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June 1979

## Illinois Rural Electric News



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# Illinois Rural Electric News

## 2,4,5-T suspension: too much authority

The vast, seemingly unchecked powers of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have been emphasized by the recent judicial review of an EPA emergency suspension of a herbicide widely used in farming and by electric and telephone cooperatives to control vegetation along power line rights-of-way.

On March 1 this year, EPA issued a suspension on the use, sale and distribution of the herbicide 2,4,5-T, which is very effective in keeping rights-of-way clear for service work and to prevent vegetation from growing into power lines. The action followed by about eight months a complaint from nine Oregon women that they suspected the chemical was a cause of miscarriages. EPA decided their complaint was legitimate and the federal agency moved quickly to apply the suspension under authorization granted EPA in the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. It was the first emergency suspension. Use of a second herbicide, Silvex, was also affected by the suspension. Silvex, although not used to any great degree by cooperatives, has been used in a number of farm applications.

What happened after the suspension indicates the frustration of the more than 20 organizations which sought the judicial review. The section of the Act which allows EPA to make the emergency suspension also allows immediate judicial review in federal district court to determine whether the order of suspension was arbitrary, capricious or otherwise not in accordance with the law.

Federal Judge James Harvey of the United States District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, Northern

Division, in his review, found that which EPA had "not made a clear error of judgment in deciding to order the emergency suspension." However, he concluded, "In this connection, however, the Court will frankly concede it arrives at this decision with great reluctance and would not in its judgment have ordered the emergency suspensions on the basis of the information before the EPA. Nevertheless, EPA has been vested by Congress with broad powers in this area, and the Court is not empowered to substitute its judgment for that of EPA."

Judge Harvey's qualified conclusion says all too much about the bureaucratic problem.

The majority of Illinois electric cooperatives which use the herbicide had to decide whether to substitute another herbicide, use more-costly clearing methods or put off needed right-of-way work. Keeping the power line areas free of hindering vegetation is extremely important for crews servicing the lines. Preventing growth toward the lines reduces the possibility of electric service outages caused by trees and brush.

Changes in the methods of brush control for electric and telephone cooperatives will also mean higher costs, which eventually result in higher consumer costs for service.

No one can argue with regulatory agency action based on scientifically sound evidence. But we can argue that hurried action based on insufficient evidence is not the answer to the problem. The apparent helplessness of a federal judge to reverse an EPA decision based on insufficient evidence tells us that EPA has a regulatory authority much greater than Congress ever intended.

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### Articles

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Cover: Going underground is becoming an increasingly attractive construction technique for homebuilders. See the article on page 8 on how a Marion County family did it.

## ren

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# energy efficiency

## Buying air conditioning? Much has changed

Consumers who find they must replace either room air conditioners or their home's central air conditioning system probably are going to learn that much has changed since they last purchased air conditioning equipment.

Quite possibly, the unit you are planning to replace was purchased several years ago, when the energy required and the cost of operation were secondary considerations to purchase price. Obtaining the highest cooling capacity for the purchase dollar spent was of utmost importance. It still is important, but not necessarily any more important than the consideration of operational costs. Electric costs pushed upward principally by rising fuel costs, regulation, inflation and the nation's energy predicament make it vitally important that consumers buying air conditioners are prudent shoppers.

There are several factors which must be considered in order to make sure your air conditioning and energy dollars are wisely spent.

The two most important things to consider are the unit's Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER) and the proper sizing of the unit in relation to the space to be cooled and the weatherization characteristics of the home.

The EER is measured by the number of Btu's (British thermal units) per hour of cooling resulting from input of one watt. The higher the EER, the better the unit's cooling capability in relation to the electric input. The ratio is simply the output of cooling to the input of electricity. Thus, the higher the EER, the more cooling efficiency the unit will have.

EER's range generally from 5 to 9, but may run as high as 12. An air conditioner with a cooling capacity of 20,000 Btuh and an input of 2,500 watts would have an EER of

8.0. Such a ratio is considered high efficiency. A unit of the same cooling capacity but requiring 3,500 watts would have an EER of about 5.7. A unit with such an EER would be considered a standard model.

Of course, you can expect to pay more for a high-efficiency unit than for a standard model. However, the extra costs should be returned in a period of time in the form of lower operation expense.

Prices advertised by one distributor of window units indicate the purchase cost difference between standard and high efficiency may not increase very much, if any, as the size of the unit increases. A 5,000-Btuh standard model, considered to be a single-room

air conditioner, is listed at \$194.95. It has an EER of 6.0 and input of 830 watts. The high efficiency model is listed at \$234.95, \$40 more. The high-efficiency unit has an EER of 7.5 and input of 665 watts.

Based on a 90-day operating season at eight hours per day, the standard model would require about 598 kilowatt-hours. If the cost per kilowatt-hour (kwh) is five cents, the cooling season operational cost would be \$29.90.

Using the same operating season and hours, the high-efficiency unit would require 479 kilowatt-hours. At five cents per kwh, the season cost would be \$23.95, or \$5.95 less than  
*(Continued on page 16)*



