



PREPARES FOR TRIP - Dr. Anthony M. Opisso, 35, is shown above in Napa, Calif., as he gathers medical supplies for his trip to the island of Dominica. Dr. Opisso is leaving a five-year practice in Columbia Falls, Mont., when he departs tomorrow. The island of Dominica has only a small hospital staffed by three nuns. Leprosy, tu-

1950s Considered a Decade of Revolution for Most Farmers

Washington - (UP) - For the people who produce the nation's food and fiber, the 1950s saw a decade of revolution. It was a revolution of science and technology. With it came a host of still-unsolved political and economic problems growing out of the fact that farmers have learned to produce more than American consumers want to buy. The production revolution was as dramatic as anything in the nation's economic history. Research stations produced new farm tools, chemicals, feed formulas and production-boosting methods at a dizzying pace. Farmers mechanized their operations, enlarged their farms, and poured hundreds of millions of dollars into new investments in their producing plants. By the end of the decade, farm production had risen nearly one-fifth to a record high in spite of the fact that the number of people on farms was steadily declining. **Number Drops** In 1950, there were more than 25 million people living on American farms. By the end of 1959, it was estimated that this number had dropped to about 20 million and no government expert was willing to predict the decline was near an end. The fewer people on farms, equipped with more and better tools and vastly better production methods, were the world's most efficient producers of food and fiber. In 1950, the average American farm worker produced enough to support himself and nearly 14 other persons. By 1959, the average farm worker was turning out enough to support himself and 24 others. In contrast, the Soviet Union produces enough to feed himself and just one other person. To take advantage of the production potential in new machines and methods, farmers expanded their operations through the 1950s. In the process, small farms were swallowed up by the hundreds of thousands. **5.6 Million Farms** The census bureau counted more than 5.6 million farms in 1950. A 1959 count still underway was expected to show a decline of substantially more than one million farms during the decade. The acreage of the remaining farms was, of course, growing each year. In 1950 the average farm had 215 acres. In 1954 it was up to more than 240 acres. The current census will show another big jump. Some of the small farmers

who sold out or leased their land to neighbors did so through choice because they saw a chance for better pay in business or industry. Others were forced out as heavy production shoved farm prices down while costs - especially on smaller units with less machinery - rose relentlessly. In 1950, total farm production costs were estimated at about \$19 billion. In 1959, total production costs on a much smaller number of farms were up to an all-time high of about \$26 billion. And net farm income, sliding 15 per cent in 1959 after a relatively good year in 1958, threatened to keep the farm problem alive as a major political issue even though the farm vote was dwindling in numbers and influence. **Political Force** When the 1950s began, farmers were still counted an important political force. President Harry S. Truman was in the middle of the term he won by his surprise victory over Thomas E. Dewey. An important factor in that upset, many politicians believed, was Truman's success in exploiting the unhappiness among Midwestern farmers over the way the Republican 80th Congress voted on grain storage bills. The farm bloc in the Congress was still strong at the beginning of the decade. Republicans from the corn-hog belt and the wheat states had close working ties with Democrats from the cotton, tobacco and peanut sections of the South. A decade later, partly through the persistence of the Eisenhower Administration's two-term Secretary of Agriculture, Ezra Taft Benson, the power of the farm bloc had been greatly reduced and farm price supports were substantially lower. Benson weaned some farm belt Republican lawmakers away from their historic alliance with the Democrats on farm affairs, and won the backing of some House Democrats from city districts. The result was that, with the exception of tobacco, farm price supports in 1959 were at the lowest level of the decade, although Congress rejected administration proposals for further cuts this year. **Results Studied** The political results of this course, past and future, were being studied closely in both parties as the decade closed. Democrats had gained strength in traditionally Republican farm areas in the 1954, 1956 and 1958 elections, and many farm belt Republicans have blamed this trend on farmer resentment against the Benson programs of lower price support and fewer production controls. Benson's department estimated that net farm income would be down about \$11 billion this year compared with the 1950 figure of \$12,857,000,000 and the 1951 total of more than \$14 billion. The Administration took some comfort from the fact that the per capita income of the American farmer is up to about \$1,040 for 1959 - including some \$300 of non-farm income - compared with a per capita average of \$838 in 1950. But despite the fact that the farmers still left in agriculture are averaging more because there are fewer of them than a decade ago, the increase has not kept pace with the vast growth in farm investment. This investment, valued at \$133 billion a decade ago, is now estimated at more than \$208 billion. And the average farmer, trapped by his ability to produce more and more each year, lost ground through the decade compared with the average city man. In 1950, per capita income for farm people was 53 per cent of the income of the average non-farm citizen. In 1959 economists estimate the farm per capita figure will be less than half the income of the average non-farm resident.

