

kansas **AG**ricultural
STUDENT

DECEMBER 1953

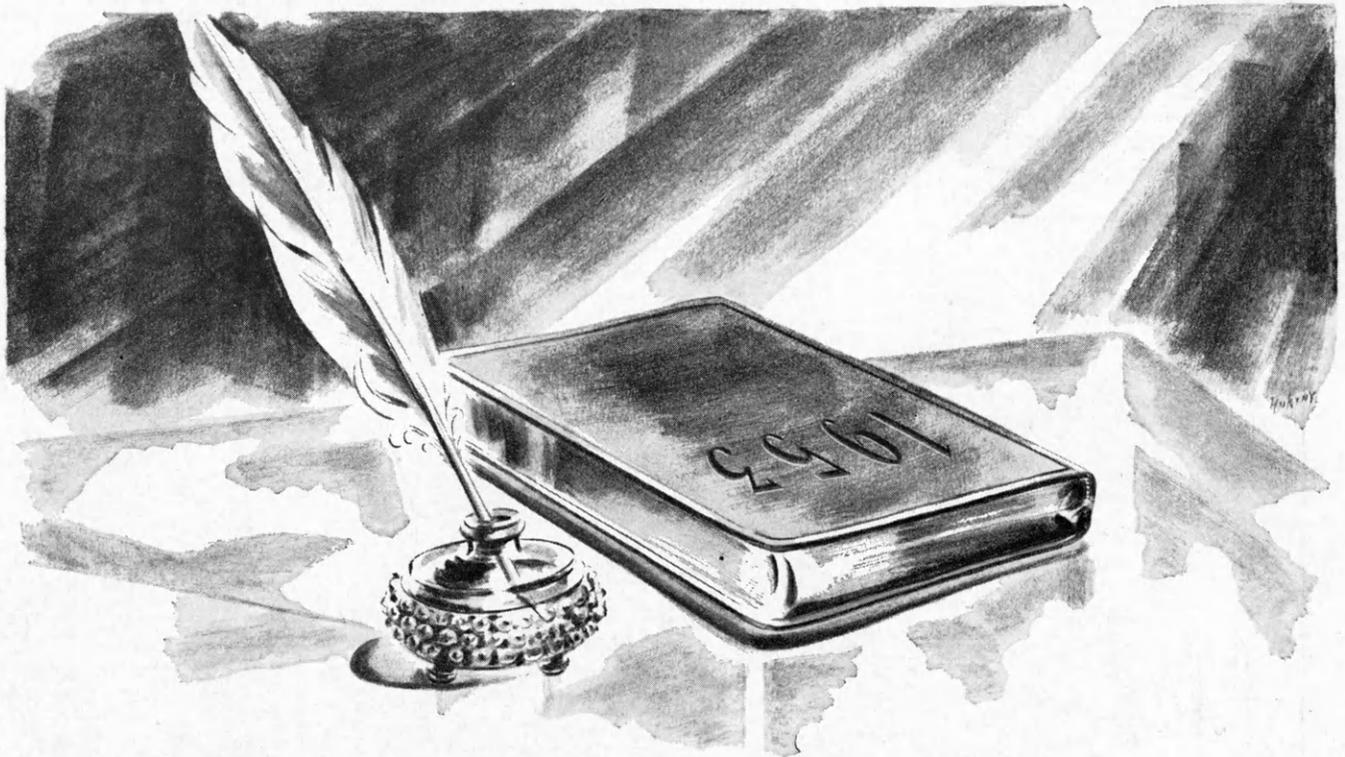
v. 30, 2



COPY



Square Dancing Is Fun page 14



There—the final page is written

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Multi-colored are its pages . . . here, a line in the scarlet ink of anger . . . there, a word in the brilliant gold of kindness . . . passage after passage in the blue of despair and the silver of hope . . . in the green of petty prejudice and the purple of majestic tolerance.

And, fearing posterity's critics, he hesitates to leave it.

But then he remembers that this authorship of his is a commission, a charge that binds him to complete his share of the manuscript . . . and he knows that somewhere, somehow, he will find the courage and the inspiration.

So, once again, Man dips his pen . . . determined that this time he will author a better, a finer edition . . . and he reaches for a new book with pages which as yet are blank.

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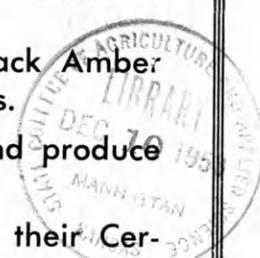
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Manhattan, Kansas



THE KANSAS *Agricultural Student*

Vol. XXX

December 1953

No. 2

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Editorial...

We are featuring in this issue the mode of recreation that farm boys and girls cater to when winter weather comes, square dancing.

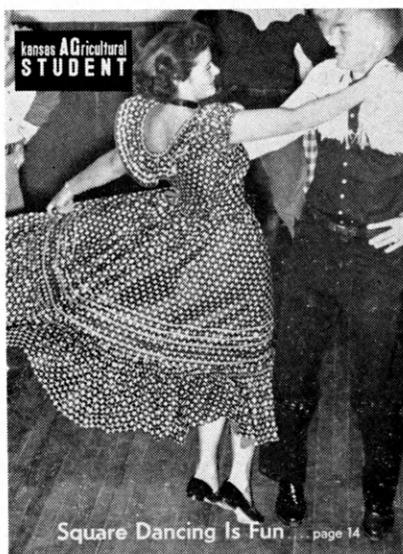
Years ago it was unusual indeed to find young people that didn't love to prance to the rhythm of the old barn dance. One of my grandmother's most cherished memories was when she square danced with the fellows at church gatherings.

After a decline, square dancing again is mushrooming in such organizations as 4-H and rural church groups. One can find few better ways to keep out of mischief than indulging in this country style hoe-down. This fact is proven by the healthy, upright youth that come from America's farms.

The staff wishes all Aggies a terrific Christmas with good eating, good sleeping, good hunting, good company, and, of course, good square dancing. (Don't forget to take an Ag Mag home to keep the folks busy reading while you're out having fun.)

Herb Lee

Published by the Agricultural Association of Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Science, Manhattan, Kansas, in October, December, February, March, April, and May. Subscription rates \$1.50 a year; 2 years, \$2; single copy by mail 30c, at office 20c.
Entered as Second Class Matter, November 9, 1945, at the Post Office at Manhattan, Kansas, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Accepted for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 2, 1917, authorized November 9, 1946.



Home Economics sophomore, swings through a call which is as popular today as in the olden times. The "Promenaders" provide an opportunity for those interested in square dancing to learn new calls and to form exhibition squares. Bob Cullins, Agronomy sophomore and club president, is Miss David's partner.

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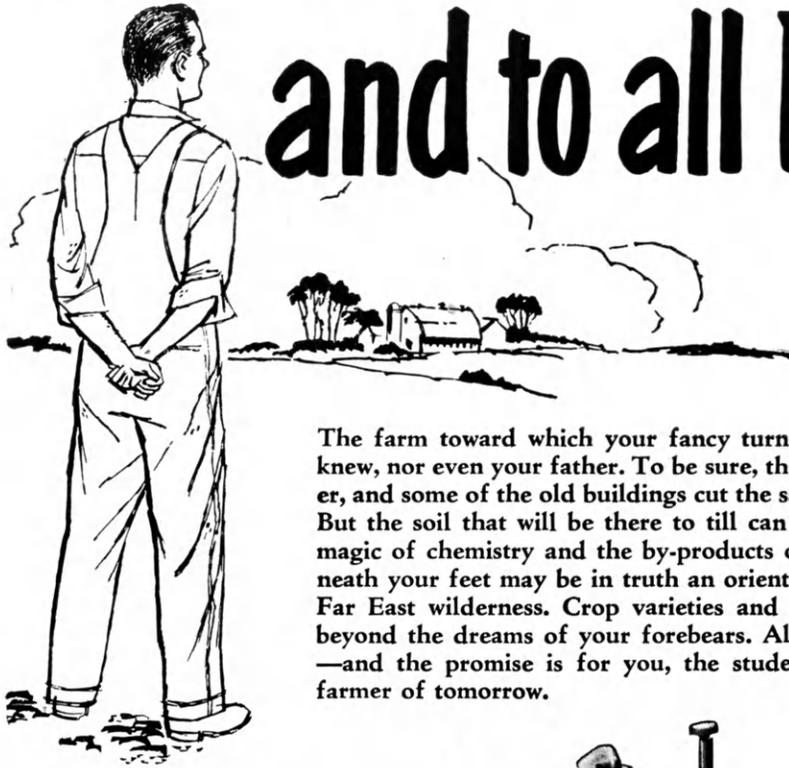
STAFF REPORTERS

Abdul Kamal, Helen Hamilton, Arlin Potwin, Elaine Olson, Leonard Slyter, Bill Bergman, and Bob Ecklund.

