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*"I am grateful for the efficient, thoughtful service"*

Little Susan McCurdy, 2, of Manton was only showing her affection for her dog "Woofie" when she tried to put her arms around him. For some unexplainable reason the animal turned suddenly and bit her on the eyelid and cheek.

Susan's mother hurriedly telephoned for the local doctor. Meantime, Mr. McCurdy was trying to calm the badly frightened child and applying cold compresses to her wounds. As Mrs. McCurdy later wrote, "When I learned that the doctor was out, and would not be back for some time, I went completely to pieces."

She shouted frantically to the operator, "Get a doctor! Get a doctor!" The operator

on duty, Mrs. Helen Kleckler, called another doctor immediately as Mrs. McCurdy stayed on the line. Reporting that the doctor was on his way, Mrs. Kleckler continued to talk and tried to soothe the excited woman.

Today, Susan has only two tiny scars to remind her of the frightening experience.

In her letter to Michigan Bell, Mrs. McCurdy says, "Mrs. Kleckler showed fine presence of mind in her calm reassuring words and in getting another doctor for me almost at once. An incident of this nature is probably a matter of routine to you, but it was a very upsetting experience for me. I am grateful for the efficient, thoughtful service your operator gave me."

It's people who make telephone service good  
**MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY**

## Rural Population Trend Cited

The actual number of farm people in America is decreasing although their level of living has been rising, according to Dale E. Butz of Michigan State College's department of agricultural economics.

"Our farm population has declined from 95 per cent of the population in 1790 to about 16 per cent in 1950," he said. "The actual number increased until about 1910, but has declined since then."

Butz said this indicates "quite strongly" that "neither prices, nor income, but the existence of job opportunities determines whether or not people will stay on the farm."

Agriculture has been able to produce needed food and fiber with fewer people because of improved production methods, he said. Output in many hours is now about 70 per cent higher in the 1953-54 period, he said.

"It is becoming increasingly clear that agriculture's income is very closely tied to the well-being of the rest of the economy," Butz said. "One of the big problems concerning income at the farm level is its instability."

"Urban people should have a definite interest in rural conditions such as education, levels of living, religion, and so on, because these will influence the type of person coming into the cities," he said.

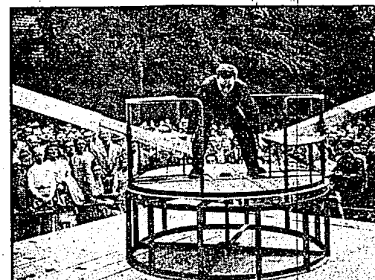
Farmers in Michigan pay their hired help an average of \$172 a month, or \$1 per hour, according to a Michigan State College survey of 721 farmers. The monthly cash wage rates varied widely, however — from \$100 to \$300. Hourly wage rates varied from 75c to \$1.75.

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**"FLYING" LOW**—Using elbow grease instead of a motor, Dr. Fritz Bruns of Herford, Germany, solved the post-war ban on building airborne vehicles with this hand-pumped contraption which whizzes around instead of up. The "flying" apparatus has flapping, flexible wings attached to a merry-go-round-like construction and whirled at a speed of about 45 MPH.

## Cover Crops Value Cited

Cover crops in Michigan orchards, although they depress tree growth at first, give a boost to the trees later on.

This is shown by a five-year study by Dr. A. L. Kenworthy of Michigan State College's horticulture department and G. M. Gilman of Delaware. The study showed that cover crops in the long run are better for the orchard trees than clean cultivation.

The reason tree growth is slowed at first with cover crops, the researchers say, probably is competition with the trees for moisture. The trees' rate of recovery seemed related to the speed with which cover crops residues decomposed and to the total quantity of residue the crop produced.

Although the cover crops used in the tests did not generally increase the organic matter content of the soil, the rate at which organic matter was lost from the soil was reduced. "That means the cover crop has a direct effect on the availability of nutrients in the soil. With clean cultivation alone the organic matter was reduced at an average rate of 6.5 per cent each year."

With the use of fertilizer without cover crops, the available potassium in orchard soils was increased 185 per cent in five years. But with the use of cover crops potassium was boosted 280 per cent.

Analysis of leaves indicated that the nitrogen content was increased with the use of any cover crop. As the amount of cover crop residue from leucaena increased, the leaf nitrogen was made greater. All cover crops increased the phosphorus content of the leaves, while potassium was boosted only where soybeans and rye with vetch were used.

**POULTRYMEN MEET**

Poultry breeders from all over the Midwest, including some from Michigan, are planning to attend the Midwest Poultry Breeders' School at the University of Minnesota campus September 21 and 22. The sessions scheduled include discussions on breeding for disease resistance, comparisons of purebreeding and crossbreeding, how to select for fast feathering and other items.

The only poisonous snake native to Michigan is the Massasauga or rattlesnake.

## FEEDING OF CATTLE TO BE PROFITABLE VENTURE NEXT YEAR

If a farmer uses careful management, cattle feeding will be profitable during the next year, says Robert E. Kramer, a Michigan State College agricultural economist.

Kramer agrees that cattle feeding in the 1953-54 season won't be as profitable as in some of the recent years, and he believes the size of the profit will depend upon management.

Although nearly all cattle feeders lost money in the 1952-53 feeding season, Kramer points to these encouraging signs which he believes will encourage cattle feeding between now and September of next year:

- Strong demand for beef.
- Increased high grade beef supply.
- Reduced pork supplies.
- Lower feeder cattle prices.
- Large feed supplies.

For farmers contemplating cattle feeding this coming season, he says this advice:

Buy corn at harvest time if any is needed for the feeding operation.

Feeder cattle prices probably will reach their seasonal low in September, October or November.

The low point might be reached in September, which is earlier than usual, if drought continues in the range states. Prices probably will be erratic from week to week and market to market. So shop he says.

The cattle feeder should analyze his own feed situation and buy the kind of cattle he is equipped to handle.

## DON'T MIX OLD LAYERS WITH YOUNG PULLETS

Your pullet flock will be a lot safer from disease if you sell off the old layers in the fall, says a poultry specialist at Michigan State College. Mixed flocks of old and young chickens have a higher incidence of avian tuberculosis than those with only young pullets.

Selling the older hens before taking pullets off range gives the poultryman a chance to clean the laying house thoroughly, too, says M.S.C.'s Charles Sheppard. When you clean an empty house there is a better chance of destroying parasites and disease organisms.

After cleaning the house thoroughly, Sheppard recommends a strong lye solution — one pound of lye to 10 or 15 gallons of water for scrubbing the interior.

## Preparing Wheat Early Rids Perennial Weeds

Preparing your wheat seed bed early pays off. It gets rid of perennial weeds and gives better yields at harvest times, according to Stephen T. Dexter, farm crops specialist at Michigan State College.

After taking off the oats or wheat or the first cutting of hay, he says, there is the best chance for weed control in the entire rotation program. A field cultivator at that time will help take care of quackgrass, Canada thistle and bindweed.

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The Walters keep their farm freezer packed with meats, fruits and vegetables, either home-grown or purchased. Mrs. Walters says she doesn't know how they would get along without it. She finds freezing easier than canning, and loves the convenience of always having tasty food at her finger tips.

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Edison Home Service Advisor, left, shows Mrs. Desmond Walters the latest technique in wrapping foods for freezing. The Walters' 20-cubic-foot freezer is always well-stocked with good things to eat.

Good wiring is always important. So always ask your Farm Service Advisor for his recommendations.

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