

FALL 1952

The National

Future Farmer

The Official Magazine of Future Farmers of America





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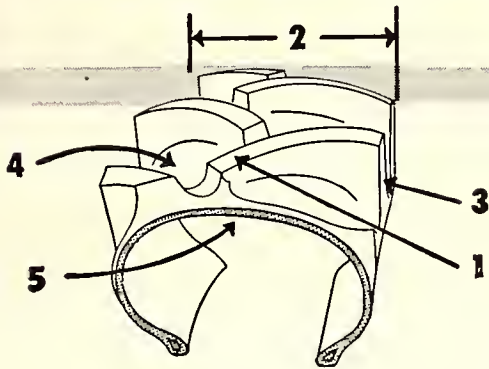
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The National FUTURE FARMER is published quarterly at 404 North Wesley Avenue, Mount Morris, Illinois, by the Future Farmers of America, Inc., Box 1180, Alexandria, Virginia.

The National FFA Board of Directors: W. T. Spanton, *Chairman*, L. C. Dalton, H. N. Hansucker, Carl M. Humphrey, George H. Hurt, E. J. Johnson, R. E. Naugher, H. B. Swanson, and A. W. Tenney.

Subscription price is 25c per year, five years for \$1.00. Single copies, 10c in the United States.

Application for entry as second-class matter is pending at the Post Office at Mount Morris, Illinois.

The National
Future Farmer

The Official Magazine of the Future Farmers of America



FALL, 1952

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THE COVER



THE YOUNG MAN in the picture is Howard W. Miller, Jr., now of the United States Navy, but formerly of the Wildhorse Ranch, Tucson, Arizona.

He is a graduate of Marana High School and has had one year of agriculture at the University of Arizona. While in high school he held chapter offices of secretary, treasurer, and vice president.

He was a member of three state winning judging teams (Meats, Livestock and Dairy cattle) that went on to national competition. In both the livestock and dairy cattle national judging contests he won the Individual Bronze Emblem Award, while his team came in for Honorable Mention on each.

Oh, yes. There is a girl in the picture. She is Miss America of 1950, Miss Jaque Mercer. Sorry, fellows, but space prohibits further details on the young lady. (Kodachrome by Ray Manley, Western Ways)

**F. F. A.
JEWELRY**

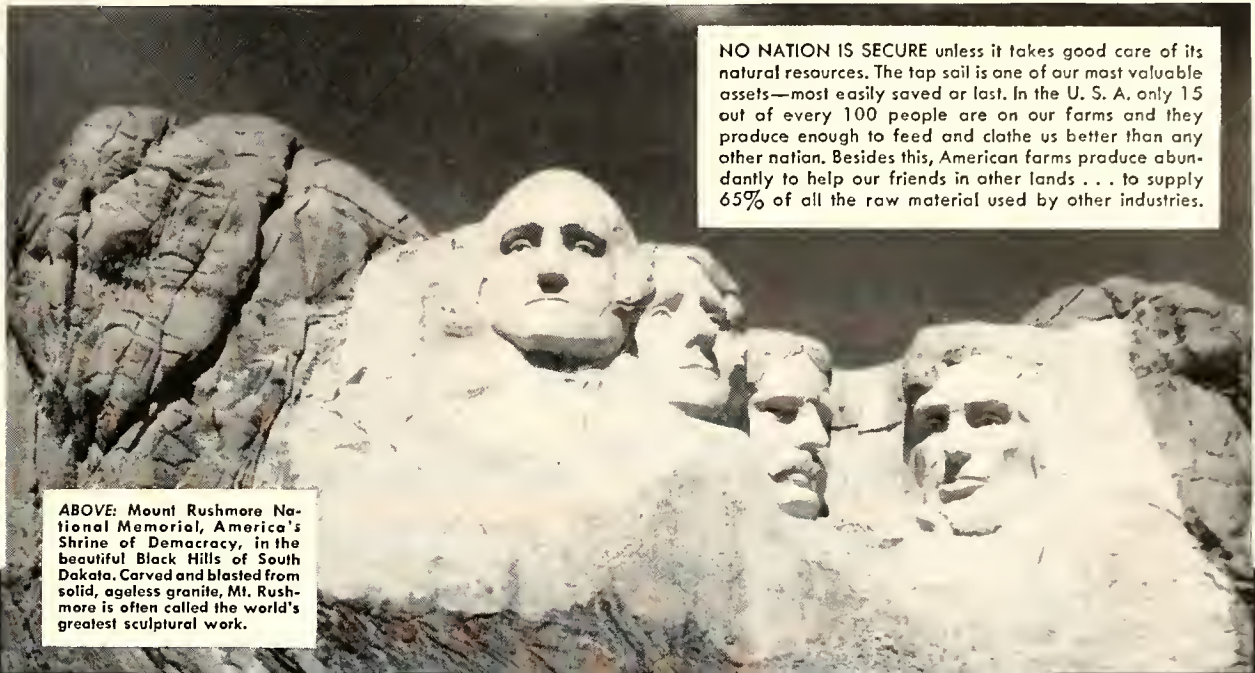
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—GEORGE WASHINGTON

"The Farmer: The Cornerstone of Civilization."

—THEODORE ROOSEVELT

"Let the farmer forevermore be honored in his calling—for they who labor in the earth are the chosen people of God."

THOMAS JEFFERSON—

". . . no other human occupation opens so wide a field for the profitable and agreeable combination of labor with cultivated thought, as agriculture."

—ABRAHAM LINCOLN

You can help preserve that freedom through sound soil conservation

Your freedom . . . America's freedom . . . is rooted in the topsoil! Washington knew this when he spoke out for soil conservation. Jefferson, Roosevelt and Lincoln knew it when they spoke for agriculture. Because they were farmers themselves, all four knew that hunger and poverty breed war and strife . . . that food and the products of the farm are powerful weapons for peace and freedom. They knew, too, that America's agriculture and the enterprising American farmer were, and are, keys to American greatness . . . that the industry of the soil was, after all, the basic industry of any nation.

Today, those things . . . the peace and freedom that hinge on farm production . . . are in the hands of you, the American farmer. That is why *soil conservation* is important both to you and to America.

Year after year more of America's future washes away—needlessly. Is anything being done about it? Yes, thousands of modern farmers like yourself are seeing the need for sound conservation practices and *are* attacking the problem. Typical are the farmers who have organized and manage 2300 non-political Soil Conservation Districts. Sure, it has cost them some money as an original investment. But ask a soil conservation man and he'll tell you that his land pays him many times over what he puts into it. Increased production pays back the principal plus increased yields. Then too, the generations of the future who will continue to live by the land, will benefit as even you do.

If you are interested in the program of Soil Conservation Districts, see your MM dealer today or write to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Ask for complete information on establishing a soil conservation district in your neighborhood. You too, will find that the "Roots of Freedom" are in the topsoil . . . and they will be stronger because of you.

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- Soil Conservation Districts are made possible by your own state laws.
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- Do not handle any such federal programs as marketing agreements, market quotas, acreage allotment or crop insurance.
- Get the conservation job done by local people through local effort in the American way.
- There is no charge for the technical and other district help that is available to apply a conservation plan to your farm.

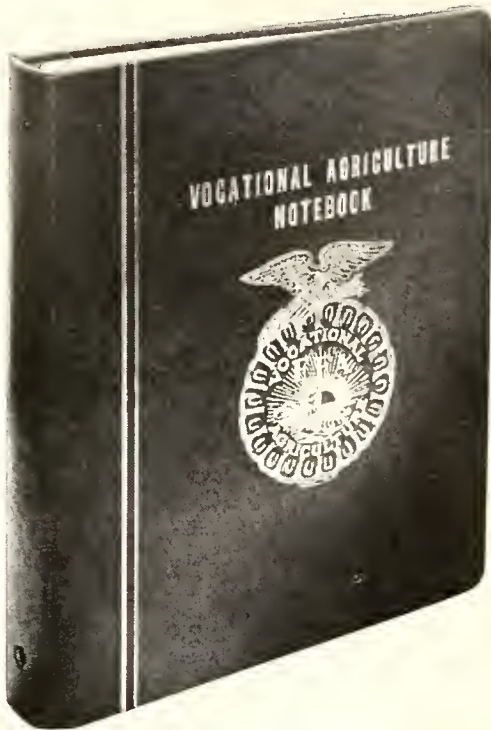


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From the

Editor's Desk

WHEN YOUR EYES come to rest upon these words, pause for a moment and join me in dedicating this, our new magazine, to our *mothers*.

Since the beginning of the FFA, fathers and sons have been linked together in everything from banquets to farming partnerships. Not that our dads deserve less recognition—but since we have overlooked our mothers for so long, let's dedicate the magazine to their honor.

It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. The purpose of the magazine itself is almost synonymous with the high ideals our mothers hold up to us.

Aren't they always trying to encourage and inspire us on to greater achievement? What mother does not want for her son a finer way of life? What mother is not eternally trying to teach her son to be more tolerant and understanding of friends and neighbors?

Letters have come to us from mothers whose sons are in Korea. They have borne a note of sadness and concern ranging from "...and that is the end for him" to "I, as his mother, hope in your magazine you can do *something* to help bring about *peace* in our world."

Ironically, our reading of the letters has been punctuated by the sound of huge artillery and angry machine-gun fire as men in a nearby army camp were being trained to kill.

These war-like interruptions of the peaceful countryside here tend to give us a feeling of hopelessness. But yielding to this feeling would be treason to the trust and the prayers of our mothers. Instead, we take courage—knowing that even a small boy can disturb a mighty river just by tossing in a stone.

So, here's a magazine to the honor of our *mothers*. And may God bless them—your mother and mine.

Lans Barron

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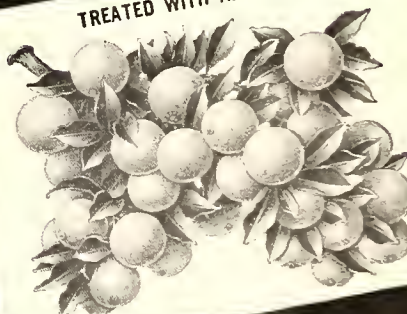
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Do Unto Others

Two CARE gifts of hand tools and a "bullock" plow were sent to India by the Future Farmers of Essex County Agricultural School in Massachusetts.

The boys were amply rewarded when the recipient of the hand tool package sent them the following letter:

THE "GOOD SHEPHERD" AGRICULTURAL MISSION

Director: Rev. Maxton D. Strong Tanakpur, U. P., India

April 28, 1952

Essex Chapter of the FFA
Essex County Agricultural School
Hathorne, Mass., U.S.A.

Dear Friends:

We are very happy to have received through CARE, New Delhi, a package of hand tools donated by you. I am sure you will be glad to learn how they have been disposed of.

These tools have been taken back 100 miles into the Himalayas to the end of the motor road in our truck. From there they have to be transported further on a narrow mountain trail by coolie or pack horse to the town of Dharchula. There they will be distributed among a group of Indian Christians by a missionary who works with them. These Christians are very poor and oppressed. They do a little farming for themselves but mostly hire out as farm laborers. The custom is that they must furnish their own implements when working for others, and the merchants who rent them the tools charge an outrageous rental. Therefore, by having their own tools, and superior tools at that, they should be in a position to make more money and to be more in demand because they do better work. We know they are very grateful to their fellow Christians across the sea who have made this possible.

We, ourselves, are "missionary farmers," coming from farm homes in Oklahoma and Iowa. My wife belonged to the 4-H Club there, and I was a Future Farmer in Oklahoma.

Here at the base of the Himalaya mountains in northern India, right on the border of restless Nepal, is a vast area of heretofore mostly uncultivated land. The Government has granted us 160 acres, and we have begun a training farm for Anglo-Indian young people. Boys and girls between the ages of 15 and 20 with parents of different races (European fathers and Indian mothers) come here to learn mechanized farming methods and homemaking. While here they are taught how to follow Christ and live a real Christian life, and we seek to instill in them the desire to give their lives into His service. Most of them are orphans or unwanted children brought up in orphanages.

We wish to thank you very much for the gift of these implements, which has made it possible for us to minister to those around us who are in great need--need of bread for their bodies and need of the Bread of Life for their souls.

In the service of Christ,
MAX AND SHIRLEY STRONG

(The Editors would like to commend the FFA of Essex County Agricultural School, and all others here unrecognized, for acts such as this. Certainly that part of our motto, "Living to serve," has a deeper meaning for them.)

From *Your Letters*

EDITOR'S NOTE: In June, we polled last year's American Farmers and National Convention Delegates to see if we really did know what Future Farmers wanted in their magazine. As you might imagine, we received many interesting suggestions. We thought you would like to read some of them:

Columbus, Ohio

"Maybe an article on our Future Farmers away from home in the service would be interesting for some boys that will have to be looking forward to the service."

Clarence E. Cannon

Pittsburg, Texas

"An article on different breeds of livestock. An article on different crops and grasses. An article on farm safety. An article on special dates to remember (reminders). An article on some disease of livestock."

Billy Paul Russell

Farmville, Virginia

"Less success stories and more of the kind of material people like to read (fiction, humor, practical information)."

Eric L. Robinson

Alamo, Nevada

"An article on an outstanding state association and how it operates. Article on outstanding state conventions. Article on well-qualified state association leaders. And one on how to be a good state or national officer."

Jay Wright

Murray, Kentucky

"Give different types of animals found on farms in this country. Hints on jobs that can be performed by different pieces of farm equipment. Give up-to-date farm practices of modern farmers. Make them practical."

Dan Shipley

Waukesha, Wisconsin

"What is ahead for the graduate of 1952? How important is a college education for a farm youth?"

Alvin Basse

Buffalo, Wyoming

"Articles written by state and national officers past and present. More stories on the national organization as a whole. Article on Future Farmers of Japan."

Jim Crain



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All soils, while satisfying hungers, themselves become hungry. Like the sow with a large litter, the fount of nourishment must itself be fed and renewed: not any old time: not eventually; but continually . . . and in time.

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Dept. 645, Coldwater, Ohio

*American Royal Winner
Gives helpful tips on*

Feeding

By JACK PUTMAN
Oklahoma FFA Executive Secretary

Fitting

Showing

RAY GENE CINNAMON was repairing the roof on one of his barns when we drove up in front of his neat farm home near Garber in Garfield County, Oklahoma.

As he came forward to greet us, our mind flashed back to five years ago when this same young farmer striding toward us had received the plaudits of a whole nation as America's top farm boy.

"He hasn't changed much," we thought. He still has that typical American farm boy look—that shy grin, an honest, freckled face—topped off by a shock of sandy hair.

His was a face, we well remembered, that photographers had "gone for" in a big way back in 1947 when he had been selected Star Farmer of America at the national FFA Convention in Kansas City. They posed him kissing the American Royal queen (a picture he still kids his wife about) and showing his steer the \$1,000 check he received for winning Star Farmer.

No, five years hadn't made much change—we thought! But then out the back door in a dead run came the little Cinnamons—Eldon Ray, 3, followed closely by Jeanie, 2. And once in the house we met the other members of the fast-growing Cinnamon tribe—Libby, the home town girl Ray Gene married a few months before he received the Star Farmer award, and Donna Sue, 1.

Offhand, to look at the size of his family and the size of his farming operations, it's hard to imagine that this serious-minded young farmer is only 24. He farms 800 acres of land, half of which is in wheat, and runs 60 head of Angus beef cattle at the present.

But we had come to talk with Ray Gene about his steer feeding projects back in his heyday of showing as a Future Farmer of America. The Garber chapter had produced a long string of champions under the guidance of Benton Thomason, and we were interested in learning first-hand from one of the chapter's top showmen how they did it.

Ray Gene had his share of good steers. But his big winner had been a typie Shorthorn, "Skeeter," which had won the county, district and state shows in Oklahoma before he carried him to the American Royal at Kansas City in 1944. It was there that "Skeeter" won grand champion honors in the junior steer show and then went on to place grand champion of the entire show.

"Skeeter is the steer that put me in business," Ray Gene recalled, as he settled down in his favorite living room chair to talk livestock with us. Everything that happened later—state president, American Farmer, Star Farmer of America—all came, Ray Gene thinks, as a result of the first big boost he got from showing a grand champion steer in the American Royal.

Ray Gene did with his steer winnings what all vocational agriculture teachers hope their boys will do. He re-invested his profits in his breeding projects. Every time he won with a steer, he invested in Angus heifers.

"What advice can you give Future Farmers who want to feed out, fit and show steers?" we asked.

