

Marianne Browning Recalls Lifetime In Farming



Mrs. Marianne Browning has enjoyed a lifetime's involvement in farming and the farm community in Frederick County. She is still active in the Farm Bureau Women's Committee, and attended the annual luncheon last fall celebrating the county Farm Bureau's 75th anniversary.

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Frederick County. The women selected Mrs. Harry Davis as their first leader. As a group they discussed current topics, and from the very beginning, sent a representative to the annual state farm bureau convention each year.

Mrs. Browning served as the chairperson of the Frederick County farm bureau women's committee from 1961-65. "I used to, when I was a leader, have the meetings at my farm," recalls Mrs. Browning. By that time the women were active in securing new members, implementing programs to fund the Frederick County Farm Museum Association, the county 4-H camp and activities center, and collecting "Pennies for Friendship." "We collected a lot of money for that, and we used it for things like charities and sometimes we gave to the fire company because they always needed money. The men were supposed to get the (new) members, but sometimes they fell short on the job, so we'd go out and get the members," she explained.

Mrs. Browning's career in Farm Bureau continued when she was selected as secretary at the state level in the late 1960s. Later she served as state parliamentarian, and as historian and chaplain for the county.

While Mrs. Browning contributed so much to the Farm Bureau, she was also very involved with the county homemakers, where she made old-fashioned Christmas ornaments each year and dressed up in period costume for the public at Rose Hill Manor in Frederick. She also served as secretary of the Kemptown Methodist church, and was on "almost all" of the committees there.

She did all this while raising four sons: Reyburn, Bill Jr., Robert, and Tom, who all worked on the farm when they were growing up. All four of her sons have enjoyed success in their chosen fields. Tom still lives on the farm, but he is not farming it himself right now.

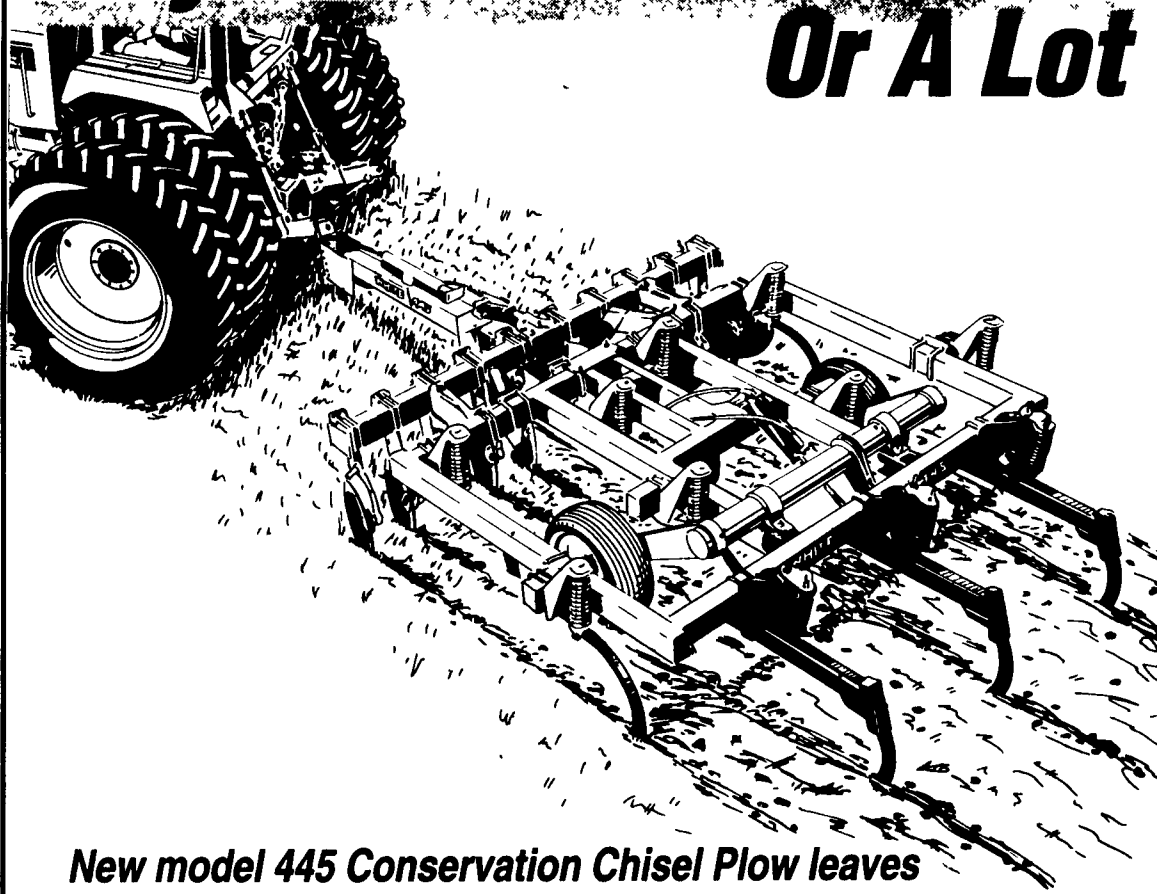
The Brownings were one of the first farm families in the county to adopt soil conservation practices.

The Civilian Conservation Corps came to their farm in the 1940s and built terraces, cleared out fencerows, and got them started on contour strip farming to maintain the soil. It was a real turning point for the success of the farming operation, and at that time there wasn't anyone else around them using terraces, ponds, and plantings to hold the soil.

Last year the Frederick County Farm Bureau celebrated its 75th anniversary. A luncheon was held to mark the anniversary, and Mrs. Browning was able to attend. There she was honored as one of the living past chairmen of the women's committee. Having dedicated so much of her life to agriculture and farm bureau, she is considered a treasure among members of that community. think."



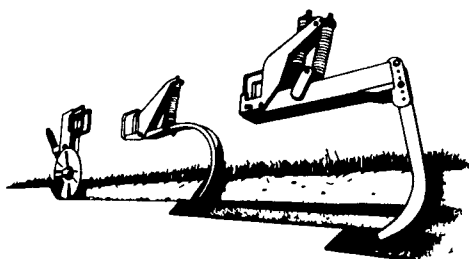
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