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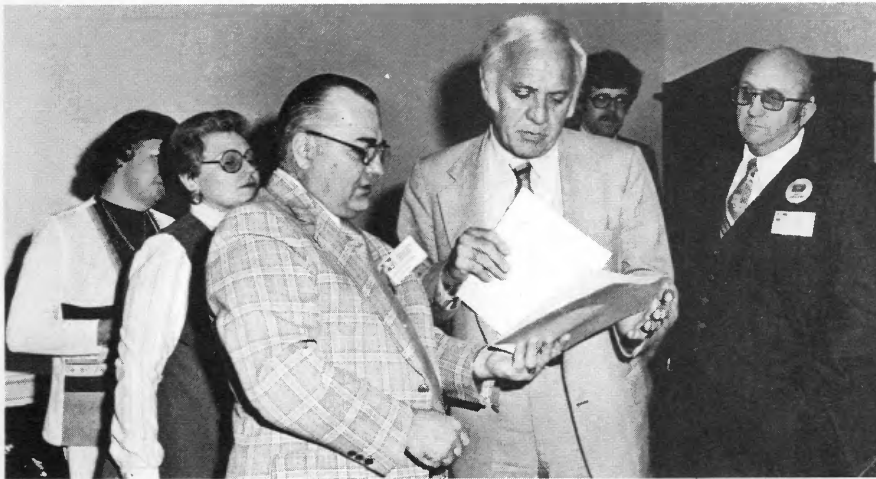
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*Clockwise from lower left: Representative Ed Madigan, right, talks with Jerry Beer of Bloomington and Jim Eddleman of Springfield. Representative George O'Brien, in the light suit, listens as Dennis Tachick of Paxton, patterned coat, discusses literature distributed to the Congressmen; looking on are, from left, Mrs. Perry Pratt of Cropsey, Mrs. Jack Hodge of Milford, David Fricke of Paxton and Jack Hodge of Milford. Senator Charles H. Percy met with the Illinois people during an afternoon break in Senate business. Representative Paul Simon, left, discusses legislation with Jack Compton of Greenville, center, and Jim Holloway of Sparta. Ed Ferguson of Mattoon, left, greets Representative Dan Crane and Stanley Greathouse of Johnsonville applauds following a meeting with the freshman Congressman. Representative Paul Findley, standing, met with a large group of electric cooperative leaders.*



## Cost of incre

Consumers are bearing the brunt of voluminous, sometimes unnecessary regulation flowing from a federal bureaucracy which often creates rules and regulations in a poorly coordinated manner was the basic message Illinois electric cooperative representatives carried to Washington during the Legislative Planning Conference in May.

Nearly 100 persons representing the more than a half-million Illinoisans who are served by electric cooperatives were among more than 1,800 who gathered for the annual conference, coordinated by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association to make a concerted effort to call Congress' attention to the important matters affecting not only electric cooperative members, but all Americans.

Illinoisans visited the offices of the state's 24 Representatives, meeting with the Congressmen or their assistants. Senator Charles Percy meet with the entire group, as did two legislative assistants on the staff of



## ing regulation falls on the consumer

Senator Adlai Stevenson.

While regulation, and what many term over-regulation, was the principal topic of the Capitol Hill talks, the cooperative leaders discussed a number of other important matters with the elected officials, including nuclear power and financing for electric cooperatives.

Illinois electric cooperative leaders asked their Congressmen to help bring about regulatory reform, saying that there are too many regulatory agencies, too many regulations issued, there is little control over the issuance of regulations and the actions of the various agencies, and the over-regulation is costing Americans several billions of dollars annually.

They asked for reasonableness in the regulatory process, calling for regulation when and where the need exists and when regulation can be justified on the basis on benefits to the cost involved.

Congressmen responded that over-regulation is a serious problem. "We do not have a good selection system

for those who write the regulations," Representative Paul Findley said, as he noted that many untrained, inexperienced persons are responsible for the many rules and regulations. Percy told the group that regulation was high on the list of priorities for this Congressional session and that "We (the Congress) will pass some form of regulatory reform legislation this year."

In many instances, electric cooperative leaders and Congressmen agreed, federal agencies established rules and regulations which worked at cross purposes. "At times, the right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing," one Representative said.

Among the examples of the effect of regulations which show little or no benefit is the condition explained to aides of Senator Stevenson by Donald B. Bringman, General Manager of Western Illinois Power Cooperative of Jacksonville. Bringman pointed out the numerous problems his cooperatives has had over the past several years as it has attempted to operate its

Pearl generating plant in accordance with the government-mandated sulfur dioxide regulations. He said the scrubber device works only intermittently and the corrosive effect of the scrubber's use forced the cooperative to rebuild its stack at a cost of several hundred thousand dollars.

Illinoisans restated their conviction that nuclear power is essential to making a significant contribution to the country's electricity needs in the coming years. Not only is nuclear power generation vital to the continued economic growth of the country, it is also important in continuing to meet the basic human needs for jobs, food and health.

Cooperative spokesmen pointed out that events occurring at Three Mile Island in recent months indicated that the plant safety systems do work.

One staff aide said that most Congressmen remain objective on the subject of nuclear power despite the anti-nuclear rally in Washington just  
*(Continued on page 11)*



*The Becker kitchen, even though in the back of the house, is bright and well-lighted. A combination of electric lighting and sunlight spilling in through the large front window keeps the kitchen cheery. Above right, the living room is lighted largely by a picture window, while incandescent lamps help out in the dining room.*

# 'Earth shelter' a family delight

Gale and Jeanie Becker and their children live in a home nestled in the hills east of Iuka, in south-central Illinois. And, when you use the term nestle, you are not kidding. In fact, the house fits in so snugly that it's more than half buried.

The Beckers live in what boosters of the Tri-County Electric Cooperative in Mt. Vernon, live in what boosters are now dubbing "earth shelters." The uninitiated would call the place an underground home.

The modern, well-lighted structure dispels any gloomy ideas of dark caverns and clammy walls. A large picture window in the living room invites in enormous amounts of sunlight, some of which spills into the kitchen and dining area, and two skylights help brighten up the hallways in the house.

Becker, a building contractor, constructed the 2,000 square-foot house

himself, with ten-inch thick back and sidewalls made of reinforced concrete. The front of the house is of regular studwall construction, and so are all but one of the inside walls. The roof is where the Becker home makes a radical departure from normal construction. It is made up of pre-tensioned concrete beams covered with a three-inch cap of poured concrete, three layers of asphalt paper—alternated with four layers of hot tar—an inch of foam insulation and about two feet of topsoil. The roof is planted in wheat.

Becker built carefully to keep the house from leaking and "sweating." He placed drainage tiles around the outer edges of the concrete walls to carry away any water that may begin to accumulate, and he joggled the concrete with long poles to increase its density somewhat.