"That's a big order," he smiled back at us. "One of



After Ray Gene was made Star American Farmer in 1947 he let his understanding friend in on the good news.

these things is just as important as the other and any boy who has ever won in the show ring knows you can't get far without doing a good job of all three—feeding, fitting and showing."

"Every steer feeder has his own favorite way of feeding steers," Ray Gene said as he warmed to his subject. "I'd advise a boy to get him a good nurse cow for his calf, if he gets his calf at an early age. It will make a better steer.

"Too, I learned by experience not to feed out a steer in a pen by himself. Even if you have to put him with a calf that you don't expect to show, it's better to feed out two calves at once. The reason? Competition at the feed trough.

"If you're feeding out just one calf, he's apt to get cranky about cleaning up his feed. If he's got competition, he'll lick it clean. And after all, that's what you want.

You have got to keep your calf eating. If he doesn't eat, then something's wrong.

"You've heard some boys called good feeders. Others get the reputation for being sorry feeders. In my estimation, a good feeder is a boy who watches his calf closely. He experiments with his rations to find out what his calf likes best and what ration will make him do best.

"But more steers fail to respond to feed because of carelessness and irregular feeding than because of the ration fed. A boy must have a routine feeding schedule; a certain time when he feeds, brushes and trains his calf.

"That's where parents come in. A boy must have a mom and dad who will take a personal interest in his calf. When the boy has to be away from home, mom or dad must be willing to feed the calf the same as if the boy were there. And it helps if mom will keep an eye on the calf during the day when son is in school.

"My biggest asset was having mom take such an interest in my steers. She used to have "Skeeter" wet down every day during the summer when I got in from the field. He had a good coat of hair, as a result.

"There are all kinds of rations. The one I liked best was this: Oats, barley, corn, bran, commercial calf concentrate and beet pulp. I cooked the corn by itself for two hours, then put it through a meat grinder. I mixed the corn with the soaked beet pulp, mixed in crimped oats and bran and fed along with the concentrate."

"Now how about showing and fitting your steer?" we asked Ray Gene.

"Fitting is important, competition in the show ring being what it is today. A poorly groomed and poorly trained steer can drop 10 places in the class. If a boy doesn't have any more pride than to drag out a sloppy

steer, then he should go to the foot of the line!

"Some people maintain that a steer should be judged only on the kind of carcass he'll hang up. All I can say is that these critics have missed seeing the gleam of pride in the eyes of boys who have spent hours grooming and polishing their steers for the big moment when they'll lead their animals out in the ring before the crowd. This is real character training as well. A boy who takes pride in his steer will more often take pride in everything that he does.

"Showing in the ring is an art in itself, and comes only through experience and the willingness on the part of the boy to learn. Too, the teacher who trains the boy has a lot to do with it. If a boy leads his steer in the ring and just stands there in a daze, he hasn't had the right kind of training.

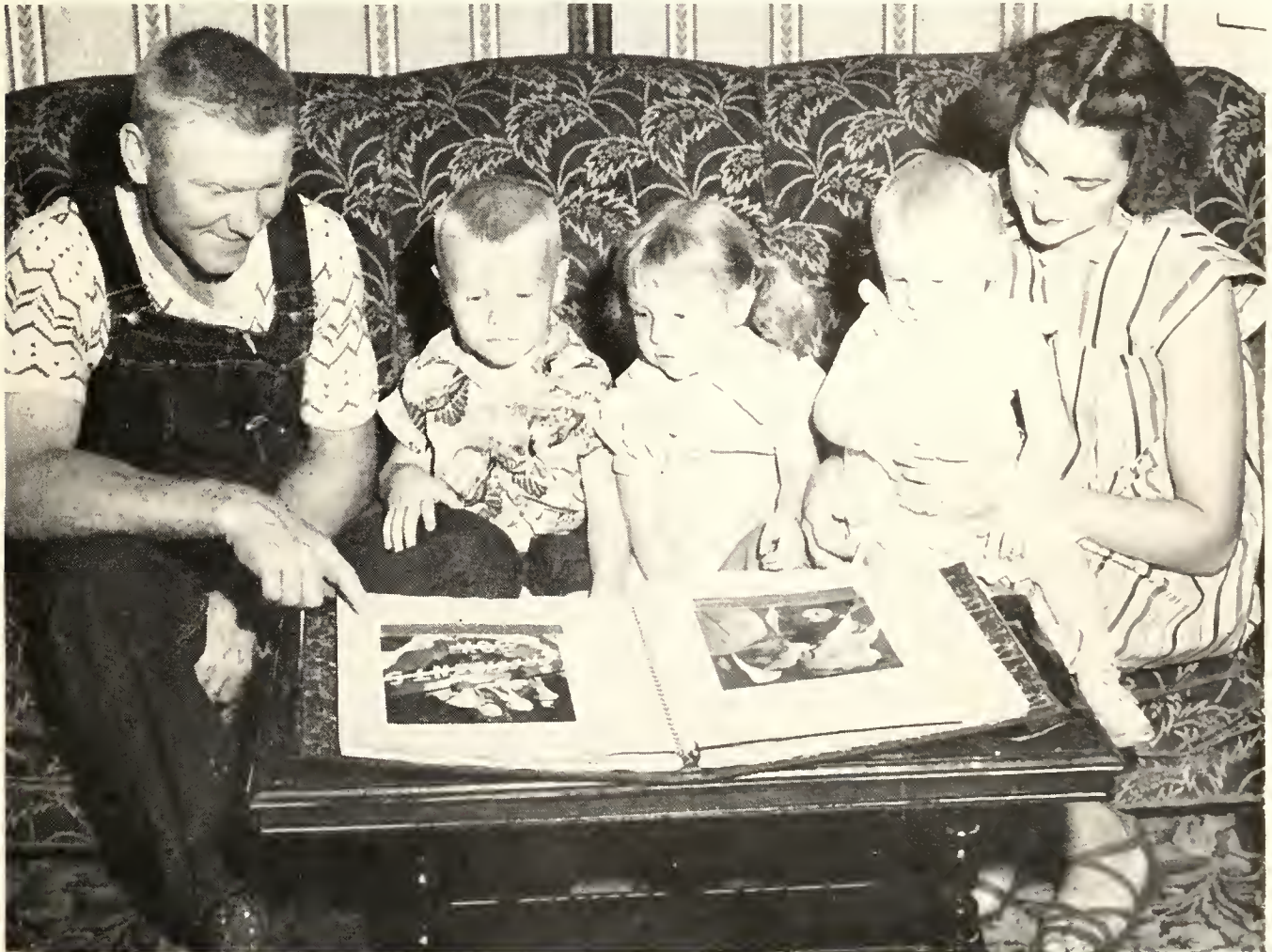
"One of the exciting things about a livestock show is to watch well-trained showmen work their animals for the judges. You find yourself pulling for the boy who does a good job of showing, even though his steer may not be the best. Showing is part of the game."

Our time was running short, but we wanted Ray Gene to point out one or two important things about fitting a steer that he would recommend.

"In general, keep your steers clean all the time. Too many boys come up a couple of days before the show and expect their steers to look good when they haven't washed them a half dozen times all year.

"Try your best to see that the steer has a good coat of hair by show time. And keep their appetite up—keep 'em eating. Take care of them at the show and have them 'blooming' when you lead them in the show ring."

There you have it, boys!



Ray Gene and his wife, Libby, show their youngsters, (Eldon Ray, Jeanie, and Donna Sue) daddy's scrapbook.



Georgia's beautiful amphitheatre is dedicated as crowd stands in silence while color guard marches into place

By BILL HARRELL

State News Editor, The Atlanta Constitution

GEORGIA Future Farmers are now enjoying the fulfillment of an ag teacher's dream which materialized through voluntary contributions from each member in the state.

In 1945, R. N. Jones, teacher of agriculture at Southwest DeKalb High School, Decatur, suggested development of an amphitheater as part of the facilities at the State Camp on Lake Jackson.

Delegates to the 1946 State Convention voted to adopt the project on a statewide basis, and each boy pledged 60 cents toward its construction. Two years later, the sum was raised 25 cents to meet increased building costs.

A natural site was selected on the grounds of the 350-acre State Camp, and, with further excavating and grading to finish the job done by nature, the project began to take shape.

Wooden benches, seating 800, were constructed on concrete tiers in the picturesque setting almost encircled by trees.

Finally, plans were drawn up for dedication of the amphitheater at the State Convention. On August 1, 1951, in an impressive ceremony, it was dedicated to Georgia Future Farmers who had served in World War II, especially those who had died for their country. A bronze plaque was unveiled listing the 301 Georgia FFA

members and seven FFA advisors who were killed in the war.

So far, the amphitheater has been used primarily for vesper services. FFA leaders say that, in the years to come, it will be used for other events including general assemblies. It is not yet lighted for night programs, but other special facilities such as amplifiers can be installed temporarily.

The amphitheater was used almost daily during this year's summer season when a series of FFA encampments and the State Convention were held at the State Camp.

When completed, the amphitheater cost \$10,000, and the project is almost paid for in full.

The Revolution in Agriculture

By LOUIS BROMFIELD

NOTHING more extraordinary than the Revolution in Agriculture has taken place in the last generation or two of American history. It is all the more extraordinary that it has gone almost wholly unnoticed among the citizens of the nation and even among farmers themselves.

In the whole of the revolution no factor is so significant as the new status of dignity and importance which has come to the farmer himself, and let me say that everywhere in this article when I refer to the "farmer" I mean the "good farmer." The bad, ignorant, thriftless, hard-shell farmer is not worthy of writing about and the nation can no longer afford him. He is far better off in town working in a shop or a factory. He and his family are better off and so are his neighbors and the nation as a whole.

Many factors have made this revolution. Among them are the great facilities of information and education provided by government, by state agricultural colleges, by the Extension

Through his popular, easy-to-read books, Louis Bromfield has made thousands conscious of the need for better farming and of the scientific methods that may be used to raise production. In this article, Bromfield brings out his love for the soil and the farmers who use it wisely.

Service and by individual writers. No class of society is offered so much information and education at so low a cost. There is also the development of modern farm machinery, which on the whole has still a long way to go, and the knowledge concerning intelligent use of fertilizers and new methods of agriculture all the way from grass farming and soil conservation to the deep tillage closely associated with it. There is the introduction and use of the automobile, the telephone, electric power, the radio, good main roads and farm-to-market highways which have abolished the isolation of the farmer and have made it possible for him to live

almost anywhere in the U. S. in the same comfort and even the luxury to which city people are accustomed.

All of these things are creating not only more prosperous and informed farmers; they are making the good farmers as a class our most prosperous citizens. They are also making for a greatly improved agriculture.

But perhaps the greatest force toward better agriculture has been the overwhelming and utterly relentless force of economics. In the future the careless, ignorant, lazy farmer simply cannot survive because land, machinery, livestock and other elements indispensable to the farmer cost too much. No longer is it possible for the young farmer to go west with a team, a plow, and a harrow and have government give him for nothing a section of the richest virgin soil on earth.

There is no more free land and every day there are more people wanting to get possession of the agricultural land that already exists.

(Continued on page 40)



THE YUMA STORY

By BOB E. TAYLOR

Executive Secretary, Arizona FFA

TEN THOUSAND eighty-seven dollars and ninety-four cents, or an average of \$105.13 for each of its 95 members, was saved as a result of cooperative activities of the Yuma, Arizona, FFA Chapter. Over \$70,600 was involved in buying, selling, and lending co-ops conducted by the members of this FFA chapter in southwestern Arizona on the banks of the Colorado River.

Located in one of the nation's richest farming areas, Yuma and its Union High School are blessed by several things other than climate. Notable among these are a community spirit and a cooperative attitude which are seldom found in a community of this size. Back in the early days of Arizona the territorial prison was located in Yuma. Long since turned into a museum, but still a prominent part of the Yuma landscape, it is a source of considerable joking and razzing for Yuma's citizens, even to the extent that the high school's athletic teams are known as "The Criminals". In fact, mentioning Yuma to a Yuman is like mentioning, pardon the word, Texas to a Texan.

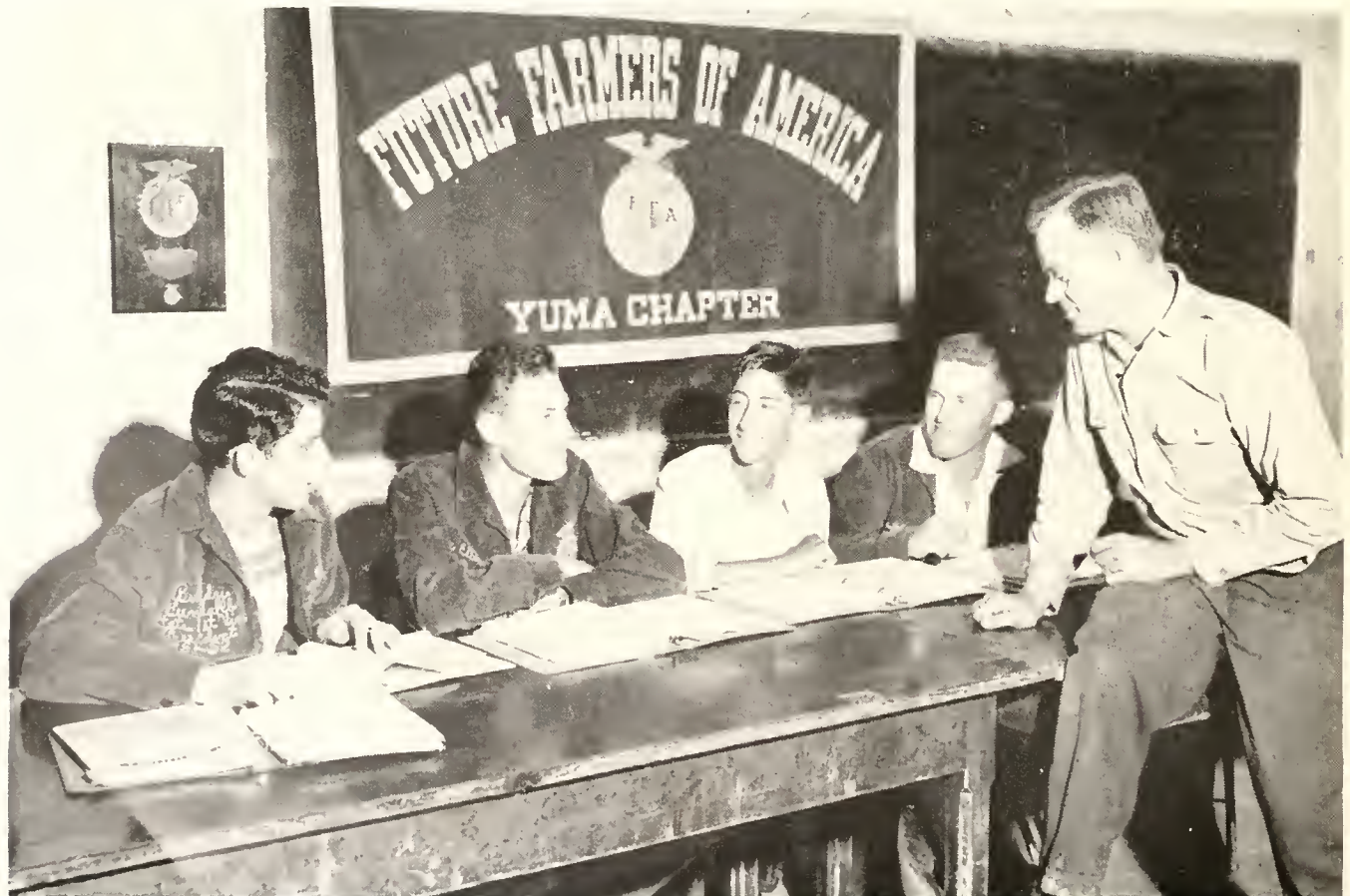
Cooperation was an absolute necessity in presenting a solid front to the gibes and jeers. It is not too difficult then to visualize a successful FFA chapter as a part of this community.

Take a closer look at this chapter which in the past six years of participation in the National Chapter Contest has rated three Gold Emblems, two Silver Emblems, and one Bronze Emblem. It was largely because of their participation and interest in this contest that the cooperative activities were developed. Because of the specialized nature of agriculture in the Yuma community, it was extremely difficult to obtain land for Future Farmer members. The chapter was faced with the problem of enlarging and diversifying the supervised farming programs of its members. This problem was referred to the supervised farming committee. Whether or not these aggressive farm boys, so determined to succeed in their chosen field, understood all the scientific steps of problem solving is

difficult to say; however, they came up with a solution that is a credit to them and their training.