ON THE COVER

SWING YOUR PARTNER and on you go! Kansas State square dance club member, Joan David, Home Economics sophomore, swings through a call which is as popular today as in the olden times. The "Promenaders" provide an opportunity for those interested in square dancing to learn new calls and to form exhibition squares. Bob Cullins, Agronomy sophomore and club president, is Miss David's partner.

the PROMISE is to you.... and to all Farm Youth



The farm toward which your fancy turns is not the farm your grandfather knew, nor even your father. To be sure, the same old trees are only a little taller, and some of the old buildings cut the same familiar pattern against the sky. But the soil that will be there to till can be rich with new fertility from the magic of chemistry and the by-products of industry. The carpet of grass beneath your feet may be in truth an oriental rug, grown from seed found in a Far East wilderness. Crop varieties and livestock strains will be productive beyond the dreams of your forebears. Already the promise begins to unfold—and the promise is for you, the student of today, the counsellor or the farmer of tomorrow.



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Chit Chat

By Clyde W. Mullen, Assistant Dean

THE HORSE TANK—good or bad?

Probably more good things can be said in favor of maintaining the tradition of the Aggie horse tank and the annual dunkings of "non-conformists," than might be said against it.

'Tomato Juice' or Not?

It is doubtful if there is any real or permanent antagonism against the boys in red and blue. As traditional as the tank itself, is the tradition that someone (anyone) must always test the mettle of the plow boys to see if their blood is, indeed, "tomato juice," or if there be a bit of iron in the red stuff. And it isn't surprising that the nearest neighbor is tempted beyond resistance to dump the tank, punch it full of holes, or even to swipe it.

This particular water tank is a good deal like a chip on the shoulder. Dump it, if you dare; mutilate it, if

you dare; steal it, if you dare. It must be watched day and night, and all hours of the day and night. It is a vulnerable thing.

It is appropriate that the Aggies make up the only group on the campus who foster a tradition that is so difficult to maintain and protect. You can't sabotage Engineers' Week. No point of attack. You can't despoil a beer party. Too many cases. No one wants to upset the nice decorum of Hospitality Week. So, the Aggies promote the only vulnerable activity on the campus.

Eight Holes Punched

Someone punches a hole (eight holes) in the tank, and it is back on the job in an hour. Swipe it, and another tank takes its place. Despoil its waters, and fresh water is soon provided.

Finally, the whole affair, Ag Week, carrying forward a tradition, unites



C. W. Mullen

students in the School of Agriculture as nothing else does. The school might fall apart at the seams, were it not for the "common cause" of Ag Week.

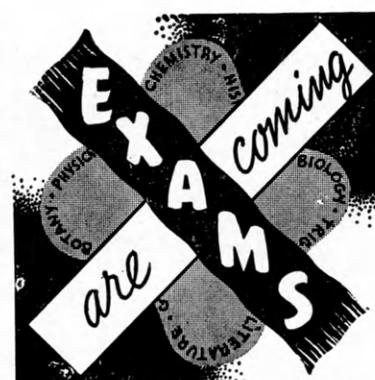
Of course, the most depressing sight during the week is to see a dozen red bandannas lined up at a safe distance along a nice, dry sidewalk watching a hundred or so blue jeans fighting for dear life to protect the tank against a mass attack. Those red-kerchiefed sightseers, on the side lines, really represent the concentration of "tomato juice" during Ag Week.



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Ag School Angles

MISTLETOE—what would Christmas be without it? Besides being the “kissing plant” among Americans, the mistletoe has a colorful history.

Webster says the plant is propagated by bird droppings. It is described as a European green shrub with branching stems, thick leaves, small yellowish flowers, and waxy-white glutinous berries. It grows hanging from various trees, especially the apple.

Used as a ceremonial plant by early European nations, it eventually became adapted to the American custom of kissing under the mistletoe.

Better get yourself a fresh supply now, Aggies, if you're planning on surprising that favorite girl.

'Oops, Wrong Room!'

Prof. F. W. Bell, Animal Husbandry instructor, walked into class

recently, removed his watch and placed it before him; opened his notes; then gazed out over the class before starting his lecture. He was only mildly surprised to see Dr. G. A. Filing, Horticulture professor, stroll into the room and sit among the students.

Then it dawned on him. “Guess I'm in the wrong room,” he drawled, nodding to the Horticulture class and Dr. Filing. “Don't laugh. Just remember how many times you may have sat in on the wrong class.”

Male Aggies Needed!

Aggies, can you believe this? There is an organization on the campus looking for men. A large number of girls belong to the K-State Extension Club and more Aggies are needed to even up the ratio.

As a member of the club, you will get acquainted with Extension personnel at the College and will learn more about the jobs of 4-H Club agents and county agricultural agents. There are refreshments at every meeting, too.

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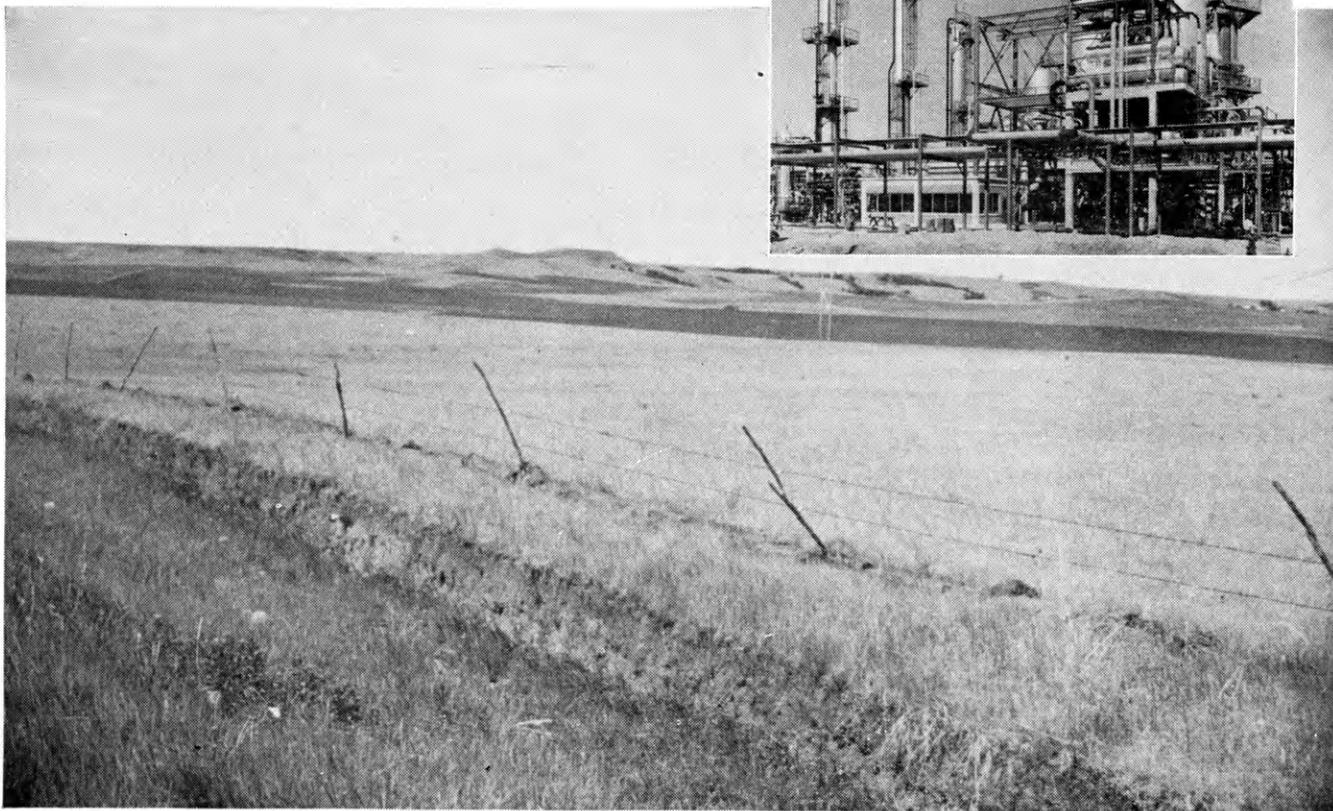
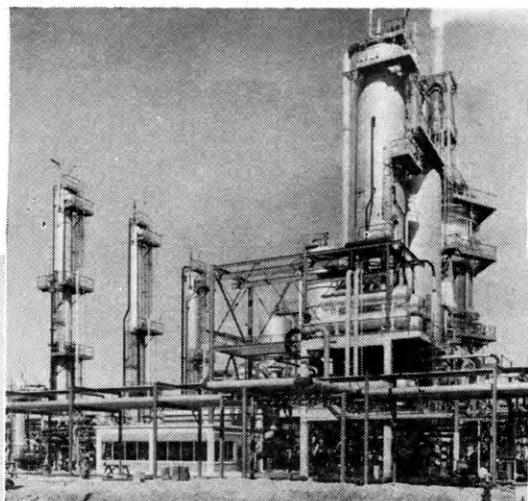
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Manhattan, Kansas

ENGINEERS are planning to transform this flat Dakota prairie into what probably will be North Dakota's largest industry. A new Standard Oil refinery, with equipment similar to that shown, is scheduled to be operating at this Mandan site before the end of 1954. Capable of refining 30,000 barrels a day, it will provide the first major outlet for the Williston Basin production.



