

# Guest Editorial

By JANET BAIRD

Once upon a time there a beautiful state whose people loved it dearly. Some of the early settlers in this beautiful land believed that it should be farmed and that people should raise their own food.

Some farmers started dairies, greenhouses, grain fields, vegetable gardens and potato fields. Others raised chickens, hogs and cattle.

At first these farmers prospered and everyone was glad. They began a land grant university so that the people of the state could benefit from a great school. They began experiment stations to study their land and climate. They began extension services, homemaker and youth programs so the news about farming would be known to everyone in the valley. They organized an agricultural fair so the very best produce would be shown to all the people and the farmers would learn how to grow better crops.

But then big ships and airplanes began to come to the beautiful land. A war began in a far off country and many soldiers and airman came to protect the beautiful land. A long highway was built and many automobiles and trucks traveled to the beautiful land. People began to think it was not important to raise their own food. Some of the farmers stopped working in their fields and began to work in stores and offices and construction jobs. Oil and other resources were discovered and the land was forgotten. Leaders and officials in the State said it was too cold or too expensive to grow food in the beautiful land.

So many of the dairies were closed and the cows were sold. Fields were sold to build houses for new people. The great school stopped teaching about farming. Barns and pastures at the Experiment Station were empty. The Extension Service programs began to talk about community development and arts and crafts. Less and less food was grown in the beautiful land.

But some farmers still believed that the land was rich and the people needed food. The agricultural fair still showed the very best crops and the things that could be produced in the beautiful land. Soon some people's ideas began to change and they saw farming was a good way of life and could make the people around proud and wealthy.

So now the people and leaders have to decide if they want the land to be used to grow potatoes, vegetables and grains and to raise cows, reindeer, pigs and chickens. If they do, the land will once again have green fields and plenty of food, and the people will be happy in the beautiful land they love.