Their answer? An increased emphasis on cooperative activities in the chapter, including a school farm, chapter equipment and machinery, livestock chains, and cooperative credit. Not only did they plan to improve their farming programs through increased cooperative activities but also to provide additional training and experience in leadership, planning, financing, and record keeping.

Of course, this was a big undertaking but with the cooperation of the school administration, the townspeople, and farmers in the community it was achieved. Understanding and interested citizens rented 90 acres to the chapter on a long-time lease. The school board made available to the chapter, on a rental basis, machinery to carry out the project. The chapter and individual members using the equipment record the number of hours the equipment is used and payment is made accordingly.



Working with Buddy Lundahl (left) and FFA Advisor M. E. Fourn (right) are members of the Yuma Chapter Cooperative Committee composed of Joe Ellington, Tom Dougherty, and Milton Johnson.

Under the lease agreements on the chapter farm, the chapter furnishes the land and water and one-half of the fertilizer, seed and harvesting costs. The boy furnishes the other half of the fertilizer, seed and harvesting costs and any other expenses incident to growing the crop. The chapter and the individual then share equally in the gross returns.

During the past year seven boys leased 30 acres from the chapter for wheat. Another 30 acres for barley were leased by seven additional boys. The chapter had 14 acres of barely, 14 acres of alfalfa, and 22 acres of castor beans. Four boys are currently growing 30 acres of cotton and the chapter has 35 acres of cotton. "Wait a minute," you say. "this adds up to more than 90 acres." Right you are! But Yuma is one of the few areas in the nation that enjoys a double cropping system. As an example of the efficient planning and land use practices which the chapter members employ on the school farm, the combining of 44 acres of barley was completed on Monday, the straw mowed and baled by Wednesday, and the land worked and cotton planted by Saturday night of that week. The land was irrigated the following Monday and the cotton was up by Thursday. This was possible only through day and night shifts but is concrete evidence of the cooperative spirit which permeates all activities of this chapter.

The supplies, feed, seed, and fertilizer are purchased cooperatively and livestock and crops are marketed cooperatively for the chapter farm. Many members follow similar cooperative practices in the operation of their home farming programs.

An increase in livestock in the area has been influenced to a large extent by the FFA chapter and the farming programs of its members. Six registered Duroc-Jersey gilts were given to beginning students on a chain basis and a registered boar was purchased to grade up the swine owned by members. One hundred and eleven feeder pigs and 87 feeder calves were purchased cooperatively by members during the past year. Sixty-three steers were fed out by the chapter as a cooperative project.

Another item worthy of attention is the manner in which the farm loan committee functions. This group meets with chapter members seeking credit and reviews their budgets and plans. Once the loan is made they continue to assist the member and supervise the loan. This has several advantages. It is not only sound from the standpoint of lending but is also

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Probably what Buddy Lundahl is asking Advisor M. E. Fourt about the irrigation ditch he has completed to water the Chapter's 35 acre cotton crop is "Do you think it will hold water?"



"Should we dust?" That is the question confronting J. C. Durham, Art Blohm, Advisor M. E. Fourt, Norman Spicer, and Clyde Cumings as they make an insect count on the cotton.



Posing in front of "hay made while the sun shines" are Ronnie Drysdale, Ted Drysdale, and Bill Black. This is just one of the many successful cooperative projects undertaken each year.

How to Present Awards

HERE ARE IDEAS THAT CAN BE USED
TO CONFER LOCAL AND STATE HONORS

By GEORGE P. COUPER
California Assistant State FFA Advisor

HOW CAN the award of a State Future Farmer honor be dramatized so that not only is the honor itself treasured always, but the memory of the manner in which the presentation is made continues as a thrilling experience to the people who witness the ceremony as well as those who receive the award?

The California Association of Future Farmers of America has en-

deavored to answer this problem in its annual convention by developing a ceremony which has dignity, color, drama and "suspense"; and above all, is a ceremony carried out entirely by State FFA Officers and Members of their Executive Committee.

The achievement of a "stage setting" cost the state association some \$500, and further expense will be incurred, but the boys think the result

is worth it. This initial outlay consisted of a number of heavy plywood discs upon which the art work and lettering were done by a professional sign company.

Each disc is about four feet in diameter, and the painting has been done in several coats of brilliant lacquer to provide a beautiful finish. Six neatly-finished easels were also made, upon which the discs are placed.

Awards which are made are a *Star State Farmer* for each of California's six geographical regions (one of them becoming *Star State Farmer* of California); *Foundation Award winners* in dairy farming, farm mechanics, farm electrification, public speaking, soil and water management, and farm safety; and *Honorary State Farmers*.

Awards are made as the feature of the annual convention banquet. The easels are placed on a slightly-raised platform. The six discs proclaiming the regional *Star State Farmers* are put in place. Over them and concealing them are the discs depicting the *Foundation Awards*, etc.

When the announcement is made and accomplishments recited of the *Star Dairy Farmer*, for example, he comes forward, stands in front of the disc which has a painting of a Future Farmer with a dairy cow, and receives his award, the presentation being made by a State or National FFA Officer. The farm mechanics, soil and water management and other Foundation awards are made in the same manner. All of the boys remain "on stage" for this section of the ceremony.

Then the top discs are quickly lifted off the tripods, revealing the six regional Star Farmer signs. The regional winners are called up one at a time, and their accomplishments are given. As a grand "finale," with all six of the boys in place, the master of ceremonies announces which of the six is the *Star State Farmer*, and a five-pointed star is fitted into place in the center of the disc of whichever region has that honor. This is accomplished by small dowel pins at the points of the back of the star with corresponding holes in the disc.

National President Donald Staheli declared that he was impressed with the dignity and color of the ceremony, and stated that he had not seen anything of this character at any State Convention. There is a somewhat similar ceremony for *National Foundation Awards* at Kansas City. California has used its plan for four years, with improvements each year. Pictures, it must be admitted, do not do the ceremony justice since they cannot depict the brilliant coloring of the discs.



The top discs are lifted off the tripods, revealing the Star Farmer sign for each of the six regions of the state. U. A. Hatfield of Porterville is the winner in the photo.

Through statewide organizational effort and the assistance of the Sears-Roebuck Foundation, the Future Farmers of Louisiana are taking great strides forward in the dairy cattle business by



Walter Broussard and James Chaisson of the Carencro FFA Chapter with two of the Brampton line Jersey heifers purchased in Ontario, Canada.

Beginning With the Best

By LLOYD CLYBURN

Farm Editor, The Baton Rouge State-Times

If you learn the right way the first time there is no re-learning to be done. This is the belief of Louisiana members of the Future Farmers of America. Members in this state are learning the dairy business with Jersey cattle of top breeding. Each year they import calves from Brampton, Ontario, Canada, out of superior sires and tested dams.

Since 1950 Louisiana FFA members have imported 238 heifers of Brampton breeding, all direct descendants of the great cow Brampton Lady Basilus, rated fifth in the *Jersey Bulletin's* poll of great cows. Her record shows she produced 141,869 pounds of milk and 9111 pounds of butter fat in ten years. Imported heifers are producing as much as 400 pounds of butter fat during the first lactation.

Until two years ago FFA dairy students in the State built their herds around grade cows. Regardless of the caliber of bull used there remained a certain amount of cold blood on one side of the ancestral tree. It was an offer from the Sears Roebuck Foundation, and some keen thinking on the part of Louisiana FFA leaders, which turned the trick.

The Foundation offered some money to the Louisiana group to purchase good registered heifers for worthy boys. Delmar Walker, State Executive Secretary, took the matter to state officers, the chapters and their advisors. It was agreed that Sears had shown some real interest in improving livestock in Louisiana, and that Future Farmers should demonstrate a like amount of interest. So it was decided that if as many as three

members of a local chapter bought heifers through the state organization, one additional animal would be donated to the chapter.

This was the beginning of more than 50 local chapter dairy cow chains. The chapter heifer would be assigned to a member. He would make formal application for the animal, showing in writing how he planned to care for her. And finally he would show how he planned to establish himself as a full-fledged dairyman. In payment he would return the first heifer calf to the chapter at the age of six months. The second generation would be assigned to another Future Farmer in the same manner.

Walker believed the Brampton cattle to be the best buy on the market.
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Above, Harry Hewitt, Beloit, Kansas FFA Chapter President, is combining the chapter's 15 acres of wheat.

FFA projects helped boost Kansas to an all-time high in wheat production of more than 300 million bushels.



Ron Norman, State Star Farmer and President of the Browning Chapter, congratulates A. W. Johnson, Advisor to the Montana FFA. Johnson has been named "Wise Eagle" by the Blackfeet. Theodore Last Star and William Buffalo Hide await their turn.



Jim Yedlicka, of the Fromberg FFA Chapter, Fromberg, Montana, gets his feet wet spreading water on his irrigated alfalfa project. Jim also has irrigated fields of red clover, beans, and wheat—incidentally, he is a candidate for American Farmer.



I know men who have lived all their lives in the country . . . but miss the richness that comes through sympathy with wild creatures.

Country Minded People

By J. FRANK DOBIE

A PERSON MAY be country-minded and at the same time otherwise-minded; many people are diverse in sympathies. A person may be successful in raising crops and stock and in marketing them, may be what is called a successful farmer, without being country-minded.

Country-mindedness is having a sympathy for, an interest in, and a kind of kinship for, natural country things—wild flowers as well as corn, the shadow of a tree as well as soil, the floating of a buzzard, the silence of night, the prints of a lizard in sand, the independence of a skunk, the tail-wagging of a sucking calf, the smell of a wood fire, the touch of sycamore bark, the taste of sheep sorrel, the cheeriness of a bobwhite's call, and a thousand other manifestations of plant, rock, sunlight and starlight, bird and beast. A farmer who protects quail for targets but has no joy in the behavior of a family of skunks and no pleasurable response to a valley-hunting hawk, even though a skunk may now and then eat a quail egg and even though an occasional member of some species of hawk may now and then catch a quail, is not truly country-minded.

Buffalo Bill has been known to millions as a plainsman. The two forms of plains life in which he was chiefly interested were Indians and buffaloes,

and his chief interest in them was as targets. One March day while he was at his ranch on the North Platte, his nephew reported that two wild swans had just lit on a lake near by. Buffalo Bill had a visitor whom he wished to entertain. He drove him to the lake in a buggy. "If I can get them lined up right," he said to the visitor, "I won't need but one bullet." He got them lined up right—and left their beautiful bodies to rot in the water. Buffalo Bill was not country-minded.

Country-minded people take delight in little things. Many of them live in towns and cities, excursions to the country when they can. The difference between a countryman who is country-minded and a countryman who is not country-minded lies in the fact that the first gets profits he cannot deposit in a bank. These profits are not at all incompatible with those that can be deposited in a bank. They are additions to the bank deposits. They enrich the whole life. I know men who have lived all their lives in the country, who would not live elsewhere, who are country through and through, but who miss the richness that comes through sympathy with wild creatures.

Take the coyote, or prairie wolf, certainly one of the most interesting and delightful mammals in the world.

Yet in the western part of America, to which the coyote is native, the majority of people—though exceptions are numerous—regard this animal as a mere pest, a mangy, cowardly thief and killer. Few healthy coyotes are mangy, and normally they are healthy. They avoid guns and have too much sense to attack mountain lions; but they are no more cowardly than a horned toad is cowardly. They are neither cowardly nor brave. They are just coyotes, as turkeys are turkeys and as live oak trees are live oak trees.

In 1948, the legislature of South Dakota passed an act making the coyote the official state animal. While the subject was being considered, Badger Clark, poet laureate of South Dakota wrote: "To me the most attractive thing about a coyote is his voice. I always go to the door and listen when I hear him at night. His notes seem to soar up to the stars and give an indescribable impression of wildness
(Continued on page 42)

Few, if any, are more qualified to furnish a tale of the Southwest than J. Frank Dobie—ranch manager, college professor, historian, naturalist, author. Dobie, a hard-shelled sentimentalist, displays his fondness for wild creatures in this colorful, rambling article.



National FFA Officers with President Truman. Dallas High, Ohio City, Ohio; Billy Howard, Plains, Ga.; Gerald Reynolds, Corfu, N. Y.; Don Staheli, Hurricane, Utah; Duane Drushella, Scio, Ore.; Charles Ocker, Cameron, Mo.

They Get Around

JOIN THE NAVY and see the world! But if you want a good look at the United States just get yourself elected to a national office in the FFA.

National President Don Staheli probably has traveled more miles in the last year than in all the previous years of his life. He's talked with the President of the United States, rubbed shoulders with the heads of some of the nation's largest corporations, and visited with Future Farmers from New York to California.

Don has to move fast to hang on to the title of the nation's "travelin'est young man." If he ever slows down there are four FFA vice presidents and a student secretary who'll crowd him right off the road. (Forty-six of the 48 states have been hosts to one or more of the six national officers this year.)

Billy Howard, vice president from Plains, Ga., even made a special trip to England during the summer, in the exchange program with British Young Farmer organizations.

By JOHN FARRAR
National FFA Director
Public Relations and Information.

"Are you free to travel?" is one of the first questions asked by the Nominations Committee at national FFA conventions when they interview officer candidates. The boys who win election soon find real meaning to the question. Sometimes the schedule gets pretty rough, like the evening in 1950 when Dale Hess of Maryland stopped his fellow officers as they dashed for a train after a particularly hectic day on their annual Goodwill tour.

"Just a minute, fellas," Dale called. He drew himself up and spat on the railroad tracks.

"There," he explained; "I haven't had time to spit all day!"

The FFA officers get their *baptism of fire* in the Goodwill tour. Sometimes there are special jobs to be done

in the first three months after election—like Don's trip to New York last winter to appear on "The Firestone Hour" network radio-television broadcast—but generally their first official duty as national officers comes in February when they travel to Washington, D.C., to work for a few days with A. W. Tenney, FFA executive secretary, in planning the year's schedule of visits to state conventions, the Goodwill tour, and other activities.

The meeting is planned to coincide with the FFA Foundation's annual Board of Trustees sessions and on their first day in Washington the boys meet with representatives of the donors to the Foundation and help in telling the story of what the Foundation is doing to encourage FFA members in their work toward becoming good farmers.

Usually, during the week in Washington there are FFA business matters to be discussed and acted upon, and visits to be made with important

officials. Last winter the officers visited with President Truman, Secretary of Agriculture Brannan, Federal Security Administrator Ewing; were luncheon guests of U. S. Senator Arthur V. Watkins of Utah; spent an evening with Wheeler McMillen, editor-in-chief of Farm Journal; visited with Herschel Newsom, Master of the National Grange, and were luncheon guests of the American Institute of Cooperation.

The time in Washington also gives the new officers a chance to get acquainted with each other—to begin working as a real team. The association is so close they become like six brothers. Any former national officer will tell you that the toughest day of his year came after the close of the national convention when he had to say goodbye to his fellow officers, knowing that he might never see some of them again.

Participation in state FFA conventions takes the most of the officers' time and travel. Each vice president attends as many of the conventions in his region as he can, the president and student secretary filling in at those the vice presidents can't cover. The conventions are serious business, for national officers are on display there as examples of the very top FFA leadership. Many a younger Future Farmer has set his sights higher because of the impressions made on him by a national officer in the state convention.

As members of the national Board of Student Officers the boys have a tremendous responsibility, too, in the management of FFA's business and organizational affairs. Reviewing the applications of candidates for the American Farmer degree is a typical assignment. The officers must make

recommendations as to whether or not each candidate is qualified for the degree. Most candidates who are submitted by their State Associations are qualified, but there's always a few "borderline" cases where a tough decision must be made. It's not easy to say that a fellow FFA member cannot have the American Farmer degree, when you know he's worked many years toward that goal.

The national convention, a vacation to most FFA members who attend, is two weeks of hard work for the national officers. The fact that they do a fine job of presiding at the convention is not an accident. It's the result of long hours of planning, timing, and practice.

Their time on the convention floor is just a part of the schedule. There are appearances to be made at banquets and other similar functions, radio broadcasts to be made, interviews with newspaper and magazine writers, official business sessions with the Board of Directors, late-night rehearsals of the next day's ceremonies, and, of course, those hundreds of fellow Future Farmers and convention guests who want to shake hands with a national officer. The pressure is terrific, but they always come through with a smile.