Still, there have been some problems with the house. "We have a leak in one spot," Becker says, "and it's right near one of the skylights. I don't know if it's the sealing around the skylight or if there's a leak in the roof. I'm going to dig out around the edges of the roof as soon as I can, and put tar-saturated burlap around the entire perimeter. I guess the tar we put on before might have pulled away from the wall a little."

Another difficulty has been taken care of temporarily, but a permanent fix is in the works. The electric service entrance was routed directly into the house, and when the backfill behind

the wall settled, it pulled the fitting loose and shorted the system. Consequently, Becker's electric usage was higher than it should have been, and accurate costs for the electrically heated home (which has a wood furnace backup) cannot be accurately computed yet. The wood furnace itself has been another cause for concern, because the Beckers have had trouble getting the chimney to draw.

Still, with the minor startup problems, the Beckers are happy with their new home, and visitors to the place express surprise that it is so liveable, Mrs. Becker says.

"We had a little trouble with our telephone," she relates, "and when the repairman came he couldn't believe it was a nice place. He said that his wife had been after him for years to build underground because she's terrified of storms, but he wouldn't do it. I guess he's thinking about it now, anyway."

Apparently many others are thinking about underground homes too. Mrs. Becker notes that they held an open house so interested persons could tour the place, and she heard many enthusiastic comments.

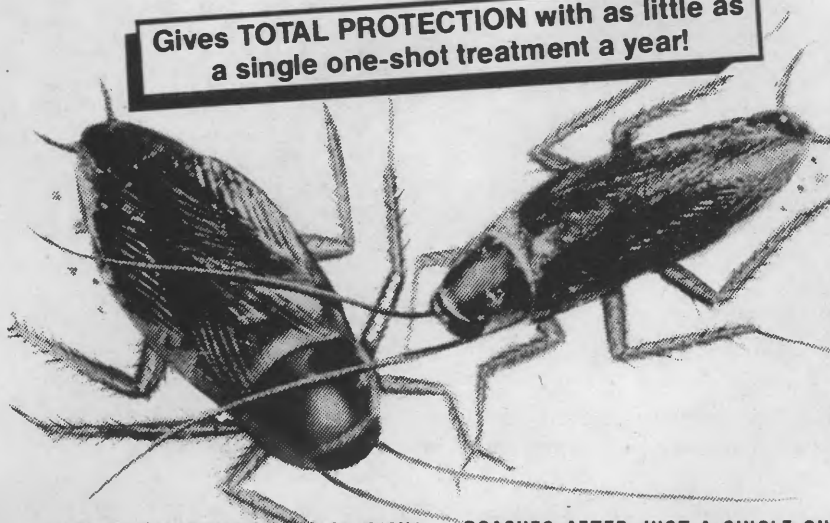
The Beckers are confident that the teething trouble they have had with the house will soon be taken care of, and, she adds, they should save money on heating and cooling. The house cost about the same amount they would have had to pay for an above-the-ground house, she adds.



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# Before the fireworks

*Clark checks the progress on one of his displays, while daughter Pam and son Fred await further instructions. The small vertical cigarette-like objects are "lances," which burn in various colors and provide the basic colors and illumination for most displays.*



**N**ext month people from miles around will gather at Lovington, as they have for a couple of decades now, for a spectacular fireworks display presented by Gene Clark.

Clark enlists the aid of family members and friends, including many area youths, to transform thoughts and ideas into a ready-to-light

fireworks celebration.

While almost everyone can delight in the colorful fireworks, few fully appreciate the amount of thought and work that are necessary to provide those displays.

Clark, a member-owner of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative, Mattoon, starts a new display by drawing

the design on graph paper, then constructs a basic framework of rough-cut slats. The framework supports a skeletal structure built in the shape of the desired design.

Cigarette-like fireworks, called lances, are then glued to the skeleton about four inches apart. Lances are made in many colors, and when lighted, provide the basic colors and illumination for most displays. For example, red, white and blue lances are appropriately positioned on a framework shaped like an American flag display to represent the red and white stripes and the white stars on a blue shield.

Once the lances are glued in place, Clark uses a fusible link called a "match" to fuse the display. "I use dynamite fuse on displays where timing is critical," Clark says, "because it burns at exactly four inches per second." The motionless displays, such as the flag, are quite simple. The framework, skeleton, lances and match are all the components required to build the piece.

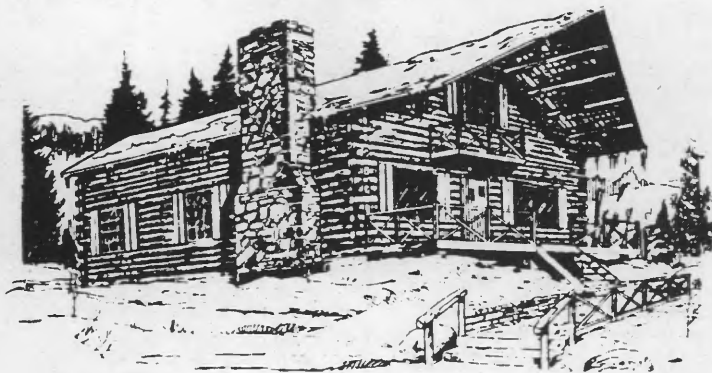
For displays that depict motion, such as the Statue of Liberty or Niagara Falls, Clark adds flow and movement by using colored "fountains" or "flares" to simulate dancing flames or falling water.

"The autogyro is probably my most sophisticated display," Baker notes, "because I use a series of pushers and drivers to make it spin and fly, and flares, lances, fountains and whistles add color, light and sound."

Clark throws in several other  
ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

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elaborate displays, and after the manned moon landings, he added a rocket ship to his program. The rocket ship, outfitted with a suitable array of fireworks, actually appears to lift off as it rises through the air on a series of ropes and pulleys.