OIL is making a prairie plant grow!



Before the close of 1954, a new Standard Oil refinery is scheduled to be operating at Mandan, North Dakota.

Behind this lies a story of Standard Oil's willingness to back its scientists' judgment with millions of dollars.

Two years ago oil was discovered in the Williston Basin. How much oil this basin eventually will produce is anybody's guess, but the current rate is only about 10,000 barrels a day. However, geologists, geophysicists and engineers, working in field and laboratory, have estimated that the basin holds a total of two and a half billion barrels.

On the basis of this estimate, Standard Oil has let a contract for the construction of a new refinery at Mandan and a 215-mile products pipeline from Mandan to Moorhead, Minnesota. A crude oil pipeline of 170 miles will be completed by the time the refinery is ready for operation and a pipeline gathering system of about 40 miles already has been built.

Construction activities such as these and the tireless search for oil are jobs that never end in the petroleum industry.

Young technical men at Standard Oil have found that there still are many exciting frontiers to explore with a company that is constantly building, constantly looking to the future.

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Christmas on the Farm

By Herb Lee



IN THE FARM when we were kids, Christmas probably didn't seem to mean much to us. It was just one of the happy carefree moments in the routine of growing up.

But now, it is but a memory, one that we will hold always. No matter where we go or what we do, we'll always remember Christmas back on the farm.

Christmas Dinner

Who could forget Christmas dinner with all the folks on their farm; Ma, Pa, and all the brothers and their families? Yep, and there was food the likes of none better. A couple roasted turkeys with dressing, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie and whipped cream, tasty hot rolls, steaming buttered sweetpotatoes, and the best coffee ever brewed. Your choice of desserts, salads, and meats cooked by farmers' wives, the best cooks that can be found anywhere, for a fact. "Better eat some more," they'd say when you were about to burst.

'Kissing' Plant

Remember the first time you kissed your favorite neighbor girl under the mistletoe and she made you feel all warm inside. And that led to more conquests with the help of the "kissing" plant.

Remember the presents you used to get, back when things were cheap and durable. You always got something from Uncle John and so did all the rest of his nephews. But, of course, you remember the fuss the relatives made over the new baby and how he got more presents than any of you and he being not old enough to appreciate them.



Remember how cold it got that Christmas eve on the farm when you all were snowbound? "Tack up some blankets over the doors and pile them horse blankets on the kids' bed," Dad said. Perhaps you weren't old enough to appreciate the fact that the parents or grandparents got up and kept the fires banked near the bedrooms. Even so, the next morning the water was froze up in the drinking bucket and dishpans.

Remember how you used to feel so proud when the folks came to see you in the Christmas play the old one-room school put on. Everybody got a sack of candy and fruit as big as he could carry to add to that handed out by the country church.

Christmas Fun

Remember how all you kids bundled up good and trudged into town to the square dance about Christmas time. Remember too when the river, creeks, and ponds froze up solid, you and all the neighbor kids had a big Christmas skating party.

Remember that Christmas when you got a .22 rifle and how manly you felt when you went hunting with Dad and got a rabbit on the first shot. You took it along when the whole family went up to visit Uncle John and he took you coon hunting. He used your rifle to bag a big boar coon, remember. Remember trapping muskrats down in the farm pond and that Christmas morning you fell in and about froze your feet. "Good catch of four rats, though," Dad told you and you forgot about the ice freezing in your boots.

Sleighting with Your Gal

Remember most of all that year the 4-H got together a bunch of two horse sleighs and you and your girl wrapped up in a couple blankets and the moon was on the snow. It was still so cold your girl snuggled up real close and—

Remember what the preacher said about what Christmas really meant and how you got to thinkin' and you went carolin' even if you couldn't carry a tune. Remember too the story of Christ in the pageant at a nearby town. Remember that Christmas when you were old enough to take your first girl to church. Neither of you got much out of the sermon, though; just sat there makin' eyes at each other.

Christmas in Bed

Remember that Christmas all you kids had the flu and grandma made you hot broth and put warmed bricks around your feet. Dad used the Vicks unsparingly and Mother said, "Down with the cough medicine."

Remember how when the folks were poor that they couldn't afford a Christmas tree. Dad went down by the creek and cut the bough off a pine tree. You and Mother and the rest of the kids decorated it with popcorn and tinsel.

Farm Life Is Best

Remember how peaceful it seemed when you were doing the chores and the sun was bouncing its rays off the acres of snow on the farm. You threw six ears of corn each to the horses and gathered the eggs before the tip of your nose got so cold you had to go in and warm. Remember how the trees crackled in the wind and the ground was so slick you couldn't stand up that Christmas the rain froze on.

Remember that steep hill where you kids piled on the toboggan and away you flew. Remember playing fox and geese in the snow in the old schoolyard. Remember the snowball fights you all used to get into around Christmas time. And sister Sally got hit in the eye and went crying to Mother and you all went without supper.

(Continued on page 20)

Which Makes the Alfalfa Grower More Profits?

Baled Hay or Dehydrated

SOME FARMERS aren't worrying about their alfalfa hay getting wet next summer even though there may be frequent rains. If the weather isn't suitable for proper curing of hay, "What of it?"

In fact, they won't even need to harvest their alfalfa next year, though they will get paid for it. That to you may sound like only a dream, but it is true for the farmers in the areas of Kansas where alfalfa dehydrating plants are located.

All these farmers do in growing alfalfa is work the land and sow the seed. Then as the crop matures, each signs a contract allowing a dehydrator to cut the crop and haul it away.

As soon as a load of chopped green alfalfa is taken from his field, the

able to sell alfalfa to a dehydrator rather than baling it myself and selling it as hay?"

There are a number of factors involved in answering this question, and it can be answered only by you as an individual farmer. However, here are some of the more important facts which you should consider.

Farmer Works Less

It is logical that there is less work involved when a dehydrator harvests the crop. He uses his own machinery in nearly all cases, hires his own labor; and should do all the worrying about getting the crop harvested on time, though the farmer often helps him with this operation.

Because the dehydrator normally

tion, thus susceptible to disease and winter kill.

General practice has shown that a good stand of alfalfa will usually last four to five years when harvested by a dehydrator. This may not be the normal lifetime for alfalfa, but according to soil conservationists, in a good crop rotation four years is about the limit for keeping alfalfa on any field, anyway.

The ton yield on an acre will be less for dehydrated alfalfa than for hay because the dehydrated crop is weighed after it passes through the dryer. It, then, contains only about eight percent moisture while sun cured hay averages 70 percent.

Consider Work, Time

Most interesting to the farmer, of course, are the profits. Average quality alfalfa this year was bought by dehydrators for \$15 a ton. Baled alfalfa hay averaged around \$30 a ton. This seems like quite a difference, and it may be. You have to remember, however, to subtract the extra labor cost; the extra equipment required; and the extra time spent putting up hay when you could have been doing other farm work, from that \$30 before comparing these prices correctly. The answer can be decided only by the individual farmer.

Assuming there is a dehydrator near your farm and you have decided it is profitable to sell your alfalfa, there are a few items that should be considered.

Each Crop Separate

First, most dehydrators contract for alfalfa by the cutting rather than by



Courtesy the A. B. Caple Co., Toledo, Ohio

S E L F - P R O P E L L E D
chopper will make
short work of alfalfa
cut for dehydration.

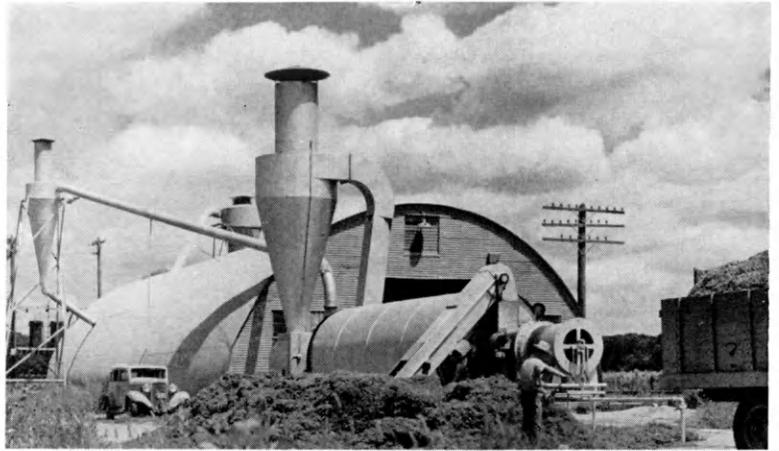
grower can forget about it until income tax time. Then, when he has figured up his income and expenses for the year, he may or may not be pleased with the results.

