 acres of the Hodge farm were settled by his grandparents, and they obtained the deed from the government.

Mr. and Mrs. Hodge (Clady) are the parents of seven children, one of whom is former National Dairy Princess, Mary Sue Hodge (Mrs. Charles Becker).

# The Saginaw

A bold new landmark has been raised in mid-Michigan. Its graceful curves and soaring height are testimony to the faith farmers have in their future.

This massive structure was a scant few months in the building, but behind it are more than 40 years of work and vision.

Thousands of tons of mortar, hundreds of thousands of pounds of steel are the visible results. Not so visible is the concept, the idea of service-to-farmers, and the savings this represents. Not so visible is work of thousands of farm families, laboring together to help themselves through Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau Services.

Centered in nearly 30 acres of riverfront near Zilwaukee is the impressive Michigan Elevator Exchange division grain and bean terminal. Nearby is Farm Bureau Services' modern feed mill. Rail, truck and ship loading docks are part of the complex.

Thirty-six "tanks" each 120 feet high and 25 feet in diameter rest on 1,400 concrete piles, each driven to a 70 foot depth. A scant year from time when the piles were placed, grain trucks were delivering a steady flow of wheat to the completed terminal.

Operated by the Elevator Exchange division of Farm Bureau Services, the terminal has a total capacity of well over two million bushels of grain and beans. The wheat crop in the Saginaw Valley and Thumb areas of Michigan has been a good one again, and the 225 foot high work-house tower which directs the flow of grain into the tanks and "interstice" bins, hums day and night with activity.

Nearly half of Michigan's big 40,700,000 bushel wheat crop is grown in this area, along with most of Michigan's famed white "navy" pea-beans.

Although to the eye the dramatic terminal building vastly overshadows the nearby Services' feed mill, farmers easily see the importance of the feed facility. Transportation alone would make it important.

The mill location means that local grains can now be converted into locally used feeds and the savings reflected in lower production costs.

These transportation costs are cut still more through the "back-haul" practice—with new grain or beans trucked into the terminal, and a load of finished feed picked up nearby for the return trip. Fertilizer from Farm Bureau Services' Saginaw plant may substitute when occasion demands.

Feed ingredients not supplied locally can be shipped in bulk into the mill by rail. Automation lowers labor costs and a half-dozen employees turn out upward of 30,000 tons of animal or poultry feed in a year's time on a one-shift basis.

Designed to load bulk or bagged manufactured feed, the control "console" can be played much as a giant electric organ with precise formulas of pellets, crumbles, meal or textured feeds produced on request.

One largely unknown factor is the unfilled market promise of the St. Lawrence Seaway and demand for Michigan grain and beans from countries of the world. Farmers recognize the vast potential of this market and look upon the terminal as a new world gateway to ports of the "seven seas."

Soon, ocean-going vessels of 500 feet or more in length will snuggle up to loading berths to take on cargoes of grain and beans. A turn-basin gouged out of the Saginaw river allows them to retrace their voyage through the St. Lawrence to all parts of the world.

Just as an army depends strongly upon its supply lines, the terminal complex depends upon local farmer support to their local cooperative elevators and Services' branch outlets.

Cooperatives such as the Farmers' Co-op Elevator in Marlette and the Snover Co-op Elevator, both in Sanilac county, are vital links in the production chain.

Serving the terminal from Saginaw county are Farmers' Cooperatives at Chesaning and Hemlock. Tuscola county is served by the Caro Farmers Co-op Elevator Company at Caro, Akron and Cass City.

In Gratiot county, the Breckenridge-Wheeler Co-op serves local farmers and links them to the



**LARGER CARS, — LOWER COSTS.** Farmers gain by use of new giant, stainless steel freight cars, designed especially for bulk shipments. Grain and beans move quickly into the car through any of 12 loading ports, or out through discharge gates at the bottom of each compartment.



# Terminal Gateway to the World!

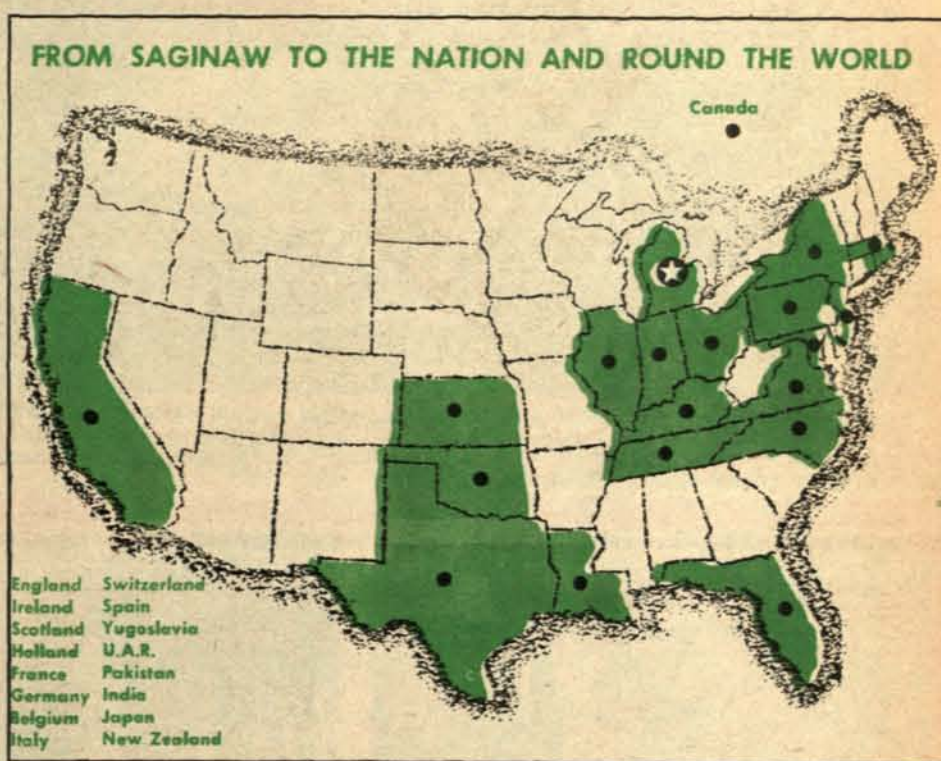
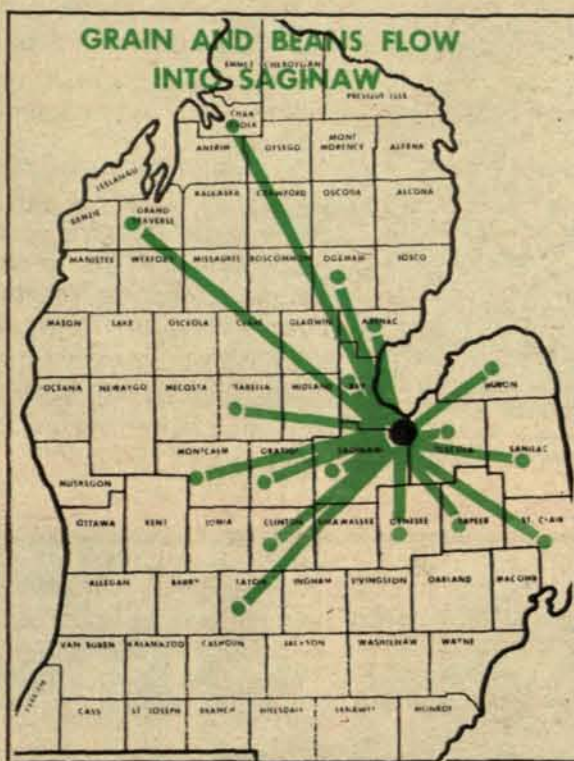
terminal, as does the Farmers' Cooperative Elevator of Fowler and the St. Johns Cooperative Company, both of Clinton county.