"The crowds like Ol' Smokey more than just about any of the other displays, I think," Baker says. Ol' Smokey is a replica of a steam locomotive, complete with cow-catcher, rolling wheels and smoke-stack.

Clark launches 10- and 12-inch aerial bombs from half-buried mortar tubes to capture and hold the crowd's attention with deafening roars, and intersperses Roman candles, fire-crackers, whistles and jumping jacks throughout the program. The Liberty Bell, American Eagle, devil's wheel, a smiling face and several other displays round out the spectacular.

Clark builds all the displays at his rural home southwest of Lovington, and Mrs. Clark puts on a potluck meal for all those who help with the displays. When the food is gone, everybody helps load the assemblies on pickup trucks for the drive to the Lovington High School for final assembly.

For safety reasons, Clark does all the firing himself. "Things get a little hectic during the firing and I wouldn't want anyone to get hurt," he says.

Lovington did not have a fireworks program before the Clarks got into the act. Former Lovington Mayor Wendell Dahm and area minister Larry Beebe cooked up the idea of a Fourth of July celebration with the support of other community leaders and various civic groups, and Clark was "drafted" to develop the actual fireworks exhibition.

He relishes his role as pyrotechnist, Clark says, but the real joy comes from seeing his family and friends working together on a community project and from the happiness the displays bring to children and adults who view the traditional Lovington celebration of America's independence.

Clark devotes his time throughout the year to other community affairs too, as a member of the Lovington School Board and Lovington Ambulance Service Board.

JUNE 1979

## Cost of increasing regulation

(Continued from page 7)

before the electric cooperative conference.

"They are not swayed by those who turned out for the rally," the aide said, adding that many of those at the rally came out to see the celebrities. He went on to note that Congressmen have witnessed 20 years of demonstrations and such activities do not have much influence in Washington.

During the session with Senator Stevenson's assistants, Walter R. Smith, President of Soyland Power Cooperative of Decatur, urged Congress and others in leadership positions in the federal government to develop higher public profiles on

matters relating to energy development, including nuclear, as he stressed the impact of media coverage in other parts of the country among persons who are not aware that elected officials put much more stock in the opinions of constituents than that of the demonstrators.

As they talked with Congressmen, the Illinoisans noted that both the Rural Electrification Administration insured and guaranteed loan programs have no impact on the federal budget and that recent studies by the Office of Management and Budget and the General Accounting Office supported the cooperatives' position.

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| <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">AGRICULTURE</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">30x48x12</td> <td style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">\$2,782</td> </tr> <tr> <td>40x48x14</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$3,787</td> </tr> <tr> <td>40x72x14</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$4,776</td> </tr> <tr> <td>48x96x14</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$6,888</td> </tr> <tr> <td>48x120x14</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$8,493</td> </tr> <tr> <td>60x108x15</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$10,999</td> </tr> </table> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">AGRICULTURE-COMMERCIAL</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">70x100x14</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$12,995</td> </tr> </table> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">COMMERCIAL</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">24x30x8</td> <td style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">\$2,495</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30x30x8</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$2,767</td> </tr> <tr> <td>40x42x8</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$3,979</td> </tr> </table> | 30x48x12 | \$2,782 | 40x48x14 | \$3,787 | 40x72x14 | \$4,776 | 48x96x14 | \$6,888 | 48x120x14 | \$8,493 | 60x108x15 | \$10,999 | 70x100x14 | \$12,995 | 24x30x8 | \$2,495 | 30x30x8 | \$2,767 | 40x42x8 | \$3,979 | <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">BUILDINGS NOT<br/>EQUIPPED AS SHOWN</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Available in buildings 50 to 100 wide<br/>sliding doors up to 30 wide</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">F.O.B. - FACTORIES LOCATED IN NUMEROUS<br/>LOCATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Buildings available any width,<br/>any height any style<br/>Eave height may be from 6' to 24'<br/>Snow and wind loading<br/>requirements in certain areas<br/>may affect advertised prices.</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">ALL BUILDINGS ACSC APPROVED!<br/>DEALER INQUIRIES ACCEPTED<br/>We have a few areas open for<br/>DEALERSHIPS</p> |
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**E**stablishment of diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China and Illinois' importance as an agriculture producer and exporter have combined to place added significance on the state's future in China's growing market. Since the improvement in relations Illinois officials have visited China and Chinese officials have traveled to Illinois. Both are interested in becoming trading partners. This article from *Farm Index*, based on a speech by Frederic M. Surls of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, explores the potential of the China market.

Amidst such front-page stories as the establishment of full diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Deng Xiaoping's (Teng Hsiao-p'ing) U. S. tour, the outlook for American agricultural trade with the PRC is promising. In fact, a record level of U.S. farm exports is likely this year.

These developments were taking place in the context of momentous changes within the PRC. Since the death of Mao Xedong (Mao Tse-tung), new stress on economic development has resulted in a wide-ranged re-vamping of economic policies.

As a part of this, China's foreign trade policies during the past two years have swung sharply in the direction of increased commerce, reflecting the country's acknowledged need to turn to Western technology to achieve its stated goal of "comprehensive modernization of the economy" by the year 2000.

In the search for technology, Chinese buying missions have been traveling widely, a large number of technical missions have been abroad or have been invited to China, and the PRC is now sending a substantial number of students abroad for the first time in years.

All of these developments have created a new air of optimism about future trade with China, with the greatest growth expected in non-agricultural items.

Since the PRC's new leadership has stated that agriculture must be improved dramatically if the country's overall economic goals are to be realized, it is not surprising that many of the new economic policies involve agriculture extensively.

New consumption, production, and trade policies will help shape the size of U.S. farm exports to that Asian market.

An important feature of China's new policies is an emphasis on increased standards of living and material incentives. Wages have gone up and rural households have been promised increases in income.

These higher incomes are bound to spill over into increased demand for items such as grains, livestock products, and edible oils.