At this point, he may find the answer to the question, "Is it profit-

cuts the alfalfa in the bud to one-tenth bloom stage, some reports have stated that the stand is ruined sooner than it would be by normal haying practices. That is, since the plants are cut before maturity each time, they are kept in a weakened condi-

Must Consider Equipment Labor Time

By Dan Henley



Courtesy KSC Ag Experiment Station

DESTROYED by the floods of '51, many alfalfa dehydrators like this one are again operating in Kansas wherever large acreages of good alfalfa are available. Many dehydrators run 24 hours a day during harvest.

the season. This is an advantage to the farmer if he should wish to save a crop of hay for himself or if he figures he can make more money selling hay. But it can be a disadvantage, as he will have to take the time every few weeks to work out a separate agreement with the dehydrator for the next cutting.

Contracts Important

In some instances, the dehydrator company rents land from farmers near the plant, works it, seeds it, then harvests the crop. For the farmer who has more land than he can take care of, this may be a good system.

No farmer should agree to let the dehydrator cut his alfalfa without

first working out a satisfactory agreement. Just a short time ago most contracts were (and many still are) oral. Managers of most dehydrators are honest. They have to be if they are successful and they try their best to please everyone, but disagreements will occur. A valid, written contract will eliminate differences.

Some of the more important items that might be included in a dehydrating contract are price of each cutting (it may vary with the change in quality); acres bought; and location and boundaries of fields. Minor, but important, items are maintenance of bridges, drainage ditches, and roads to the fields; the maximum amount of weeds and grass allowed by the de-

hydrator; and evidence of the type of mortgages or liens that may be on the fields.

Most dehydrators like to operate 24 hours a day during the harvest season, if possible. To do this they must contract for a maximum amount of alfalfa. If weather is unfavorable or breakdowns occur, they may be unable to cut all the alfalfa for which they have made contracts.

An arrangement for disposal of the crop if the dehydrator is unable to harvest it, therefore, is important and should be included in the contract. Often the company agrees to let the farmer bale the mature hay, then buys the bales from him at market price.

Some Complain

Some farmers have reported unfavorable dealings with dehydrators. "They let the hay get too old before they cut it," one farmer complained.

"They come in when it's soggy and wet and cut ditches over the field."

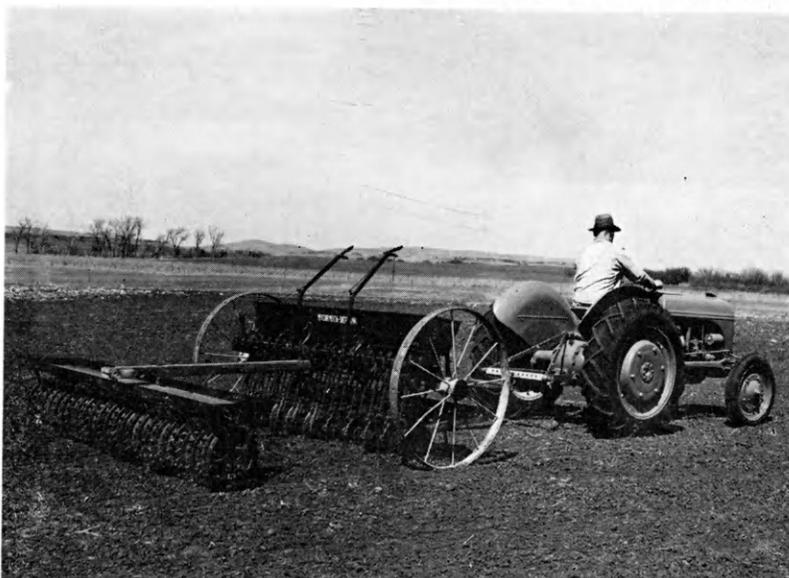
"Those dehydrator guys always break our telephone wires with their top-heavy loads, and scatter more hay over the field than they get in the trucks."

"They're just not dependable," was another gripe. Perhaps dehydrator operators could say the same about some farmers. In most cases, though, dehydrators and farmers get along very well.

No one can make the flat statement that any one method of handling alfalfa is superior. It can be determined only by planning ahead and by budgeting each operation.

ALL THE FARMER has to do is sow the seed when he sells his alfalfa crop to a dehydrator. Then he has only to cash the checks. Do these checks give him as much or more profit than he would receive if he baled the hay?

Courtesy KSC Ag Experiment Station



*Everybody's Doing It
Because It's Fun*

Square Dancing

By Diane Blackburn

Photos by Bob Ecklund

GIRLS IN LONG, frilly dresses and boys in their western togs form a square, the caller announces the dance, and the square dance has begun. "First couple bow, first couple swing, Down the set and divide the ring."

This call and similar ones are repeated many times as Kansas State students square dance.

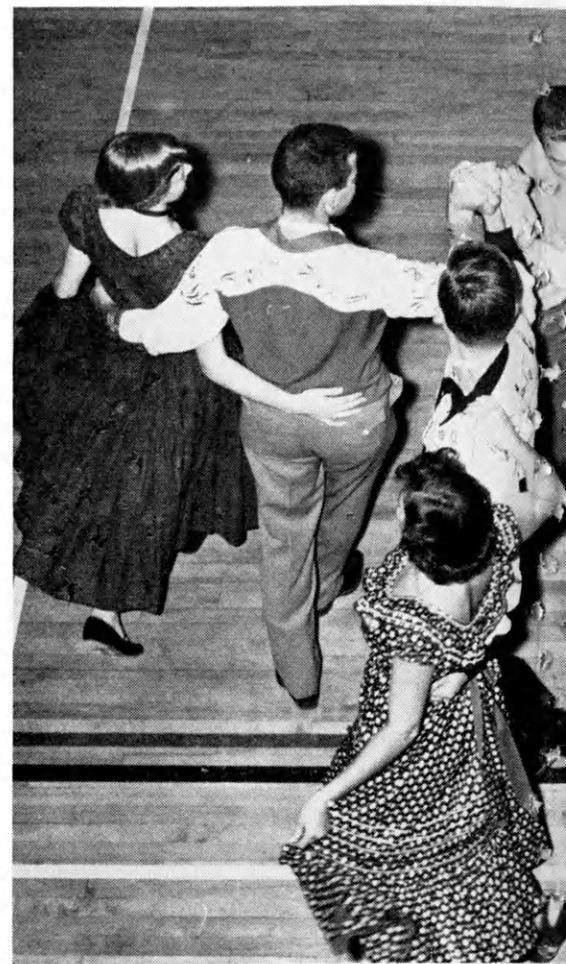
Square dancing, popular since the earliest pioneer days, also plays an important role in the United States today. Square dances are featured on



NEAL ATKINSON, Milling senior, a member of square dance club, Promenaders, swings his partner **Helen Poston**, HE senior.

television and in movies. Calls and square dance music are heard many times over the radio and in record albums. YMCA's, youth canteens, church groups, Parent-Teacher Associations, and 4-H clubs are all square dancing.

The square dance began in Europe and rapidly spread to the United States. Settlers in colonial times often gathered to help each other with the work, and as soon as it was finished they would turn to dancing. The meeting place for the dance was in a



GIIRLS SWING OUT, gents swing in. Form that Tex done all over the United States. Originally the squa

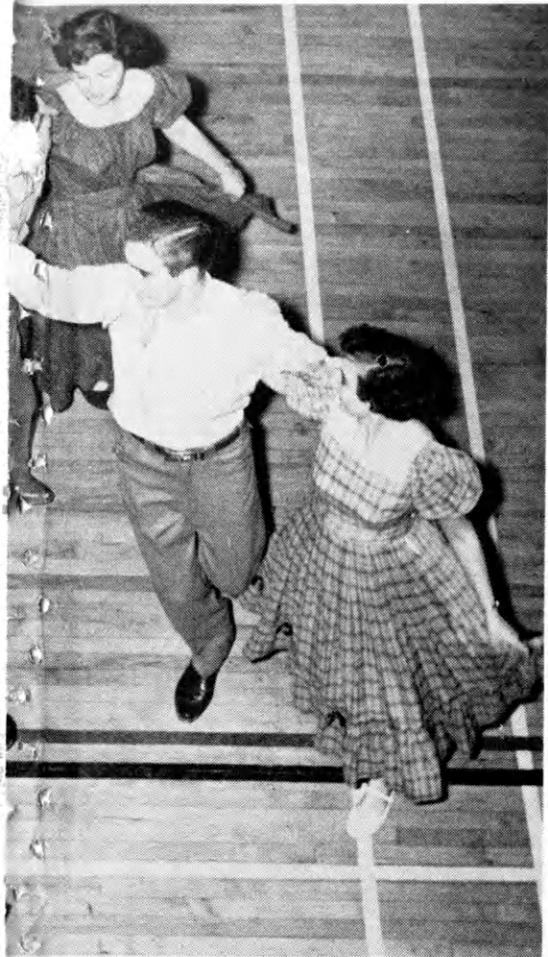
store, a barn, or even a farmhouse kitchen. When it was scheduled for the kitchen, all the furniture was moved out—even the stove. Sometimes only the woodbox would be left for the fiddler to stand in, with plenty of room for his bow to scrape.