The Grand Blanc Co-op Elevator Company serves Genesee county farmers.

The Lapeer County Cooperative of Lapeer and Inlay City serves Lapeer.

Most outlets of all are located in Huron county, with five—the Cooperative Elevator Company of Pigeon, the Elkton Co-op Farm Produce Company, the Sebawaing Farmers Co-op, the Ruth Farmers' Elevator and the Farmers Co-op Grain Company of Kinde.

Farm Bureau Services branches at Mt. Pleasant, Sterling, Pinconning, Bay City, Sandusky, Saginaw, Yale and Jeddo are other important parts of the terminal production pattern.



## look who's Cheerleading—



## —the Vitality team this fall!

During this milk promotion, your A.D.A. will be talking to Michigan's 6 million teenagers and adults with the following:

- Spot radio — 52 Michigan stations — 1560 1-minute commercials
- CBS — ABC radio — 17 Michigan stations — 340 5-minute programs
- Newspaper — 16 Michigan dailies — 52 ¼ page ads
- Magazines — 4 Teen magazines — 138,000 circulation
- NBC TV — Huntley-Brinkley News — 6 stations

This total programming is all made possible through your American Dairy Association. Want more Vitality? Drink Milk. Want more Vitality in your Milk Sales? Invest in A.D.A.



**american dairy association**

OF MICHIGAN / 3000 VINE STREET / LANSING

## Commodity Specialist Appointed



Donald A. Shepard

Donald A. Shepard, 26, of Byron, Michigan, has been named Commodity Specialist for Distribution Division of Farm Bureau Services, Inc., according to Maynard D. Brownlee, general manager.

Shepard will have the responsibility of programmer for the various commodities offered by Services to its dealers. He comes to Farm Bureau Services with a wide range of agricultural and business experience.

He was an honors graduate of M.S.U. in 1959, majoring in Agriculture Education, and minors in Animal Science, Plant Science, and Farm Shop. He holds an M.A. degree from M.S.U. in School Administration and Ag Education, and is presently working on a doctorate.

Shepard has been a Vo-Ag teacher in Byron and Allegan for five years and a student teacher at Owosso High School.

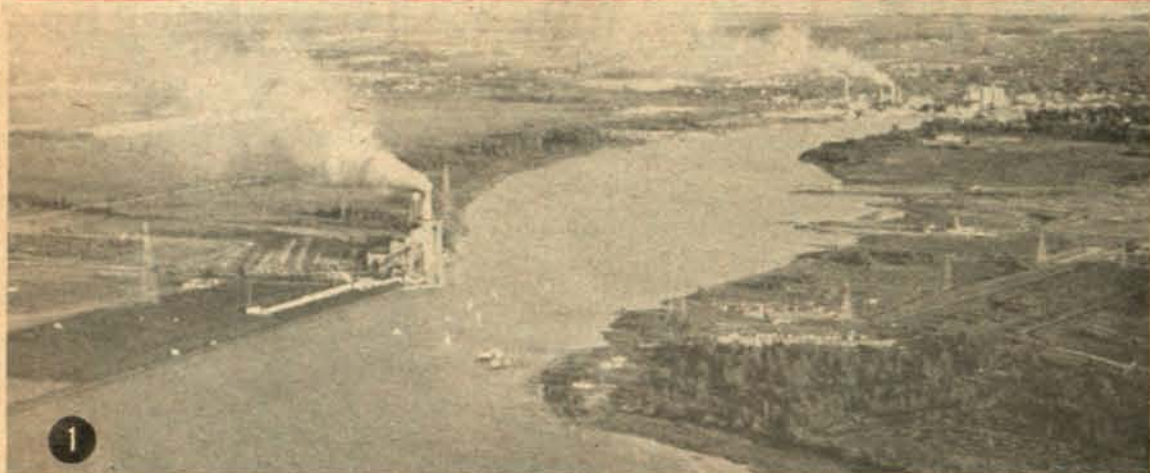
Besides pursuing an academic career in agriculture, Shepard found time to be very active among farm youth groups and educational associations.

He has been a member of the Byron Education Association, president of the Allegan Education Association, Shiawassee County Education Association and the Michigan Education Association, in addition to the Michigan and National Vo-Ag Teachers Associations; the Byron Masonic Lodge, Allegan Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Farm Bureau.

Shepard intends to reside in Lansing after the first of the year.



# East Central Region



THE SAGINAW RIVER AS IT SPILLS OUT INTO THE BAY—an important transportation route to the Saginaw Valley and Thumb area. Tying into the Saginaw River are its three major tributaries, "the temperamental Tittibawassee," the Cass and the Flint. Located a few miles from the mouth of the Saginaw, is the Michigan Elevator Exchange Division's grain and bean terminal, and the Farm Bureau Services Feed Mill.



THE GRATIOT COUNTY FARM BUREAU Executive Committee meets to examine the budget. From left to right: Garnet Hoard, county president; Mrs. Leona Vance, County secretary; and Laurence Bailey. The county office is located in Ithaca.



THE BEAN BEETLE AND CLOVERWORM have been at work in Ken Wagester's field of Dark Red Kidney beans. Wagester, Isabella county president (center), farms in partnership with son, Frank (at left). Regional Representative, Charles Mumford looks on.



THE CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT CENTER has been the site of recent Farm Bureau sponsored Freedom Conferences, and the university is an important factor in the education of the central Michigan young people.



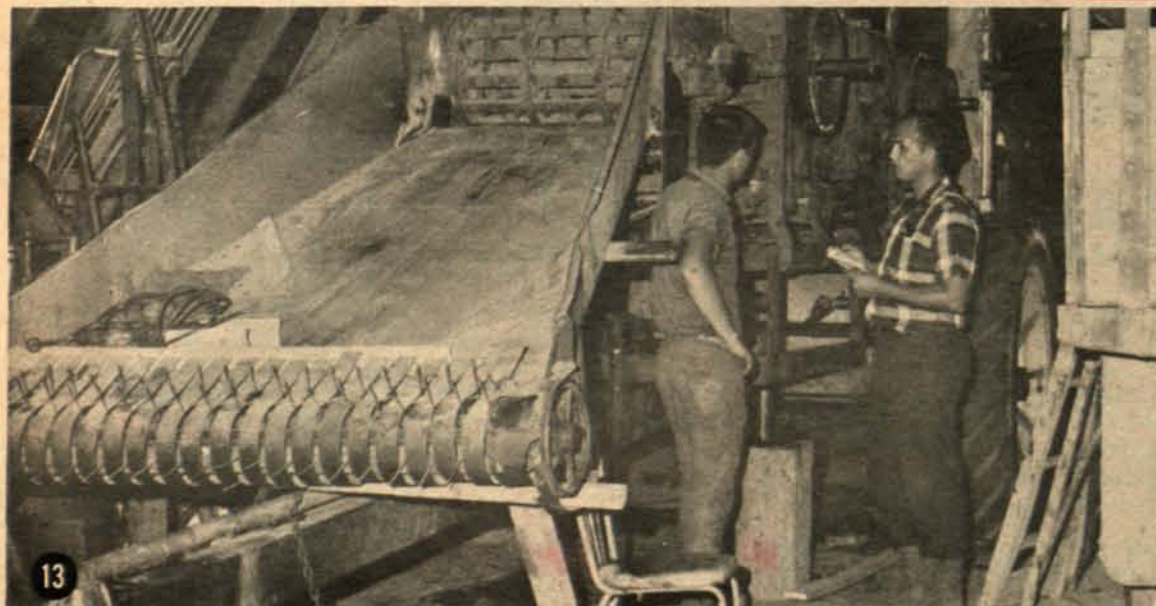
LOCAL FARM BUREAU PEOPLE played an important role in establishing the Michigan Livestock Exchange Branch at St. Louis. Although it handles all types of livestock, the yard is noted for its graded hog sales.



