

Even though Tuscola County will not be eligible for awards this year in the state contest there is an element of challenge to try for "recognition if we merit it."

Follow me please as we pass down the long hall of our organization. We will stop from time to time to peak into the rooms which help to form the nucleus of our Farm Bureau.

In each room we find the information division a vital part of every program, every project and every activity. As our good friend Mel Woell says "what good is a good thing if noone knows about it." That is what we have attempted to do - make things happen then tell about it. The information committee had the opportunity to know all that was going on within the organization during the past year.

Let's start with this big conference room where the Board of Directors meet. My, they were busy this past year. They held twelve regular meetings, two special meetings and ten meetings with membership. Besides there was a legislative session and finding

out the needs of members. The information committee attended all meetings called by the Board and publicized them.

This next room belongs to the legislative group and they were real busy this year. Again our county had the largest delegation at the legislative seminar, of the sixty-five who attended from our five county district twenty-five were from Tuscola. Four of us took our high school son or daughter. They really learned a great deal that day as we talked to the legislators, visited the house and senate in session and toured the Capital. Come to think of it this could be a real Farm Bureau project, help these kids become interested in state government.

The legislative committee launched a telephone grid to get everyone to write their congressman about the wheat bill. All community groups were supplied with postal cards this year, so during some discussions they could pause, write their feelings to the Congressmen.

There has been plenty of opportunities to write news copy for radio and newspapers on the farm program and we

have capitalized on this to give the farmers' view. Many "Dear Editor" letters and editorials appeared in the county leading newspaper.

To further the interest of members in legislative matters, the Co-Chairman of the Information committee joined the Michigan delegation on a tour to our nation's capital. This was not a trip for their enjoyment and knowledge exclusively. They prepared articles for newspapers, made a scrapbook and sent word that they were available to anyone who wanted to hear the story of Washington. Members of Community groups, women's group, the board and those at the district institute heard the story.

While we are on a governmental subject this County Farm Bureau's members have been real active in the political picture. We find them doing precinct work, serving on election board, as delegates, supporting candidates openly and chairing campaigns. We are proud of the way Farm Bureau people have taken an active interest in politics. There was "getting acquainted" sessions all over the county with those

running for office. It makes me proud to belong to an organization that works so hard for what is good, honest and right.

Move on down the corridor, the next room belongs to membership which is headed by two roll call managers. They have a committee of ten to maintain the office. They had training sessions, kick-off and work with dedication. We hate to admit it but the National Farm Organization struck a hard blow at us this year. It was if the fight they were waging was directed with and against Farm Bureau.

Again the information chairman attended all meetings of membership and publicized the progress of the drive. Also served lunch at each meeting and one day prepared a lunch for final clean up.

Membership and information held a get acquainted party for all new members. Our program consisted of information on the organization, introduction of what we have to offer in women's and young peoples groups and services. Also a tour of our beautiful building.

Another project carried out together was a booth at the county fair. We handed

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our literature about Farm Bureau, the wheat situation, gave a notebook and prizes. In a drawing we gave a 1965 membership from the Board, a blanket from the women and some odds and ends from the Co-op and Farmers Petroleum. The fair ran for seven days and we took turns manning the booth.

There is a door that is opened. Oh! there is the resolutions committee just finishing their work before the annual meeting. Their work too continues all year. The groups have to be reminded to submit resolutions for consideration. There was a district meeting to attend, research to do and meetings to discuss the resolutions. In the summer the first edition of resolutions was sent to all community groups so they could use them as part of their discussion. The remaining resolutions compiled were sent out in time to have discussion before the annual meetings.

Did you see those people just go into that room down the hall? Come, let's peak in. My arn't they deep in thought? They are preparing an evaluation of the community groups to report to membership

their views following a tour of all groups in the County. They did this to answer questions, be of any help, and finally the evaluation. Through their observations they can take this opportunity to make suggestions as to ways of improvement or pass along ideas.

The Community Group Committee has met every other month to evaluate the group minutes using a point system. At mid-point of the year they announced the top ten groups. At the annual meeting prizes will be awarded to the top three groups.

The Chairwoman of the Community Group Committee is now serving her second term on the State Topics Committee.

In our part of the State we have no need for a fruit, ^{or} vegetable committee but we do work in the areas of commodities, crops and dairy.

A bean committee was formed, who attended district meetings to plan ways and means to promote the bean industry.

The Crops Committee worked in cooperation with the Extension people to plan and carry out a bean queen

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contest. Then a Bean Festival was held in our County at which time a state bean queen was chosen out of entries from five counties. She will promote the industry in a cross country promotional tour for the next year.

We received good publicity on this project. Pretty girls always causes a stir. Again the information division went into action with publicity and to serve a party lunch to the candidates, judges, members of the crops committee ^{and} extension.