The music would sometimes come from a fife and drum if a fiddler wasn't handy. In the extreme backwoods where there were no trained musicians, the rhythm came in a steady beat from the dancers clapping.

The real color of the square dance in the United States has come from the patter or rhymed verse that the caller uses with his commands. "Chicken in the barnyard a kickin' up gravel; Meet your honey and home you travel," or "Get your gun and the ol' coon houn'; Now meet your honey and promenade the town," both demonstrate the folklore that is a definite part of the people living in various areas of the U.S. The patter is usually composed about some little



COY SMILES mean square dance fun. Through the arch come **Diane Blackburn** and **Don Esslinger** showing apparent enjoyment.



Star again. This dance comes from Texas, but is a dance began in Europe and rapidly spread to U.S.

down to earth object related to the farm. The caller can use patter that has been handed down from granddad's days or he can make up his own.

Square dancing began to fade away as cities and towns sprang up. The Charleston, rumba, and jitterbug were becoming the vogue.

But in rural areas people kept square dancing. In the 1930's more and more city people began to learn about square dancing again after spending a summer's vacation in the country and seeing the country people dance. They thought it would be fun and after dancing a square found it really was fun.

First College Dance in 1914

Square dancing has been popular on the K-State campus since around 1947. In the early days no dancing of any kind was allowed on the campus by college officials. Finally in 1914 the first all-college social dance was held which was the military ball.

Then, in 1947 the YMCA organ-

ized a student-faculty dance. This has been changed now to a combined YWCA and YMCA instruction group. They offer instruction to students interested in learning more about square dancing. This gives freshmen an opportunity to learn and also offers a chance for an experienced dancer to brush up on some of the calls.

Many other organizations on the campus include square dancing as a part of their activities. Square dancing is just as much a part of the Collegiate 4-H Club meeting as is the giving of the 4-H pledge.

New K-State Dance Club

A square dance club is being organized on the campus this fall for the first time. The "Promenaders," as it is called, was organized to provide an opportunity for experienced dancers to get together to promote square dancing here at K-State. The twenty-two club members will learn new square dances and give demon-



SWING LIKE THUNDER, a difficult call is danced by the Promenaders. You, too, can join in the fun with a little practice.

strations. New members for the club will be selected by tryouts.

Even the pros lay down their pencils and quit grading papers for awhile to go to a faculty square dance every other week. This gives them a good chance to meet instructors in other departments and prevents that waistline from enlarging too fast from lack of exercise.

Organizations Dance

Various other organizations on the campus such as the young people's church groups and the Independent Students' Association have big square dances several times a year. The annual Ag Barnwarmer always features plenty of square dancing with all of the Aggies trying to follow the calls.

Square dancing is also popular on other college campuses. Columbia University, New York University, and the Universities of Minnesota, Denver, Wisconsin, and Massachusetts offer courses in square and folk dancing.

Everybody's square dancing and you feel left out, you are thinking. If you're convinced you really want to square dance it won't be difficult to learn how. After you learn the patter and to listen to the caller's commands and the three basic movements you can be a good square dancer.

Get Instruction Book

Get ahold of a good book on square dancing and read up on Swing your partner, Do-si-do, and Allemande left. Then visit one of the K-State organizations mentioned or visit your local 4-H chapter when you go home. They'll give instructions on the same steps and run you through them.

Who knows, after a while you may be doing difficult steps like the Waggoner and Shoot the star. When that hidden talent finally blossoms out you may even become a member of the Promenaders.

Why is square dancing more popular on the campus than ever before? It gives students a chance to meet other students. At club meetings or other social gatherings it provides an excellent mixer, whereas other forms of dancing limit the person to meeting only very few people.

Square dancing is valuable in development of skills and abilities and

(Continued on page 24)

Davidson Retires After 24 Years as

Voc Ag Book Reviewer

By Herb Lee

A MAN who has spent over 30 years in the agricultural education field, A. P. Davidson, will lighten his load of activities this month.

Davidson, head of Ag Ed training, is resigning as book review editor for the Agricultural Education magazine, a post he was appointed to 24 years ago.

Reviewed 250 Books

"My job was to evaluate books from the standpoint of organization of content and adaptability to the vocational agriculture program," Davidson said. He estimates he's reviewed 250 books for study by farm boys in high schools over the U.S. They fill about 35 shelves in his office.

Davidson examined books on dairying, animal husbandry, agronomy, poultry, farm mechanics, Future Farmers of America, and professional books for ag teachers.

Of course, he knew what would make the best study material for FFA, but he asked the opinion of the Kansas State College faculty on most books written in their special fields.

The Ag Ed magazine is a national professional publication and makes no payment to Davidson for his services. The magazine has a circulation of some 12,000 among teacher trainers and supervisors in Ag Ed, and 9,000 FFA chapters in 48 states, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

Service Aided Voc Ag

"This book review service has paid dividends for Kansas workers in vocational agriculture," Davidson said. "Junior and senior students who are preparing to teach will especially benefit. Assignments are designed to acquaint them with desirable texts

and references." High school administrators and teachers of Voc Ag are also furnished each year with a list of books reviewed by Davidson.

"The first book I reviewed was on Farm Management and Marketing," Davidson recalled. "Books suitable for high school use in Voc Ag were limited and generally were too technical in those days. The job was not too demanding at the start, but now it takes more time than I can spare."

Believing the book review editorship is too big a job for one man, Davidson suggests that five men representing the five different areas in Voc Ag in the U.S. be appointed.

"The job of selecting educational material for our farm youth is of vital importance and needs the attention of experts," Davidson continued. "Books must be written to interest and inspire the farm boy." Knowledge in abundance awaits the FFA boy who is fortunate enough to have access to a well balanced library.

25 Years with FFA

Besides his resident teacher training, Davidson has spent more time working with the Kansas FFA than on any other phase of his activities. He has relinquished some of his responsibilities to other staff members, but still has the overall direction.

He has been Deputy Advisor of the Kansas Association for 25 years. He planned district FFA leadership schools and started the Kansas Future Farmer magazine which is now in its 25th year of publication.

One of his major responsibilities each year has been overseeing the state FFA contests. This includes directing the nominating committee for state FFA officers, planning the House of Delegates meeting, FFA speaking

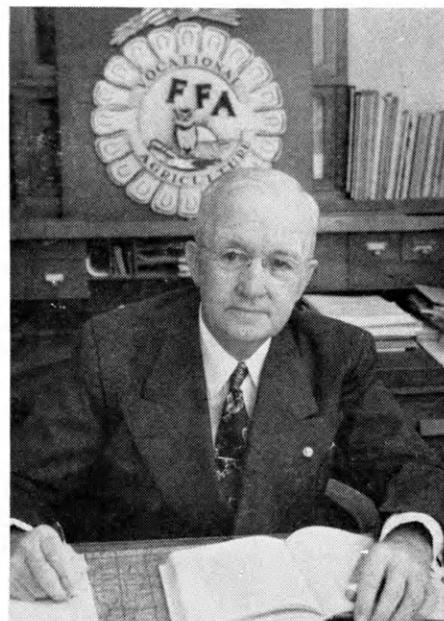


Photo by Dick Steffens

HE'S TRAINED FARM BOYS for over a quarter century. A. P. Davidson, after 24 years, resigns as Ag Ed Magazine book reviewer.

contests, and the Better Chapter contest.

Davidson hopes he will now find time to write a 25 year history of Kansas FFA supplementing his 15 year history published in 1943.

Educated at K-State

"I grew to manhood on a farm in Maryland, but I've been in the Midwest so long that most people mistake me for a native," Davidson said. He earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees at Kansas State and then taught five years in the Nebraska School of Agriculture, a secondary school at Curtis. The school was really a miniature college including a 640-acre school farm. Davidson managed the farm and was in charge of agricultural instruction.

He came to Kansas State in the school year of 1919-20, and has been associated with the program in agricultural education since that time. He married Marguerite Elliot, and has a daughter Margery who is a junior in Home Economics at K-State.

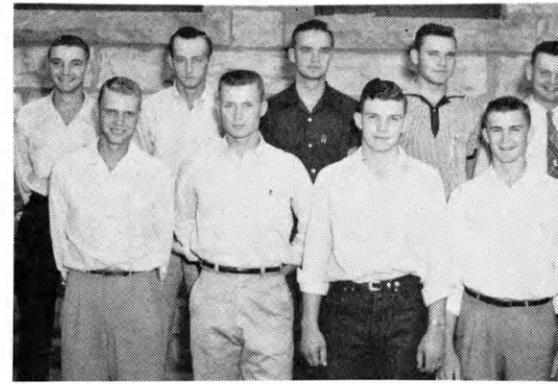
"I've enjoyed working with farm boys on a local, state, and national basis," Davidson said. He has attended every national FFA convention with one exception.

