

# Lancaster Farming

VOL. 13 NO. 42

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, September 14, 1968

\$2 00 Per Year

## A Visit With The Burkhart Family

Such picking and singing you never did hear as two Garden Spot 4-H Community Club members gave this reporter Monday afternoon. It was Rickey (age 12) and Rhonda (age 10) Burkhart giving a free home demonstration of what "Blue Grass" music really is, while three-year-old Reger strummed the Uke, imitating big brother and sister and baby Ronald (10 mo) rhythmically clapping his hands. It all took place in the walnut paneled family room of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Burkhart, 434 Strasburg Pike.

Now, "Blue Grass" is not (for those of us not correctly informed) Country and Western. No fancy electric additions in "Blue Grass" to spoil the good, old-fashioned five-stringed Banjo, Guitar, Mandolin, Fiddle and Base Fiddle. No sir!

It all started for the Burkhart children when dad bought the stringed instruments and started them taking lessons. Now, several years and seven hours of practice per week later, Rickey and Rhonda are heard at many

church and farm meetings. They have appeared on radio, and TV, both locally and in Knoxville, Tennessee. The biggest thrill came only last Saturday night when they played to the estimated 40,000 people at the Long Park amphitheater.

They are to appear locally on a special TV program honoring National 4-H Week October 11.

### Poultry Director

Mr. Burkhart and the children's grandfather Roy M. Burkhart, operate an 85,000 broiler operation and turn out 4½ flocks per year. A director of the Lan-

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## Wheat Program Offers Six Options In '69

A meeting to discuss with farmers the 1969 Wheat Program was held Thursday evening at the Farm and Home Center by the local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service John Kimball, ASCS Fieldman, explained the program to a room full of about 50 farmers.

The national wheat allotment for 1969 has been established at 51.6 million acres. For 1968 it was 59.3 million acres. The reduction has been made necessary by another bumper crop produced throughout most of the world in 1968.

This reduction in allotment makes necessary a diversion pro-

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## Agricultural Missionary Reports

### Hondurans Are Starving

by Garland E. Gingerich  
Penn Manor Vo-Ag Teacher

Those that I remember the most are the children. Twenty-eight month-old twins, Raphaela and Roseta are examples. Each weighs less than 12 pounds and even at 28 months of age cannot creep across the floor with their own strength. Most of the children of Honduras are thin, armed and thick bellied from a combination of a poor diet and a heavy infestation of worms. Faces of children who are too listless to hold up their heads continue to haunt my conscience constantly even invading my sleep in bold and imploring visions.

These are memories our fam-

ily has brought back with us after having had the opportunity to serve for one year in Honduras, Central America as a volunteer, agricultural missionary.

Having read much about the needs for education in the developing nations during the past several years we did become more and more concerned about what can be done and what needs to be done to alleviate starvation and suffering. Because of this concern we contacted the Director of Agricultural Missions, Inc., the agricultural arm of The National Council of Churches. Agricultural Missions invited us to participate in a joint effort of the Mennonite Church, The United Church of Christ, and the Moravian Church in Honduras, CA. In 1965 these three churches had cooperatively initiated a joint agricultural-community development effort in 90 villages in Honduras. I was asked to help coordinate and begin educational programs in vegetable gardening.

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"BLUE GRASS" MUSIC is played by Rhonda and Rickey Burkhart. They are the 10-year-old daughter and 12-year-old

son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Burkhart, 434 Strasburg Pike.

## Solanco Opens The Fair Season Again Next Week

Fair time is here again with the opening of the Solanco Fair on Wednesday, September 18, and running through Friday the 22.

Dairy cattle judging will be on opening day and Baby Beef judging will go on Thursday. Friday is the Fat hog and Baby Beef Sale.

Solanco is the first of five fairs. The others are at Lampeter, September 25-27; Ephrata, September 25-28; New Holland, October 2-5; and Manheim, October 9-11.

A complete list of the events at Solanco next week may be found in the Farm Calendar.

## Farm Calendar

**Tuesday, September 17**  
10:00 a.m.—State DHIA Board meets with Penn State Representatives, State College.  
8:00 p.m.—Farm and Home Foundation Directors meet, Farm and Home Center.

**Wednesday, September 18**  
Solanco Fair  
1:00 p.m.—Dairy Judging  
7:30 p.m.—Formal Fair Opening  
8:00 p.m.—Talent contest and crowning of the queen.

**Thursday, September 19**  
19-22—NEBA Open House at Headquarters  
Solanco Fair  
1:00 p.m.—Swine Judging  
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## Political Farm Planks Are Reported

The platforms of the two major political parties contain some similarities and many differences. In the case of the agricultural planks, the differences are readily apparent.

The farm plank of the Democrats' platform is more specific than that of the Republicans. It calls for "full parity" rather than "fair prices." It endorses a "strategic food and feed reserve" plan, which would cover storable meat and other products, as well as grains and soybeans. It singles out the need of rural electric cooperatives for financing of "generating and distributing power" and it suggests "graduated open-end limitations of payments of

### Republicans

During seven and a half years of Democrat administrations and Democrat Congresses the farmer has been the forgotten man in our nation's economy. The cost-price squeeze has steadily worsened, driving more than four and a half million people from the farms, many to already congested urban areas. **OVER 300,000** individual farm units have gone out of existence.

During the eight years of the Eisenhower administration, the farm parity ratio averaged 85. Under Democrat rule, the parity ratio has consistently been under 80 and averaged only 74 for all of 1967. It has now fallen to 73.

**ACTIONS** by the administration, in line with its apparent cheap food policy, have held down prices received by farmers.

Government payments to (Continued on Page 9)

extremely large corporate farms that participate in government programs.

The Republican farm plank would "encourage" farmers to develop their bargaining position, while the Democratic plank promises extension of "protective legislation for bargaining" to farmers.

The Republican plank proposes to reorganize CCC so the Corporation "will no longer compete with the marketings of farmers."

Here are the texts of the two farm planks as adopted at the recent national conventions of the two parties.

### Democrats

Twice in this century the Republican Party has brought disaster to the American farmer—in the thirties and in the fifties. Each time the American farmer's prosperity was restored by the Democratic Party, but the job is not yet completed.

Farmers must continue to be heard in the councils of government where decisions affecting agriculture are taken. The productivity of our farmers—already

the world's most productive—must continue to rise, making American agriculture more competitive abroad and more prosperous at home.

**A STRONG AGRICULTURE** requires fair income to farmers for an expanding output. Family farmers must be protected from the squeeze between rising production costs and low prices for their products. Farm income should grow with productivity just as industrial (Continued on Page 9)