HOW TO TILE A FIELD FASTER—USE TWO TILING MACHINES, and that's just what Herb Peppel, Bay County Farm Bureau president did as tile is laid in his wheat field. Aside from the two tilers, Peppel also used a small "Cat" tractor and two pick-up trucks. He farms about 250 acres which sprawl over into Arenac county. Main crops are sugar beets, beans, wheat, and feed for a dairy herd.



APPEARING BEFORE THE ISABELLA COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD were two of the three high school students selected by the county to attend the recent Citizenship Seminar held at Camp Kett. The students, Albert Bowerman (glasses), and Charlene Himebaugh (to his right) gave an enthusiastic report to the board as they went into some detail on the problems facing America today.



FARMERS ARE NATURAL-BORN "TINKERERS" and John Ryan and son, John Jr. (left) shown talking to Paul Rivas, MFB Information Division, are no exception. The monstrous gadget they are looking at is a "modified-stationary beater." The original machine was a 1935 vintage implement, but with the extensive modifications—all performed right in the large barn, the new hybrid machine will outperform today's expensive bean threshers.



STILL A BIT EARLY FOR SUGAR BEETS, but MFB board member, "Wally" Frahm's beets already had a nice "heft" to them as regional man, Charlie Mumford learned. However, beets are not Frahm's major interest. An excellent dairyman, he is a strong supporter of the Guernsey breed, and has a large registered award-winning herd.





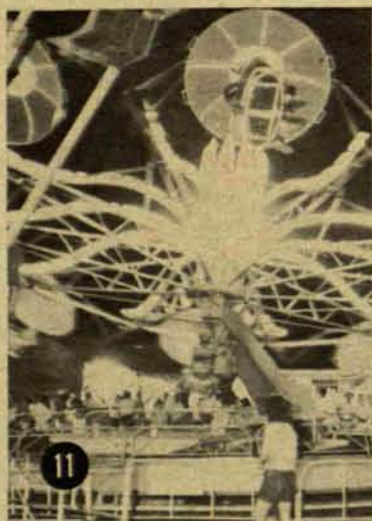
A "CRAZY-QUILT" PATTERN is the way the Saginaw Valley farmlands appear from the air. Below and beyond the eye's sight stretch 13,000 commercial farms and over 9,800 Farm Bureau families. The total agricultural income of the area exceeds \$80,000,000 and represents a highly diversified ag-industry.



WARNER MEYLAN, "MASTER BEAN GROWER," Bay County Farm Bureau vice-president and president of the Michigan Bean Producers Association. Meylan has been a bean grower for 34 years, and presently farms about 600 acres, of which 295 acres are in beans. In 1963, he toured Europe to promote Michigan beans. Meylan farms with his two sons, Kenny and Billy. He also has over 130 acres of sugar beets.



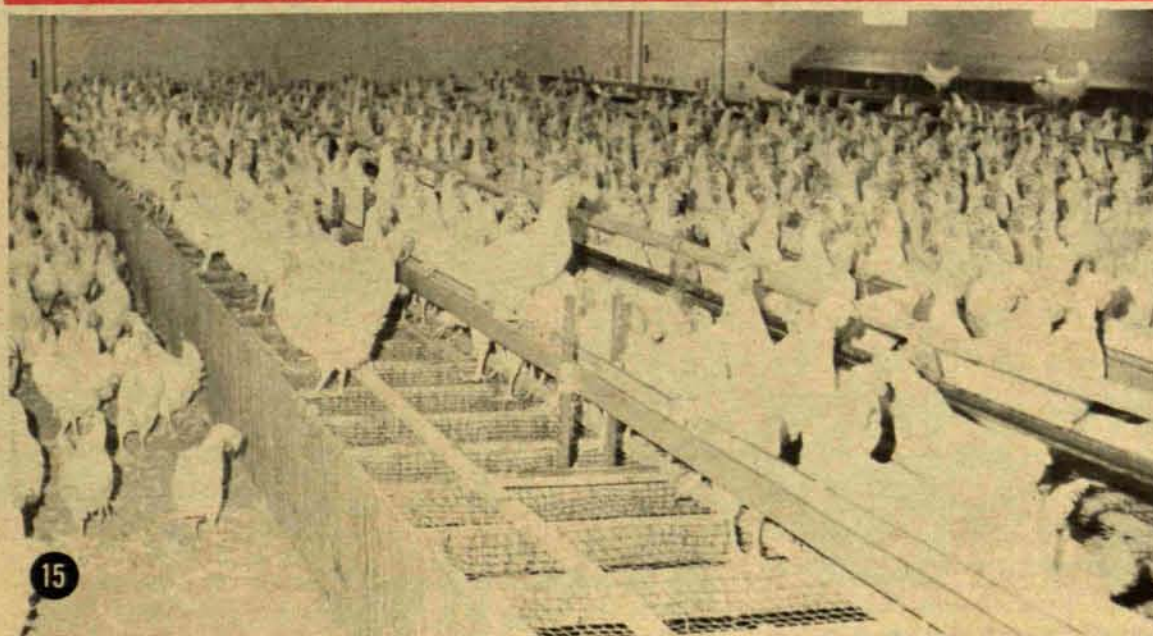
ALL THAT'S LACKING is a little butter and salt, as Rudolph Reinbold husks a golden ear of sweet corn, of which he has 35 acres. Reinbold also grows wheat, beets and beans—and is a co-operator in the TELFARM electronic farm record keeping program.



BRIGHT LIGHTS AND POPCORN mean county fair time once again. The Clare Fair, held at Harrison, is the first to be held in the region and is typical of the many others throughout the state.



SHOWING OFF HER "CREATION"—a specially designed service desk, is Bay County Farm Bureau office manager, Ardath Madison (right). Assistant secretary, Beverly Smith watches as Ardath answers regional man, Charlie Mumford's questions. The county office has complete meeting room and cooking facilities.



MERL BYINGTON AND SON, REX, ARE IN THE EGG BUSINESS TO STAY as their large, loose-housed 8,000 layer flock attests. They also raise about 4,000 replacement birds, and grow about 200 acres of corn for feed which they process and mix right on the farm. The layers are housed in five pens in a 376-foot frame building. Daily production is 5,000 eggs.

# Regional Notebook

By Charles Mumford  
East Central Regional Representative

This is the Saginaw Valley, a truly great agricultural and industrial complex—all located in the geographical center of our peninsula state and the Great Lakes area.

I'm the Regional Representative for the area, and my name's Charlie Mumford. My 17 years with the Michigan Farm Bureau have more or less earned me the title, "Dean of the Field Staff."

My wife, Bernice, is a teacher, and we have four grown children. Previously I worked at farming and as a salesman.

The major factor in the growth and prosperity of the "Valley" is the storied Saginaw River and its tributaries—the temperamental Tittibawassee, Cass and Flint.

There are approximately 13,000 commercial farms and over 9,800 Farm Bureau families. The total agricultural income of the area exceeds \$80,000,000 per year.

Agriculture here is highly diversified and crops include corn, wheat, sugar, beets, truck crops, soy and colored beans, livestock and dairy products.