Davidson recalls several satisfying experiences in his long years of service to the FFA. For one, in 1935 Kansas had the Star Farmer of America, Paul

(Continued on page 26)

Judging Teams See Action in

National Contests



LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM, back row (left to right), Harold Reed, Ray Adams, Bob Oltjen, Bill Nelson, and Don Good, coach. Front row, Charles Thomas, Milton Wendland, Dan Pherigo, and Max Teeter.

BOB OLTJEN, an Animal Husbandry senior, and Elaine Olson, a freshman in Agricultural Journalism, shared top honors for Kansas State at this year's American Royal in Kansas City.

Oltjen was high individual in beef cattle judging and placed tenth in the entire contest. Miss Olson showed the Angus steer that won the reserve championship of the junior show.

Ties for Second

A tie for second in judging Quarter Horses was added by Charles Thomas, Ag Administration senior.

Seventh high individual in the entire livestock judging contest was Harold Reed, Animal Husbandry senior. He was seventh in sheep judging and ninth in hogs.

Bill Nelson and Ray Adams filled out the team. Max Teeter, Don Pherigo, and Milton Wendland were alternates. Don Good, associate pro-

fessor, is the K-State coach. As a team Kansas State ranked eighth among 22 teams. Last year they won the championship.

The wool judging team under Prof. T. Donald Bell's direction was fifth among seven teams. Larry Henry was high man in scoring fleeces. Team members were Bob Sayre, Larry Henry, Eugene Anderson, and Chuck Bellman, alternate.

Meat judges Bob Sayre, Walt Schoen, Richard Bohart and alternates Bob Davies and Don Slade didn't place. Ralph Soule, assistant professor, is coach.

Team Places Ninth

The dairy products judging team was ninth among 22 teams in Boston. Carl Richard Meyers took the gold medal in ice cream judging and he placed eighth in milk judging and sixth in the entire contest.

Others on the team are Lambert Mills, Warren Prawl, and Sherlund Prawl. Prof. W. H. Martin is coach.

The dairy cattle judging team coached by G. B. Marion, associate professor, completes the list that have seen action.

The team placed fourth among six teams at the Kansas State Fair dairy cattle judging contest. Leonard Slyter was fourth high individual in the contest.

Slyter High in Jerseys

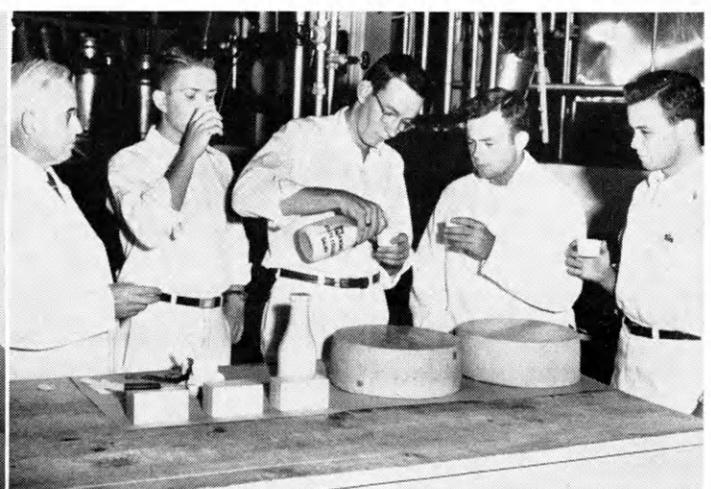
Competing in the National Intercollegiate contest at Waterloo, K-State was eleventh among thirty-three teams. Leonard Slyter was high individual in judging Jerseys and the team placed third.

The dairy team placed fifth among ten teams competing in the International contest at Chicago. Bill Bergman was sixth high individual. Slyter was second high in judging Guernseys.

Photo by Dick Steffens



READING ABOUT THEIR WINNINGS at the American Royal this year are Bob Oltjen and Elaine Olson. Oltjen won first place in beef cattle judging; Miss Olson showed a reserve champion steer.



DAIRY PRODUCTS JUDGING team, left to right, are W. H. Martin, coach, Carl Meyers, Lambert Mills, Warren Prawl, and Sherlund Prawl. The team was ninth among 22 colleges at Boston.

Cattle Market?

By Hayes Walker

THE CATTLE MARKET is beginning to look better than anticipated as 1953 draws to a close. And the parched areas of the cattle country have received rain and snow, giving stockmen, practically ruined by the drought, new hope. Cattle numbers are at an all-time high and beef production in 1954 will be almost as large as in 1953, Lawrence Van Meir, Ag Economist at K-State, said.

During the past year the market has been up and down, mostly down. But in the past three months trends have been upward. Prices have been stimulated in several ways.

The government has been completing its beef-buying program, which still lacked 90,000,000 pounds early in October. The bulk of this has been from the lower grades, according to C. A. Zugenbuehler, Chicago economist.

Campaigns Sell Beef

Retail meat chain stores have cooperated and put on a campaign to sell more beef, principally lower grade. In the first few weeks of the campaign the several thousand chain stores increased their beef sales 49 percent. As the consumer demand increased, the volume of cattle reaching markets increased, bringing about remarkable stability.

Along with this big program to move more beef through the retail chain store association, several smaller campaigns have been launched. Organizations representing cattle raisers and beef producers have strived to make the public conscious that there is plenty of beef available at attractive prices.

The buying of replacement cattle has been considerably lower this year, however. In August breeders in the

nine Cornbelt states bought 23 percent fewer replacement cattle than in August a year ago. Despite that, there was a larger number available this year. Purchases totaled 264,626 head, compared with 347,353 head in August a year ago.

This trend continued during September at the eight markets that handle the bulk of the stockers and feeders. Replacement buyers bought 28 percent fewer cattle during this month at these points than a year ago.

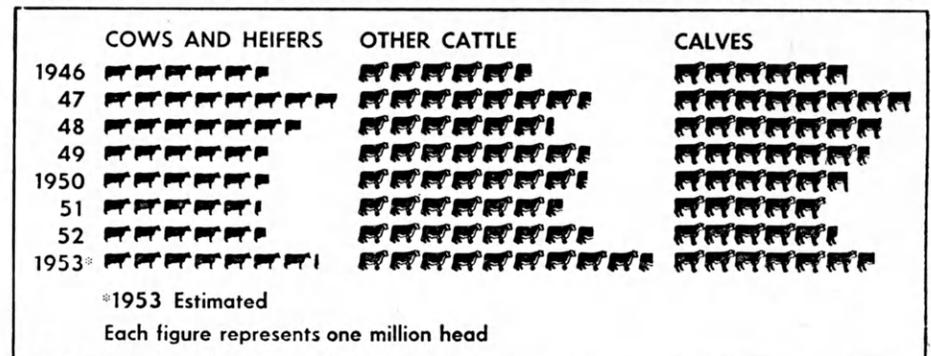
September purchases of all classes of thin cattle totaled 230,244 head compared with 321,410 head during the same month last year.

immediate future. However, the volume is not so large as in other recent years, as many deals are being held up because of the inability of buyer and seller to agree on price.

In 1950-51 feeders could be bought for 40-45 cents while fat cattle were selling for 35-40 cents. At these prices a 400-pound steer could be bought for 40 cents, or \$160, fed to 1000 pounds and sold for 35 cents a pound, or \$350, leaving a profit of \$190 minus feed. In comparison now feeders are selling for 18-23 cents and fat cattle for 23-30 cents.

At the present price a 400-pound feeder steer brings 18 cents a pound,

U. S. SLAUGHTER OF CATTLE AND CALVES UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION



American Hereford Journal

Most observers believe the replacement buying will not reach the record levels of a year ago despite the increased supplies. It is believed many feeders will either stay out completely or will reduce their operations after the losses they have been taking, Zugenbuehler said.

On the other hand, some think that prices might become attractive enough to stimulate a late demand. There has been a slight increase in the contracting of replacement cattle throughout the West, mostly for the

or \$72, fed to 1,000 pounds and sold on the fat cattle market for 23 cents a pound, or \$230 for a profit of \$158, minus a larger feed bill than 1950-51, which leaves a much smaller profit.

Until the price of feeders goes back up the feeder business will not be very profitable.

The campaigns, increased supply, and many other factors will tell the story on the cattle market. As it looks now the prices will stay the same or increase slightly; only time will tell.

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OVER FEED COST WITH MOORMAN'S

—says J. J. Nehrbass

"I believe in feeding my cows according to their bred-in capacity to produce," says Jacob J. Nehrbass, Washington Co., Wis. "That's why, for the past 3 years I've hand fed them MoorMan's Mintrate* for Dairy Cows along with my home grown feeds. I find it pays off by keeping my herd average up. I started with MoorMan's, feeding Top-Kream* Minerals, but I find Mintrate, which is a combination of minerals, proteins and vitamins all in one bag, is more convenient . . . gives me an even better balanced ration and a greater milk flow.