The Goodwill tour, the officers' first major activity, is just what the name indicates—a tour to spread Goodwill for the FFA. The officers, with the national advisor or executive secretary and the director of public relations, make an annual tour in January or February through the industrial areas of the East and Midwest, primarily visiting companies that are donors to the FFA Foundation. The tour has the double purpose of letting the officials of those companies know more about the FFA, and giving the

officers a chance to get acquainted with the nation's top business and industrial leaders. The national group is joined in each state by the state advisor and state FFA president.

It's only a two-weeks tour, but what a two weeks! This year's group visited with officials of 27 companies and organizations in seven cities: Wilmington, Del.; New York City and Poughkeepsie, N.Y.; Akron and Cleveland, Ohio; Detroit, Mich., and Chicago, Ill. A typical day's schedule was February 27 in Chicago: 9:30 a.m., visit International Minerals and Chemical Corp.; 11:30 a.m., luncheon with officials of the Oliver Corporation; 2:00 p.m., visit National Live Stock Producers' Association; 3:30 p.m., visit officials of Quaker Oats Company; 6:00 p.m., dinner with officials of Sears, Roebuck Foundation,

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Dr. H. F. Dietz of Du Pont Company and VP Duane Drushella discussing chemical treating of plant seeds.



Left to right, James F. Lincoln, President of the Lincoln Electric Company, Cleveland, Ohio, chats with John Foltz, Ohio State FFA President and Dallas High.



National FFA President Don Staheli shaking hands with General Motors Vice President Roger Kyes during the national officers' annual tour last February.

Keep trying, for the sunshine of success makes the world forget all about failure. If you doubt it, consider the lesson of

The Strikeout Man

By HAROLD HELFER

HE STRUCK OUT 1330 times, a record in futility unapproached by any other player in the history of baseball. That means striking out once a game for something like a nine-year stretch!

In baseball there is nothing more negative, useless and unsuccessful than striking out—yet the man who compiled this awful record of failure is always thought of as the greatest ball player of all time.

He was Babe Ruth.

In the minds of the followers of the national pastime he is just about as far from a failure as it is possible to get. The booming noise from his bat that accounted for some 700 home runs completely obliterated the 1330 times he made the futile swishing sound.

This is a good thing to remember: The bright sound of success always

wipes out the rasps of failure.

Take Cy Young, who is generally regarded as the greatest pitcher of all time. He accumulated 511 victories, a mark that never has been threatened and isn't ever expected to be. Winning 511 times means producing thirty victories a season for seventeen years!

But what is generally overlooked and forgotten is that Cy Young pitched more than 900 games. He actually lost almost as many games as he won.

Cy Young stands out only as the great winning pitcher, just as Babe Ruth is never thought of as the greatest strikeout man in the history of the game, but as its greatest hitter.

The failingest man that ever was, undoubtedly, was a fellow who lived in New Jersey. He was always trying experiments that were unsuccessful.

Oh, sometimes something would come off, but only after thousands of abortive failures.

But somehow we never think of Thomas A. Edison as a failure, but as this country's greatest inventor, the man who gave us electric light, motion pictures, and the phonograph.

At Fort Necessity a number of centuries ago, during the French and Indian War, a young American officer capitulated to the enemy.

But George Washington is never thought of as the man who surrendered to the French but as the glorious hero who fought the Revolutionary War to victory.

A certain Irishman wrote nine years before he sold his first manuscript.

But nobody thinks of George Bernard Shaw today as the man who spent almost a decade writing futilely—only as the great playwright of our generation.

A fellow in Birmingham, Alabama, named Roy received 354 rejection slips from magazines before he sold his first story.

When he got his first big check, he cashed it in a bank and then stood up all night counting the money over and over again.

Today Octavus Roy Cohen is regarded as one of the country's most successful authors and no one thinks of him as the man who fell on his face 354 times before he took his first step.

I recently ran across a book in the library containing the early efforts of some well-known writers. Any discouraged writer ought to take a look at it. He'll probably find that any number of his own rejected manuscripts are definitely superior to the horrible stuff contained in this book—and yet all these people went on to reach literary heights.

(Continued on page 36)

Harold Helfer's stories and articles are read in *Coronet*, *Esquire*, *American*, *Nation's Business*, *The Farm Quarterly*, and many other magazines. Prior to his serving in the Marines during the war as combat correspondent, he was a newspaperman and columnist in the deep South. His goal—"To be as fine a writer as I possibly can."





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As one of the Future Farmers of America, you've seen what *teamwork* can do. You know that by getting together and pooling your ideas you come up with better ways of doing things . . . faster, easier ways to make the land yield more.

Here at Oliver we're after the very same thing. We go about it in exactly the same way . . . through *teamwork*.

One happy result of this working-together is the team you see above—an Iron Age Sprayer and an Oliver Tractor. The sprayer itself does a great job . . . it always has. But it took the *team* to get the job done better. Now travel speed is just right for any condi-



IRON AGE General Purpose Sprayer

You'll find this sprayer a big help when you're farming your own acres. Handles all types of general spraying—field, orchard, barnyard, weeds. Plenty of other uses, too—whitewashing, fire fighting, disinfecting, fly and pest control. Team it up with an Oliver, and what a team you'll have!

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These are but two of the ways that *teamwork* speeds the job . . . and this is but one job where it helps the farmers of today get the most from their equipment.



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“FINEST IN FARM MACHINERY”



A Fencing Match between Tarleton State and Texas A. & M. College

Farming Knights of Texas

BY J. A. HART

Tarleton Director of Public Information

FENCING has a new meaning for farm boys at Tarleton State College in Stephenville, Texas. Let us post you.

Introduced to the school five years ago by Professor George Beakley, fencing has caught on like wildfire. Paraphernalia, such as masks, foils, sabers, and epees, litter the campus. Over 50 boys take up the sport each year. The varsity team travels 10,000 miles annually to take part in 18 tournaments. And many farm boys are active in reviving this 500-year-old sport at Tarleton where the ringing French "Touche" has become a byword as common as blue jeans and cowboy boots.

It seems rather odd that fencing should appeal to the Tarleton lads, for the junior college is a part of the Texas A&M College System. Most of the students come from the farms and ranches of West Texas. Isn't fencing a pretty "sissy" sport for a Texas farm boy?

For a time the "men in white" were objects of ridicule over the campus, it is true. But fencing was such a novelty that everybody stopped to

watch. Then some of the brasher boys began to try their hand. They soon learned that fast footwork and skill were required.

And then the team began to win! They defeated the Southwest Conference champions, placed second in the epee division of the five-state finals, and placed in the division saber finals. They whipped the University of Texas squad which boasted two former members of the Egyptian Olympic team. They won the state collegiate title in both epee and saber. In 1948-49 the team received the Connecticut trophy, a travelling fencing cup awarded annually to the team which has done the most for the sport. It was the first time a team south of the Mason-Dixon Line had captured this honor.

The team's prestige grew. They were dubbed the "Knights of Tarleton." Fencing sweaters and their "T" awards became as highly prized as letters in major sports. And the farm boys, always sensitive to the appeals of chivalry, took up fencing. During the past five years the "Knights" have averaged 50 medals

annually in tournament competition with senior colleges and universities and city YMCA teams.

Numerous members of the Tarleton Collegiate Chapter of the FFA have won fencing letters. Among these are J. R. Hudspeth, Weatherford; James L. Rodgers, Bluffdale; Price Summerhill, Abbott; James Box, Llano; Travis Smith, Aspermont; Earl Gilmore, Premont; C. L. Mendenhall, Pecos; Billy Hart Hubbs, Pecos; and Curtis Wilson, Comanche. Nearly all were FFA members in high school.

As examples, take two of these boys, Wilson and Summerhill. Wilson attended Tarleton in 1947-48. His father, a graduate of Tarleton and Texas A&M, had bought a farm in 1940. Wilson grew up helping his father farm and raise livestock. He studied vocational agriculture in high school and was president of the Comanche FFA Chapter in 1946. For his college major he chose pre-veterinary work and took fencing as his required physical education course. He was an outstanding member of the fencing team and won many medals. On finishing Tarleton, he went to Texas A&M to continue his veterinary course and his fencing. He was captain of the A&M varsity team in 1950. This team went to New York and defeated the New York Athletic Club in the National AFLA team finals. Wilson will receive his veterinary degree from A&M this year.

Summerhill entered Tarleton in 1949. He was valedictorian of his class at Abbott High School. In addition, he was business manager of the annual, reporter on the newspaper, officer in the student council, three-year letterman in football and track, first place winner in district declamation, and acted in four high school plays. He also won medals his sophomore and junior years for having the highest grade in mathematics.

But to Summerhill, the son of a farmer, the subject in high school of greatest interest was vocational agriculture. "After taking vocational agriculture under Mr. W. B. Shepard," he says, "I liked the subject so much that I took it as an elective for two more years. Through the FFA Chapter I was able to earn quite a bit of money with projects." He was an active FFA member for four years and vice-president of the Abbott FFA Chapter for two years.

Summerhill was an excellent student compiling nearly a straight "A" average. His fencing record was also good. He lettered two years and won numerous awards. Now at Texas

A&M, and still fencing, he will receive his degree in agriculture education this year. Then he plans to enter either soil conservation work or vocational agriculture teaching.

Many FFA-fencers on the campus have fine records, such as Earl Gilmore and Travis Smith, but Summerhill's and Wilson's are perhaps the most outstanding.

Fencing is part of the school's curriculum. Boys receive regular college credit in physical education for learning to wear the mask and wield the foil. They buy their own equipment. A foil and mask costs \$10. Equipment for complete competition, foil, saber, and epee, costs \$50.

The fencing course is no snap, either. The boys practice two hours a day in the fall and taper off, as they become more proficient, to four hours a week in the spring.

Coach Beakley deserves great credit for popularizing the ancient sport at Tarleton. He originally studied to be a concert violinist at Baylor University. When he learned that a physical education course was required, he chose boxing. The violin professor protested and urged that he take up a milder sport. Beakley then signed up for fencing.

Later he transferred to Texas Technological College and changed his major to engineering. But he never lost interest in fencing. He is currently president of the North Texas Fencing Division.

Of the odd angles in the strange revival of fencing at Tarleton, perhaps the queerest is that it's an engineer who keeps the farm boys fencing.



"She's out with another fellow—name of Honey Boy."

The Changing South

BY BURGESS DIXON

Mississippi Department of Education

PRIDE, MINGLED with a tinge of sadness, fills the heart of the average southerner as he watches the machine age mold a new-face for the old, colorful and historical South.

Industry, with its union controlled wage scale, has attracted large numbers of the farm labor population to the cities of the North and East thereby creating a labor shortage in the South.

Because of this shortage more and more plantation owners and small farmers have mechanized their farming operations. Many are switching from row crop farming to beef and dairy cattle and much of the land is being placed in improved pastures.

In Mississippi a "Balance Agriculture With Industry" program was launched several years ago. A Board was established and through their efforts more and more industries have trickled through the Mason-Dixon line to establish residence in the "Magnolia" State.

This agricultural transition has challenged Mississippi farmers, as it has farmers in other Southern States. Future Farmers of America, under the capable guidance of vocational agriculture teachers, are rising to the occasion with projects undreamed of only a few years ago.

The Lynville school community, in Kemper county, is fast becoming a purebred Hereford cattle center because of a project started by agriculture teacher E. G. Palmer and his Future Farmers.

The project started with some of the boys buying registered heifer calves. Adult farmers caught the idea and it spread through the community.

At Caledonia, a rural Lowndes county community, agriculture teacher E. E. Ellis conceived the idea of increasing the market value of corn through consumption by feeder calves. The chapter and some of the individual FFA boys bought calves on the low fall market, fed and grazed them through the winter months and sold them at a nice profit on the higher spring market.

Covington county's Mt. Olive, traditionally a row crop section, is on the road toward becoming a purebred Hereford cattle center as the result of an FFA project whereby individual members bought registered Hereford calves through open notes allowed by the bank.

A registered Aberdeen Angus project currently underway in the Hernando school area bids to increase quality beef production among the smaller farmers in the state's leading milk producing DeSoto county. This project was started when agriculture teacher C. K. Dilworth, officials of the Hernando bank, and owners of Cub Lake Plantation Angus Breeders arrived at an agreement whereby FFA members would be loaned money by the bank to purchase purebred Angus heifers from Cub Lake Plantation at reduced rates and with a guarantee of three breedings of the finest blood lines.

There are many other examples of progress among the Mississippi FFA chapters.

A good example of individual ingenuity is Future Farmer James Bowen of Duck Hill, Montgomery county, who saved his corn crop from the disastrous drought by means of an improvised irrigation system.

By using a centrifugal pump James pumped water 700 feet from a creek to a ditch which he dammed up nearer his corn crop. He lacked enough 2-inch hose to pump the water to the corn in one operation, so he pumped from the ditch to an improvised trough on stilts which ran the water to the crop.

Agriculture teacher B. M. Trapp estimates that James should harvest 175 to 200 bushels per acre—where he would have been lucky to get 25 bushels had he not irrigated.

The South has changed, is still changing, and there is some speculation as to what it will be like in the future. However, there is hardly a need for speculation concerning agriculture in the South, for the future of farming lies where it rightfully belongs—in the capable hands of the young men who are rising rapidly to meet the changing conditions.

“It’s built like

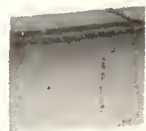
—that’s why your GMC farm truck will
last longer, cost less to maintain!”

WHEN the big GMC over-the-highway truck and the half-ton pickup, shown above, are loaded to capacity—there’s 30,000 pounds difference in their weights.

Yet they are alike in a lot of important

*ways that make GMC light trucks
tops for farm duty!*

For GMC is the **ONLY** farm truck engineered with all five of the important features — which most manufacturers reserve exclusively for their



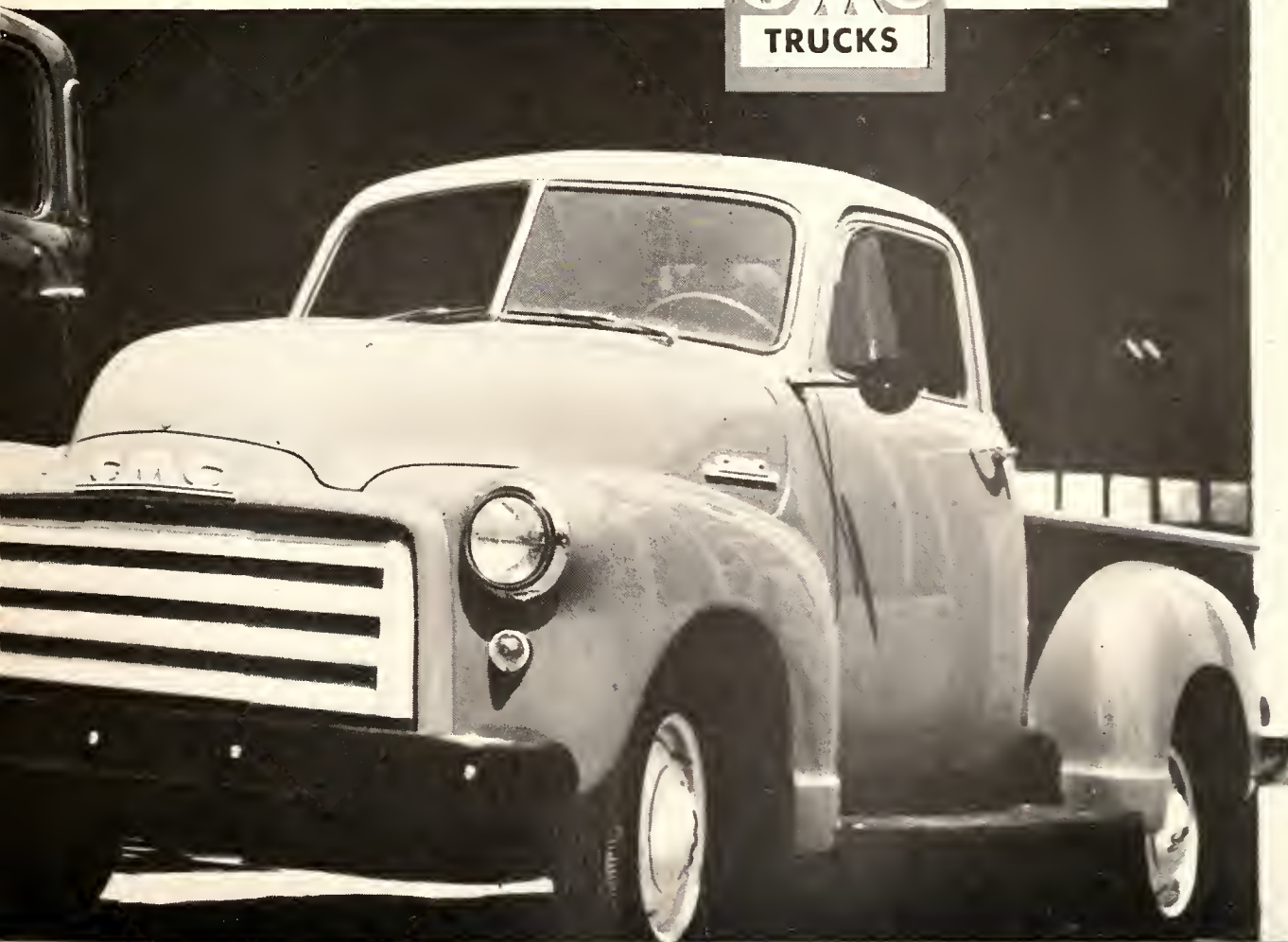
the big one

bigger, "heavy duty" vehicles.

