

## Women ag agent honored in Maryland

In early spring of 1944 the late Dr. Thomas B. Symons, first director of the University of Maryland's Cooperative Extension Service, approved the hiring of two young women as assistant agricultural agents in Howard and Talbot counties.

This action helped to fill the void of qualified young men brought on by military and other manpower requirements of U.S. participation in World War II. It represented the first breakthrough in the Old Line State for women in a job area traditionally reserved for men.

And despite the favorable reputation which still lingers in central Maryland and Eastern Shore agricultural circles concerning these two women, the precedent which they established has not been repeated in Maryland, save for two female Extension horticulture agents who served in Prince Georges and Montgomery counties from March 1972 through September 1975—a full generation later.

The two women pioneering agricultural agents in Maryland still live in the counties where they served. They are Mrs. Beatrice S.C. Pfefferkorn, who resides near Cooksville, east of West Friendship (Howard county), and Mrs. Robert M. (Joan) Messick of Easton (Talbot county).

Mrs. Pfefferkorn was known as Mrs. Edwin (Beatrice) Cissel during her years of service from March 6, 1944, to June 30, 1949, as an assistant agricultural Extension agent in Howard county. A native of the county, her maiden name was Beatrice Streaker.

Mrs. Pfefferkorn's Talbot county counterpart was known by her maiden name, Joan V. Somers, during her 1½ years as a professional Extension worker on the Eastern Shore. During her short tenure, the former Miss Somers established a favorable reputation as coach of 4-H livestock judging teams. She is a native of Pennsylvania.

According to official records, Mrs. Pfefferkorn precedes Mrs. Messick by about one month as the first female assistant county agricultural Extension agent in Maryland. Whether she was the first woman in the U.S. to hold such a title has not been definitely established.

The over-all claim to being the first female agricultural Extension worker in the nation apparently belongs to Cora Cooke of St. Paul, Minn. Ms. Cooke served as an associate professor of poultry science at the University of Minnesota and Extension poultry specialist in the North Star

State from Sept. 16, 1921, until her retirement on June 30, 1958. Prior to her Minnesota employment, she has served as an egg inspector in Ohio and Indiana.

One former federal auditor for the Extension Service in the U.S. Department of Agriculture recently reported a hazy recollection of a woman working both as an Extension home economist (formerly called home demonstration agent) and an agricultural agent in Puerto Rico during the 1930s or 1940s. But this fact has not been confirmed.

Some 150 persons in attendance at last month's tenth annual Maryland Agricultural Forum, held Nov. 6 on the University of Maryland campus at College Park, were reminded of the World War II era service of the state's two pioneering female agricultural Extension workers.

One of them, Mrs. Beatrice Pfefferkorn of West Friendship (Howard county), was this year's female recipient of the annual Certificate of Merit Awards in Agriculture

## York Hort Club meets

The York County Horticulture Club met recently at the 4-H Center with a workshop on making apple dolls. The American and 4-H pledges were led by Nancy Eisenhart and James Roth respectfully. A report was given on the recent 4-H auction. Officers will remain the same for the coming year since this is a newly formed club and they have not served a full term. They are as follows: President - Bonnie Wire, Vice Pres. -

Megan Shaub, Secretary-Treasurer - Brooke Palmer, Ass't. Sec.-Treas. - Paul Myers III, News Reporter - Jonathan Myers, Ass't. News Reporter - Steve Trostle.

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## Visitors counted

Results of the recent family from Florida who Farm-City Weekend, sponsored by the Chester-Delaware County Farmers' Association, have been tallied by this year's chairman, Larry Wilkinson. Approximately 5,000 visitors came out to see the 24 places which were open. Many visitors came from the suburban Delaware County area as well as, the adjoining state of Delaware. One farm even reported a visiting

stopped in to look around. Most farms averaged 175-225 visitors for the weekend event, although one had a total of 356 and still another had an all time high of 536 visitors

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In Chicago, for example, 30 per cent of the electricity is generated by nuclear power. In the Boston area, that figure climbs to more than 30 per cent.



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