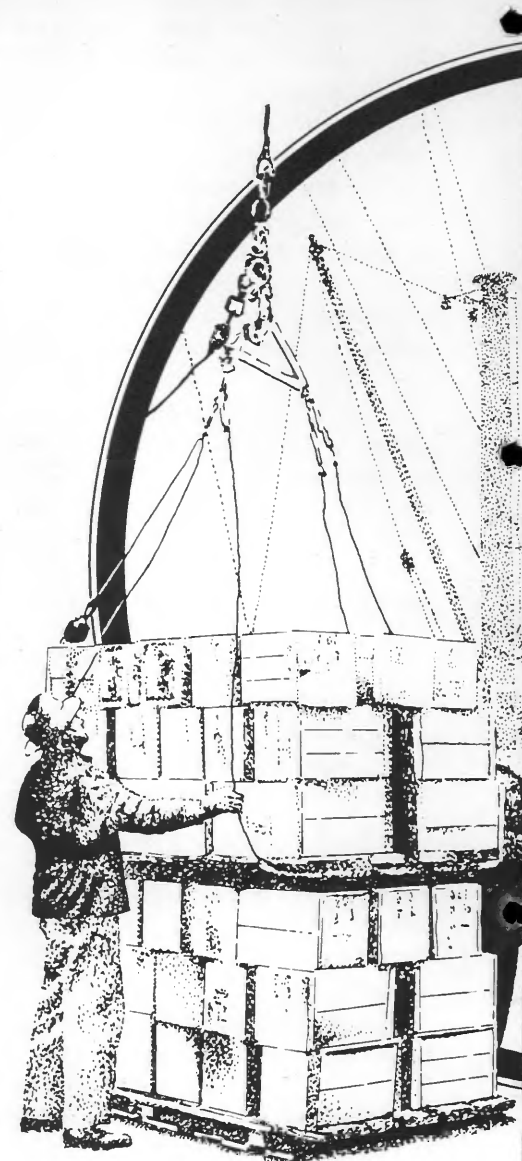
The income increases are not massive on a per capita basis. But because of China's huge population, even small increases translate into a healthy growth in demand for agricultural products.

Moreover, the rise of rural incomes may encourage the Chinese to keep more of the production for on-farm use. This would make fewer farm products available for state procurements to support consumers in the urban sector. The result might be an increase in imports.

China's 10-year plan ending in 1985 calls for the rate of growth in farm production to be double that of past levels.

For grains, a target of 400 million tons has been set — 60 percent above present levels. Although the Chinese have not released precise targets, livestock numbers, with hogs and poultry leading the way, are expected to grow substantially. This implies an expansion of feed requirements and less emphasis on traditional feeds, such as plant residues and other non-grain products.

Because it's not easy for China to develop new cultivated areas, most of the expansion plans are geared to increasing per-acre yields. This will

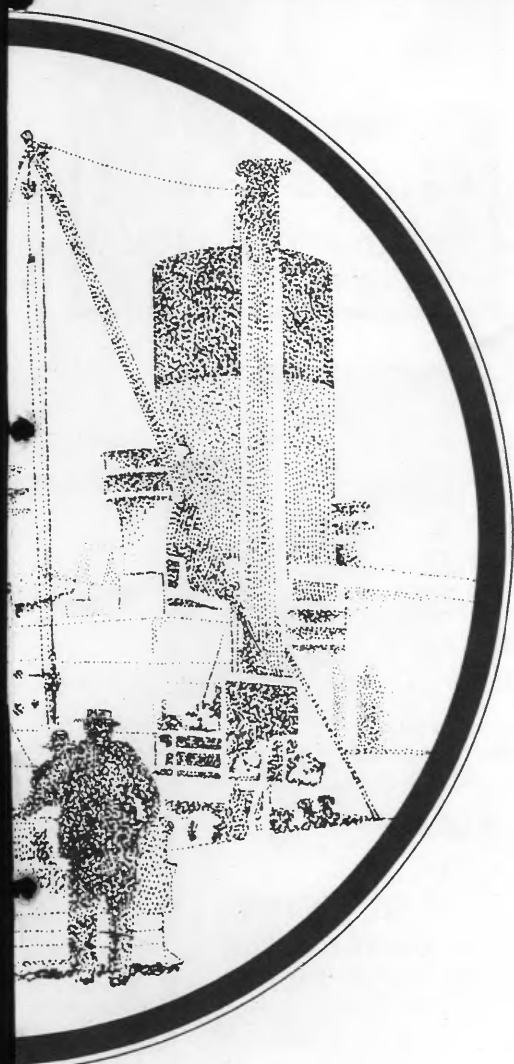


# The CHINA

be accomplished through mechanization, increased irrigation and land improvement, more multiple cropping, higher levels of fertilizer application, better research, and the rapid spread of the new seed strains; imports of agricultural technology will play an important role in these areas.

The plans to increase farm output are not only highly ambitious, but

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they show that the state has targeted a greater level of support for agriculture than in the past. More money is to be invested in chemical fertilizers and agricultural machinery; new attention will be focused on agricultural education and research.

The Chinese are placing much more emphasis on the positive role that trade can play in economic develop-

ment. Further, they are taking a more liberal view of credit and have been exploring a variety of new ways to finance their industrial imports.

When agricultural trade is mentioned by the PRC, it is generally in the context of increased exports of agricultural products. The new plans will require large increases in exports if the growth of imports is to be sustained. In this context, the Chinese appear intent on rebuilding their exports of soybeans to Japan — their major export market. This is one reason for the planned expansion of soybean production.

Where does this leave agricultural trade, particularly imports of grains and soybeans, over the next few years? No precise answers are available. The Chinese would be concerned about further large increases in grain imports, both because of increased dependence on foreign supplies and, more importantly, because of the threat this would pose to plans for industrial imports.

At the same time, however, increased demand pressure seems inevitable and is something that the Chinese government cannot turn on and off at will.

