



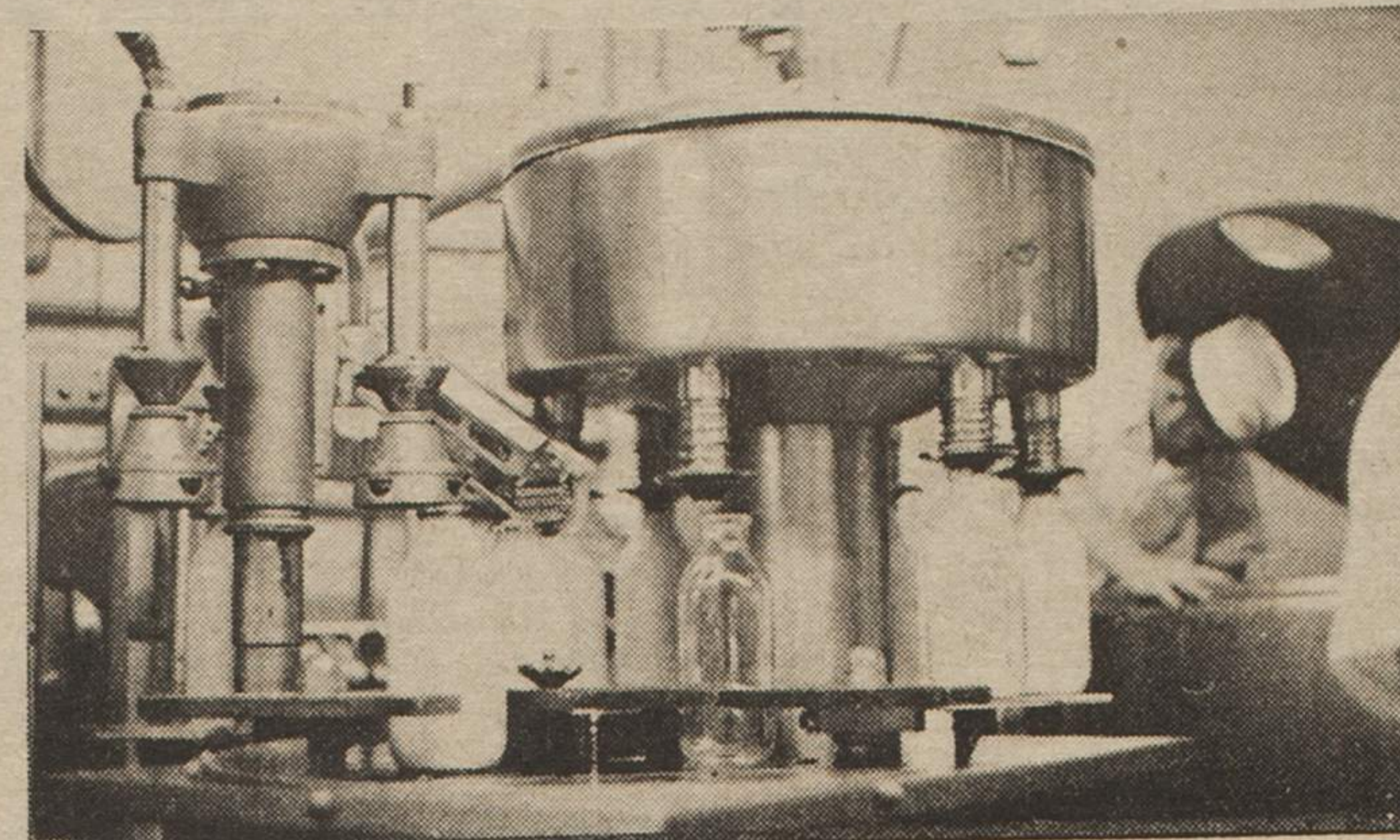
