

Co. agent has worked with farmers worldwide

By **KENDACE BORRY CARLISLE**—Cumberland County's associate Extension agent Roland Freund may have an accent, but it isn't Pa. Dutch. The man

now involved in working with farmers is an Australian citizen and was born in the country of Papua-New Guinea. Speaking of his

background, Freund related that his parents were missionaries for 40 years in New Guinea. During World War II, his father was a coast watcher and spied

against the Japanese while he, his brother, and his mother went to Australia. When the war was over, he and his family returned to New Guinea where his primary schooling was done by correspondence. He returned to Australia to attend high school, and after that, he went to an agricultural college in Southern Australia.

Upon graduation, he returned to New Guinea where he worked as an agriculture missionary. This he did for 11 years until he went to the United States to attend Michigan State, enrolled in their masters' program. There he met his wife, Josephine, also a graduate student. After completing their studies, the two of them returned to New Guinea, this time with Freund as a government agriculture agent. He did basically the same work as he had as a church

representative, including field Extension work, teaching farm management, and doing farm agricultural work at a college in New Guinea. He helped train New Guinea natives to replace outsiders in agricultural jobs.

He and his wife returned to the U.S. in 1976 and Freund started his job in Cumberland County. One reason for the change was to be closer to his wife's family which is located in Michigan. Reflecting on New Guinea,

he stated that there was no commercial agriculture there prior to the 1960's. The natives cash income came from work outside their area or from selling a few garden crops.

Government agents were instructed to establish cash crops in the highlands. One of their crops started was coffee, which is now one of the major exports of the country.

Thinking of his ex-

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Roland Freund, associate extension agent from Cumberland County, shows the Australian method of sheep shearing.

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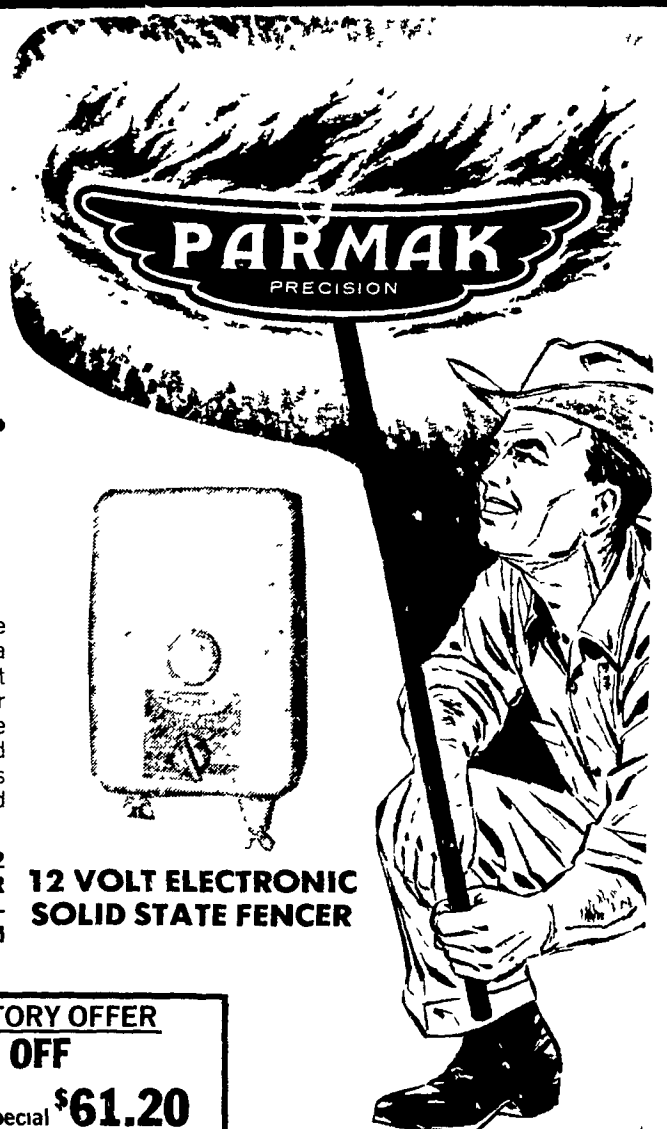
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