The growth rate of agricultural production seems to be the critical variable. Unless production growth accelerates, China may not be able to hold imports down. Some acceleration is likely, but whether it will be sufficient remains to be seen. Certainly, the 1985 goal of 400 million tons appears unattainable.

The best guess about the probable net impact of all this on China's imports of major agricultural products is that for the next several years grain imports will be higher than average.

During this period, the PRC should begin importing limited amounts of grain for feeding in urban livestock operations. A figure of about 10 million tons of grain imports annually, including 5 to 6 million tons of U.S. wheat and corn, has been given by Chinese leaders to several visiting U.S.

delegations is likely over the next several years.

The picture after the next several years becomes less certain. New production policies should take hold, giving a boost to both production and the size of rural marketings, although most likely not to the extent the Chinese planners are hoping for.

Moreover, as the 1980's progress, the Chinese are likely to be facing mounting debt repayment pressures and a crunch in import financing. Both matters lend some caution to long-run prospects for trade.

As for soybeans, it appears doubtful that the PRC would have a large and sustained import program. Rather, they are likely to attempt to increase exports moderately to recapture at least part of their traditional markets and import only when they have poor harvests. This can still mean significant imports in some years, however.

Finally, rising fiber demand for textiles is likely to keep cotton imports substantial. The PRC purchased 1.8 million bales in 1977/78, with 431,000 bales coming from the U. S. It appears the U.S. share will also be substantial for 1978/79, during which imports from all countries are expected to be 2.1 million bales.

With the prospect of a higher average of agricultural import levels over the next several years, and with increased familiarity with U.S. products and marketing practices, it seems likely that we will be a more regular supplier of agricultural items to China in years to come. The size of our exports will depend mainly on China's success or failure in meeting its production and export goals.

However, while all of this seems encouraging, a note of caution is required. We must look beyond the sheer size of China's nearly one-billion population to the fact that the country is and will remain a poor nation with limited buying power. And much will depend upon future economic policies and China's success in meeting ambitious economic goals.

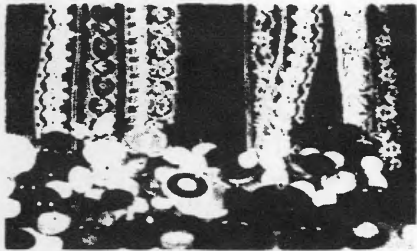


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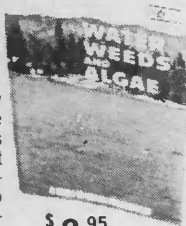
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(Continued from page 4)

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Of course, your particular air conditioning requirements may result in a shorter payback period for the high-efficiency unit. If you need air conditioning 150 days per year for

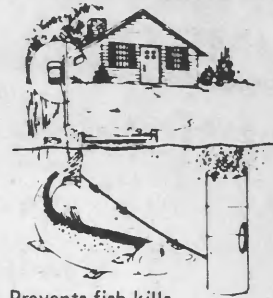
16 hours each day, then the payback on the 5,000-Btuh unit would be greatly reduced. The same holds true for the larger unit. Remember, your individual air conditioning requirements will determine the cost of cooling and the length of the payback period.

Just as it is important to make sure you make the most efficient use of energy to operate your home's air conditioner, it is likewise important that you must make sure you have air conditioning capacity that meets your home's needs.

Equipment that is too large will operate for short periods of time, with long intervals in between. This makes the unit less efficient in controlling indoor humidity, a very important function of air conditioning. With air conditioning, you want to "condition" the air, not just cool it.

Another matter that must be taken into consideration when you replace existing units is the possibility that you have added insulation to your home. This extra "tightening" will reduce your air conditioning, as well as heating, requirements.

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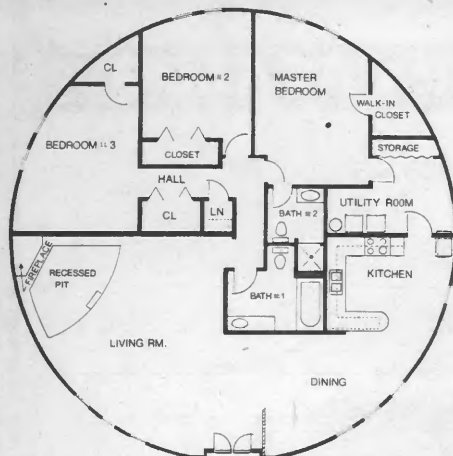
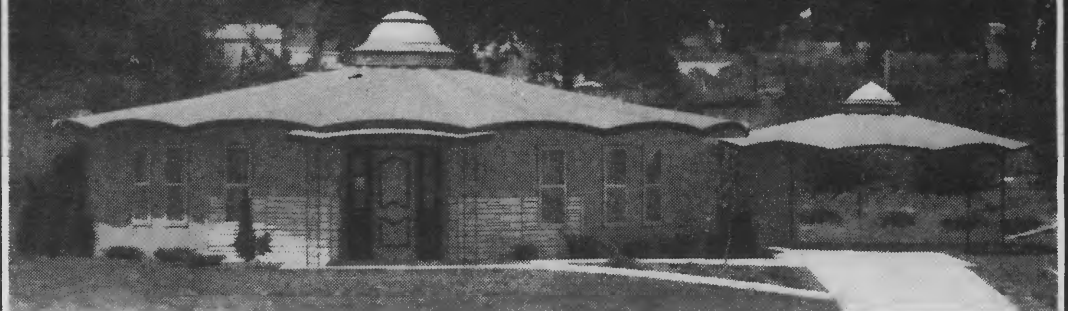


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**FRANK SINATRA - M-11883 ALBUM \$2.98**  
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8 TRACK TAPE - 8TM-11881 \$4.98

**TAMMY WYNETTE - BN-26486 ALBUM \$2.98**  
Stand By Your Man; Singing My Song; Take Me To Your World; Apartment No. 9; I Don't Wanna Play House; D-I-V-O-R-C-E; Your Good Girl's Gonna Go Bad; Run, Angel, Run; Too Far Gone; Almost Persuaded; My Elusive Dreams.  
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8 TRACK TAPE - TRR-254 \$4.98

# 'Cows pay the bills,' honored dairyman quickly responds

"I enjoy keeping busy, and I like to see things get done and taken care of, because the cows pay the bills. Still, I think it's important to get out and see what others are doing, too."