Ninety-five per cent of the famous "Navy" white pea beans are grown in the Saginaw Valley and Thumb.

Bay county, on the Saginaw Bay, is a highly developed truck garden area, and two townships grow more early potatoes than any similar area in the country. Munger is the potato capital. High yielding sugar beets are also grown in the county.

Arenac, also on the Bay, is famous for its fishing sites, limestone quarries, fertile muck soils, and general farms.

Gladwin has plenty of state forests and deer, and is a haven for retirees, with dairying the main industry.

Much of the same can be said for Clare county, and its county seat of Harrison—center for both summer and winter recreation and vacations.

Isabella has Mt. Pleasant as its county seat which claims to be the "Oil Capital" of the state, and is the home of Central Michigan University.

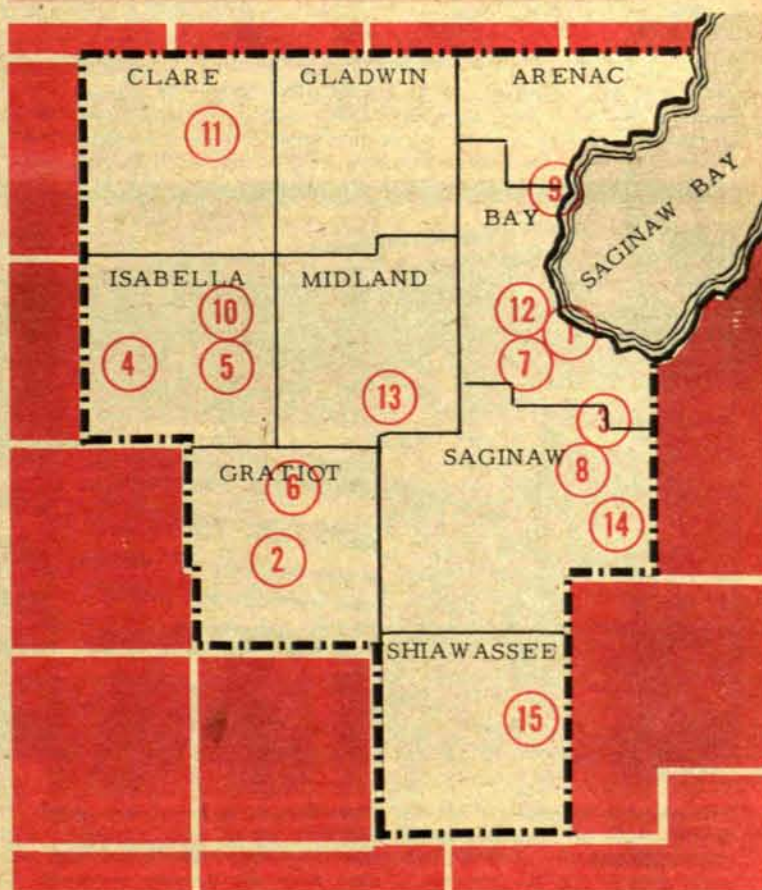
Gratiot and its county seat, Ithaca, boasts high yields of beans, beets, wheat and corn, and also has several large turkey farms. Livestock producers have large investments, and the Michigan Livestock Exchange auction yards at St. Louis provide markets.

Midland county has oil wells, salt wells, and very fertile farm lands. A recent addition to the county is the Northwood Institute.

Shiawassee has Owosso as trading center with dairying and general farming supporting most of the agriculture. The county is near large cities which provide ready markets.

Saginaw county with the largest Farm Bureau membership in the state—over 2,700 member families, has extensive agricultural operations including the new grain and bean terminal located in Zilwaukee.

It is a pleasure to work with the farm people of this region. They have made this land one of our state's finest garden spots—they are "Americans" in the best tradition.





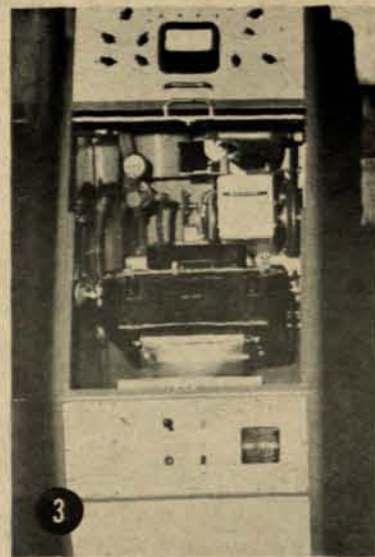
# The Thumb Region



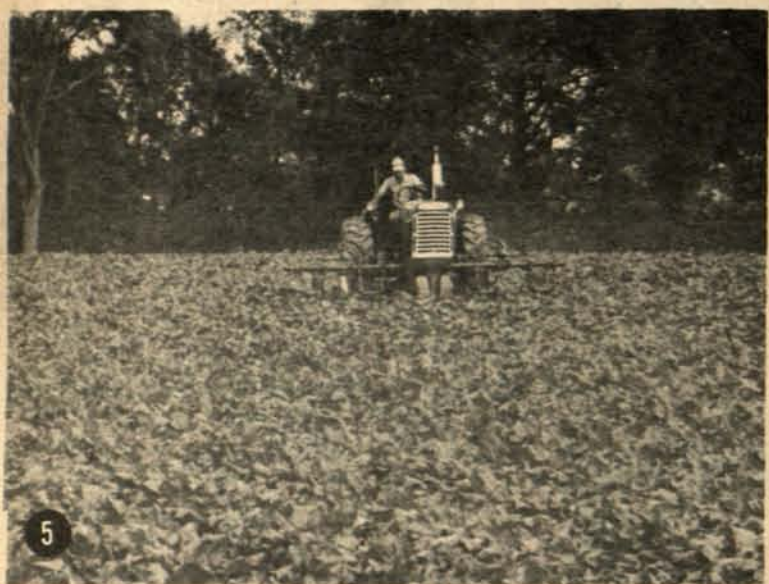
**EARLY MORNING AND TIME TO SCRAPE THE LOT**, so Clifton Lotter hooks up the scraper blade to the tractor. Lotter, with his son Orlin, maintains 50 head of Holstein milking cows along with raising about 200 hogs during the year. They farm about 320 acres with Orlin handling much of the haying operation.



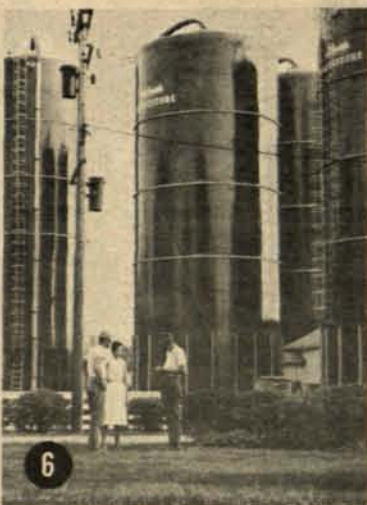
**THE TUSCOLA COUNTY FARM BUREAU OFFICE** in Caro serves over 2,200 member families in the county. The office was completed in 1961. Located nearby is a Farmers Petroleum Co-op outlet, and the Caro Farmers Co-op and Elevator Company which can be seen in the background. Harvest time is a busy time in Caro.



**ELECTRONIC SORTERS**—this is one of 29 recently installed electronic bean sorters at the Caro Farmers Co-op and Elevator. The machines work continuously 24 hours a day sorting about 80 pounds of beans each hour.



**FORMER JUNIOR FARM BUREAU PRESIDENT**, Paul Leipprandt, cultivates a beautiful field of sugar beets. Leipprandt, on the state FB board in 1955-56, farms about 400 acres in partnership with his brother John. There are 85 acres of sugar beets, 130 acres of beans, and a 30-head Holstein dairy herd.



