

# Technology Brings Changes To Rural/Urban Way Of Life

Redding, CA — "Rural America has changed from being labor-intensive to capital-intensive resulting in dramatic changes in family life, farmland ownership and rural development," said Robert E. Barrow, Master (pres.) of the National Grange. Barrow, in his first address as leader of the country's only fraternal farm and community service organization, said that technology has produced a revolution in farm practices and management. The Grange is holding its annual convention here, Nov. 14-20 with delegates attending from 37 states who represent 365,000 members in 4500 mostly rural communities.

Barrow said that in spite of the droughts in the 80's and the economic downturn at the start of the decade, over a third of U.S. far-

mers are doing well and their future looks bright. He said, however, that in general, rural America is in trouble. "We are about to lose an entire class of farmers, small to medium size, who are the backbone of rural and urban communities," said Barrow. "As more and more megafarms assume a larger and larger proportion of the nation's total agricultural output, the result will be devastating to the economic stability and quality of life in thousands of rural and urban communities nationwide," said Barrow.

He said the Grange will be directing its future efforts toward saving and assisting the small and medium size farmer and offering services through its local and state chapters which reflect the changes going on in rural and urban

communities.

"Planning ahead is a key," said Barrow. The present farm bill which expires in 1990 is expected to be extended for a year. However, Barrow encouraged his Grange delegates to adopt policies at this year's Grange convention with recommendations for the new farm bill. He stressed the need for rural economic diversification. He said that part-time and small fami-

ly farmers must have opportunities for off-farm employment to survive economically.

The Grange is committed to rural development which includes improving rural roads, providing an adequate level of health care, encouraging appropriate businesses to locate in rural communities, supporting soil and water conservation practices and providing

local leadership for community action.



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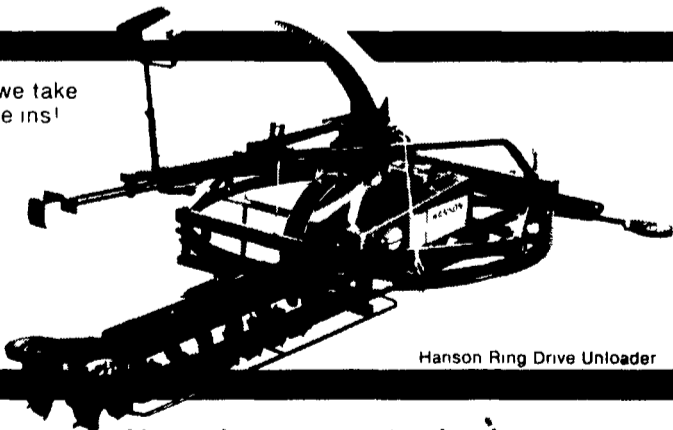
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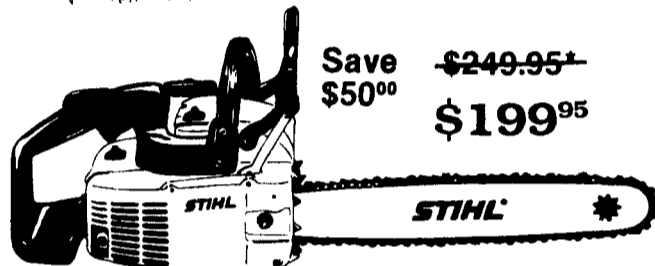
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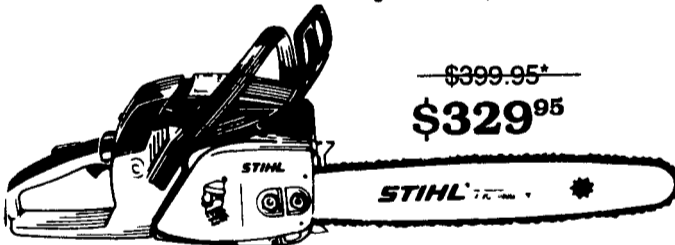
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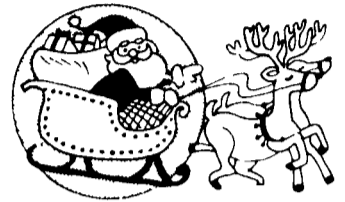


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