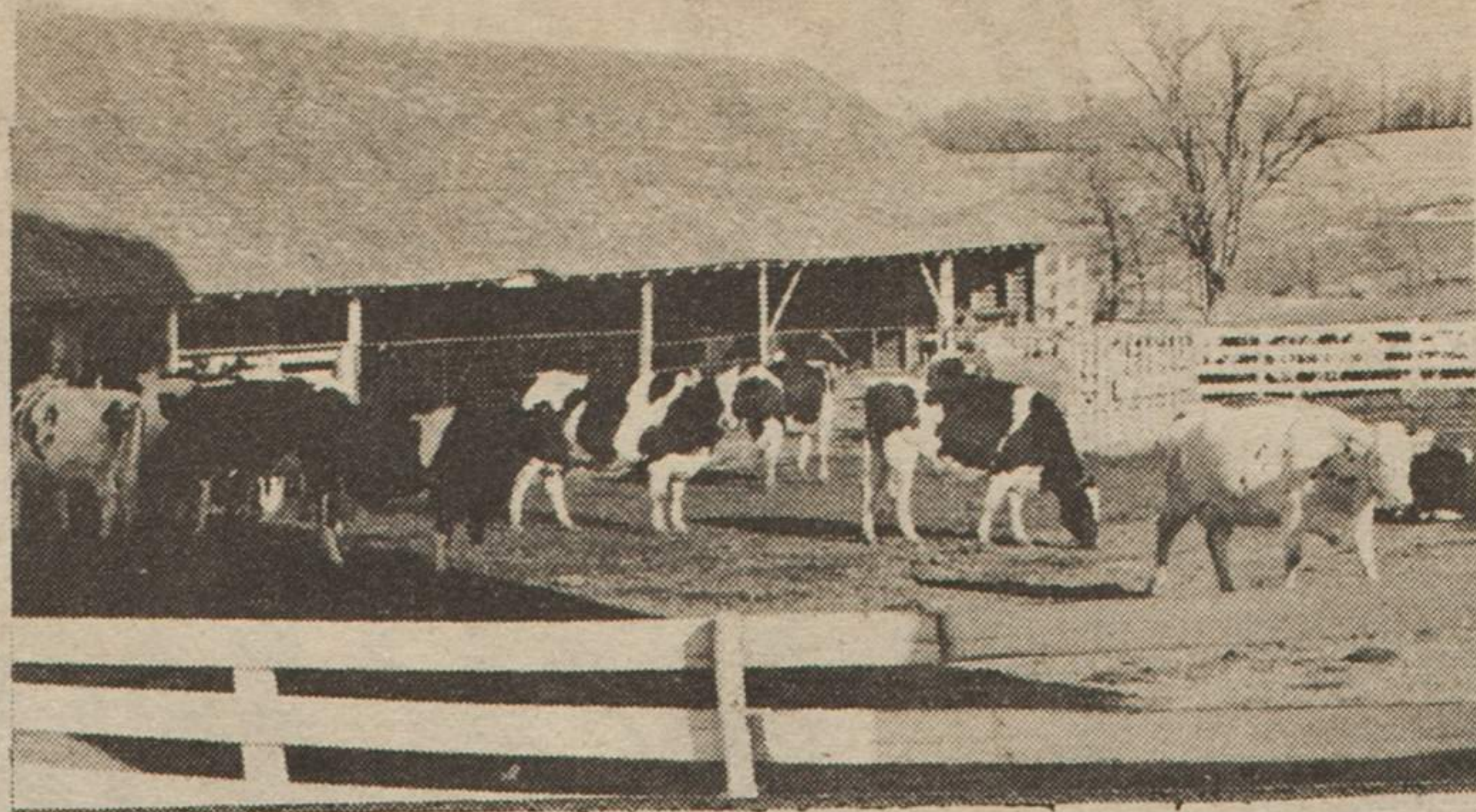
NOTICE

