

Beans boost our state's economy

By ELMER E. WHITE

Beans cure badness. Or so folks thought in the 17th Century.

The jewellers "carat" owes its origin to a pea-like bean on the east coast of Africa. And boiled beans lived with people provided a sure cure for coughs and colds in the Middle Ages.

Such is the love of the bean offered readers in a special cookbook produced under the sponsorship of Michigan's Bean Commission and Bean Shoppers Association. "Beans" may have made them famous but Michigan grows them.

The state department of agriculture in its publication "1975 Michigan Food

Facts" reports that dry edible Navy beans were planted in about 300,000 acres of state land during 1975. The crop totaled some 450 million pounds, valued at more than \$113 million.

And those totals—while higher than those of any other state—were down about 35 per cent from 1974. The 1975 crop represented the smallest crop since 1967.

Farming maintains its place as second largest industry in Michigan, according to Agriculture Director B. Dale Ball.

He reports that in 1975, Michigan farmers received \$1.7 billion for their products, four per cent decline from 1974's record year. Add on processing, marketing and transportation, and the value of Michigan's agricultural industry is some \$5 billion.

TORNADO. A SAVAGE creation of nature that can flatten barns, whisk away automobiles, demolish buildings, kill people and animals.

But if you're like some people, you might not know when you should worry about a tornado in your territory. You get "watch" and "warning" confused.

A "tornado watch" means weather conditions are right for a tornado to develop. A "tornado warning" means one of the funnels has been sighted in a specific area.

PEDAL POWER is on the increase, with bicycling an ever more popular pastime for adults and youngsters alike.

And with that popularity, it's sad to say, injuries to bike riders also increase, especially while they're required to share the road with automobiles. Statistics show that 68 bicyclists were killed in 1974 and another 4,172 were injured.

One answer is bike paths—giving the rider a place to do his thing out of reach of the automobiles and pedestrians too.

Gov. William Milliken recently signed a bill that's designed to encourage townships to build bicycle paths and sidewalks parallel to state highways and county roads. The measure sets up procedures for special assessments for bike paths and sidewalks and allows townships to write a hardship exemption for senior citizens on fixed incomes.

More than two dozen bicycle path projects already have been completed by the state, and another half dozen are under construction now. The largest is a 40-mile path paralleling I-75 between Monroe and Novi.

Michigan's Department of Highways and Transportation has spent about \$1 million on bicycle path development.

YOU STUDY hard to learn a job—mechanics, nursing, auto work, maintenance of electrical appliances—then what?

If you happened to be one of a lion's share of Michigan's 1975 high school graduates in vocational education, you're working full time in your chosen field and pretty well satisfied with it.

A survey conducted by the state board of education shows that:

• Slightly more than 8 out of 10 respondents available for employment have found jobs.

• 78 per cent of those employed are working fulltime.

• 88 per cent of the employed graduates are somewhat or very satisfied with their jobs.

Pardee is new budget director

Jeffrey C. Pardee has been appointed director of the Oakland County Budgeting Division.

Pardee, 32, replaces Jose Santiago, who left the county to join a private company. He will report to James Brennan, director of the department of management and budget.

Since 1973, Pardee has been employed as budget director for Genesee County. His financial career began in 1968 with Ford Motor Co. He was cost analysis supervisor when he left Ford to join Genesee County.

Pardee was raised in Birmingham and graduated from Seaholm High School in 1962. He obtained a degree in business administration from Eastern Michigan University in 1968, a master's degree from the University of Detroit in 1971, and is a doctoral candidate in public administration at Nova University, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. He anticipates graduation early next year. He and his wife Mary have two sons, Brennan and Kennedy.

Dolls displayed

A collection of 250 dolls is displayed at the Troy Museum, 80 West Waxies from 2 to 4 p.m.

The collection features dolls from around the world including oriental, Indian, calico dolls as well as character dolls from Little Women and Bisque dolls. They were made by Thane Heileboeck of New Baltimore.

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