**BLUE LANDMARKS** on the Don Caister farm are the four Harvestore silos sitting almost in the front yard. Regional Representative Dewey Sugden talks to Caister's son, Bob, and his wife Ann. The Caisters raise about 350 steers a year.



**JACK LAURIE, HIS WIFE BETTY, AND TWO CHILDREN** discuss the problems of the dairy business with regional man Dewey Sugden. Jack farms in partnership with his father, Grover—about 280 acres, 75 acres in beans, 36 acres of oats, 28 acres of wheat and the rest in hay. Their Holstein milking herd presently numbers 55 head. Jack and Betty are members of a young farmer community group.



**JACK AND BILL SIMMONS OF NORTH BRANCH TOWNSHIP** produce a lot of meat on their farm. With more than 600 acres in production—over 530 acres planted in corn, they are able to feed out about 500 steers a year in addition to some 800 hogs. For storage they have a 36/63 and a 27/60 silo.



**THE FARMS MAY NOT BE LARGE**—but the production is high on the muck farms around Imlay City. Bill Makedonsky, shown inspecting his onion crop which is nearing harvest, uses five tractors, including two small "Cats" to work his 45-acre farm and an additional rented 15 acres. To help harvest his 40 acres of potatoes, Makedonsky built his own harvester.



**A HOT SUMMER'S DAY**, a boy, a faithful dog, a horse and a herd of registered Brown Swiss cattle. The farm is the Al Oswald's and the boy is their foster son, Calvin, astride the broad back of a patient cow. The 55 head of cattle are about half registered and there are currently 30 cows in the milking herd.

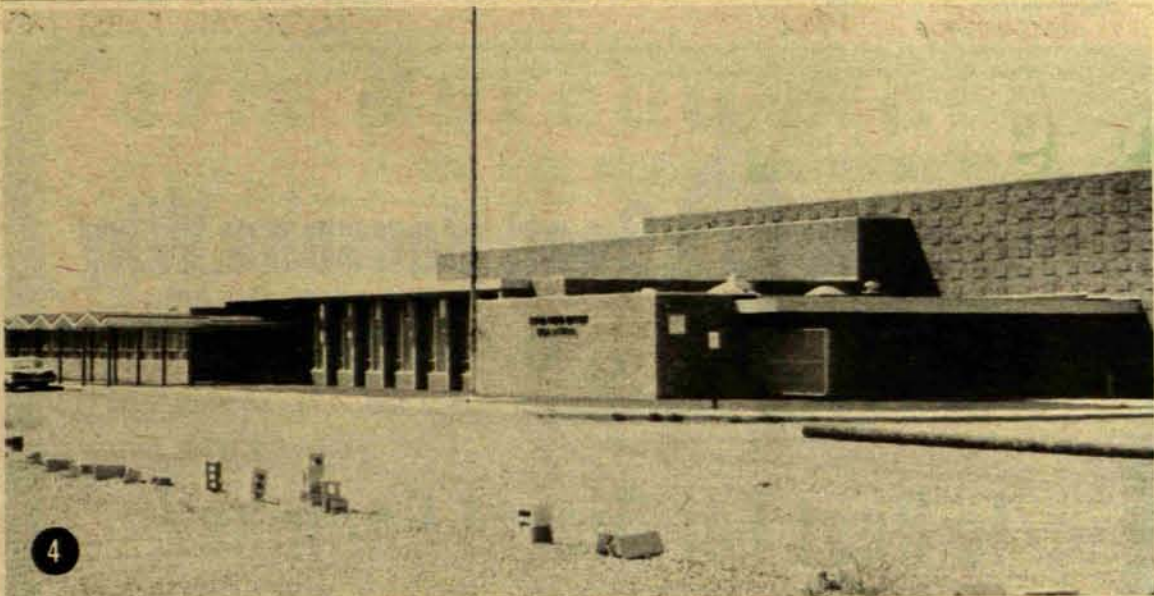


**ONE MILLION POUNDS OF MILK A YEAR** means a lot of work and Pete Spencer is no stranger to work as he handles bales of straw—a tractor can only do so much. Spencer's 60 Holstein milking herd has a daily base of over 2,900 pounds which is better than one million pounds of milk per year. Helping their father is Gordon who works fulltime and Jim who works when he is not studying at school. The farm covers 320 acres owned and 160 rented acres with 135 acres planted to corn.

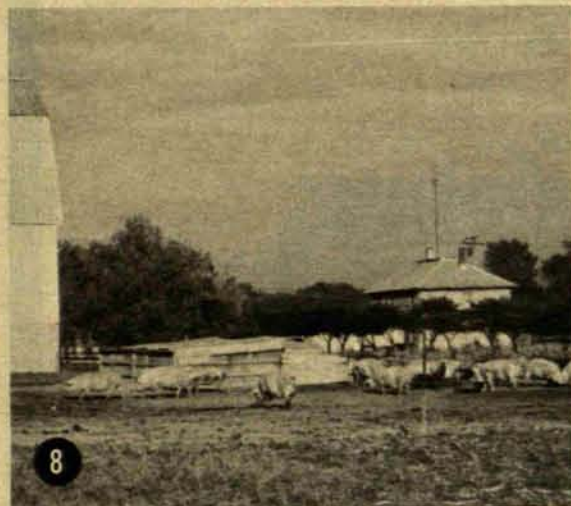


**A CLEAN STAND AND QUALITY PRODUCE**—a sure sign that the owner belongs to the Certified Farm Market Association of southeastern Michigan, and Herman Rapp's roadside market meets the requirements. Rapp has been in the same location for the past 28 years, and will soon be in partnership with his son Karl.

