The Editor's Page

As a young farm boy I daydreamed a great deal about what I would be when I grew up. I considered many alternatives such as becoming an all-star baseball player. Not once did I consider the possibility of serving as editor of the *Journal of Extension*! Yet on July 1, 1973, I assumed the editor's role with about the same apprehension I'd have had playing in the 1973 all-star baseball game. Let's hope two years from now my eight-issue scorecard doesn't read—no runs, no hits, eight errors.

I congratulate Eldora Keske for her excellent job as editor the last two years. She contributed greatly to the growth of the *Journal* and also helped all of us Extension professionals grow as well. Thanks, Eldora!

The *Journal of Extension* must be two things to be successful—*useful* and *used*. The contributions for articles, Points of View, Idea Corner, Research in Brief, and Book Reviews must be analyzed to ensure usefulness to *Journal* subscribers. The editors, the Editorial Committee, the Research in Brief editors, and the Book Review editors must all work toward providing useful information in a useful format.

An example of *Journal* use was detailed by Craig Oliver, assistant director, Pennsylvania Cooperative Extension Service. He described using the urban Extension issue ". . . to show our county staff, the Rockefeller Foundation, and our state legislature that the Cooperative Extension Service does have expertise in the urban work area."

Jim Bergeaux, from the University of Georgia, is conducting a study of readers' use and perception of usefulness of the *Journal of Extension*. His findings should go far in helping us make the *Journal* both useful and used. We also need your ideas and support to make the *Journal* your all-star professional Extension tool.

This issue of the *Journal* comes close to being a theme issue, with participation an underlying topic in all five major articles. This participation includes Extension staff and other individuals participating as leaders, program planners, or community developers. I believe each of the articles has an important message for Extension professionals.

PJB