

# Study Shows Rural, Town Youths Have Different Attitudes

Contrary to popular opinion, rural and urban society have not become a "melted pot," sociologists at The Pennsylvania State University report. Studies over a 23 year period show that, if anything, differences among rural-urban attitudes are stronger now than in previous years.

The studies analyzed high school sophomores in 1947, 1960, and 1970. Directing the current analysis were Dr. Fern K. Willits, Dr. Robert C. Bealer, and Dr. Donald M. Crider of the department of agricultural economics and rural sociology at Penn State.

While the young people expressed more permissive ideas in 1970 than 10 and 23 years earlier,

there are presently wider ranges in attitudes between persons from farms, rural nonfarm areas, and towns than in previous years.

The results, the sociologists affirm, show the need to continue to recognize distinctions between rural and urban ideas and behavior in working with people.

The high school students came from identical geographical areas of the state in 1947, 1960, and 1970. Questions concerned church attendance, divorce, drinking, smoking, card playing, Sunday movies, Sabbath labor, idling in town, staying out late, failure in school, use of money, and use of cosmetics.

The young people were classified according to farm

residence, open country non-farm, and town residence. Changes toward increased permissiveness were generally greatest for town residents and least for persons on farms. This was obvious for the 1960 and 1970 period when changes were most rapid.

Of the 12 items surveyed, only attitudes toward tobacco and failure in school remained as firm in 1970 as they had been in 1947. Publicity linking smoking to lung cancer was considered responsible for objections to smoking. Russia's launching of the first Sputnik, taken as a sign of inferior U. S. technology and education, was believed to produce a firm objection to permissiveness regarding failure in school.

The 1947 testing included

## Christmas Program

### Activities Slated

The Lancaster County Extension Service will hold its annual Christmas Program on Tuesday, November 28 at the Farm and Home Center.

The following activities have been planned for this year's program, which is open to the public:

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon—Demonstrations will be given on: "Candle Making;" "Holiday Foods;" "Gift Wrapping;" and "Selecting Toys for Christmas."

1:30 p.m.—"Fire Prevention for the Holidays" will be presented by Captain Ernest Woerner from the Lancaster City Fire Department.

2:00 p.m.—"How To Do It For Christmas," a demonstration on making holiday decorations will be presented by Mrs. Edward S. Bloom, Wilmington, Delaware.

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.—Viewing of exhibits and bazaar tables of decorations, gifts, and foods for the holidays prepared by Farm Women Societies. These exhibits will be displayed in the Extension Training Center.

7:30 p.m.—"How To Do It For Christmas"—Mrs. Bloom will repeat her demonstration for those persons who cannot attend in the afternoon.


#### Invent or Discover

Invention is putting materials together so as to make something which did not exist before. Discovery usually means finding or uncovering something which has been there but has never before been observed.

sophomores in 74 rural Pennsylvania high schools. Young persons answering the survey included 2,601 teenagers in 1947, nearly 4,000 in 1960, and over 5,000 in 1970.

In 1960 and 1970 most of the school districts had been con-

solidated and were serving areas in addition to these initially in 1947. While all sophomores in these schools completed the questionnaires, only those living in townships and boroughs served by the 1947 schools were included in the comparative analysis.



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