The dairy leaders attended a district dairy meeting and other meetings held within the County to keep informed on this business. For this committee the information division secured placemats and napkins to use at various times to promote the dairy industry.

That room there hasn't been used this year but usually the Blue Cross committee calls it home. You see every couple of years this group has an informational meeting for members. This way any changes in coverage or information in general is given. We don't have Blue Cross problems since

we changed to direct billing but we retain the committee to look after the members interests in this area.

Down the hall we find the Citizenship committee and being an election year there has been much to be done. Briefly, there has been "get acquainted" sessions with candidates, encouraging members to take an active part in politics and an all out to vote campaign.

We heard Mrs Tarker speak on the two main political parties.

Three couples, including the information chairman, responded to a special invitation from Dan Reed to meet with other farm leaders ~~to~~^{for} a conference with Barry Goldwater. While Senator Goldwater could not meet with the group his top aid did and heard the farmers views.

We sent ~~three~~ four to the Freedom Conference and heard reports of the session at Mt Pleasant.

The county Farm Bureau sent three boys to the Young Peoples Citizenship Seminar for a week in July. They are now filling speaking

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appointments for PTA, extension, school classes and school assemblies and Farm Bureau Community Groups. They have just gotten started on their speaking tour and already are in great demand.

Even the neighboring county, who sent a scholar to the seminar, is requesting our participants to come and speak. They are such outstanding boys, we are proud to have them represent us.

There goes the Services committee headed for their quarters. They serve to promote any of Farm Bureau services.

Driveway signs was given to the insurance men to install at the home of each Farm Bureau member. This not only promoted membership but it gave the insurance men the opportunity and a purpose of calling on members.

We use Farm Bureau insurance napkins and furnished a booth at the county fair for their use.

We rent office space in our building to the Co-op elevator people. They use our conference room and other facilities. We supply posters for promotion purposes to be placed in the three Farmers Co-op

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elevators each month.

They graciously provided some prizes to be given away at the County fair. As did the Farmers Petroleum.

The Petroleum division is located directly behind the Farm Bureau building. Thirteen from Tuscola journeyed to the district petroleum annual meeting on one of the foggiest, icy nights we had last winter. Our manager was host.

The Thumb is experiencing the worth of the new stockyard which became a reality earlier this year. It is located within our county. The Michigan Livestock Exchange serves us well. Our County Farm Bureau president is one of the directors of the Exchange. Farm Bureau people by the hundreds turned out to the open house.

There were training sessions for everyone. The executive, citizenship, resolutions and membership attended the December institute in Lansing. In March the information, membership, services and executive committees attended the district institute in Bad Axe.

The call call managers received

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training given by state staff in districts. The new roll call manager for 1965 drive has spent two days at Camp Kett to prepare for the work ahead.

The county president was at Camp Kett to the Presidents Conference.

Even the community group officers were brought together for training. The discussion leaders and women's representative met in one session, the minute men, and package reporter at another. At still another two hour session the group chairmen and secretaries were given information, ideas exchanged and problems discussed.

The officers of the women's committee spent two days at Camp Kett to thoroughly learn their jobs.

See how well the various committee heads do in their important position as leaders. Last March, as is done each year, a special supper and mid-year report session is held by the county board. The chairman of each of the county committees is invited to meet with the board to report on the work done so far in the year's program. Also to reveal

plans to be carried out. We feel that this get together is important to the success of our organization. The committee chairman like it too which shows in the number who attended this year. Every committee was represented plus all members of the board except one came. They with the Insurance agency managers and regional man totaled forty.

The young people have done an outstanding job this year. They had information meetings such as a talk on Farm Bureau given by the information Chairman, learned about insurance from the agency managers, and safety from the state police. Civil Defense was discussed by the director of the program who serves as a full time county employee.

The young people conducted the most successful March of Dimes drive I have ever heard of. They turned in \$3,000 to the National Foundation.

In conjunction with Saginaw county they cosponsored a formal state dance. They had a harvest dance, bowling party, beach party and a hay ride. Also slides of special interest was shown to enjoy.

Besides all that they sent a delegation to Mid-west Conference Camp, to Tonia fair to work at the stand, to Canada to participate in an exchange program, to Bob-lo and the state convention. The annual meeting and took part in the talk meet, talent contest and others. Is it any wonder they won second place last year with their program. I hope they win first this year as they did two years ago. Also a member of the group was the outstanding boy in state competition.

The funniest thing happened in their committee this year - was it Leap Year? Anyway the Chairman married the song leader in May also married in May was the Vice President and the discussion leader. The recreation leader took himself a bride, then the Secretary even as a hopelessly handicapped polio victim married a fellow member of the young peoples group. Now next month the "outstanding boy of the state F.B.Y.P. Comm" will give up bachelorhood to wed a fair young maiden.
What do you think of that?

