

Penn State Film Awarded Prize

The Living Filter, a film describing the Pennsylvania State University's ten-year experiment in waste water renovation, has been awarded first prize in a competition sponsored by the Society of American Foresters.

The award was presented Monday, October 2, during the annual meeting of the Society at Hot Springs, Arkansas. Dr. William Sopper, forest hydrologist involved in the project, accepted for the University. Over three thousand delegates saw the film Wednesday evening.

The film, in color, was written and narrated by Gilbert S. Aberg of Penn State's Department of Public Information and was photographed and edited by George Hornbein, of Hornbein-Wood Films, Lemont, Pa.

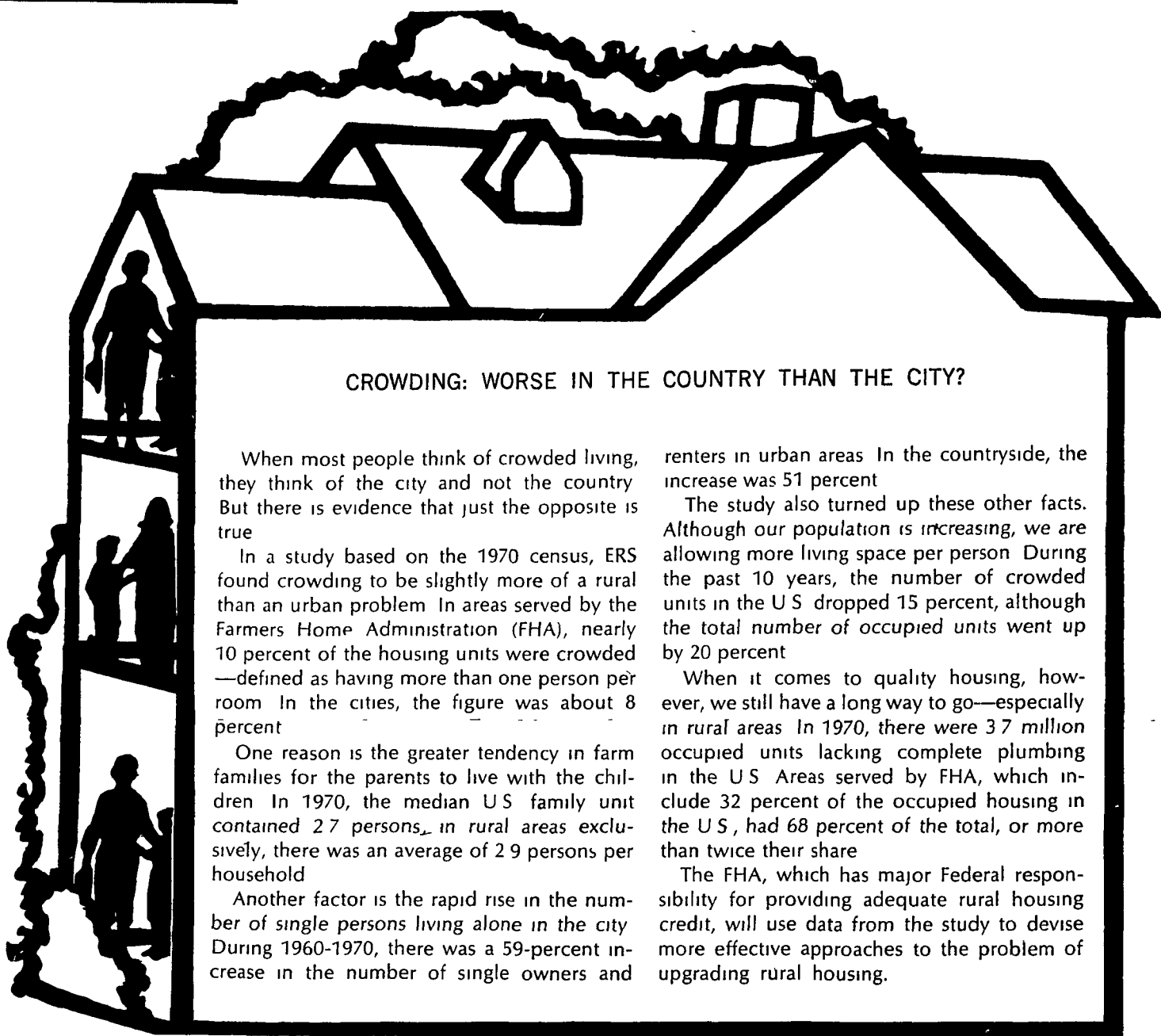
The Living Filter was given its "world premiere" only recently at a symposium on the technique held at Penn State.