The next quarterly General Membership meeting of the Community Mercantile Food Co-op will be held on Friday, March 11, at the Community Building (9th and Vermont). A potluck dinner will start things off at 6:30 PM followed by the business meeting at 7:30 PM. For entertainment as well as education, a Rodale film on organic farming will be shown. A great opportunity to get to know other Co-op members and to share your interests in food and co-op happenings!



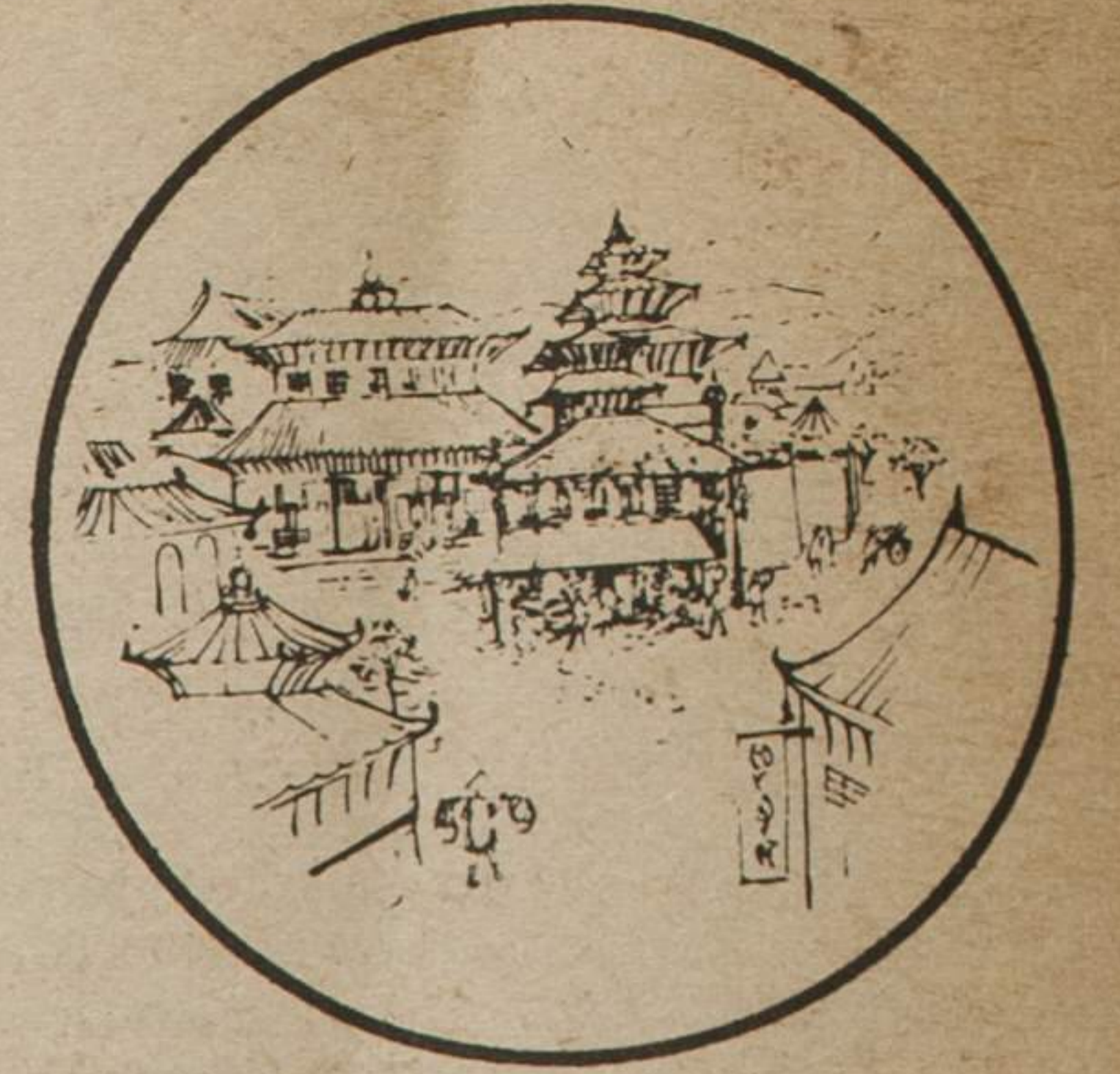
COMMUNITY MERCANTILE
COOPERATIVE
615 Mass 843-8543
M, W, F 10-6
T, R 10-7 Sat 10-5