They are: Tocco-Hardened crankshafts, full-floating piston pins, airplane-type main and rod bearings, rifle-drilled connecting rods and full-pressure lubrication all the way to the piston pins—things that increase the life of any truck.

But that's not all. Your GMC dealer will be glad to demonstrate how other features like "pillow action" springs and recirculating ball-bearing steering give GMC's a real "passenger-car ride" for family trips to town. You'll discover why GMC's are such popular dual-purpose haulers on the busiest farms today.

GMC Truck & Coach Division of General Motors





Just a couple of dozen years . . .

November 1928 . . . when FFA was formally organized . . . seems like yesterday to many of us. But, what a difference these years have made!

The farmer's son has become a boy who can think, act, and speak for himself . . . a boy who often earns more money before reaching 21 than his father earned in a lifetime. FFA helped do this.

The farmer's home matches in comfort and convenience the finest homes in the city. The farmer's wife enjoys the same laborsaving devices. The farmer's daughter cannot be distinguished from her urban sisters.

The farmer's equipment . . . such as built by Harry Ferguson, Inc. . . . permits far greater returns from far less labor. New knowledge of the land and how to use it helps preserve the farmer's heritage.

We tip our hats to this impressive progress. We pledge ourselves to keep progressing.

F E R G U S O N T R A C T O R and 63 Ferguson System Implements

Copyright 1952 by Harry Ferguson, Inc.



Beginning With the Best

(Continued from page 15)

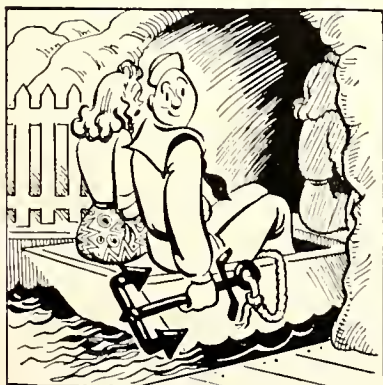
ket at that time if bought in numbers large enough to justify the trip to Ontario for selection and purchase. Sixty-eight yearling heifers were purchased February, 1950. In September of that year they made a second importation of 84 head. Eighty-six heifers were imported in 1951. For the 1952 purchase the Secretary has orders for 140 head.

In the Carencro chapter the first return heifer was delivered to the chapter and reassigned to another Future Farmer. Sydney Arceneaux, Chapter Advisor, feels that the State FFA dairy program was instrumental in establishing the dairy enterprise in the Carencro community. He said the number of dairies in his community—a highly specialized sweet potato area, land valued at \$400 per acre—has increased from seven up to forty since 1950. Even though members of the Carencro chapter purchased 17 Brampton heifers, they purchased over 100 head of registered cattle from leading breeders in the United States. They had only grade cattle before 1950.

State Star Farmer Karie Blades, Kentwood, Louisiana, is shaping his 32 cow herd around three Brampton cows.

Where the project will end Walker hesitates to guess. There are twice as many requests for Brampton bred heifers now as last year. If the border is still closed—there was a recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Western Canada—orders will be filled with domestic cattle of equal quality.

Louisiana Future Farmers are getting into the dairy business on a large scale. Many high school students own thirty cow herds, showing individual inventories of more than \$10,000. A total of sixty chapters are participating in the program. There are over 50 chain heifers owned by the chapters. Sears Foundation calls this program one of their most successful experiences in helping boys help themselves.



An excellent example of the cooperative FFA spirit shows the Newport FFA Chapter clearing the Bald Knob school grounds. Center of picture shows Weldon Elliott, Newport FFA Advisor (back to camera), and Justin Richardson, Bald Knob FFA Advisor whose chapter suffered heavily.

ARKANSAS DIGS OUT

BY JUSTIN RICHARDSON

FFA Advisor, Bald Knob, Arkansas

BACK IN MARCH one of the worst tornadoes in years struck the northeastern part of Arkansas. The communities of Bald Knob, Judsonia, Cotton Plant, Dierks, England and several others were among those hardest hit. Buildings, fences and crops were leveled in most areas, but the damage was particularly heavy in the Bald Knob community.

School was dismissed for the year, because the school buildings were demolished. The Bald Knob FFA Parliamentary Procedure team, having just won the Red and White Federation contest at Searcy, was forced to abandon plans for participation in district and state contests. Instead, the FFA immediately pitched in and started putting the community to rights.

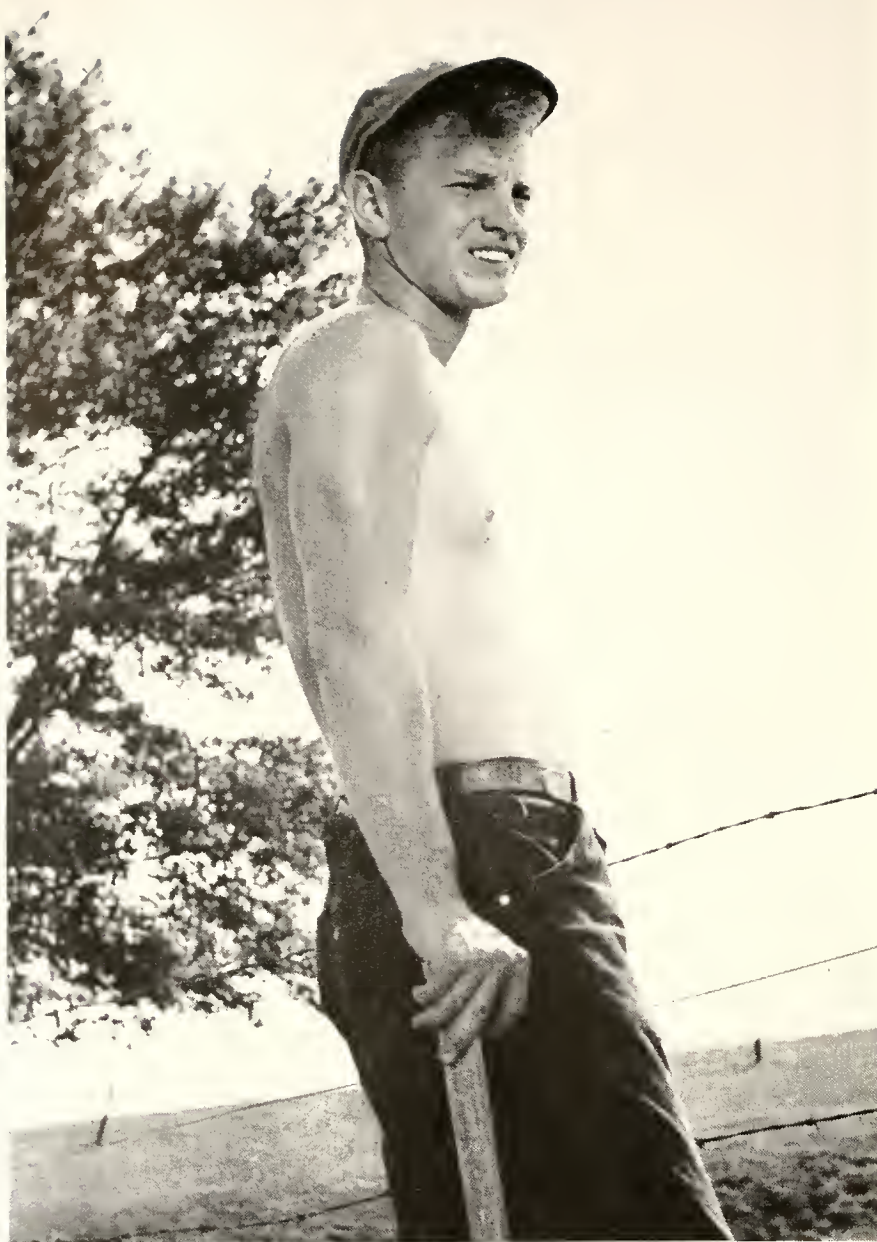
Some of their own members were among those hardest hit by the disaster. Being hard hit may be taken literally in the cases of Howard Davis and Jimmy Galloway. Howard was blown 200 yards. Damages: a very badly broken leg—two and a half months in the hospital and loss of all his crops except his strawberry project. Jimmy was blown 300 yards, three times the length of a football field, and received severe head in-

juries, a broken arm, and broken ribs.

But those are just examples. Several FFA members lost homes, crops, fences, and stock. Many were injured, and more than a few lives were lost. Out of all this they started rebuilding immediately—not just working on what they themselves had lost, but the whole community. Now the job is almost complete.

It could never have been done, however, without the teamwork of the FFA. Not only did the local chapter provide an inspiration for friends and neighbors who had lost everything, but FFA chapters from all over the state sent financial aid to fellow Future Farmers. Chapters near the tornado area provided labor and materials for their stricken fellow members; fences and barns were rebuilt, fields cleared of debris and leveled, lumber was salvaged, and bricks stacked. Seed was provided for new crops, and in many cases those members who gave the seed helped to sow it.

So Arkansas digs out of one of its worst disasters, and for hundreds of FFA members, and many others, the phrase in the FFA motto, "Living to Serve," takes on a deeper and more personal meaning.



Mike Wertz stars in new FFA movie

Farmer of Tomorrow

By B. W. CRANDELL

IF THE HERO of the new Future Farmers of America movie, *Farmer of Tomorrow*, gives the audience the impression of complete sincerity and truth, it is because the star's role in the film is almost an exact counterpart to his own personal experience on a farm near Gettysburg, Pa.

The young farmer who portrays the struggle of Walt Peabody to make a success out of a farm his father wanted to quit, is 17-year-old Mike Wertz, who prepared for his own real-life drama in FFA during four years at Upper Adams County High School.

As in the movie, Mike's father told

him he was going to sell the farm when Mike was only a Freshman and just getting into the FFA. Mike, however, asked if he could take over the 106 acres. His father not only granted permission, but added that if the farm was operated successfully, he would give it to Mike when he was a Junior.

Today, Mike has 14 dairy cows, 1,200 chickens, and raises corn, oats, wheat, hay and other crops so successfully that he plans to rent an additional 60 acres. (For his fine work in the FFA, Mike last year became a Keystone Farmer.) His

father, well-satisfied the way things turned out, works in a paper factory in a nearby town.

Mike's personal background slipped out in an unusual manner when he was rehearsing a scene with Burt Conway, who plays the vo-ag teacher and is, incidentally, the only professional actor in the entire cast. The scene was the one in which Walt Peabody goes to the vo-ag teacher and tells him that his father is ready to quit and move to the city.

"Mike got real tears in his eyes when he started repeating those lines," Conway said. "Being accustomed to Hollywood performers who use all sorts of tricks to bring tears, I thought it was unusual to get them from Mike without even trying. My questioning brought out his own story."

Gettysburg was chosen as the locale for the movie not for its historic background but rather for its overall scenic qualities and appearance as a representative cross-section of many American farms. In the area farmers raise dairy and beef cattle, swine, a great variety of crops and fruit.

Producer Victor Solow spotted the actors for his cast (with the exception of Conway) while he was looking over the farming community around Gettysburg and visiting with Dr. Lloyd Kefeever, Superintendent of Schools in Gettysburg, Guile Lefeever, Principal of the High School, and Elmer Schriver, vo-ag teacher, who acted as technical advisor during the making of the big color film.

The farm used in the movie belongs to Glen Sterner, who plays the part of the father. Sterner liked the role well enough, but what made him even happier was the fact that he got two free coats of paint on his farm house. The first coat was necessary to make the house look run-down, for an early scene, and the second coat to spruce it up for footage later in the picture.

Although the cast was limited to boys from the high school and a few farmers to play the principal roles, the entire community got enthusiastic when the stage lights, cameras and other paraphernalia was moved in to get the dramatic undertaking under way. Everyone, it seemed, wanted to help out. The power and light company moved telephone poles when they otherwise would have ruined a fine scenic effect. But the finest cooperation of all came not from a citizen but from a cow, which was to play a minor, but very important, part of the picture. One of the scenes called for Walt Peabody to be giving some attention to a new-born calf. The cow that had been tabbed for the act was so anxious to please that she not only delivered ahead of time, but

gave up twins for the occasion. Some fast moving of cameras to the pasture managed to get the proper scene on film.

The "heart throb" of the movie was provided by pretty, petite Janet Muselman, who is a Freshman at Goshen College (Ind.) this Fall, while the "villian" was Bill Bucklew, who is starting in at Penn State. Some of the veteran FFA men will recognize Richard Waybright in the FFA meeting scenes. Richard was a national FFA vice-president in 1951.

General Motors, which had the movie produced, also obtained original music based on songs of American folklore for the background.

After its premiere showing at the FFA national convention in Kansas City, the movie will be distributed for showings in various localities. Showings may be arranged by contacting the Film Section, Department of Public Relations, General Motors Corporation, General Motors Building, Detroit 2, Michigan.

Despite their taste of movie experience and some of the glamour of Hollywood, none of the amateur actors decided to take up acting as a profession. Their reaction was fairly expressed by Mike Wertz last July when Mr. Roger M. Kyes, vice president of General Motors and chairman of the Sponsoring Committee for the FFA Foundation, visited the troupe while it was on location. Kyes asked Wertz if he would like to be a professional actor.

"Not me," replied Mike. "I'm a farmer."



They Get Around

(Continued from page 19)

and guests of Sears at Golden Gloves boxing tournament.

At each visit each of the national officers was called on to tell about his farming program and his FFA activities, and top officials of the companies told about their operations.

There was "no time to spit" on February 27!

With such a schedule, the big problem for the officers is to fit their stories into the time that's available. If three minutes is the limit—and it often is—the boy who talks overtime gets a razzin' from his fellow officers. Doyle Conner, 1948-49 national president from Starke, Fla., ran overtime so often that the boys nicknamed him "Filibuster"—perhaps prophetically, for he later entered politics and is now a member of the Florida state legislature.

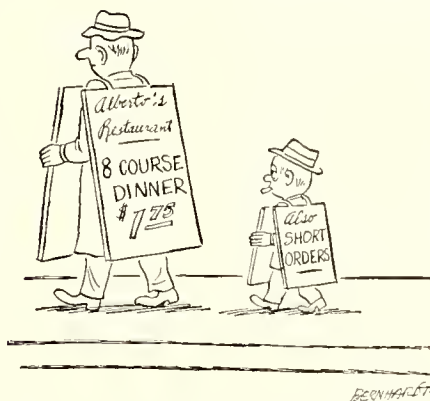
Biggest hazard to the schedule is transportation from one meeting to another, often two or three miles across town through heavy traffic. A

delay in catching a cab, or a traffic jam, can play hobs. Travel between cities usually is done at night by Pullman. You finish the day's schedule in Cleveland sometime around 11 p.m., get in the train and wake up next morning in Detroit ready for breakfast with the executives of a host company at 8 a.m.—if the train's on time, that is. Sometime it's not.

That was the case in 1951 when one of the energetic officers roused the party from peaceful sleep in their berths with the frantic call of "Get up! Get up! We're due in Detroit in 15 minutes!"

Not until the whole gang was up and dressed did someone think to check on the matter. The train was running two hours late! A national officer of the FFA got some very sound advice about how he should depend upon the Pullman porter to wake him up before arrival at the station.