The "living filter" is a phrase coined by Mr. Aberg in 1964 to describe the then-new Penn State project. The term has come into wide usage since to identify any spray-irrigation system that uses the soil to purify waste water. Living Filter systems are in operation or on the drawing boards for several of the nation's largest urban regions, notably Chicago and Muskegon County, Michigan.

Featured in the film are Dr. Sopper and three other principal investigators on the Penn State project: Dr. Louis Kardos, Dr. Earl Myers, and Dr. Richard Parizek.

The prize-winner was produced by the University's Dept. of Public Information in conjunction with Hornbein-Wood.

Sound recording engineers were Lawrence Johnston, of the staff of WPSX, and Gregg Miller, of radio station WMAJ. Tom Keiter was assistant cameraman.



CROWDING: WORSE IN THE COUNTRY THAN THE CITY?

When most people think of crowded living, they think of the city and not the country. But there is evidence that just the opposite is true.

In a study based on the 1970 census, ERS found crowding to be slightly more of a rural than an urban problem. In areas served by the Farmers Home Administration (FHA), nearly 10 percent of the housing units were crowded—defined as having more than one person per room. In the cities, the figure was about 8 percent.

One reason is the greater tendency in farm families for the parents to live with the children. In 1970, the median U.S. family unit contained 2.7 persons; in rural areas exclusively, there was an average of 2.9 persons per household.

Another factor is the rapid rise in the number of single persons living alone in the city. During 1960-1970, there was a 59-percent increase in the number of single owners and

renters in urban areas. In the countryside, the increase was 51 percent.

The study also turned up these other facts. Although our population is increasing, we are allowing more living space per person. During the past 10 years, the number of crowded units in the U.S. dropped 15 percent, although the total number of occupied units went up by 20 percent.

When it comes to quality housing, however, we still have a long way to go—especially in rural areas. In 1970, there were 3.7 million occupied units lacking complete plumbing in the U.S. Areas served by FHA, which include 32 percent of the occupied housing in the U.S., had 68 percent of the total, or more than twice their share.

The FHA, which has major Federal responsibility for providing adequate rural housing credit, will use data from the study to devise more effective approaches to the problem of upgrading rural housing.

ACRE Workers Repair Agnes Flood Damage

Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Jim McHale today announced that the department's Agriculture Community Recovery Effort (ACRE)—a \$1 million project aimed at rebuilding flood-stricken farm areas—is in full swing in 27 counties.

The work project, funded by emergency state appropriations to cope with the devastation wrought by Hurricane Agnes, employs 310 people to clean up and repair farms and homes in communities of 5,000 or less whose owners were severely hit by the flood and have few financial resources to get the job done themselves.

"Providing free labor to our rural areas has a twofold effect," McHale explained. "One is to give our farmers a chance to get back on their feet, and the other to give employment to those who were displaced from their jobs because of the flood."

The ACRE project supplements a similar work program - AgriSpeed - which is slated to end Oct. 11. AgriSpeed was administered by the Department of Agriculture and funded through the Department of Labor and Industry and employed as many as 400 workers in the field.

"Our AgriSpeed project brought tremendous results," said McHale. "But much work remains to be done so we decided to use our emergency flood money for the complementary ACRE project. Our efforts to mend fences, remove stream bed blockage, clear farms of debris and repair farm buildings and dwellings have already earned praise in letters we have received from rural residents."

The Department of Agriculture, before launching ACRE, conducted an in-depth survey of Clinton and Wyoming counties to determine the typical kinds of flood damage that needed repairs. Rural damage statewide as a result of the flood

has been estimated at \$300 million.

The 27 counties involved in the ACRE program are: Schuylkill, Berks, Lebanon, Chester, Perry,

Cumberland, Dauphin, York, Lancaster, Mifflin, Juniata, Centre, Clearfield, Wyoming, Bradford, Luzerne, Clinton, Lycoming, Tioga, Potter, Columbia, Montour, Union, Snyder, Indiana, and Jefferson.

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