



Catamount Arts will present "Dance for a Farm," choreographed by Susan Sgorbati, at the Phil Bennett Farm in St. Johnsbury Center Sunday at 3 p.m.

Farm Issues to Be Raised In Sgorbati's *Dance for a Farm*

The difficulties and rewards and other issues affecting today's family farms will be celebrated and explored in Susan Sgorbati's presentations of *Dance for a Farm*, to be performed at the Phil Bennett Farm in St. Johnsbury Center on Sunday, Sept. 17 at 3 p.m.

This work is a collaboration between dancer/choreographer Susan Sgorbati and two other dancers; designer Daniel Michaelson; and fiddlers Jim Burns and Ed Lowman, who are also known as "The Will Dicker Boys."

Sgorbati is on the faculty at Bennington College and is the past director of the Governor's Institute on the Arts at Castleton State College. Known for her "site-specific" dances made for natural and man-made environments, she last toured the state

in 1988, with her Factory Tour.

Michaelson has designed sets and costumes for theater, dance and opera.

The Will Dicker Boys have delighted old-time music enthusiasts throughout New England for over 10 years. They evoke an image of rural America in its earliest, least intellectualized form with their brisk, articulate fiddling and vocal pyrotechnics.

The Bennett Family Farm was purchased in 1927, by Wilfred Bennett after leaving Black Lake, Quebec. They purchased 10 cows and also had a delivery route. As everything was then done by horses, along with milking cows and selling milk, Mr. Bennett also became a horse trader. At one time, he had many horses acquired through much wheeling and dealing.

The family continued milking for over 30 years, making what they thought was a good living. When Bennett was ready to retire, his only son, Herbert was working at Fairbanks, and with five children to raise, did not want to give up that security for farming. The 100 acres were sold off and farmed by the new owner for 12 years.

Then it was open on the market and this time it was purchased by the Herbert Bennett Family. Today the Bennett Farm consists of four family homesteads. Some neighboring lands has been added to house and feed the two 50 cow operations.

Information about the Bennett Farm performance presented by Catamount Arts, can be obtained by calling Catamount at 748-2600. This performance is sponsored by Natural Provisions and the *Weekly News*. Donations are requested and will go toward a fund for local farm families to purchase subsidized tickets to arts events. The rain site will be Catamount Arts on Eastern Avenue in St. Johnsbury.