

It is not given to many to excel in a variety of skills; if one performs one vocation skill well, then adds to this the lessons of a kindly, tender and generous disposition, he has given his day and time things of value. Such individual contributions are building for a stronger civilization.

Thursday, March 1, 1956

Plan Would 'Bank' Part of Your Farm

(Editor's Note: This article explains the federal administration's proposed soil bank program to control crop surplus. Its expense would be paid in large measure by taxes obtained from the general public.)

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Suppose you were a farmer. How, then, would a soil bank plan work on your farm? Remember, this is still a tentative program. When legislation is finally passed the details may be far different. But minister its proposed plan.

The program would be in two parts, the acreage reserve program and the conservation reserve program. You might participate in either one or in both.

Let's look at the acreage reserve. The objective: Reduce production of allotment crops such as cotton, wheat, corn and rice. Let's suppose you have a corn allotment of 50 acres. You would be allowed to put a maximum of 30 acres or 60 per cent of the allotment, whichever is larger, into the acreage reserve. Your maximum would be 30 acres. If the land you reserve is above or below the average you usually plant to corn, your payment would be adjusted accordingly.

PAYMENT rates and variations according to quality are still under study but one proposal is to pay 60 per cent of the support price. So, if your normal yield was 50 bushels per acre and the support rate was \$1.40 a bushel and you chose to put the 25 acres maximum into the reserve, you would receive \$875 a year rental. That's 70 cents a bushel for 1,250 bushels, or \$35 per acre. In turn you would agree not to graze or harvest a crop from the 25 acres.

You would receive the \$875 as a certificate in terms of dollars. You could redeem this at specified rates for surplus commodities, or you could cash the certificate at maturity. Maturity would probably be at the time a commodity loan would mature.

INTEREST rates would accumulate probably at the rate of 3 1/4 per cent. Since the payment probably would be made regardless of production that year, it would also serve as crop insurance.

Landlords and tenants would share in the same proportion as they would have shared in the crop in the absence of an acreage reserve program. If they agree to do otherwise it must be approved by the county Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation committee.

If the allotment crops were reduced by 20 or 25 million acres it is estimated that the cost would be \$55 to \$60 million dollars. The Department of Agriculture would sell from its surplus enough to cover certificates released as cash.

SINCE THIS would be less than the reduction in production it is expected that the price of corn would also be higher so your benefit would be two-fold.

Of course, the price would rise more if the payments were made in cash from the United States Treasury, but the surplus would remain to further depress prices in the future. The plan would be voluntary, although some effort is being made to make a minimum participation necessary for eligibility for price support benefits.

NOW how about the conservation reserve? Any farmer could participate.

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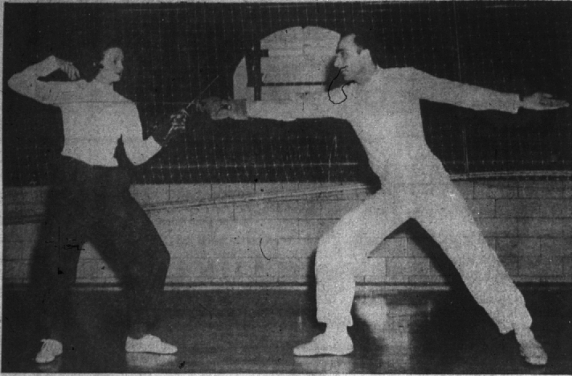
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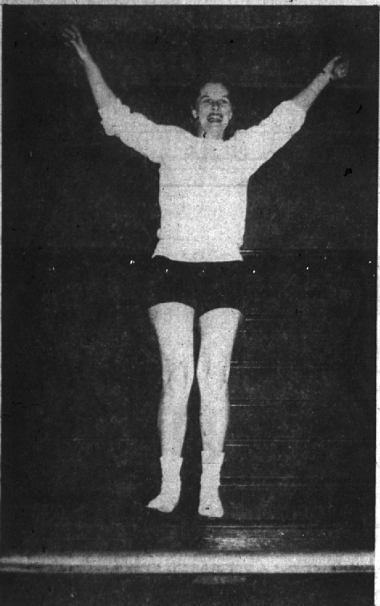
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ABOVE: Judy Goodrich, the nation's fifth-ranking woman fencer, and Jim Campoli, Michigan foil, saber and epee champ, show the proper form while working out with the Birmingham Fencing Club. The Club works out in cooperation with the Birmingham recreation program.



ABOVE: Half of the main floor of the spacious Birmingham high school gymnasium is devoted to badminton while still more space is available on the side courts which house the fold-away bleachers during the high school basketball games.



AT LEFT: "What is so tough about this?" asks Mrs. Harry Wood, 19870 Sunny Slope, Birmingham, as she bounces on the trampoline during the adult recreation program, Tuesday evenings, at the Birmingham high school.

AT RIGHT: "It's been a long time," says Gordon Moakes, 5635 Putnam, Walnut Lake, as he suspends himself in the air on the parallel bars in the gym room of the Birmingham high school. It wasn't long before Moakes was displaying his old talent on the bars.

Adult Recreation Proves Popular at BHS Gymnasium

Growing in popularity each week is the Birmingham adult recreation program conducted Tuesday evenings at the high school.

The spacious BHS gymnasium provides ideal facilities for the program sponsored by the Birmingham recreation board.

There is plenty of room for basketball, badminton, tennis and volleyball on the main floor and gymnastics and weightlifting on the side courts. All equipment is furnished.

One of the most popular activities on the program is the golf driving range, providing an excellent opportunity for the golfers to brush up their game before the spring thaw.

Birmingham men and women, in increasing numbers, are showing up to enjoy the recreation program which has been running since Jan. 10. Hours are 7 to 10 p.m. Shower and locker room facilities are provided.

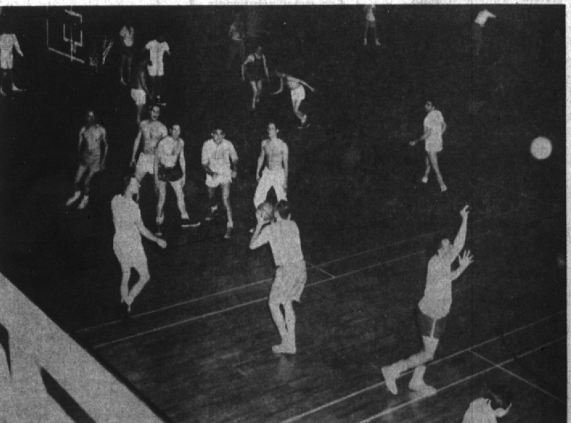
AT LEFT: Susan Ayer (left) and Alice Braisted show their talents on the ping pong table. Two tables are in operation but more are available if there is a demand.

AT RIGHT: Mrs. Robert Moody get ready to take her shot on the shuffle board court while Mrs. Peale Haldt waits her turn. The ladies were relaxing after a strenuous session of badminton.



BELOW: Bill Lawson watches as Jack Kalbfleisch, a Birmingham policeman, takes advantage of the adult recreation facilities to keep in shape.

BELOW: Halfcourt basketball games are a favorite with the men in the Birmingham adult recreation program. There is plenty of room for everyone with three halfcourts on the main floor and two more on the side court.



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