"Our DHIA records for 1952 show that the average of 19.7 cows on test gave a profit over cost of feed of \$6751.19. They averaged 10,833 lbs. of milk per cow with a 3.61% butterfat test. Total feed cost for each cow averaged \$138.50. This includes a charge for pasture of \$3.00 a month per head for 7 months. And our return per cow was \$481.20.

"That gave us a profit, over feed cost, of \$342.70 per cow. I think this is a good record, as the average return per cow in Wisconsin that year, according to DHIA records was a profit of \$262.00 over feed cost. We made nearly \$81 better than the average DHIA record.

"One of our 3 year olds— (in the foreground of the picture)—Rock Star Lochinvar Wickie Fay, on a 350-day test, produced 15,497 lbs. of milk with a total feed cost of \$148.40. Her profit for milk over feed was \$507.41. That goes to prove that good breeding pays. We have our own herd bulls and raise our own heifers. We're mighty proud of the herd they've developed."

As Mr. Nehrbass has found, only a pound or a pound and a half of MoorMan's Mintrate is all you'll need in your ration to help your cow with her three important jobs—maintaining her body, producing a calf a year, and producing milk according to her capacity. MoorMan's Mintrate for Dairy Cows is a power-packed blend of essential minerals, necessary vitamins and rich proteins that play an important part in doing those jobs—and doing them well.

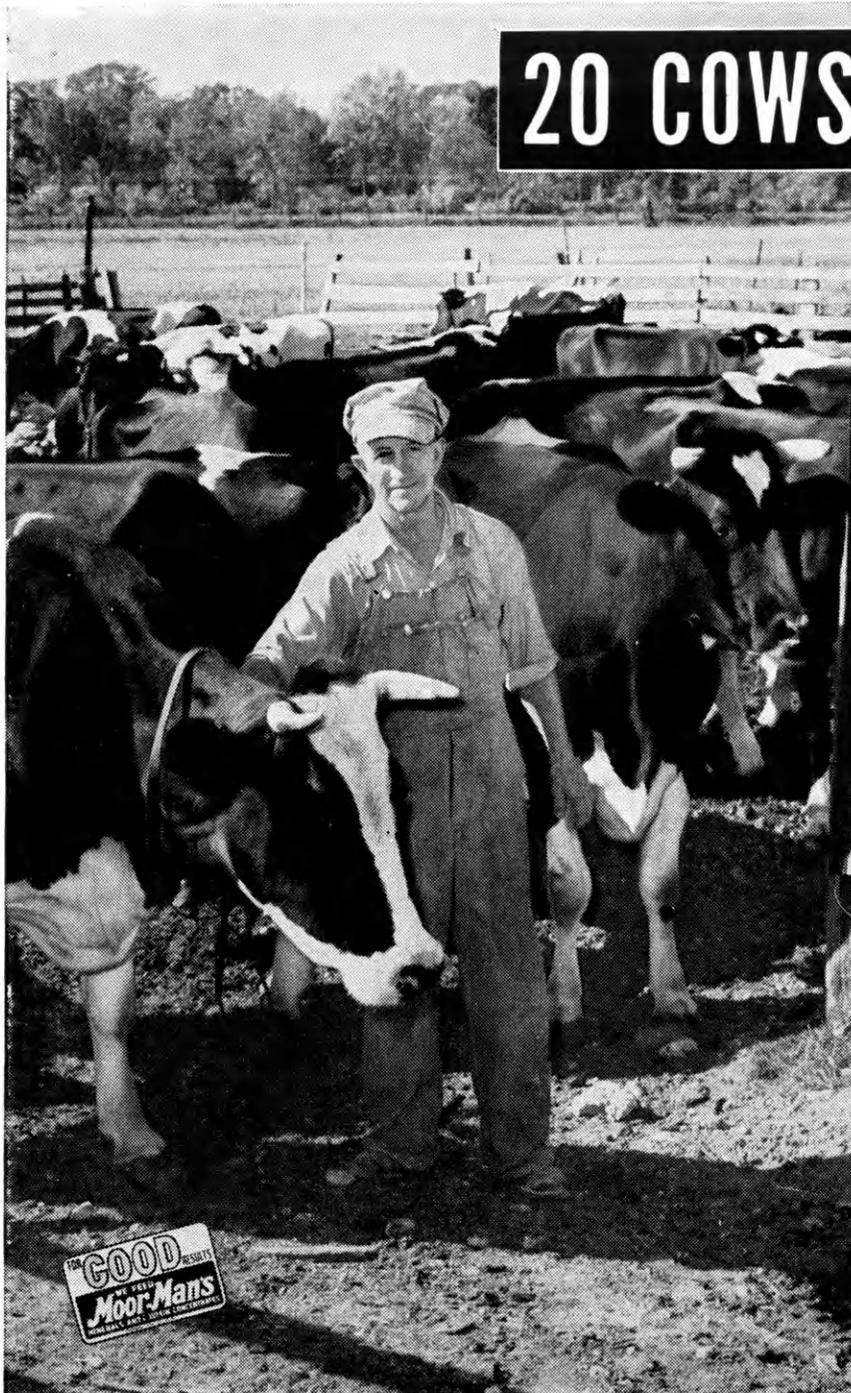
MoorMan's Mintrate for Dairy Cows fed with home grown feeds helps release more of the nutritional power in grain and roughages and cuts production costs. If you think Mr. Nehrbass, like thousands of other dairymen who feed MoorMan's, is doing a good job perhaps you'd like to try MoorMan's . . . if so, then it's time to see your MoorMan Man. If no MoorMan Man calls, write MoorMan Mfg. Co., Dept. O4-12, Quincy, Ill.

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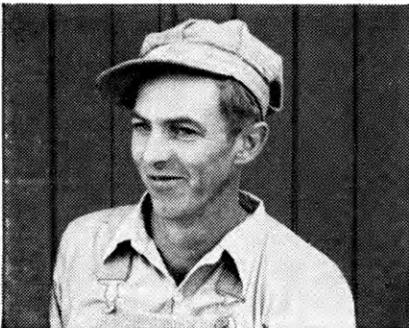
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Mrs. M. L. Johnson, White Co., Ind., says: "We know from 10 years of experience that a growing ration of MoorMan's Mintrate and corn for pullets . . . not only costs us less than other feeds, but gives us well-developed birds that lay heavy in early fall. Last year our pullets started laying at about 5½ months . . . at 7½ months they were laying at a 70% rate."

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Christmas On the Farm

(Continued from
page 11)



Remember Mother puffing out the old kerosene lamp and tucking you in bed and reading "The Night Before Christmas." Remember the cookies Aunt Jenny used to have for all you kids; she made them in Christmas designs. Remember how the folks forgot all about you and the cousins playing hide-and-seek and let you stay up 'most all night.

Shopping Ordeal

Remember when you were a kid and Mother took you into town for the first time Christmas shopping. It wasn't so pleasant, though, with everybody bumping you around so you couldn't see Santa Claus or the street decorations. And every toy counter you approached Mother yelled, "Come on, I've got dozens of presents to buy yet."

But it began to snow that evening, you remember, and the city calmed down its commercial tempo to observe the birth of Christ. "Merry Christmases" sounded as people passed each other going to their homes and church bells chimed rhythmically and carols drifted out through the storm.

Still you knew right then Christmas in the city or any other place was just not comparable to the good ol' time Christmas back on the farm.

"How do you test the temperature of a baby's bath?" the home-economics instructor asked.

"First," said the student, "you fill the tub and put the baby in it. Then, if the baby turns red, it's too hot; if the baby turns purple, it's too cold; and if it turns white, it needed the bath."

—Country Gentleman

The farmer was trying to teach his young son not to be greedy. "Tommy," he said, "you're acting like a pig. Do you know what a pig is?"

"Sure, pop," replied the lad. "A pig is a hog's little boy."