Those are the words of Myron Erdman, who recently received

recognition in the Salute to Agricultural program, as he reflected on how he came to receive that recognition.

Innovation is another reason the 50-year-old Corn Belt Electric Cooperative director won his award. Erdman has field tested an automated feeding

system and a liquid-solid manure separator, and those pieces of equipment are on the market now.

Erdman's farm near Chenoa has another innovative system, too: a preparation stall in the milking parlor, the first in the state. "With our system," he says, "one man can milk about 40 cows per hour, while only 30 or 35 cows can be milked when they're prepped by hand. It saves a little labor and we can put it to work somewhere else."

The Erdman operation, which he calls Myown Guernsey Farm, has its roots in a 4-H project Erdman started when he was 12 years old and bought his first registered Guernsey. His dairy cattle also served as FFA projects at Chenoa High School. Erdman received the highest national degree given, the American Farmer degree, for his work in FFA.

Erdman decided to begin farming on his own after completing about two years at Illinois State University, borrowed money from a local bank and farmed his mother's farm for a year.

In 1950, he rented a neighbor's farm, then moved onto an uncle's farm in 1953. He owned 15 sows, eight heifers, a tractor and a few pieces of equipment.

From that modest beginning, Erdman's operation has grown to some 280 head of registered Guernseys, 560 acres of cropland and 120 acres of hay and pasture, a 180-foot barn, an automated feeding setup, an automated milking parlor, five air-excluding silage units, 60 feeder pigs and a good-sized array of farming equipment. Two full-time hired men help keep the operation going.

"We've done a lot of growing over the years," Erdman says, adding, "We've never quit growing and I guess we'll be dead when we do."

"It's hard to get away from the farm very often," Erdman says, "since the schedule has to be met seven days a week, but I like to get involved in civic activities when I can."

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In top photo, Corn Belt director Myron Erdman looks over some of the Guernseys in his herd, and in the bottom photo he uses a small, nimble front-loader to clean up the barnyard. He has some 280 head of registered Guernseys and 60 feeder pigs.

Mrs. Erdman—Neta—is an important part of the operation, too, Erdman says. A fifth grade teacher at the Fairbury-Cropsey school, she also serves as bookkeeper and “right-hand man,” Erdman says.

Erdman’s son, Mark, is a senior in dairy science at ISU, and the senior Erdman plans to take him into a partnership arrangement when he graduates. Both his daughters, Ann and Linda, are married to dairymen, Erdman notes a little proudly.

“I think there’s a good future for young people in dairying,” Erdman says, “and livestock farmers are in the best position they’ve been in in several years, with demand for milk and meat increasing.”



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June is dairy month

# A BOX SOCIAL-



## LEMON BUTTERED CHICKEN

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 2 broiler-fryer chickens (2 to 2½ lbs. each), cut up | 1 tablespoon grated lemon peel |
| ½ cup (1 stick) butter                               | 1 teaspoon crushed thyme       |
| 1 cup fine dry bread crumbs                          | 1 teaspoon crushed basil       |
| 1 clove garlic, crushed                              | 1 teaspoon salt                |
| 2 tablespoons grated onion                           | ¼ teaspoon pepper              |

Wash chickens; pat dry with paper towels. Melt butter in large shallow baking pan. Combine bread crumbs with seasonings. Roll chicken pieces in melted butter, then in crumbs, turning to coat evenly. Place skin side up in pan and bake in preheated 400 degree oven about 1 hour or until chicken is tender and golden brown. Cool; wrap and refrigerate. 8 servings.

## PICNIC ROLL-UPS

- |                                |                            |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>BEEF ROLL-UPS:</b>          | <b>HAM ROLL-UPS:</b>       |
| ¾ cup crumbled Blue cheese     | 8 slices boiled ham        |
| 3 tablespoons dairy sour cream | 8 thin slices Swiss cheese |
| 8 slices roast beef            | Prepared mustard           |
| 8 pimiento-stuffed olives      | 8 green onions             |
|                                | 8 cherry tomatoes          |

For Beef Roll-ups, combine Blue cheese and sour cream. Spread mixture evenly over roast beef. Roll tightly and secure each with a wooden pick garnished with an olive. For each Ham Roll-Up, place 1 slice of ham over 1 slice of cheese. Spread ham lightly with mustard. Roll up tightly around 1 green onion and secure with a wooden pick garnished with a cherry tomato. Place beef and ham roll-ups in an airtight container or plastic bag and chill. 8 servings.

## BUTTERMILK BISCUITS

- |                            |                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2 cups all-purpose flour   | 6 tablespoons (¾ stick) butter |
| 1 tablespoon baking powder | 1 cup buttermilk               |
| ½ teaspoon salt            | Chive Butter*                  |
| ¼ teaspoon baking soda     |                                |

Combine flour, baking powder, salt and baking soda. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Add buttermilk all at once; stir just until blended. Turn out on lightly floured surface and knead lightly ½ minute. Roll out to ½-inch thickness. Cut with floured 2-inch biscuit cutter. Place on cookie sheet; prick with fork dipped in flour. Brush tops lightly with additional buttermilk. Bake at 450 degrees 10 to 12 minutes or until golden brown. Split and butter with Chive Butter.\* Yield: 12 to 14 biscuits. \*Chive Butter: Add 1 teaspoon chopped chives to ½ cup (1 stick) softened butter.

