

IFYE In Nepal

County Youth Sees Contrasts

Ed. Note: The following is a series of excerpts from the third special report from Glenn Porter in the country of Nepal. Glenn, whose home is at Washington Boro R1, is spending six months in the

never reached us."

A Contrast In Culture

Rapti Valley, situated in Central Nepal, has an area of six hundred square miles. Four hundred square miles are dense jungle inhabited by rhinoceros, deer, tiger, and many other animals. The foliage consists of dense forests and even denser elephant grass. This grass grows to a height of twenty feet and is so

thick that it hinders the elephant as he walks through it.

The jungle animals give the farmers a lot of trouble in some areas. Rhinoceros and deer can raise havoc in a vegetable garden and rice field.

To protect their crops the natives dig trenches and build fences around the gardens. Sometimes they rig noise-makers from tin cans and ropes to scare them away. In some rice fields one will find a little straw hut built about six feet off the ground for a man to sleep in. The presence of a man will frighten some animals away.

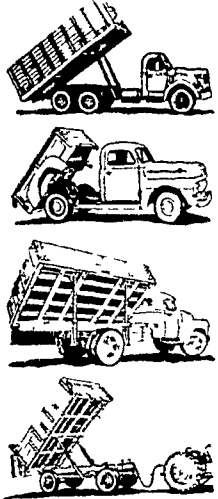
The rhinoceros is under strict government protection because his numbers are

dwindling. Hunters kill them for their valuable nose horn. I cannot find out what the horn is used for, but men tell me that a good one is worth 5,000 Indian rupees in China. This is nearly a thousand dollars or nearly twenty times the yearly per capita income in Nepal. The tiger makes his dinner on a cow, occasionally, or sometimes a man.

The Valley is showing signs of development with the help of US aid. There is a gravel road, in good condition, running most of the length of the valley. This road gives access to India and Kathmandu. A large irrigation project is under construction. When this is completed the agriculture

(Continued on Page 9)

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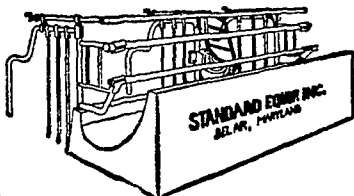
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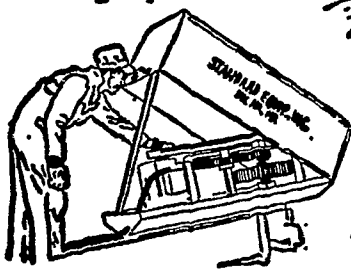
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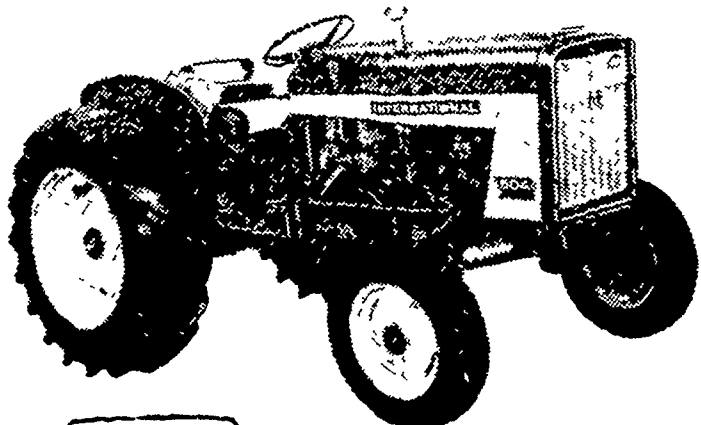
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