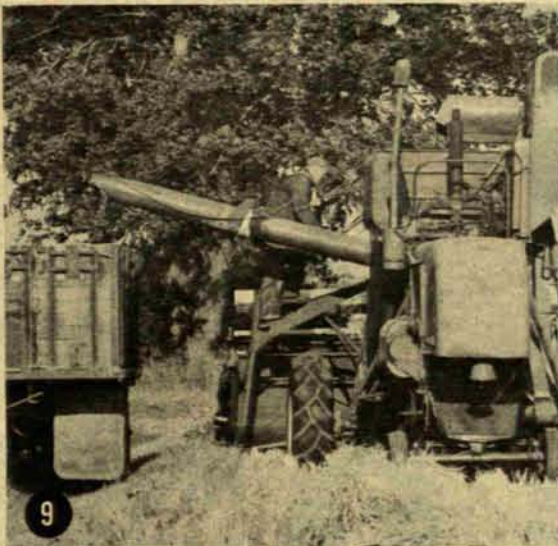




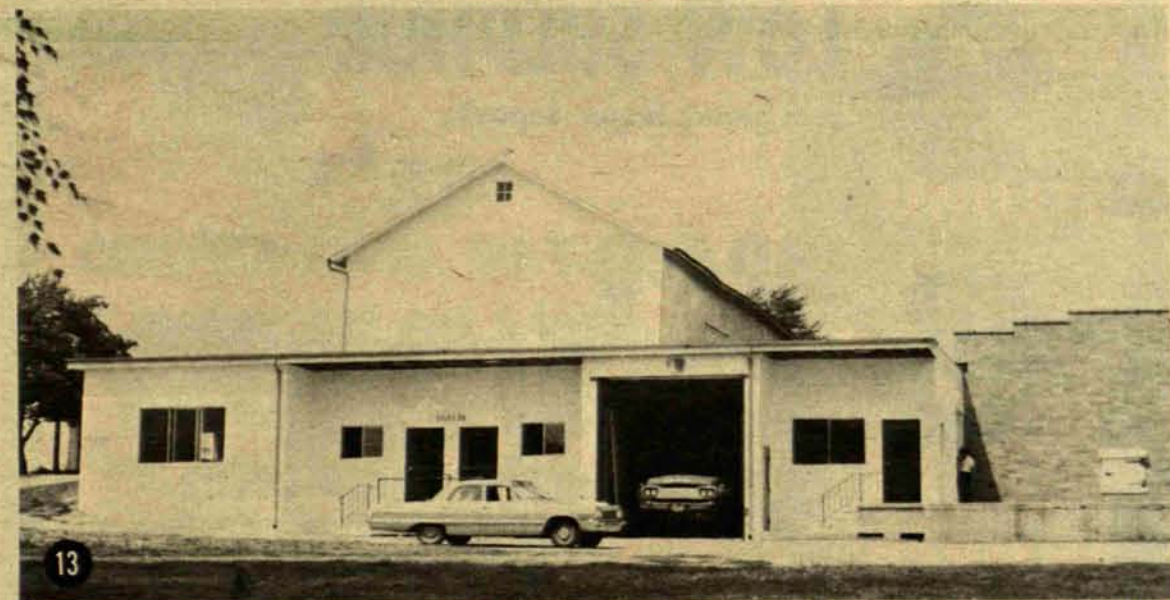
**4**  
CITIZEN ACTION UPGRADES HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL LEVEL—The Elkton-Pigeon-Bayport Consolidated High School is an excellent example of citizen concern and action. Separately, each of the three small high school districts with an enrollment of 100 to 200 students, could only offer the minimum essentials. Through consolidation and annexation, however, the new centrally located high school offers an expanded curriculum, made possible because of the new school's enrollment of over 500 students.



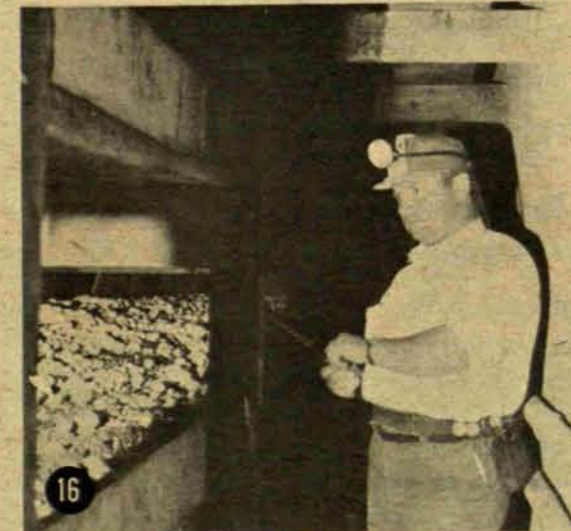
**8**  
LANDRACE-YORK CROSS HOGS are the money makers for the Wiswells, Leonard and his wife Evah. A typical year finds them marketing about 900 hogs. Although the 410-acre farm takes up much of Evah's time, she still manages to remain active in Farm Bureau as membership roll call chairman. Aside from feed, they also grow 150 acres of beans—naturally.



**9**  
IT'S UP ON THE COMBINE for Henry Gerstenschlager as he starts to unload some oats nearing the end of a long day. Gerstenschlager is presently farming about 250 acres, 135 acres of which are in corn, and 12 acres in oats. He usually feeds about 150 to 250 head of beef cattle.



**13**  
A RECENTLY COMPLETED SALES ROOM is the newest addition to the Stoney Creek Orchard of Loren Ross. The combined sales room and cold storage area shown above has a capacity of 26,000 bushels. Ross has 110 acres of producing apple trees, six acres of young peaches, ten acres of new pears, and 60 acres of semi-dwarf and standard apple trees.



**16**  
160,000 POUNDS OF PRODUCE ON A COUPLE OF ACRES—impossible unless you're a mushroom grower like the Mankos, Alex and his son Steve, shown watering down the heavily laden beds of young mushrooms. This tremendous yearly crop is produced by the Mankos in a 138x72 foot mushroom house—one of the largest operations in Michigan.



**17**  
A PRETTY GIRL COMPLETES THE STORY—Kathy, daughter of the Arthur Avereys, helps her parents, along with her young brother, Tommy, by keeping the weeds out of the rhubarb, and by helping with the chores on the 40 acre truck farm. The Avereys have a double dark house for their winter rhubarb.

# Regional Notebook

By Duane Sugden  
Thumb Regional Representative

This section of the FARM NEWS features the people and farms in the area east of Saginaw to Lake Huron, and south from Port Austin, at the top of the thumb, to the Wayne county line. It is one of the largest Farm Bureau membership regions in the state.

I'm Dewey Sugden, and this is my region. I was born in Tuscola county, raised on a farm, and was graduated from the Mayville High School in 1932. After graduation, I left the area but later returned to Mayville and married my wife, Betty. I became regional representative for the Farm Bureau in 1961.

Our home is "on the farm" near Mayville, where we live with our two children Diane and Bob.

Criss-crossing the Thumb region are hundreds of miles of highways and roads—and perhaps the best way to know the area is to take an imaginary drive and discover its many facets.

To really see the Thumb and its agriculture, you have to leave the main highways and take the inroads. Starting from Mt. Clemens, and crossing Huron county, lie the many acres of beets, beans and wheat that make the county one of the largest producing areas of these commodities in the state.

Moving into Tuscola county, the well cared for fields of beets, beans and wheat continue along with vast areas of certified seeds produced within the county. Continuing south are the many Christmas tree farms which have sprung up in the past few years. And like Huron county there are many beef and dairy operations.

The beans, beets and beef continue with many additional acres producing snap beans and pickles. Sanilac and Lapeer counties are the two top dairy counties in the state, and Lapeer also produces all of the Thumb's major commodities.

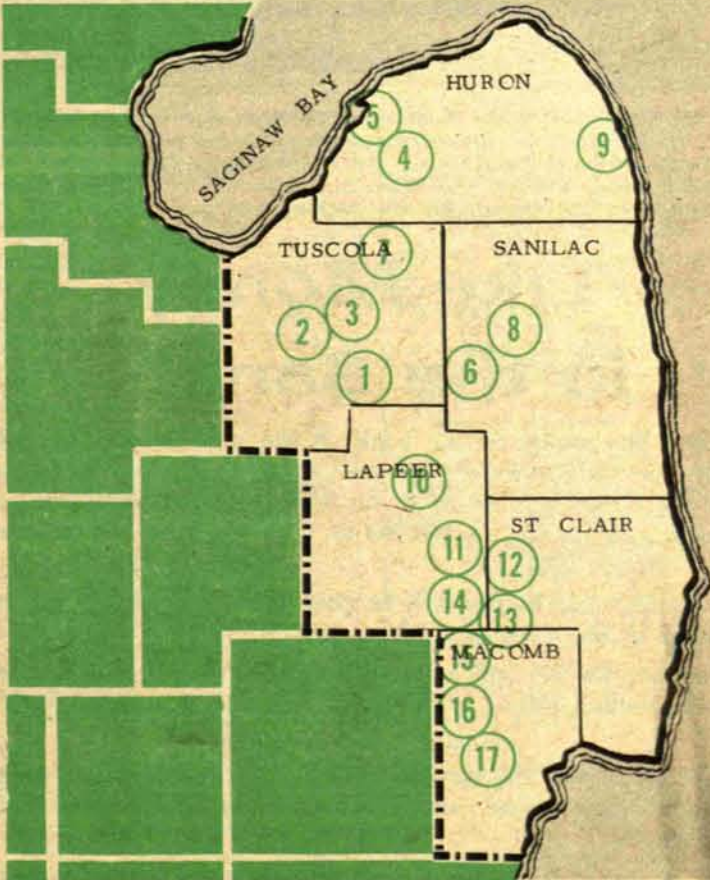
In the Imlay City area, vast acres of fertile muckland produce many garden vegetables, much of which is marketed in the Detroit area.

