



CERTIFICATES OF SERVICE were presented to two Lancaster County Soil Conservation Aids recently. Paul Anderson, left, was honored for 10 years with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. Abner Houseknecht, right, received a pin and certificate for his 20 years in the service. Houseknecht has served his entire 20 years in Lancaster County after coming here from his native Sullivan county. He is married and resides at Millersville R1. Anderson spent four years in the Bloomsburg Soil Conservation office before coming to Lancaster County six years ago. He is married, has a daughter, 10, and a son, 3 months, and lives in Bird-in-Hand. The awards were presented in the Lebanon office by Ralph Hunter, area conservationist for Southeastern Pennsylvania. Both men are assigned to the Lancaster County Soil Conservation work unit, Martin Muth, in charge. — L. F. Photo

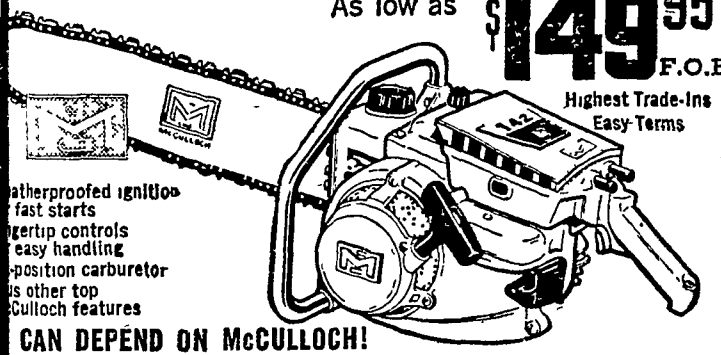
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Rice Harvest Is Festival Time In Nepal

Ed. Note: This is the second in a series of articles from Glenn Porter, a native of Washington Boro R1, who is now in Nepal in the International Farm Youth Exchange program.

Now for another exciting experience and then more about Puga or Festival.

When the Block Development Officer, who directs village development in an area called a block, told the representative of China (pronounced Chene) a Llama, that there would be some Americans living in the area, he invited us to dinner.

His residence is about a mile from where I live. He lives alongside a temple which is over 2000 years old. He is not the real Chinese Llama, but a representative of him. He is one of the very high ranking officials or ho'y men in the mina sect of Buddhism. He was dressed in western dress when we arrived and spoke very good English. He gave us a good

idea of what his religion is facing in Tibet under the Chinese Communists.

For dinner we were served Chinese food, which was a welcome change I also tried my hand at eating with chop sticks, and, to the amazement of every one, including myself, got along quite well.

China speaks many languages. During our visit a Tibetan fellow came in and we carried on a conversation with him in Tibetan, the Block Development Officer in Nepali, and we in English without any trouble.

This is a very interesting time of the year in the Kathmandu Valley. It is rice harvesting time and, of course, the Puga. There are many people from the northern hills and mountains in the city with their goats, which are in great demand for slaughter and sacrifice (My host father will not eat meat except at this time of the year.) The hill people are big and muscular fellows with darker skin than the valley people. The valley people are usually short and lean. The hill people look like Tibetans except for their dress.

Now I must tell about the goat slaughter. On the 17th, my host father had a goat slaughtered. The preparation started early in the morning, with the killing taking place around 8 o'clock. First a special circle was made on the ground with muddy wa-



GLEN PORTER

ter Then a small squash was laid in the circle and sliced in two. Next, a mixture of water and flower petals was dabbed on the goat's head. A piece of wood was laid on the ground to stop the Khukuri (ku-ku-re), curved knife.

The butcher stood poised with his Khukuri and in one blow the goat lost his head. Some people kill bull water buffalo in much the same way, but I have not seen it. Barins were quickly brought to save the blood, which was cooked and served at the next meal. It tasted like cooked blood. Next boiled water was poured over the carcass and the hair scraped off. Then the butchering commenced in the usual manner, except that all but the legs were cut into fine pieces. The legs were hung in a separate cool room used for worshipping and cut up a day later. I've had some portion of the goat meat for every meal for the past three days. Every day my host father does some special worshipping. This is the last day of special worship but the Puga will last fifteen days altogether. The last three days is when most of the slaughtering takes place.

There is so much more to write about. Like the amazement of my host father at my shaving cream bomb and (Turn to page 12)

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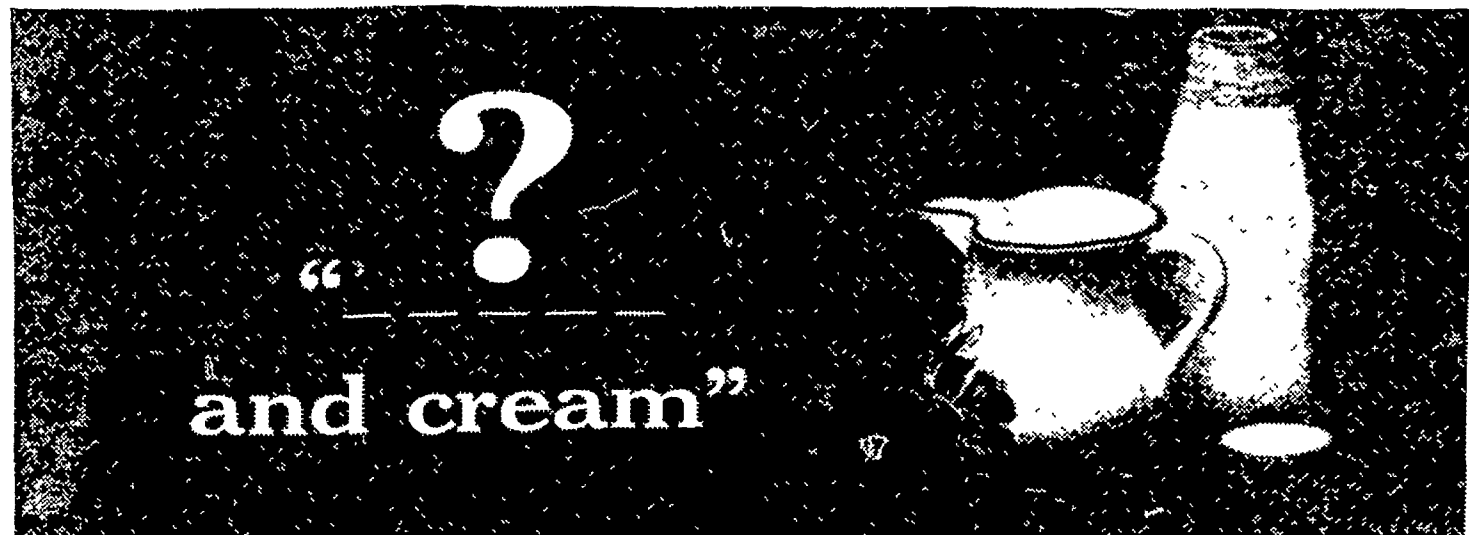
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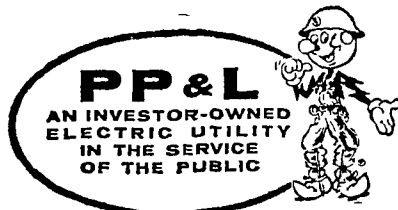


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