

## Services Available For Visually Handicapped

The Pennsylvania Bureau for the Visually Handicapped reported that its stepped-up campaign to find and help people who have sight problems is bringing good results.

The Bureau, an agency of the Department of Public Welfare, launched the expanded program, a three-year effort, during 1972, relying principally upon the mass media—newspapers, radio and television—to spread the word as a public service.

During the past year, according to Ralph E. Beistline, director, the campaign, known as "Project Vision" turned up 1,075 referrals.

"We are delighted with the response," Beistline declared, "and are most appreciative of the way the newspapers and radio and television stations around the State have pitched in to help."

However, Beistline emphasized that the Bureau still has a big job ahead of it.

"There are additional thousands of Pennsylvanians whose vision has been impaired and who either are unaware of the services available to them or do not realize they are eligible for help," he said. "And there are probably thousands more who feel that they are in a hopeless situation and simply never get around to seeking the help that could make such a difference in their lives."

"The help available from the Bureau for the Visually Handicapped is available to all Pennsylvanians, regardless of age, race, sex or creed. An important thing to remember is that a person need not be totally blind to qualify. Anyone with a sight impairment, whether through injury, disease or other causes is urged to contact the Bureau."

The Bureau program covers a broad spectrum of services, including counseling, home

## Loan Program Rates Increased

The loan interest rate in the U. S. Department of Agriculture's farm storage and drying equipment loan program is being raised to reflect increased borrowing costs of money to Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). The interest rate will be increased from 6.0 percent, to 8.75 percent, per annum, computed on a daily basis.

In addition, the amount of down payment required by borrowers is being raised from 15 to 30 percent because of the accelerated pace at which on-farm storage is being added. The changes were effective for loan applications filed on or after September 17, 1973.

The changes are designed to maintain program activity at a level which will more nearly reflect the current storage situation rather than the situation that has prevailed over the past several years, and they should result in a reduction of federal government expenditures in fiscal year 1974, the department explained.

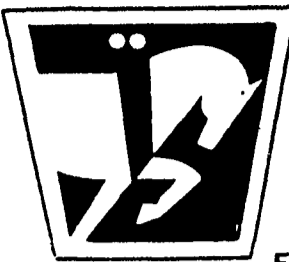
Under the farm storage and drying equipment loan program farmers can secure CCC loans to finance on-farm storage and drying facilities needed for grain and other commodities. Record use was made of the program during fiscal year 1973 when 41,046 loans were made for \$156.6 million representing more than 313.5 million bushels of storage capacity.

Storage and equipment loans have been available since 1949.

teaching for blind adults, training and rehabilitation. The work may be carried out in the home, on a job, at school, or wherever circumstances dictate. Some services are free, others are based on the individual's ability to pay.

Anyone knowing of visually handicapped persons who might benefit from the Bureau's help is urged to send the names and addresses to Vision, Post Office Box 2675, Harrisburg, Pa., 17120.

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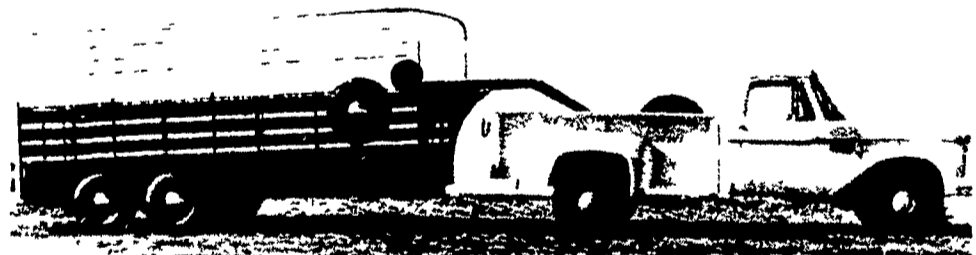


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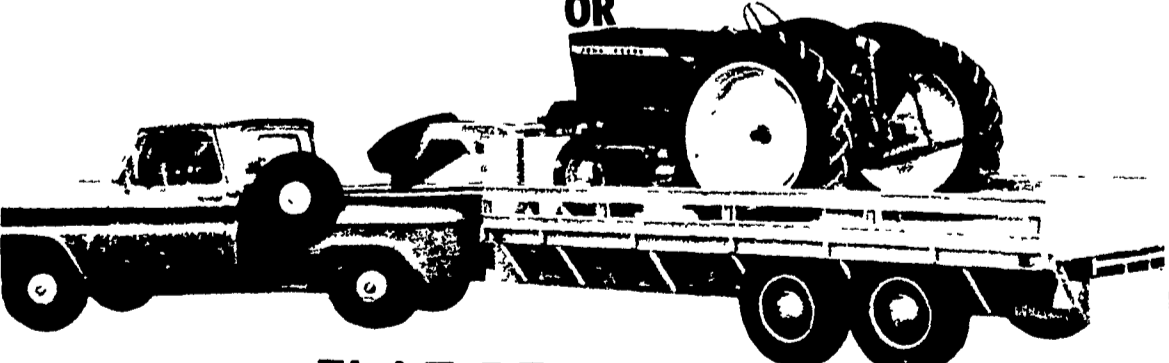
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