—Country Gentleman

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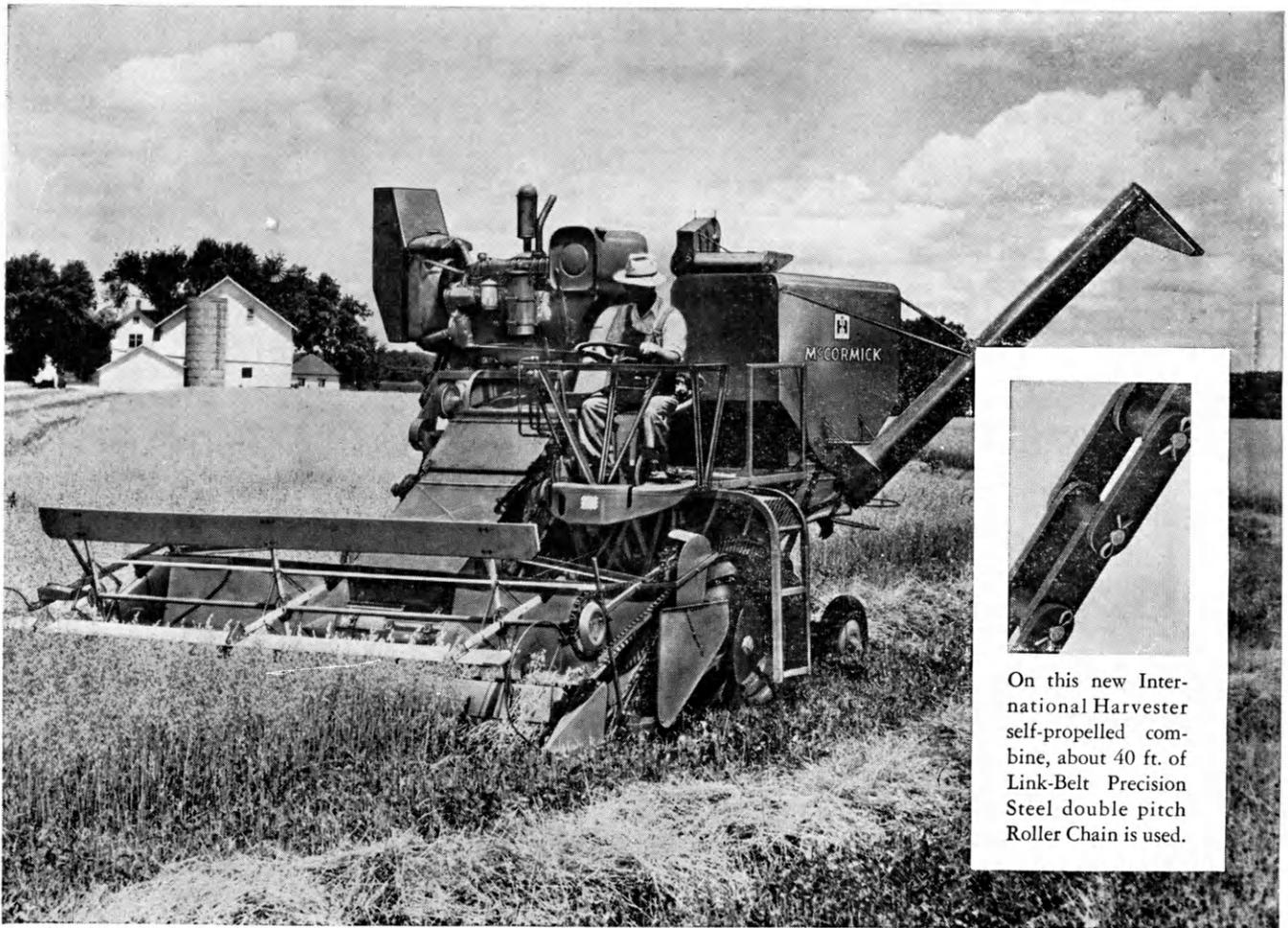
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cylinder and auger of a combine . . . to the wagon elevator of a corn harvester . . . on many another demanding job.

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Brandner Has Big Job

A man with a real job on his hands is Lowell Brandner, former director of the News Bureau. He is the new ag publicity man, Agricultural Experiment Station editor and Ag Student sponsor. He replaces Stan Creek who has returned to manage his Slash Valley farm at Dearborn, Missouri.

Don Alexander, an Ag Journalism grad and ex-Collegian editor, will teach the Ag Journalism courses formerly taught by Creek.

A woman went into a Vet's office and told him that she wanted every bit of her little dog's tail cut off. The Vet asked her, "What do you want every bit of his tail cut off for?" The woman answered, "My mother-in-law is coming to stay with us for a while and I don't want anything friendly around the house."

—*The Future Farmer*

Chloe—"Peggy swears that she's never been kissed."

Zoe—"Well, that would make anyone swear."

—*Farm Journal*

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Square Dance

(Continued from page 15)

maintenance of good physical condition. It also develops rhythmic movement and coordination.

This is a form of dancing grandma and grandpa can take part in just as much as their grandchildren. Not many people in their thirties and forties are able to take part in strenuous athletics but most of them can enjoy a good square dance session.

After mid-semester exams students enjoy putting aside their books and going to a good square dance. It relieves mental strain and rests the mind.

As Neal Atkinson, Promenader member, puts the patter in his own creative words as each dance comes to a close, 'The ol' train's whistlin' 'round the bend; Sorry folks, but that's the end.'



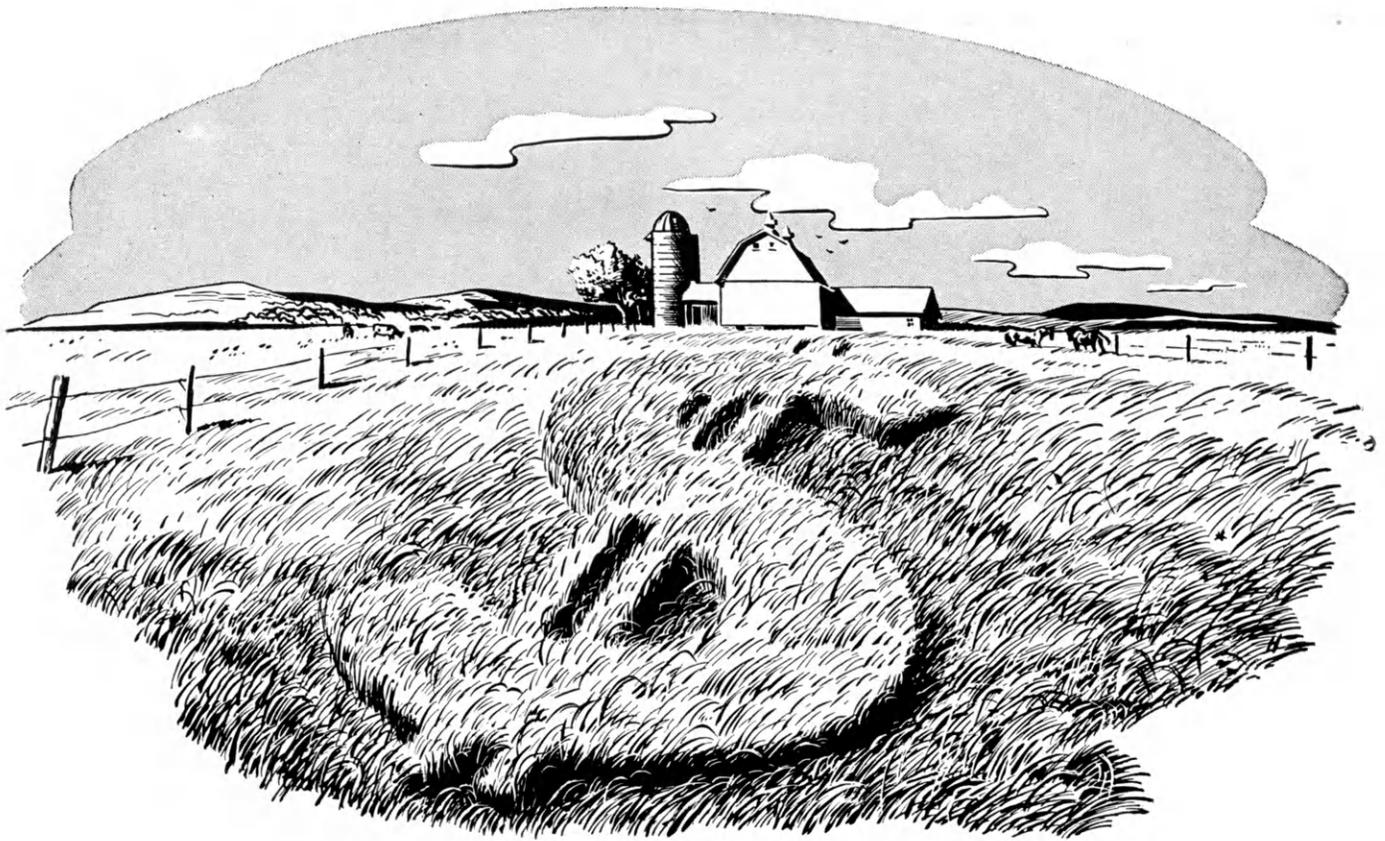
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Performance of these balers on farms all over the country has won New Holland the title of "First in Grassland Farming." Today, farmers go to New Holland for the balers, forage harvesters, mowers, forage blowers and spreader-seeders they know will give them greatest returns from their grassland programs.

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Book Review

(Continued from page 16)

Leck of the Washington chapter. And that same year the Shawnee Mission chapter led by Harold Garver was tops in the nation.

"Kansas has had four national FFA officers, and five Kansas boys have competed in the national FFA speech contest with two winners, two second places, and one fourth place winner."

Davidson has had a big hand in Kansas' success, since most of the Voc Ag teachers coaching winning FFA boys were trained at Kansas State.

As professor of vocational education and head of resident teacher training in agriculture, Davidson works with students who are planning to teach vocational agriculture, assists in their placement, and assists with graduate work.

For recreation he says, "At 4:00 p.m. I crawl out from beneath the unfinished work on my desk and go up to the Manhattan Country Club and shoot nine holes of golf." He modestly admits he still shoots in the 80's.

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