Leaving Detroit three days later, Wayne Starritt, student secretary



from Catawba, West Virginia, woke up and looked at his watch to find it nearly 7 a.m., with the train due in Chicago at 7:20. But Wayne wasn't going to get caught again—No Sir! He got up and asked the porter if the train was running on time. Assured that it was, he roused the party—an hour early—Wayne had forgotten that the time zone changes between Detroit and Chicago.

Foundation donors like to have the FFA officers visit them. They know agriculture is an important part of the American economy and they want to get a first-hand look at the kind of young men that are coming out of vocational agriculture to be the farmers of the future. Too, they want Future Farmers to know more about business and industry, and the people that are in it.

Officers are often amazed when they visit the president of a giant corporation and find him "just as easy to talk to as dad back home." Many of these men, they find, were reared on the farm and have worked up the ladder of success the hard way.

It's a two way street. The boys are the best "salesmen" that FFA could have. In their accomplishments, the donors see at first hand the kind of top-notch farm citizens that come out of the FFA.

Visits with the companies often include specially-conducted tours through plants and laboratories. The boys this year watched the manufacture of products ranging from Nylon thread to steel armor plate. They saw the assembly lines that turned out such items as cream separators, tractors, tires, automobiles, trucks, and process cheese.

"If anyone questions the industrial might of America, he should spend that two weeks with us," said Gerald Reynolds, vice president from Corfu, N.Y. "They make some of the toughest jobs you can imagine look easy."

If the schedule will permit, the companies often provide special entertainment for the boys. They saw a stage play in New York, a circus in Cleveland, an ice show in Detroit and Golden Gloves boxing in Chicago.

Charley Ocker, student secretary from Cameron, Mo., isn't sure but what they sometimes go a little too far. Standard Oil Company of Indiana planned to take the officers to the NBC studios in Chicago to watch the Wayne King television show which the company sponsors. Charley let it be known that he was anxious to see the show "because us fellows in Missouri think Nancy Evans is just about the prettiest thing in television."

Arrangements were made for the boys to meet the cast and have pictures made with them. Other "on-the-sly" arrangements were made. When she was introduced to him, Miss Evans quickly stepped forward and planted a big kiss on the cheek of a surprised Charley Ocker. A photographer's bulb flashed. The picture shows the student secretary with a ver-rie broad grin!



National FFA VP Lucky Charley Ocker



By GORDON KELM and JOE MALINSKI

THE HUGE SIGN above the swine barn entrance at the Minnesota State Fair proclaims *The World's Largest FFA Livestock Show*. The claim is probably open to question, but from a modest beginning in 1948 when the Minnesota State Fair included the first FFA livestock classes, the show has grown each year until in 1951, 263 FFA members from 47 chapters exhibited 890 head of dairy cattle, beef, sheep and hogs.

The Friday night of the last weekend of the Minnesota State Fair, trains, trailer trucks, pickups and cars pulling trailers, head for the Minnesota State Fair grounds in St. Paul and the FFA livestock show. As the trucks pull up to the gate the boys are greeted by the ticket sellers, and thus occurs the first of the many expenses which each boy will have during his three day stay at the fair. The FFA members of Minnesota, who are hoping to become livestock breeders, have not asked for any preferential treatment by the management of the fair. Therefore, their livestock show has been patterned after the adult breeders' competition.

Upon purchasing their tickets, they drive to the unloading dock and, after receiving pen assignments, make their livestock comfortable for the night. Then comes the job of clearing health

certificates and checking registration papers against those entered in the clerk's book. The boy is then given a bunk assignment in one of the dormitories which are located in the livestock barns so that the boy is never separated very far from his livestock.

Saturday morning comes very quickly and then the job of washing, feeding and polishing begins with the first faint ray of sunlight. This is the morning that each boy has been waiting all summer for—the day that the product of last year's planning and this year's feeding skill, will be tested in the show ring in competition with that of others who also hope to achieve success. Since most of the classes are large, the competition is extremely keen. A show ring with sixty gilts, sixty boy exhibitors and one judge is no place for a lad who is faint of heart.

As quickly as the showing begins, it is over. The judge has passed on the quality of each animal exhibited. The animals have been placed. Then, it would seem, would come the time for relaxation. But this does not happen, for the boy with the champion gilt or cow is very busy explaining to younger exhibitors from many chapters, what the breeding program has been, what feeding practices have

been followed and general discussions of how champions are made.

Those whose animals placed lower are carefully scrutinizing the higher placing animals, checking to see where improvements need to be made in their own livestock. These young men are not just showing livestock for the experience of showing, as the show is designed in such a way that a continuing program is necessary in order that they get a fair return on the money they have invested.

Naturally, each FFA exhibitor who takes part in the show hopes to win a share of the \$9,000 in prizes offered by the Minnesota State Fair, and also one of the eleven special awards presented by the purebred breed associations. The most important objective however, is to favorably impress potential buyers among the 325,000 visitors to the show. In so doing each boy takes great interest in keeping his and the chapter exhibits most attractive. Chapter banners throughout the exhibit barns together with premium ribbons accumulated by the exhibitor, captivate attention of prospective buyers.

The fact that the Minnesota State Fair FFA Livestock Show has started many Minnesota Future Farmers on the road to success as purebred breeders, is reason enough to induce many

younger members to show their livestock at the Fair.

Dale Hand, a member of the Northfield FFA Chapter who was Minnesota's State Star Farmer in 1949, had just introduced purebred Durocs to his home farm when the Minnesota State Fair FFA Livestock Show made its debut. Dale's foundation animals won both Duroc championships in the FFA division. From these champions an outstanding Duroc herd soon developed. Dale realized that breeding stock and gilts from a State FFA Livestock Show Champion were in demand by the farmers of his community. By the time he became Minnesota's Star Farmer three years later, Dale owned 14 purebred Duroc sows and was selling hogs to thirteen surrounding counties. After graduating from High School, Dale began conducting an annual purebred Duroc auction and now has built his swine enterprises to a \$5,000 yearly business.

Two members of the Owatonna Chapter who received the coveted American Farmer Degree last fall, Marvin Meixner and Eugene Pichner, both have won more than \$1,000 in premiums as a result of showing their prize winning Spotted Poland and Chester White hogs at local, state and national swine shows. For both Marvin and Gene the Minnesota State Fair *State FFA Livestock Show* event also focused state-wide attention on their outstanding swine programs, and this was a stepping stone to success in shows such as the National Barrow Show.

The full implications of the motto of all Future Farmers, "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn," was impressively evidenced to the people of Minnesota, when even in spite of state restrictions, which forbid the swine exhibits, FFA exhibitors were still able to fill the spacious barns at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds with their livestock.



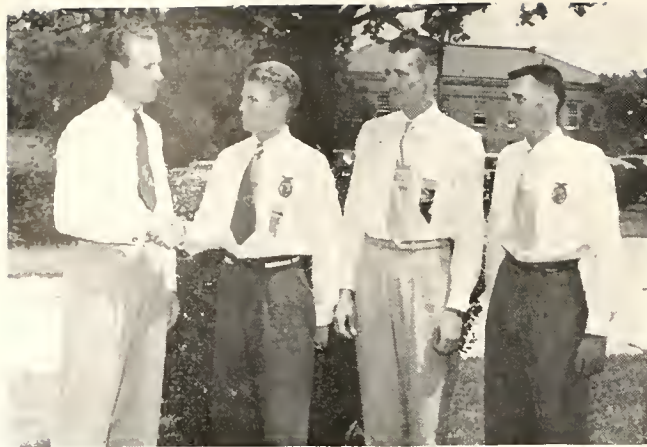
Eugene Pichner, Owatonna, and his Grand Champion Pen of Barrows at the Minnesota State FFA Livestock Show

Fat Lamb Exhibitors at the FFA Livestock Show



Norwood-Young Chapter Members and Holstein Heifers They Exhibited at the FFA Show





MEMBERS SET RECORD

National FFA President Donald Staheli of Hurricane, Utah, extreme left, congratulates three members of North Carolina's Wesley Chapel Chapter of the Future Farmers of America who have won the Star Farmer Contest during the past three years.

Left to right: National President Staheli; Charles Keels, 1952 winner; Frank Winchester, 1950 winner; and Jerry Price, 1951 winner. It marked the first time that an individual chapter has held the honor for a three-year span in North Carolina.



LEASED A TOWN SITE

William Barks, a member of the Greenville, Missouri, FFA Chapter, is breaking the soil on the site of what once was the town of Greenville.

Greenville moved its site two miles up river when Wappapello Dam was built in 1941. Now 187 acres has been leased by the Government to the Greenville Chapter on a 5-year, \$315-per-year plan. Many buildings and trees still stood in the area, so clearing it was no small job. Notes were arranged for machinery and seed, and the chapter was in business.

A working schedule was prepared where there would be no interference with other classes at school. The boys do not work on the farm unless Advisor James E. Callahan is present, and no one is allowed to work unless his school work is satisfactory in all departments.

During the period of the lease the boys plan a balanced program of grain, hay, pasture and livestock, and a program is being worked out with the Soil Conservation Service and the Conservation Commission on wildlife and woodlot management.

FFA AND BOYS' STATE

Delaware holds its American Legion Boys' State each summer, and FFA boys are always well represented.

Joe Juliano, a member of the H. C. Conrad FFA Chapter who was elected Governor of Boys' State this year, said he believed 45% of all the boys attending were FFA members.

The regular Governor and legislators turn over their chairs to the boys for a session during their 3-day visit to the State Capitol. This year the boys voted to increase teachers' salaries, lower the voting age to 18, and to abolish whipping posts.

Shown above are Joe Juliano, in the Governor's chair; William Bowdle, Harrington; William Lowe, Lewes; Richard Blevin, A.I.D.; Lloyd Cooper, Caesar Rodney; Leslie Dennis, Greenwood; Charles Carey, Milton; William Lord, Greenwood; and Sam Smith, Middleton.



VO-AG FATHER AND SON

Idaho State FFA President Richard Jensen, left, looks over the registered Jersey dairy herd of two generations of vocational agriculture students, W. A. Howard and his son Wally.

Mr. Howard finished high school and the Vo-Ag training at Emmett in 1929, just prior to the starting of the FFA in Idaho. He started his farming business with one team of horses and a few pieces of horse-drawn equipment on a rented farm. Today he owns a diversified irrigated farm completely mechanized, and the 30-cow herd of registered Jerseys comprise the main livestock business.

Young Wally is developing a farming program of his own and as a green hand last year had a farming program of 3 registered Jerseys, 2 Hereford steers and 2 gilts.





REYNOLDS FARM INSTITUTE
P. O. Box No. 1800
Louisville 1, Kentucky

ALUMINUM GOES TO SCHOOL - Reynolds Farm Institute begins a series of research projects and field tests.

A primary purpose of Reynolds Farm Institute is to provide reliable and unbiased information through cooperative research projects with agricultural colleges and universities. These projects are set up as cooperative ventures designed to bring together the knowledge of manufacturers and research institutions to obtain facts relating to the advantages of aluminum in any specific use or application.

Most of the experiments concern the effect of aluminum's radiant heat reflectivity on livestock and poultry production. Shade research on animal shelters continues in areas where intense heat retards production. Aluminum dairy barns are being studied in regions where climatic conditions dictate variations of construction and management. In the field of poultry, where aluminum has already proved an important aid to production, tests are continuing in principal poultry producing areas. Increased interest in better rural housing prompts Farm Institute research in this important field.

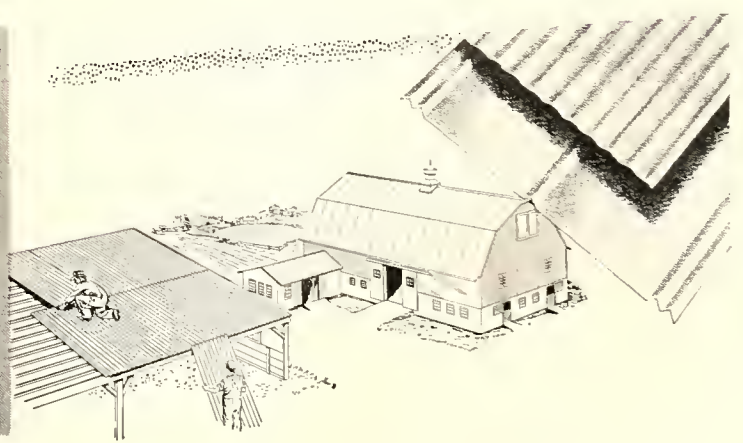
The benefit of summer heat reduction in aluminum structures is also being tested for grain storage. The converse of this — winter heat retention, and consequent fuel saving — is being proved in tobacco-curing tests, using aluminum-lined structures. Fruit growing is another category on the planned list — testing aluminum for picking sheds and for its insulating value in storage.

The benefits indicated by these projects are entirely apart from the structural advantages of light, strong aluminum, and the reduction in building maintenance cost through aluminum's rust-proof permanence. Reports will be made as test results are recorded.

REYNOLDS FARM INSTITUTE



These areas are covered by active Farm Institute projects.



CAN YOU TOP THIS?

MOTT, NORTH DAKOTA FFA Chapter believes it has some sort of record, and unless they hear or see differently they will officially claim it. What they claim is to have the tallest and the shortest FFA member in the N. D. Association! John Haas, their FFA prexy and a junior in high school, is 6'6". Vernon Haas, a freshman and cousin to John, is a total of 4'11½" from the ground. The total difference is one foot six and one-half inches.

★ ★ ★

ALABAMA Future Farmers have planted more than 5 million pine seedlings since 1942 under a program sponsored by the State Chamber of Commerce, the Division of Forestry of the State Department of Conservation, and FFA members.

★ ★ ★

BEAR RIVER, UTAH Future Farmers have distributed more than 3 thousand pounds of rat poison.

★ ★ ★

CANTON, SOUTH DAKOTA Future Farmers produced 61,966 pounds of meat and 8,716 bushels of grain.

AVALA, OKLAHOMA FFA Chapter, with a six-acre chapter project of wheat, produced 306 bushels.

★ ★ ★

MOSSYROCK, WASHINGTON FFA Chapter members last year earned a total of \$17,478.89 from farming, an average of about \$365 per boy.

★ ★ ★

KINGWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA FFA Chapter has purchased cooperatively, 40 thousand vegetable plants, 3 thousand pounds of insecticides, 4 thousand strawberry plants, 24 hundred pounds of certified seed potatoes, and 500 baby chicks.

★ ★ ★

MOUNTAIN LAKE, MINNESOTA FFA Chapter members have more than \$1,000 each invested in farming.

★ ★ ★

MOULTRIE, GEORGIA Future Farmers have taken on the job of landscaping five new churches in the county.

★ ★ ★

DAYTON, OREGON FFA members (31) went fishing on Siltcoos Lake. Everyone caught fish.

Preview of '52 Convention

FIVE THOUSAND or more Future Farmers are expected to jam the Municipal Auditorium at Kansas City, Missouri, on October 13-16, for the FFA's 25th National Convention.

Delegates will see one of their members receive the coveted Star Farmer of America award of \$1,000 and three others given the Regional Star Farmer award of \$500. Other national and regional awards of the FFA Foundation will be presented in Farm Mechanics, Farm Electrification, Soil and Water Management, Dairy Farming, and Farm Safety.

The National Board of Student Officers and Board of Directors will ask the delegates to advance 316 members to the American Farmer Degree, making this the largest American Farmer class in the history of the FFA.

Five members who have spoken their way through local, state, and regional eliminations will compete for awards of \$150 to \$250 in the national FFA Public Speaking Contest. Other awards will be made in the National Chapter and Judging Contests.

Convention delegates will lay plans for celebrating FFA's 25th Anniversary in 1953 and will see the premiere of a new FFA movie prepared by General Motors Corporation.

Guest speakers during the four-day session will include Charles F. Brannan, Secretary of Agriculture; Oscar R. Ewing, Federal Security Administrator; Earl J. McGrath, U.S. Commissioner of Education; and James J. Patton, President of The National Farmers Union.

Among the entertainment features will be specialty numbers by FFA members, selections by the 100-piece National FFA Band and 100-voice FFA Chorus, an inspirational pageant, "Liberty for All," and a show by Firestone Tire and Rubber Company.

Kansas City's Saddle and Sirloin Club will be host for a special tour, entertainment, and barbecue at the close of the convention.

◆ ◆ ◆

FROM FLORIDA comes word that Forrest Davis, Jr. of Quincy, Star Farmer of America in 1950, has been elected a state director of Farm Bureau. Doyle Conner, of Starke, National FFA President in 1948, has been successful in his campaign for reelection to the Florida legislature. He was 21 when first elected, the youngest known legislative member.