The Co-op Federation of the New Destiny will hold its next quarterly meeting in Fayetteville on March 4, 5, and 6. Fayetteville is the home of the Federation Warehouse, the Ozark Food Co-op, and Summer-corn Restaurant (they make granola of the same name which we carry). All three have just moved to bigger and better quarters which should be a real treat to see. Some, if not all, members of the Community Mercantile work collective will be attending the meeting. If you are interested in going along, contact one of them at the store. Places to stay and some meals are usually provided.



It's a tidy scene at Hiller's Farm Dairy, sharp white fences and bright stainless steel. Over 75% of America's dairy farmers have given up since 1960, but Hiller's has survived by selling the freshest milk available direct to independent grocers and the public. Hiller's has long been the source of milk for Lawrence food co-ops and buying clubs. ABOVE: In the foreground, quarts of milk are bottled and capped while Thurmond Hiller, the owner's son, cleans a processing tank.

TOFU-CHILI SUPPER



On Sunday, February 20, the Co-op is tentatively setting up a Tofu-Chili supper. Tickets will be on sale in advance and at the door. John, Betsy, and Duane from Fanshen farm will be on hand to show their slides from trips to China.

There are several reasons why we are planning the dinner. We'd like to expose a broader range of people than just ourselves to the use of soybean protein. Second, we can all get a chance to meet our wheat and bean producers from Fanshen farm and learn what they are doing there. Finally we're planning the dinner simply to have a good time.

We definitely need more help. If you would like to cook or wash dishes, please talk to Patti at the store or call Kelly (843-9382) or Renee at 841-6279. The dinner needs your help to happen.

A New Approach

by Molly Van Hee

About 30 people attended the special general membership meeting on January 25. The agenda set up reflected the two themes from the December meeting that initiated the special gathering - 1) co-op structure and 2) co-op policy (or why we do what we do). The discussion that followed centered around the purpose of and need for a steering committee.

In the past, any Co-op member could join the steering committee by attending its sporadically-called meetings. The steering committee serves in an advisory role to the work collective. This present structure has seemed unsatisfactory to both work collective and steering committee.

