

New book depicts rural America

WASHINGTON — The Face of Rural America, a photo book of American agriculture in the Bicentennial year, was published last month by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

This panorama of modern farming, in large picture book form with 288 pages, is the 1976 Yearbook of Agriculture. It contains 335 photographs, mostly black and white but including some in color. The photos center on farming, farm families, and country living as it is in the Bicentennial year.

More than 50 photographers located across the nation were asked to use their cameras during 1975 and early 1976 to photograph typical rural America at work and at play.

"If someone had been able to put together a good book of photographs in 1776 showing Colonial life as it really was, that book would be invaluable today. It would bring early America to life for us in a way words alone cannot do," says Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz in the introduction to the Yearbook.

"As we thought about this, we decided that we wouldn't miss the opportunity to photograph America's farm life for the 1976 Bicentennial.

"This book captures, photographically, American rural life as it is today. Not only will the book become more valuable with each passing year, but its first purpose is to help you understand better right now what modern farming is really like," says Secretary Butz.

"Modern agriculture is changing so fast that it is hard to keep up. Those who 'used to live on a farm' may have fond memories of those experiences, but if they are away from the farm for even a while, they quickly fall behind."

"Farms are getting larger, as they should," the Secretary continues, pointing out that they are still family farms because farmers with tractors, self-propelled harvesters, and automated equipment can do a great deal more than a farmer could with horses, a scoop shovel, and hand harvesting.

"Over the last 20 years, the output per hour on the farm has increased more than three times as fast as output per man hour in non-farm activities," Secretary Butz

notes. "Whereas one farm worker produced enough to feed himself and 19 others 20 years ago, he can now feed 56 besides himself."

"We have become so efficient that we are way and above the world's largest exporter of farm products," the Secretary says.

"The photographs in the book have captured some of the flavor of this pulsating, efficient, productive agriculture - and the qualities of the farm people," whom he describes as "strong, independent, resourceful people with a deep faith and optimism, and a robust ability to enjoy life along with the work."

Two recent Yearbooks of Agriculture - "Contours of Change", 1970, and "A Good Life for More People", 1971 - dealt with problems on the

land such as rural areas which progress has bypassed, pockets of rural poverty, substandard rural housing, and deficient community services.

A copy of "The Face of Rural America", the 1976 Yearbook of Agriculture, may be obtained for \$7.30 at government bookstores or by mailing a check or money order payable to the Superintendent of Documents and addressed to Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. In addition, each member of Congress has a limited number of copies for free distribution to constituents.

The Agriculture Department produced the book but has no copies for public distribution or sale.

Racing featured at Allentown

ALLENTOWN — At a time in life when less adventurous men are either retiring to a life of ease or preparing for it, three veteran race-car drivers are still standouts in their chosen profession.

The dauntless trio will be in the large field of top drivers in the East and Midwest expected to compete in the Super Midget Racing Club program at the Allentown Fair on Saturday, August 14. It will be the first time the fair has sponsored auto races since 1968, when the sport was discontinued after being a closing-day feature from 1919.

Ed "Dutch" Schaefer, who just turned 61 last June 23 and has been driving racing cars since 1930; Carl Miller, who was in his twenties when he raced in his first midget at Dorney Park just before the outbreak of World War II; and Lou Fray, winner of the 1975 SMRC championship, who drove his first midget in 1946 will be competing with a lot of other veterans in addition to many

of the up-and-coming young and aggressive racers who have been steadily climbing in the ratings.

The Allentown Fair has an open format and possibly will attract drivers such as Ronnie Dunstan, mostly a modified stock car driver, who won the SMRC feature at Bloomsburg last year, and Glenn Fitzcharles, also a modified driver, winner at Flemington.

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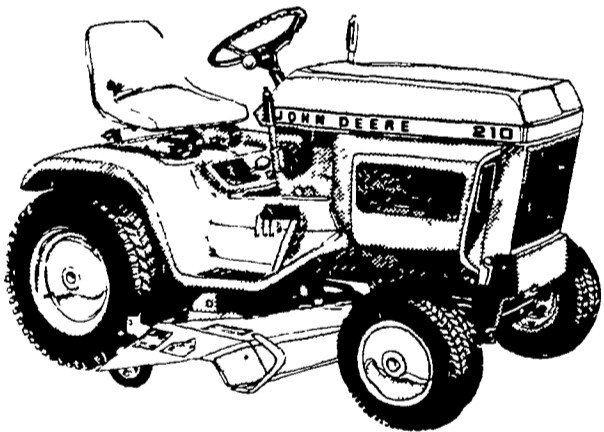
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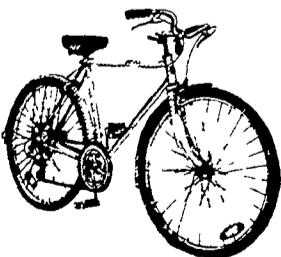
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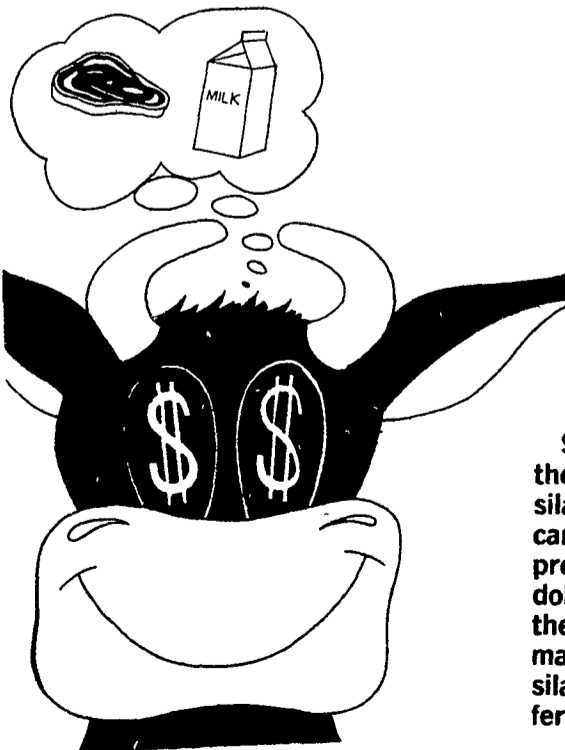
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