You're "On the Team" with



Lee Riders

(Authentic Western Cowboy Pants)

Right At School!

Right After School!

Join the campus crowd in Lee Riders—the *better* blue jeans that give you greater comfort, neater looks, longer wear! Snug-fitting in real Western style... Sanforized for true fit. Zipper or button front. Handsome Lee Rider Jackets for boys. Lee Boys' Overalls, "just like Dad's."

None Genuine
Without This
Branded Cow-
hide Label.

Lee

There's a
LEE for
Every Job!



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(Continued from page 13)

extremely desirable as a learning activity. Yuma Future Farmers used \$27,032.74 of cooperative credit last year.

Much of the behind-scenes work which makes these chapter cooperatives function with such ease and efficiency is the untiring efforts of the chapter committees. The over-all activities of the chapter are coordinated by the cooperative committee consisting of Milton Johnson, Joe Ellington, and Tom Dougherty. Within this framework function several sub-committees. Yuma Future Farmers believe in the value of committee work and training to the extent that every member serves on one or more committees.

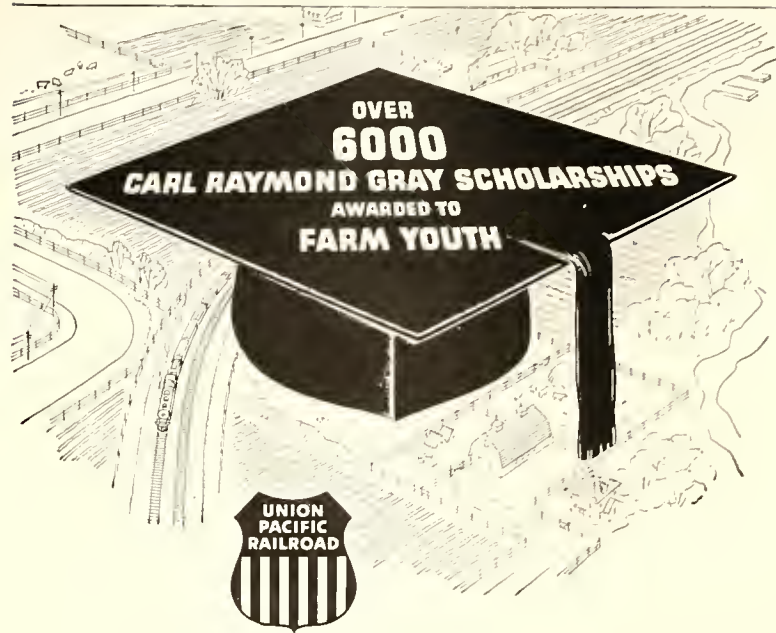
Mr. Fourn, chapter advisor, says, "We cannot fail to give credit to our chapter advisory council." This council, composed of farmers Tom Smith, Homer Kryger and F. G. Braden has helped the chapter materially in determining policies and practices for the school farm and in working out rental and lease agreements on land and equipment.

The results of this chapter's cooperative activities are many and varied. Outstanding among them is the increase in investment in the farming programs of the members. Yuma Future Farmers had \$69,427.47 invested in their farming programs last year. Three of their members received the State Farmer Degree this year and one is currently serving as State Vice President. The advisor and ten members attended the American Institute of Cooperation Summer Session at East Lansing, Michigan, by virtue of having won the State Cooperative Contest. Their new chapter president appeared on the program. Twenty-three members and their advisor attended last year's National FFA Convention in Kansas City.

Directing the activities of the chapter during the past year were Bill Black, president; Ted Drysdale, vice president; Clyde Cumings, secretary; Art Blohm, treasurer; Jackie Chapman, reporter; Pat Ham, sentinel; and advisors Millard E. Fourn and Ted Brooks.

In summary, we might say that cooperative activities appeal to these farm boys on a higher plane than dollars and cents. Their interest and participation are based on a firm belief in the value, need, and worthwhileness of cooperative activities. They believe that they are making a real contribution to themselves and their community. And when you consider that there are no adult cooperatives in the Yuma community you will be inclined to agree with them.

BEYOND THE CALL OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICE



To recognize worthy efforts of farm youth, and to encourage them to prepare for their future in the field of agriculture throughout the Union Pacific West, the Carl Raymond Gray scholarships were inaugurated in 1921, when Mr. Gray was president of the Union Pacific Railroad.

This scholarship plan has been continued every year since, and today is ardently supported by President A. E. Stoddard.

Each year 194 awards are offered to Vocational Agricultural high school students in this region.

Another 190 scholarships are offered annually to 4-H Club boys and girls.

From 1921 to 1950 inclusive, 2,289 Vocational and 3,671 4-H Club scholarships were awarded as an incentive to farm youth, to help them continue their study and work in agriculture.

This means that early in 1952 additional awards to be announced for 1951 winners will bring the total number of scholarships to more than 6,000.

Thus Union Pacific — beyond the call of transportation service — is helping to develop western agriculture by encouragement to the Youth of America.

Agricultural Development Department

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD



David Babcock and Max Stowe with posters used in rat killing campaign

\$10,000 Worth of Rats

BY MILTON KOHRS

Little River Chapter Advisor

FUTURE FARMERS, armed with the new drug Warfarin, are waging an effective campaign against the farmer's unwelcome guest—the rat. Each year, the farmer pays \$10 to \$20 to feed this destructive rodent. With the number of farms estimated at six million, this all-out war is imperative.

The Little River Chapter of Kansas has been one of the outstanding leaders in the antipest campaign. Early in February, Little River Future Farmers appointed a committee to head their program and pledged their support to destroy the mice and rats on home farms and to enlist the aid of all farmers in the vicinity.

The boys secured bulk materials and mixed the bait with Warfarin. To one part of the drug they used 19 parts of cornmeal and a bit of rolled oats as a teaser for the rats. The bait stations used to keep the poison bait from other farm animals were made of heavy wooden boxes.

One hundred and fifteen farmers joined in the fight, and some 532 pounds of poisonous bait and 195 bait

stations were distributed among the farmers and Future Farmers.

The farmers were enthusiastic about the project. As one of them put it, he did not realize how many rats infested his farm until one morning he found eight dead ones after putting out the bait stations. Francis Reed, and his Future Farmer son, Norman, discovered 16 dead rats when cleaning out old feed bunks after bait stations had been placed there.

A number of public demonstrations before various organizations were staged by the Future Farmers, and, in a little while, everyone in the community was behind the campaign.

The results were very satisfactory. An estimated average of 10 rats were killed on each farm and a total of 1,000 rats were destroyed. Figuring that each rat cost the farmer from \$10 to \$20, the boys estimate that the farmers in the community saved \$10,000.

Little River Chapter has been presented the gold and silver awards with special citation of accomplishments from the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, creator of Warfarin, and has been asked to serve as the central station for countywide pest eradication for the coming year.

The Strikeout Man

(Continued from page 20)

Of all the drivel found in this book none is any less promising or more downright awful than that of the struggling author who signed himself Ernest Hemingway, and who today is generally looked upon as the author who is most likely to be remembered among contemporary writers in the generations to come.

In England a half century ago a young lieutenant ran for Parliament and was soundly defeated.

He was to be defeated in elections again, too, but who remembers Winston Churchill as the man who was defeated at the British polls instead of the glorious wartime leader who brought Britain from the brink of despair and defeat to victory in her most trying hour?

Harry S. Truman failed in his attempt to get into West Point and he also went bankrupt as a haberdasher. But he is more apt to be remembered for the fact that he became the thirty-second President of the United States.

It has been pointed out before that failure can be a stepping stone to success. Someone has put it this way: "When we are flat on our backs there is no way to look but up."

But people would feel a lot less sensitive about failures if they remembered how thoroughly immaterial failure is. It just doesn't matter, except perhaps as a guidepost for yourself. Success is a bright sun that obscures and makes ridiculously unimportant all the little shadowy flecks of failure.

—Courtesy, *The Kiwanis*



DON'T GIVE UP

'Twixt failure and success the point's so fine
Men sometimes know not when they touch the line.
Just when the pearl was waiting one more plunge,
How many a struggler has thrown up the sponge!
Then take this honey from the bitterest cup:
"There is no failure save in giving up!"

—Henry Austin



Du Pont fuels the "JET" that guards crops and livestock!

One device that symbolizes today's practical scientific farms is the sprayer, spouting chemicals from one "jet" or from twenty. High pressure or low, 3-gallon or 1000-gallon, it is a sign of modern times in agriculture.

Why is this true? Because today specialized farm chemicals used in sprays are important to every kind of farming. Chemical sprays are used to:

Kill flies and mosquitoes on livestock, in barns and other farm buildings.

Control the insects and diseases that attack fruit and vegetables, cotton and corn, hay and pasture,

Kill the weeds in fields and fencerows and the brush in rangeland, pasture and woodland.

Many new spray chemicals as well as other products for the farm have been developed through Du Pont research. They have been tested and proven through the work of Du Pont scientists and technicians with the cooperation of schools and experiment stations and practical farmers. You can look to Du Pont for chem-

icals to guard your crops and make your farm more productive.

Insecticides: EPN 300, MARLATE* methoxychlor, DEENATE* DDT, LEXONE* benzene hexachloride, KRENITE* dinitro spray, Du Pont Cotton Dusts, Du Pont Dairy Cattle Spray and Dairy Barn Insecticide, Du Pont Livestock Spray & Dip No. 30.

Fungicides: MANZATE,† PARZATE* (nabam and zineb), FERMATE* (ferbam), ZERLATE* (ziram), Copper-A (fixed copper), SULFORON* and SULFORON*-X wettable sulfurs.

Weed and Brush Killers: CMU, AMMATE,* 2,4-D, TCA and 2,4,5-T.

Feed Supplements: DELSTEROL* Vitamin D₃ ("D"-activated animal sterol), Methionine amino acid.

Seed Disinfectants: ARASAN* for corn, grass, legumes, peanuts, vegetables, sorghum, rice; CERESAN* for cotton and small grains.

*REG. U. S. PAT. OFFICE
†TRADE MARK



150th Anniversary

BETTER THINGS FOR BETTER LIVING . . . THROUGH CHEMISTRY

On all chemicals always follow directions for application. Where warning or caution statements on use of the product are given, read them carefully.

NFA Award Winners of 1952

BERT J. ANDREWS

Robert Louis Ellis, 19-year-old farm boy from Waverly, Virginia, has been selected to receive the NFA's top degree, Star Superior Farmer, at its 18th Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, October 1-3. A \$250 check accompanies the degree, which is comparable to the Star American Farmer award.

Last year, Robert earned \$2,604 from his farming program of 192 acres operated in partnership with his father. Corn, peanuts, and swine are his main projects. A member of the New Farmers of America for six years, he has won a place on Virginia's state NFA judging team, and, in 1949, was state and sectional winner in Farm Mechanics.

Awards of \$125 for the Sectional Star Superior Farmer Degree have been won by Olan Faulk, Cairo, Georgia, and James M. Brooks, Boynton, Oklahoma. Five other members have earned the title of Superior Farmer.

Top National Dairy Farming award



Robert Louis Ellis, who will receive the top NFA award for 1952

of \$100 will be given to K. H. Malone, Jr., member of the Sam Houston Chapter at Huntsville, Texas, whose sale of dairy products and cattle last year totaled \$11,295.

Winner of the 'highest Farm Mechanics award of \$100 is Ulysee Stephens, Lowery Chapter at Donalds-ville, Louisiana. Cleveland Dishmon, Colfax, Louisiana, qualified for the \$100 Farm and Home Improvement award, and Vernon B. Ruffin, Sweet Home Chapter, Sequin, Texas, won the top Soil and Water Management award.

The annual H. O. Sargent award of \$250 from the FFA Foundation will be given to Joseph W. Register, Valdosta, Georgia, who has been chosen as the most successful young Negro farmer and former vo-ag student.

New Farmers of America now has 34,891 members and 1,003 local chapters in 17 state associations. This year, approximately 1,200 New Farmers plan to attend the National Convention in Atlanta.

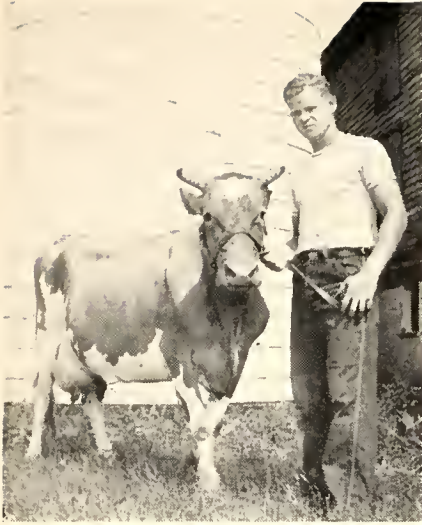
This Is Your Jacket

● You can look your very best in an official FFA jacket of the finest water repellent corduroy. The manufacturers are proud of the consistent high quality of materials and workmanship. They are also proud to be the only jacket factories authorized by you to use the FFA emblem—and they want you to know their jackets can be purchased only through the Future Farmers Supply Service, Box 1180, Alexandria, Virginia.

★

(This advertisement paid for by the FFA jacket manufacturers.)





Byron Armstrong and his "Heroine of Village Farm," the Guernsey he started as his first project.

EXAMPLE OF SUCCESS

BY LEE PASTERNAK, STAFF WRITER
Trenton, N. J., *Evening Times*

BYRON W. ARMSTRONG is an outstanding example of the success of the FFA in New Jersey. This 18-year-old Burlington County farmer is the product of the aims of the FFA—the training and establishment of youth in agriculture.

His interest in farming as a career is shared by more than 1,350 other members of the FFA in New Jersey. And among these boys, as in all states, there are many success stories that could be written.

Byron and his younger brother, Roger, 16, who is also active in FFA work and is presently treasurer of the local chapter, are a very great help in the operation of the 300-acre family farm which is devoted largely to Guernsey dairying.

Byron's FFA project during his freshman year at Bordentown High School, 1948, was the management of 300 New Hampshire reds he bought as chicks. He came out with a profit of \$2 each. Feed was high, and the market was low—so Byron dressed his birds and sold them for 50c a pound. Instead of abandoning the project, he kept some layers, and next year sold 35 roosters back to the hatchery for breeding stock!

Already elected president of the local chapter, Byron was the first junior year student to be elected vice president of the State Association. That was one of the reasons he was sent as a delegate to the training con-

ference held at Shelby, Michigan.

During his senior year, Byron won a first prize of \$100 for his dairy project, and last Fall was on the two-man judging team representing New Jersey at the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, Mass. With Ralph Bird as the other member, the team placed first in the dairy cattle judging, and Byron placed second on individual judging of Guernsey classes.

The "Meadow View" Guernsey herd numbers 145, and 80 of these are milkers. All are registered with the

American Guernsey Cattle Club, and 9 cows and 4 heifers belong to Byron. The heifer Byron had as his first dairy project, "Heroine of Village Farm," is still in his herd on his father's farm.

Although Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong say it isn't likely Byron and Roger will go on to an Agricultural College, they point to the wealth of practical experience gained by the boys in FFA work with considerable pride. And well they might, for here is an example of what FFA means to rural America.

DON'T TOUCH BLASTING CAPS

CALL A POLICEMAN

This is a FUSE CAP

This is a CAP with a FUSE

This is an ELECTRIC CAP

An ELECTRIC CAP with plastic covered wires

If you find a BLASTING CAP, don't touch it. Tell a policeman about it.

Boys and girls find BLASTING CAPS—play with them—are badly hurt when the caps explode.

Blasting caps are necessary to explode dynamite in mining, quarrying, road construction, and other jobs.

FUTURE FARMER—help save a child from injury! Clip this ad and post it where youngsters can't miss its vital message:

"NEVER TOUCH A BLASTING CAP." These bright copper or aluminum tubes are deadly dangerous. A cap blast can destroy eyes, tear off a hand or foot. Ask us for a free, colored "Blasting Cap Safety" poster.

Institute of Makers of Explosives
343 Lexington Avenue
New York 16, N. Y.

(Continued from page 11)

Some are city people homesick for the country or making the soundest of investments against inflation. Some are young farmers with enough capital to get started. Some are prosperous farmers who covet neighboring land that is being badly managed.

In addition to all this, the population of the nation has been increasing over two million a year for more than ten years and there seems to be no indication that there will be a decline in this increase. More and more people and no more good agricultural land. Much of the agricultural land which exists is already run-down and partially destroyed. It is being reclaimed because the reclamation is not only profitable; it is vitally necessary if the nation is to eat from here on out. We are rapidly approaching the state in which Europe has been for five hundred years, where no farmer who is not top notch is permitted either by economics or, as in Switzerland by law, to own land.