St. Clair county, the gateway county to our Canadian friends, is devoted mainly to general types of farming, and turning south, crossing into Macomb county, stretch a variety of farming that is found in few counties.

To name a few, there are dairying, beef, poultry, cherries, peaches, apples, all of the garden vegetables, plus the dark house rhubarb farms and mushroom houses. Many roadside markets dot the highways and byways where the farmers sell their produce directly to the consumer—always eager for farm-fresh quality.

Most of the Thumb's roads tie into four state highways which are direct routes into Detroit. With today's transportation system, this makes a short distance for many of the Thumb commodities.

It has been a privilege to work with Farm Bureau members of the region and the many acquaintances throughout the state. I will always believe farming to be the greatest business in America, and one that keeps the individual more appreciative of our American heritage.





## Rural Electric Co-ops

Farm Bureau has a long history of constant support of rural electric co-ops and fought for the R.E.A. (Rural Electrification Administration) legislation passed by Congress in 1936. The Congressional intent was to furnish "electric energy to persons in rural areas who are not receiving central station service." R.E.A. became a permanent lending agency of the federal government.

The principal recipients of R.E.A. loans have been electric cooperatives (R.E.C.s). There are fifteen such co-ops in Michigan, with nearly 100,000 services installed and more than 20,000 miles of line.

Much of their power is generated in their own plants and the rest is purchased from private power companies. In some cases, power is sold to private companies.

Farm Bureau policies, resulting from voting delegate action, both state and national, continue to support fully the electric cooperatives organized and operated in accordance with accepted cooperative principles and practices.

Ownership and control should be clearly secured in the hands of the member patrons.

Bylaws should provide that (1) the individual member be informed annually the amount of his allocations, and (2) a majority of the members must approve any sale that involves a substantial portion or all the assets of the co-op.

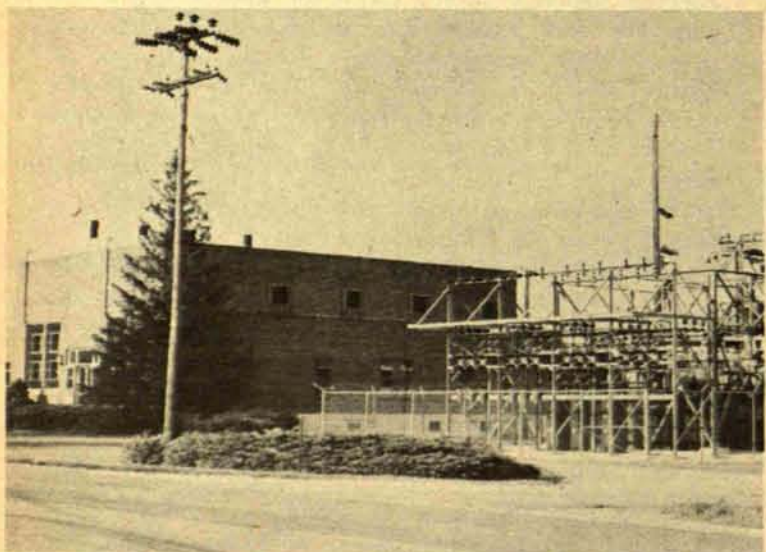
Transfers of equity interest should be limited to persons qualified or qualifying for membership — thus preventing the capture of the organization by outside interests.

Recognizing that perhaps misunderstanding and confusion exist in the minds of some people, leaders of Michigan's fifteen R.E.C.s and the Farm Bureau have met several times in a mutual effort to assure their members (in many cases the same people) that there is no misunderstanding in Michigan.

This has been accomplished by a thorough study of Michigan's R.E.C. bylaws. It has been determined that, in general, they meet the tests that assure proper control by the member patrons.

The legal structure of most Michigan rural electric cooperatives could well be the pattern for other states.

One other area of mutual concern to the R.E.C.s and Farm Bureau is the need for enactment of State legislation which will protect the rural electric cooperatives against invasion of their service areas.



THE GENERATING PLANT of the Thumb Electric Co-op is typical of the many rural electric co-operatives serving the state's agricultural population. Manager of the Thumb Electric Co-op for the past two decades is Orville Hurford, who is also president of the Michigan R.E.C. association. The Thumb Co-op services nearly 6,500 members using 1,500 miles of line.

## "Like Money In the Bank"

"Just like money in the bank" is the way farmers refer to their stock in Farmers Petroleum Cooperative — and that's just what it turned out to be as the FPC board of directors announced the calling of \$40,000 of Class A stock for cash on September 1, 1964.

An additional \$60,000 will be paid at the rate of 5% on the balance of the Class A stock.

Another \$20,000 will be paid to holders of patronage certificates totalling \$10 or more, at the rate of 3% on October 31, 1964.

The balance of the earnings will be distributed as patronage refunds — 25% in cash and the remainder as deferred patronage certificates.

All of which goes to prove that farmers benefit when farmers join together to help themselves.

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# Programs Take People-Power

## DISCUSSION TOPIC

Prepared by the Education and Research Department,  
Michigan Farm Bureau

A Perpetual Motion Machine? The records of the patent offices of America and Europe were cluttered with designs for such fantastic devices a century ago. They were ventures in futile folly.

Perpetual motion asked that nature make an exception to her laws. A device was supposed to develop motion, power — energy — without using other energy to propel it.

*People often come to expect perpetual motion of their organizations. They may think that, once you have set the system spinning, you can forget it. No perpetual motion machine ran for long. Action without supporting effort by the members means diminishing programs.*

When organizations are born, men put personal power behind the drive to organize. The efforts are aimed at clear-cut and conscious purposes. It was true with the farmers who organized Farm Bureau. They founded their Farm Bureau as a means of taking cooperative action.

*Experience had shown that independent action was a failure. No farmer, alone, could finance the efforts needed, nor could he spare the time to do the whole job. But if the load of financing, thought and work were shared, much became possible.*

Farm Bureau members did not begin by organizing a state or national organization. They began at home, in their own county.

The success of the whole effort rested on this. It made the organization a personal thing, and was neighbor-join-neighbor in a common task.

Farmers would work with farmers, not with state or national officers, in building basic programs. They would provide the power to make the programs GO.

Of course these founding farmers soon realized that some of their problems and needs reached out to state and national fronts. There were problems of all farmers — in common. But they formed their state association as a federation of their county units, and they established the American Farm Bureau as a federation of state units.

*The County Farm Bureau came FIRST, both in history and in importance! Had farmers not put their spirit into the organizing effort, Farm Bureau would never have taken form.*

There was no idea of substituting the state or national organizations for the farmer's personal efforts. Such associations would simply give their efforts wider scope and greater power, multiplying member support.

Whatever the level, the members were "in the act up to their necks." Decisions, programs, vast legislative campaigns, petitions to be circulated . . . Farm Bureau was "WE", not "THEY!"

*It was never in the minds of these farmers that Farm Bureau was some distant center, managed by strangers, set up to do something FOR them while they stood idly by.*

Farm Bureau is forty-five years old. Within such a period, organizations accumulate a certain number of PASSIVE members. But in a voluntary organization, the life of the body depends on ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS. Only with their help can financing be kept at a MINIMUM which is possible, if members do much of what needs to be done.