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Here we are at the women's committee meeting room. They had an average of 31.5 members attend their eleven meetings this year. August is vacation month because members are busy with 4H and other farm work.

This group of women are an important segment of our organization. We find they keep their groups informed. To work on projects together the 32 groups joined the women to provide \$75.24 for the state pennies project, to give \$50 to the Retarded school for a Christmas gift and to provide \$150 to send a local boy to Poland on the International Farm Youth Exchange program.

The women took back information on the Kerr-Mills funds, social security, political knowledge, the state of the nation, communism, history of the women's committee to name a few.

They had fun too, with installation in the park, a picnic with Sanilac County women as guests, a trip to Dows at Midland, a Christmas party and a tea to honor our eight past chairmen.

So many are made happy through

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the women's efforts). Let me give you some examples: \$10.00 to the Student Exchange at a school near by, \$50. to pay the expense of a 4H achievement award winner to Chicago, and \$100 to send one on the legislative tour to Washington and others.

The women have sponsored a Korean boy now for eleven years, paying his educational fee, buying books, clothing for him and his family. They have seen him through grade school, high school and is now starting his second year in college.

Fifteen women went to the state annual meeting, thirty-eight to district rally and seventeen to fall camp.

That's enough about the women, I could go on for pages telling about their activities.

I really want to tell you about the information division of our county Farm Bureau before you leave. You see at the state annual meeting last fall we were awarded the county with the most outstanding program. Our trophy case now has the biggest most beautiful trophy. Also the information division was chosen as the county committee doing the most outstanding job. So

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a very fine attaché case and camera have been constant companions of this group all year. That is why we are not eligible for prizes this year, just recognition.

Our nine newspapers in Tuscola county have received news articles almost every week. The Saginaw and Bay City papers have also been sent articles on Farm Bureau activities. Articles with a by-line or the makings of a story has gone every single month to the Michigan Farm News. Pictures too have been supplied to the papers to make the stories more interesting. This committee has written and sent 609 news articles this year to the press and have submitted 28 pictures.

News articles numbering seventy have gone to the local radio station to use on the farm hour as well as the news coverage spots. We have guessed at the free time allotted to us by the radio at 158 minutes. This may be low but it is difficult unless a stop watch is used.

We purchased time spots to promote membership with two spots each day for two weeks.

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We do not have a county newspaper but our members are the best informed of any organization. The county office manager sends a newspaper each month to each community group and members of the board. She also sends the board minutes too so the membership knows what is going on.

The women's committee chairwoman writes a newsletter following each meeting and this too goes to groups, the board and to the women's representatives.

The information chairwoman was asked to write a story for the Soil Conservation supplement this year. This was a fine opportunity to get Farm Bureau before the public.

Farm Bureau in Action column is run by the press and Farm Bureau at Work tape is scheduled each Saturday morning. Another successful project that began this year.

Farm Bureau signs were given to new members signed up this year also to all roll call workers.

We held a farmer-clergy dinner meeting to tell the Farm Bureau story.

Our rural-urban affair this year was in cooperation with extension people. We celebrated extension's fifty years in service to farmers. We invited rural and urban people to inform them the problems of farmers and the assistance given.

We promote 4-H through support financially in many projects, recognize the district winners at the annual meeting and took five 4-Hers on an interstate exchange trip.

For the vocational agriculture we provided a folder of Farm Bureau information. Also invite and recognize the three school agr. classes who won the soil judging contest.

Their agriculture teachers are sent the American Farm Bureau Federation newsletter - our compliments.

We are proud of our participation in the foreign student programs in our county. A small town in the area had the first group of twenty students come for a holiday visit a couple of years ago. Then Farm Bureau became interested in this very thing. Needing someone with experience and

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the knowledge of who to contact we asked the leader of the small town project to help us get a group of students for a Michigan week project.

It was Farm Bureau people who spurred this into a nationally known program of world understanding. Had it remained in the small town of Mayville it would not have become what it is today.

The program has grown to where we organized a Council to handle the project. We cannot call it a church, organization or persons special project because we have drawn in people from all groups.

Farm Bureau members make up the majority on the board with the information Chairman an official representative of the County Farm Bureau.

The last group of students from MSU and U of M. numbered 240. The annual meeting of the Council brought 1500 people together.

Two couples in our county went to Korea and adopted two babies for one family and one for the other. We were privileged to have our story

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and picture receives front page coverage for the Michigan Farm News.

There is so much I have not covered, believe it or not. The meetings, the Blue Print Committee whose work now is to lay out plans for a more effective organization, the Annual meeting to honor many people - the oldest group in the county, Citizenship Seminars participants county presidents from neighboring counties and hear Walter Wrightman speak.

This is one busy committee in a busy busy county!

These doors are never locked, there is continuous activity to strengthen this great house of ours. We shall do our best.