Radio Signals From Planets Bring Astronomical Surprises

Chicago - (Science Service) - Radio "messages" from Venus, Jupiter and Mars have allowed exploration of these planets from the earth and there have been some surprises. A newly discovered radiation hazard to space vehicles entering and leaving the atmosphere of Jupiter will be roughly a hundred times greater than the hazard of the earth's radiation belts, discovered by satellites. Dr. Frank D. Drake of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, Green Bank, W. Va., told the American Association for the Advancement of Science here. **Electrons Trapped** Jupiter is emitting continuously at least three billion watts in radio radiation at frequencies above about 100 megacycles per second. Dr. Drake suggested that this kind of radiation is caused by high energy electrons trapped in Jovian radiation belts similar to the terrestrial radiation belts that may worry future space travelers. The number of trapped particles in the belts around Jupiter may be a million times greater than in the terrestrial belts. The Jovian belts would require for their origin a magnetic field on Jupiter at least ten times stronger than the earth. Giant antennae forming radio telescopes allow the observation of radio emissions of heavenly bodies. The great new national radio observatory in a sparsely populated West Virginia area is one of the principal receiving posts for this new kind of look at the planets. **20 Megacycle Radiation** Jupiter emits extremely strong 20 megacycle radiation that seems to be caused by great electrical storm disturbances in the Jovian atmosphere. This comes from only a few points on the planet and has been observed for about eight years, this year's being less than before, suggesting that solar activity controls this radiation to some extent. The radio telescope has also observed the hard surface of Venus for the first time. It has a very high temperature, very nearly 585 degrees Fahrenheit, which is likely to be caused by the atmosphere acting like a greenhouse, the same effect that keeps the earth warm at night. The variation in surface temperature from day to night is extremely small on Venus. Because the temperature is very much higher than the expected boiling point of water on Venus, no liquid water is believed to exist anywhere on Venus' surface. Because of absence of water in the liquid state, Dr. Blake believes life is very unlikely on Venus. What water there is on Venus is in the form of vapor in the atmosphere and the planetary surface probably consists of barren rocks and deserts. Older ideas on Mars have not been changed by radio observations. The radio emissions from space are, of course, not from artificial sources like our radio stations but are natural and more like static. **Better Moon Maps** Even before explorers from earth arrive on the moon, there can be better lunar maps. D. W. G. Arthur, research associate of Yerkes Observatory, Williams Bay, Wis., told the astronomers. Moon photographs contain a wealth of detail that has not been translated into maps. Dr. Arthur said, and the photographs have not been used correctly so that the major maps compiled in this century are only low-grade sketch maps. The best lunar map that could be made would still be inferior to a military topographic map compiled from very poor quality high-altitude aerial photography. The best moon photograph is equivalent to a naked-eye view from about 2,000 miles above the lunar surface and a telescopic observer at the best moments obtains an impression equivalent to a view from 600 miles. Foreseeing the day when space navigators will require a map giving an overhead view of each part of the moon's surface, Dr. Arthur outlined ways of achieving new maps that will be incomparably superior to those available today. Optical-mechanical plotting equipment especially designed for the job and based on principles parallel to those used in aerial photography would do the job.

OSC Foresters Set Annual Events
Corvallis - The Oregon State college school of forestry will hold its 28th annual Fernhopper Day and banquet Feb. 20 with more than 500 foresters, lumbermen and loggers from throughout the Northwest expected to attend. The all-day program will include a special display of forestry equipment planned by the Society of American Foresters, and open house and research reports at the school of forestry and the Oregon Forest Research Center, the state-owned research center located adjacent to the campus. The Fernhopper banquet, one of the west's largest gatherings of foresters, has been scheduled at 5 p.m. this year so those attending may see the OSC-University of Washington basketball game later that night. Eliot Jenkins, president of the West Coast Lumberman's association, will be banquet speaker.

Gold Hill Scouts To Continue Drive
Gold Hill-Boy Scout Troop No. 43 will continue to collect bottles to raise enough funds to purchase one American flag and one Boy Scout flag for the troop, according to Clayton Netzel, assistant Scoutmaster. Netzel said he and Scoutmaster James Coward wished to express their appreciation to everyone who donated to the drive last Saturday. Others who wish to donate bottles may telephone Coward at URich 5-1388 or Netzel at URich 5-1318. The two men will make arrangements to assist the Scouts with picking up the bottles this Saturday.

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