After a brief look at what the steering committee has done in

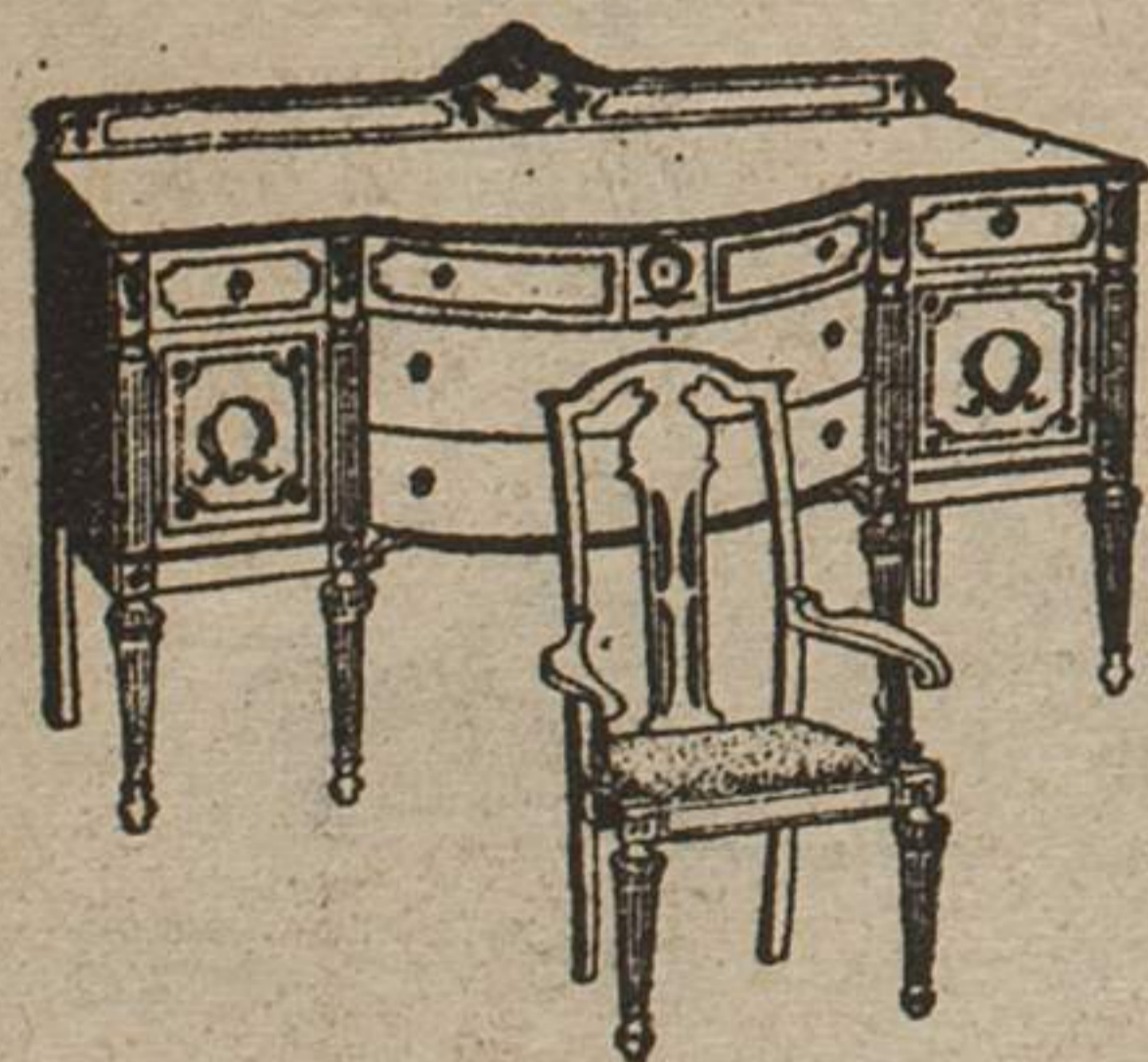
the past (such as reorientation) the future of the committee was discussed.

Ideas ranged from eliminating the steering committee to making participation mandatory like the two hour store shifts. Should the committee's role be only advisory or should it have an area (such as education) all its own? It was suggested that steering committee members be compensated for their extra interest and effort with additional discounts on food. Another idea was that each committee member should have a constituency, even if that meant dividing the membership along alphabetical lines. Not everyone agreed that the co-op needs a steering committee. Several unsuccessful attempts at a vote were made.

After almost three hours and no decisions reached (consensus or

otherwise), a difference in attitude flared up. Some felt it was unnecessary to make a decision at that time. Other felt that, having discussed the same topic at many other meetings, it was important to decide. One person wondered why the co-op had such a hard time making a decision and thought that should be the topic of discussion.

Due possibly to the late hour and lagging energy, a final proposal seemed to pass. The proposal was to let those with energy be on the steering committee and call their own next meeting to define the structure and responsibility of the group for themselves. At this suggestion, the meeting adjourned. Those interested in being part of the steering committee should look for notices of the meetings posted on the front board or call Dellan Woolpert at 842-6760.



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