

At Penn State

Rural Leadership Program Launched

A unique "grassroots" educational program designed to train rural Pennsylvanians in effective community leadership will be launched during 1970. Dr. R. F. Larson, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Pennsylvania State University, has announced. To assist Penn State in this

program of rural leadership education, the W. K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan, has provided a grant of \$512,778 to be utilized during a five year period.

leaders to deal with policy issues affecting the Commonwealth's total population and economy, he stated.

will begin in the fall. For one month each of three successive years an educational program on the problems of rural communities will be offered.

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The program will be conducted jointly by the University's Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology and the Cooperative Extension Service.

Technological advances, while making it possible for a gross farm income of more than one billion dollars annually in Pennsylvania, have also created social and economic changes throughout rural areas of the Commonwealth. Dean Larson pointed out Employment has been reduced in farming and some types of manufacturing

Problems of rural development are requiring better informed agricultural and rural

One major phase, already underway, will include a course on critical issues for college students enrolled at Penn State. Because their curriculums are highly specialized and technical, this course will be designed to make them more aware of public problems and feel a deep sense of personal obligation for seeking solutions. Critical areas of study will include poverty in the United States, the farm labor problem, and the paradox of food surpluses in the face of hunger which exists in much of the world.

The other major phase of this uniquely new project will be the establishment of an adult educational program for a 20- to 35-year old group. This phase

About half of the selected 105 participants each year will have a direct association with agriculture as farmers, the others will be non farm country and smalltown residents. Participants will consider topics such as problem identification, the impact of technology on a community, and strategies for alleviating poverty and community development.

The second year will require four weeks of training on the University Park campus of Penn State. Major topics will cover the role of community programs and services, population migrations, environmental quality and controls, and land use.

A foreign country, such as Peru or Argentina will be visited during the third year to study economic growth and stability, historical and cultural factors that affect current problems and policies, and the roles of group action and individual leadership.

The instructional staff, physical facilities, testing procedures, program evaluation, and administration will be announced as the project is developed.

Drafters of the approved program were Dr. George E. Blandow, Dr. M. E. John, Dr. William M. Smith Jr., and Dr. Lee M. Day, Head, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, and Dr. Emory J. Brown, Assistant Director, and Harry J. Poolebaugh, Associate Director, Cooperative Extension Service.

An advisory committee to assist in guiding this unique program has been formed and includes representation from among public, professional, and private organizations, including bankers, educators, lawyers, industrialists, and businessmen.

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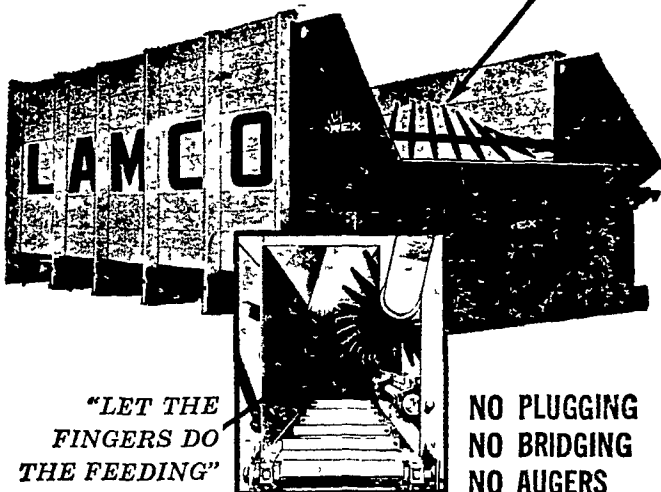
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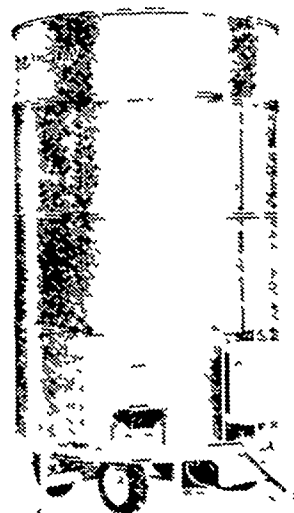
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