## PEANUT ORANGE LUNCH BOX CAKE

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 2 cups sifted flour           | 2 eggs                                  |
| 1 teaspoon soda               | 1 cup reconstituted frozen orange juice |
| ½ teaspoon salt               | 1 cup dairy sour cream                  |
| ½ cup peanut butter           | 1 cup raisins, finely chopped           |
| ¼ cup butter or margarine     | ¼ cup dates, finely chopped             |
| 1½ cups sugar                 | 2 tablespoons honey                     |
| 1 teaspoon grated orange peel |   |

Sift flour with soda and salt. Cream peanut butter, margarine, and sugar together until light and fluffy. Beat in orange peel and eggs. Add ½ cup of the orange juice and sour cream alternately with flour mixture, stirring just enough to blend. Fold in raisins and dates. Spread batter in a well-greased and floured pan 12x9x2 inches. Bake at 350 degrees 35 minutes or until almost done. Combine remaining orange juice with honey and pour over cake. Continue baking cake 5 minutes or until done. Cool in pan. Cut in squares. Yield: 24 pieces.

## SOUR CREAM SPICE CAKE

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| ½ cup (1 stick) butter            | ¼ teaspoon each nutmeg, cloves, allspice, ginger |
| 1¼ cups firmly packed brown sugar | 1 cup dairy sour cream                           |
| 3 egg yolks                       | 3 egg whites                                     |
| 2 cups sifted cake flour          | ¼ teaspoon cream of tartar                       |
| 1 teaspoon baking soda            | ¼ cup granulated sugar                           |
| ½ teaspoon salt                   | 1 cup raisins                                    |
| 1½ teaspoon cinnamon              |  |

Beat together butter and brown sugar until light and fluffy. Add egg yolks 1 at a time; beat well. Sift together flour, soda, salt and spices. Add to creamed mixture alternately with sour cream; blend well. Beat egg whites with cream of tartar until soft peaks form. Gradually beat in sugar until stiff peaks form. Fold into batter. Fold in raisins. Pour into a buttered and floured 13 x 9-inch baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees 35 to 40 minutes. Cool and frost with Caramel Butter Frosting. Cut into diamonds. Yield: 24 diamonds.

## CARAMEL BUTTER FROSTING

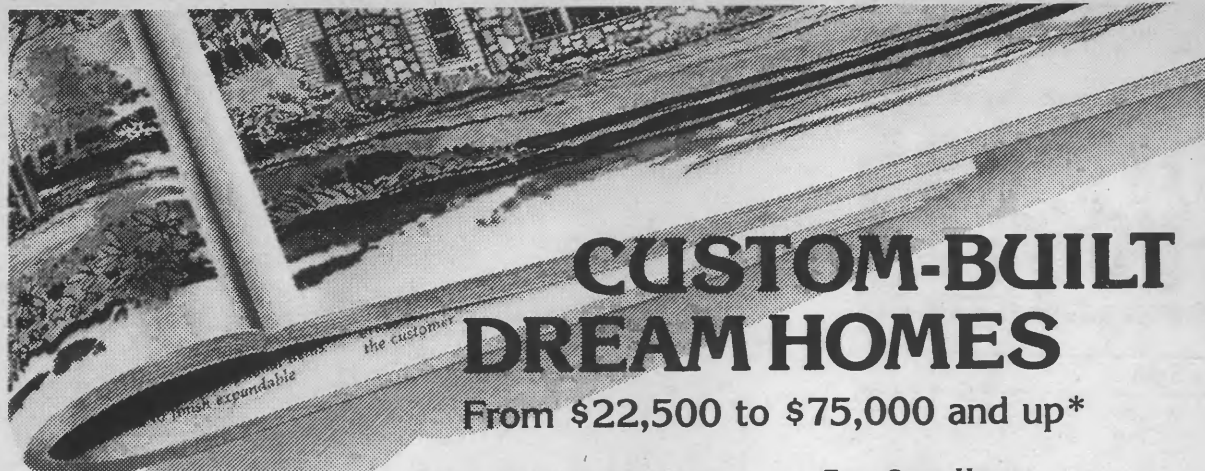
- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| ½ cup (1 stick) butter          | 1¾ to 2 cups sifted confectioners' sugar |
| 1 cup firmly packed brown sugar |  |
| ¼ cup milk                      |  |

Melt butter; add brown sugar and bring to a boil over low heat. Boil 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Add milk; return to boil, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Cool to lukewarm. Gradually beat in confectioners' sugar until of spreading consistency. Yield: enough for one 13 x 9-inch cake.

## STRAWBERRY ICE CREAM

- |                              |                           |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 quart crushed strawberries | 3 cups whipping cream     |
| 2 eggs                       | ½ teaspoon almond extract |
| 1 cup sugar                  | ⅛ teaspoon salt           |
| 3 cups milk                  |                           |

Sweeten berries to taste. Beat eggs until foamy. Gradually add sugar; beat until thickened. Add milk, whipping cream, almond extract and salt. Blend in strawberries. Chill. Churn-freeze. Remove dasher, cover, pack in ice and salt and let ripen. Yield: about 1 gallon.



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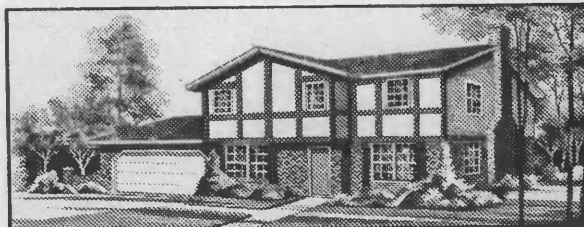
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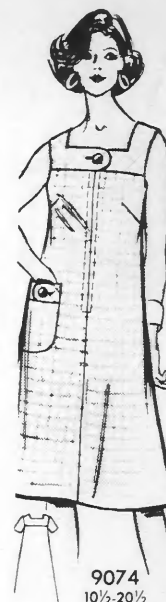
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