Active members become vital to keep programs growing and going. There is no gigantic staff

such as is found in big industrial corporations. A small staff is employed to give guidance and know-how.

But members who help build, get a keen sense that the organization is their own. The ACTIVE MEMBER puts himself into the game. He knows that programs depend on him to a large extent.

Gripes and complaints usually come from some non-active members who fail to understand what makes their organization tick. They assume that it can deliver benefits without action on their own part.

*Some are more than passive — they are negative. Gripping and complaining actually generates nothing but its own misery. The griper is like the man who kicks his car because it runs out of gas.*

The meaning is simple. A voluntary organization depends on maintaining a vital core of active members who remain alive and driving for the goals set by the members. If others finance it, if service organizations producing things FOR members gain sway, it is no longer a "farmers' organization."

*The founding members of Farm Bureau put the requirement well — "We need Farm Bureau so that we can DO FOR OURSELVES those things which we cannot do alone."*

The County Farm Bureau is still the place where action begins. Out of that action will begin larger programs at the state and national levels.

The members live in the counties, and programs should be more active there than at any level. If members are not building and supporting programs there, the foundation of all action is undermined.

State and national programs should not eclipse county program efforts. The dominant thing in the member's mind should not be a Farm Bureau "somewhere else." He never will think thus if members are tackling problems on the home front, catching the attention of everyone because they are "on the ball!"

*These are changing times. A glance at agriculture over the county, state and nation raises a question. What programs may*

*best serve Farm Bureau members today? Farming has changed since 1919, when Farm Bureau was founded. Membership is less uniform.*

There are still members who are full-time farm operators. But they have changed. Many have had to expand the size of their farms and change their farming methods. They had to do so to methods to keep ahead of the rising costs of operation.

With their changing methods of operation, new needs for services emerged, new problems of purchasing, specialization, management decisions and records, estate planning and inheritance, and new marketing methods developed. How could Farm Bureau best contribute to the needs of such members?

*But wait! Many Farm Bureau members still farm on a smaller scale. In many cases, these members depend for a considerable share of their income on employment off the farm.*

They may have a different set of needs than the full-time farmer. They, too, are members. How can Farm Bureau programs and services best serve these farmers?

With farmers of different circumstances in the picture, the problem of developing programs can prompt some head-scratching. But no programs can be made to fit until both groups set forth their wants and needs.

Without the help of the farmers — who have the farmer's view of things as they are on the farm — expert planners cannot "invent" programs that fit.

There are differences in what the farmers produce today, as well. More crop and product specialization. So, marketing needs and programs may be very different for those in separate commodities.

*How can Farm Bureau's service organizations adjust to all these differences? The farmer members should say.*

All Farm Bureau service companies came into being by the request of Farm Bureau delegates. Members not only said "We need." They advanced the money to start such programs as the F. B. Services, Farmers Petroleum Cooperative and the F. B. Insurance companies.

They asked for the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association. And grower groups that have used MACMA's help asked for that help.

The growers design, pay for and "row their own boat," while MACMA renders those services which the producers request. That has always been the relation between the Farm Bureau programs at the state level and the members at the County level.

*Under the Farm Bureau tradition, members have wanted it that way.*

Are the programs now being pursued by the County Farm Bureaus meeting the member needs? How much interest have members taken in planning, guiding and manning such programs?

The problems of farmer members extend beyond farming, and crop up because farmers are citizens of the community and county. Developments right around home affect the very lives of farmers. Farm children grow

up in rural communities. Markets and employment opportunities may depend on whether industries locate there. Local ordinances may also affect farmers. Do members "wish" that the County Farm Bureau would do

*something to solve some local problems? Make the wish the father to the act.*

Many areas for action could be explored. If problems there are, members should key their County Farm Bureau to action.

## Possible Action Areas

### THE AGRICULTURAL SIDE

Could farmers benefit by having Farm Bureau take the initiative to establish a County Agricultural Council? Some Counties have done so. The Council brings together the farmers' organizations, commodity associations, farm agencies, etc. to study and work out plans for the benefit of agriculture in the County. The County Extension Agent is usually a core resource person.

### SCHOOL PROBLEMS?

Are there building problems? Questions of school board policy or teaching policy? Do members need to be better informed on school affairs? Is tax millage being properly used? Farm Bureau gives the members an ORGANIZATION TIE to approach all problems of the local nature.

### SAFETY AND TRAFFIC PROBLEMS?

It is unusual if you do not. County roads have the heaviest record of traffic fatalities in the state. Should you find out why? Are more and better safety measures needed? New safety ordinances?

### COMMUNITY PLANNING? ZONING LAWS?

Planning often permits farm land to be zoned as agricultural before it is gobbled up by suburbs. You may keep undesirable junk yards or beer taverns out of your front yard or away from your churches. Such things affect the value of members' properties.

### POSSIBILITIES ALMOST ENDLESS

We could not list the most pressing problem of any community here. But what about growing sewage disposal problems and water pollution? Drainage problems? Fire and police services? Road and highway needs? Snow removal, weed and brush along the roadsides?

Health programs — Sanitation? Inspection on farms and in farm markets? Health clinics, hospitals and the supply of doctors?

We could go on. Recreation and hunting problems, welfare load or policies, farm credit programs — yes, even farm supply and equipment services.

Or consider publicity. Do farmers get favorable public press and radio? Is the image of the farmer in the minds of urban people an ugly ghost? What about more local publicity by the County Farm Bureau to "lay that ghost?"

*Who OUGHT TO do what? If you are one of those who say that "THEY" ought to be doing something, remember that "THEY" need your help, counsel and support if something is to get done. In a voluntary organization, YOU are part of "THEY!"*

An old saying fits the Farm Bureau approach. "He who cuts his own wood warms himself twice."

## QUESTIONS

1. What local or County problems need organized group effort to tackle them?
2. What programs could your County Farm Bureau promote to improve its value to members? Please list. Would you commit yourselves to support such programs?
3. Farmers are not alike in size of farm, production or sources of income. Some work part time off the farm. How can Farm Bureau programs and services grow to fit the needs of today's varied farm people?





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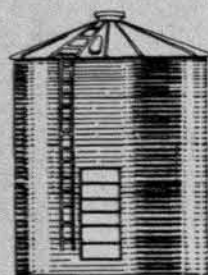
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# Joining Hands to Promote Michigan Agriculture



## Farm Bureau Insurance Co-Sponsors Outstanding Young Farmer Program

*N. L. Vermillion, Administrative Vice President of the Insurance Companies and Robert Zeeb, past Michigan OYF winner and chairman of the '64-'65 OYF Program are meeting to discuss the awards planned for the State Jaycee Convention, March 6, 1965.*

Michigan's Agriculture will continue to be as important to the Economy of Michigan in the future as it is today. The Outstanding Young Farmers of today will be the *key farm managers and operators* of tomorrow.

Farm Bureau Insurance and Community Service Insurance Companies are dedicated to helping farm and rural people throughout Michigan. The Farm Bureau Companies will adjust to the changing agricultural conditions to give the best "*Total Insurance Service*" available in Michigan. The Companies are pleased to co-sponsor the 1964-65 Outstanding Young Farmer Program with the Michigan Jaycees.

For the best "Total-Insurance-Program" today that will continue to be the best tomorrow, see your local Farm Bureau Agent—do it now.

**FARM BUREAU INSURANCE**

**COMPANIES OF MICHIGAN**

*Farm Bureau Life • Farm Bureau Mutual • Community Service*