But the fact is that we do not need a law to prevent land from going into the hands of the bad and ignorant farmer. Economics is taking care of that. Every year in this country economics is liquidating 100 to 150 bad farmers and their land is going into the hands of farmers who are more able, more industrious, more intelligent, more thrifty and better educated. This will continue at an increasing rate despite all the subsidies, parity guarantees and price supports which in the past and even in the present have all too frequently served merely to preserve a bad agriculture by the skin of its teeth. Economically speaking it would be difficult or impossible to repeal all these aids at the present time simply because the general level of our agriculture, despite great improvement, is still so low that it is necessary to support and keep solvent the border line farmer in order that his purchasing power may support our industry.

The day of the old frontier type farmer who believed that his land owned him a living is a thing of the past, save in a few areas so rich that even the stupid and ignorant farmer can make a living. This is not good farming, but good luck, and even the days of bad farmers in areas with ten feet of black topsoil are numbered. Having luck with good soil does not mean that a farmer is a good farmer. Some of the worst farmers I know are in the richest parts of Iowa or Illinois and some of the best farmers I know are in the originally poor or worn-out lands of the South and Middle South.

A great deal has been made romantically out of the virtues of the frontier pioneer of the past, and a

great deal of it was humbug and nonsense. The majority of the early settlers in many regions were not farmers at all but simply people who had failed in the East or immigrants from Europe looking for a decent opportunity. None of these things necessarily made them good farmers, and many of them, plus their descendants, are responsible for the wrecked, eroded and ruined lands which succeeding generations inherited.

Today there is no place for the farmer who thinks that "what was good for Grandpappy is good enough for me." The fact is that it wasn't even good enough for Grandpappy and all too often it was Grandpappy who was responsible for the fact that until a generation ago the farmer, in vaudeville, in fiction, in pictures, and on the stage was depicted as a character in a battered straw hat sitting on the fence with a straw hanging from one corner of his tobacco stained, soup strainer mustache.

Not the least important evidence of change in the status of the farmer so far as the general public is concerned, is the way in which the farmer is presented in almost any medium of entertainment today. No longer is he the "hick." The young farmer is the hero now. The young Future Homemaker is smartly dressed and drives to town in an automobile. She goes on school or club tours to New York, to Washington and to Chicago. She is just as smart in appearance and mind as her city cousin, and because she has grown up on a farm she knows a lot more.

The fact is, I think, that not only has the frontier, pioneer type of farming (I almost wrote agriculture) gone by the board but so has the old pattern of general farming in which the farmer raises a little bit of everything and none of it very well. Again economics plays its part. It is no longer necessary for the farmer—because of being isolated and living on the edge of a forest or in the middle of a prairie—to produce everything his family needs. It is much cheaper to buy many of these things and frequently what he buys is better than what he produces. He is up against two killing factors, also—one, that he cannot afford all the machinery which is necessary for a complicated program of general farming—and, two, that his soils can never be right to get a maximum yield at high profit from any one of his crops. A farmer cannot possibly raise good potatoes and good alfalfa on the same soil. He will only make a mess of both.

The farmer of the future and the farmer who within a couple of generations will own all the agricultural

land in the U. S. will be part business man, part specialist and part scientist. Again the increasing pressure of economics is bringing this about rapidly.

You might ask now: What is the definition of a "good farmer"? I think I would answer, out of long observation throughout the world and from first hand practice with soil and livestock during a lifetime, that the good farmer is a man who knows as much as possible and never stops learning. He is a man who never thinks he knows all the answers and is perpetually willing to try anything new which seems to him practical and logical. He is a man who loves his land and animals and knows both as intimately as possible. He is also a man who thinks that for himself farming is the most wonderful profession on earth.

In thinking about all this don't let the politicians who seek to buy votes with promises, confuse you. The good farmer does not want to be kept and does not need to be. In good times he is a rich man and in poor times he is always well off. Don't be taken in by nonsense about "family-sized farms." There is no such thing as size determining either prosperity or opportunity. I have known families on ten acres to make a net of ten thousand a year upward, and families in the Southwest with ten or twenty thousand acres starving to death. Prosperity of the good farmer is not determined by the number of acres, but by the intelligence and capacity of work, by the farm program and by the production per acre.

Today the wise farmer does not expand until he raises one hundred per cent of what he can raise on the land he already owns. The wise farmer and the one who is never foreclosed, is the farmer who, when prices rise, raises more on the acreage he already has, rather than going out to buy more land to double and triple his costs, mortgages, interest, machinery and labor to raise half as much. It is a simple mathematical rule that the more you raise per acre the less it costs you, and the less you raise per acre the more it costs you. There are still too many farmers farming five acres to produce what they should be producing on one. It costs them five times as much to produce a bushel of corn, a pound of beef, a gallon of milk in terms of taxes, interest, labor, gasoline and seed as it does the farmer who is getting the same yield from one acre.

Those country boys who have gone to the city to make more money are no great loss to agriculture. On the whole they are the "quick buck" element who will be on relief the

moment business is depressed. They have become the true "hicks" of our time. They never loved or understood their land or they would never have left it, and on the whole they are good riddance. They did not have the intelligence to realize that *real* agriculture is one of the most difficult and honored of professions and has been since the beginning of time. A good farmer has to know more about more things than any lawyer, banker or engineer—and invariably he does. Where the average man in other professions can talk only about his business or the narrow field of his own specialized activities, the good farmer can talk on almost any subject. In a very rich and varied life I have met them all and meet them every day of the year.

Another one of the most striking things in the agricultural revolution is the number of city boys and girls of the finest type, often from families which own prosperous businesses and are actually rich, who are turning their backs upon industry, banking and business and taking up agriculture. In other words, in this exchange—the migration of certain farm elements to the city and of certain city elements to the farm—agriculture is the great gainer. The least valuable element is leaving the farm for the city and the most valuable element is leaving the city for the farm. The pioneer of the future will not be a man who has failed back east and gone into the west to make a fresh start. He will not be the man who fights bears and Indians. He will be, and is, an extremely intelligent and well-educated young man or woman who maintains and increases fertility or restores the agricultural land ruined by his predecessors. Agriculture is a noble profession and a distinguished one, the oldest and most distinguished of them all, and never has it been more so than today.

The day of the bad farmer is over and we are on our way to a status such as exists in Holland, Denmark, Belgium and France where agricultural land is not for sale and when you say "farmer" automatically you mean a "rich man."

The Future Farmers of America who are just starting out in life are doing so at what is probably the most exciting time in the whole history of agriculture. It has been said, with much justice, that we have learned more about agriculture during the last generation or two than in the whole history of the world up to now. And we probably know only about ten percent of what there is to know in the most worthwhile and interesting profession any young person can undertake.

DRESS UP!

Order Your OFFICIAL Shirts and Ties for Meetings and Special Occasions



Official Blue Shirt

Dark blue poplin material with convertible collar, and emblem on front. Sizes 12 to 17.

Item 203.....each \$2.85



Official Dress Shirt

White broadcloth with emblem. Ideal for wear with the official FFA jacket. Sizes 12 to 17.

Item 202.....each \$2.85

Please include check or money order with order

FUTURE FARMERS SUPPLY SERVICE

Box 1180, Alexandria, Virginia

- Item 202—Official Dress Shirt:
Neck Size..... Sleeve Length..... \$.....
- Item 203—Official Blue Shirt:
Neck Size..... Sleeve Length..... \$.....
- Item 400—Official Blue Necktie @ \$1.00 \$.....
- Item 401—Official Gold Necktie @ \$1.00 \$.....
- Total enclosed \$.....

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Address..... Route..... Box.....

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(Continued from page 17)

and freedom." Sometimes the voice is gay and mocking; sometimes it is as sorrowful as doom. The time will come, I think, when people will go to hear coyote singing as now they cross the ocean from America and join Londoners to go somewhere to listen to the nightingale. To be where coyotes are and to regard them as nothing more than targets is to miss a part of life. A book I wrote on this animal—*The Voice of the Coyote*—has brought me in touch with many country-minded people. One of them is a mining engineer named John H. Cheavens, of Tacoma, Washington.

"When I was a schoolboy at Eagle Pass, Texas, on the Rio Grande," he wrote in a letter, "three or four of us spent most of our free time in the fall hunting ducks. As soon as school was out on Friday afternoon, we would walk eight miles out to a ranch and camp, so as to be at the ducks at dawn. The town slaughter house was not far off from our camp; in those days a good deal of offal was thrown away, and anybody acquainted with the effect of the smell of meat on coyote singing can imagine the serenades we listened to.

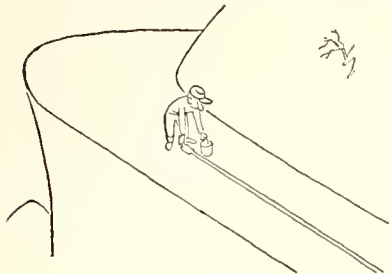
"One morning I was sitting alone in a blind when I heard a whole pack of coyotes coming my way. I kept as still as could be, expecting a sight to be remembered. Presently the pack came into view. It consisted of one solitary coyote with his nose in the air carrying all four parts of the quartet.

"Another time I was hiding in brush at the upper end of a long dirt tank hoping for a shot at geese cruising around in the middle of the tank. Presently kildees* began flying up and crying their cry, along the shore of the tank. Their rising and crying clearly traced the progress of some animal coming towards me. I was lying on my belly so that I could see under the low, heavy brush. The wind was off me. When Mr. Coyote came into sight he was sniffing along the ground, saying nothing. He got within twenty feet of me before he smelled and saw me about the same time. Then he demonstrated how fast a coyote can move. I never have had the heart to shoot at a coyote.

"Through years spent at the School of Mines in El Paso and at mining camps in Arizona, Durango, and San Luis Potosi, my acquaintance with

*The correct name is killdeer, of course, but my people always called them kildees; Mr. Cheavens calls them kildees; and that name calls more to me than killdeer. The Mexican name is tildi—an imitation, like the English-American name, of the bird's cry.

coyotes grew. Then for fourteen years, while in the high country of Peru and Bolivia, to which Mr. Coyote's travels have not yet brought him, I did not hear his voice. In 1941, we brought our little girls back to the States and settled in a house on the edge of Boulder City, Nevada. There in the evening we could hear the song I had borne in my heart for



so long. I would walk with my little girls farther out upon the desert to get a better hearing.

"The last song I heard was near Bagdad, West of Prescott, Arizona. We were building a mill, for mining, about fifteen miles away and I drove the distance daily, frequently more than once. During the winter I got on speaking terms with at least four coyotes that I took to calling by name. They seemed to sense that I was not packing trouble. One of them especially, a big dog, would stand about thirty yards from the road and watch me as long as I cared to halt to watch him. After two of the boys in camp began trapping, catching nine coyotes, I missed my friends along the road.

"Now I am up here in the mists and rains of the Pacific Northwest, but some day I will be back where I can hear the coyote's serenade again. The next time you see one, give him my salute."

It does not take any animal long to recognize a friend, and no animal is more perceptive than the coyote. There is nothing stranger in a coyote's being drawn to a friendly man than in a man's being drawn to a dog—or to a coyote.

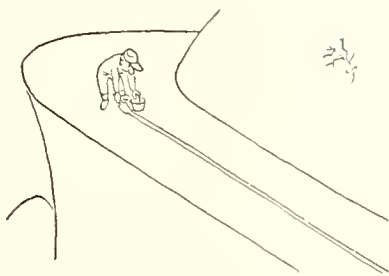
In the spring of 1947, Frederick G. Hehr of Santa Monica, California, spent two months at a cabin in the Cactus Forest, near Florence, Arizona. As he relates, strolling through the brush one day, he glimpsed a smallish coyote that he at first took for a jack rabbit. A day or two later, the same coyote, evidently, got up lazily from a position not more than thirty feet away from him and trotted off. After that he met the animal in all directions out from the cabin. It seemed to be trying to get acquainted. He began putting food out for it on clear ground about ten steps away from the *ramada* (shed) of the cabin.

He could sit in the shadow of the *ramada* and in moonlight see the coyote clearly when it came for food.

It was not slow in finding the food. He bought scrap meat in Florence and mixed it with table scraps, regularly. He began calling the coyote when he put out the food, and usually it would come within five minutes, not minding his sitting at hand under the *ramada*. One night two coyotes came. The stranger was a pup, about as tall as it was long. Mr. Hehr looked at it through his glasses. After presenting it and seemingly being satisfied that it had been admired, the mother coyote disappeared with it into the brush and then returned alone and feasted.

"We often had fun riling neighboring ranch dogs," writes Mr. Hehr. "I would start yapping like a coyote; the dogs would set up a barking, getting more and more riled, and then my coyote friend would let out some sharp barks. Before long all the dogs within three miles of us were going wild."

One of my country-minded friends is Norman Heslep, who dreams of



retiring from work in gas and oil fields to an island in Caddo Lake, where he can camp with birds, squirrels, possums, coons and other fellow-countrymen.

About 1936, as he relates, he and Doc Harvey were working together for a pipe line company in southern Texas. Doc Harvey was about sixty, had lots of common sense, and "a good feeling for all wild things." He generally wore a corduroy cap. One warm day early in March while he was in a tool house he took off his cap and placed it in the open window so that the lower part hung down inside the room and made a kind of pocket. A wren discovered it and built her nest in it. Northers followed the warm spell, but Doc Harvey went bareheaded until the wrens hatched out and left the nest.

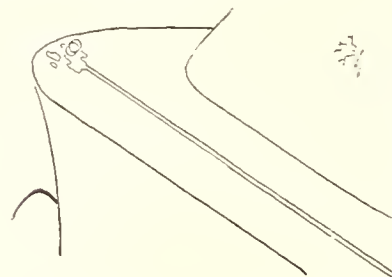
Along the Nueces River, near the work, there were—and yet are, I hope—a number of long-legged green herons that Doc Harvey called shikepokes. He was from Louisiana and that was the name he grew up calling them. He felt towards them as if they were kinfolks.

Near the bridge over a creek, not far above its entrance into the Nueces River, was a bar pit, which held water only after rains. On the far side of the pit was a dead willow. Heslep and Doc often drove over the bridge, and one day as they approached it they saw a big shikepoke standing on one of the lower limbs of the dead willow. Doc expressed curiosity as to why the shikepoke should be stationed over water that did not have fish. From that day on, however, every time the two men passed the bar pit they saw the shikepoke standing on the same limb of the dead willow. And every time they saw him. Doc would make some remark about "Old Podner," as he called the bird. He always wanted to slow down or stop at the place, and it looked as if "Old Podner" had a kind of friendly recognition of Doc.

During dry spells the water in the bar pit would disappear and then Old Podner would not keep his stand, but this was a wet year and as soon as rain put water out, the shikepoke would be back at his stand. He had kept it fully a year when, one day not long after a rain, the two men drove in sight of the willow. Doc as usual was looking.

"My old podner ain't there today," he said. "Now I wonder where he would have taken off to."

The rest of the story is in the words of Norman Heslep, who was driving the pickup. "As we got opposite the willow, Doc asked me to stop. While I put on the brakes, he was opening the door. He got out and started around the hole of water. Without moving, I took a look along the opposite side and there, his wings spread out on top of the water and his long neck and head lying on the bank, was the old shikepoke. Doc came back and got into the pickup. What he said I won't put down.



"After that, every time we passed the bar pit and the dead willow Doc would say something about Old Podner and express his opinion of the mean-hearted, low-minded, callous-natured biped that killed him—shot him for fun."

There can be no argument over who got the most out of life—country-minded Doc Harvey or the killer of "Old Podner."

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1953 full color F. F. A. "Indoor Billboard" illustrated by famous artist Harold Anderson measures 31" x 42½"



Home calendar, multiple pictures all in full color. Opens to 7⅞" x 16¾".

Roll calendar for farms, homes, offices, etc., measures 19½" x 29". Also with full color illustration.

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INC. U. S. PAT. OFF.

*The National Board of Trustees of the Future Farmers of America has authorized The Osborne Company as exclusive agents for the production and sale of the official F. F. A. calendars.

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If not, send the coupon below at once to get full information about the big job the official 1953 F. F. A. calendars can do for your chapter. Since next year will be F. F. A.'s 25th birthday, we know you will be especially interested in seeing these colorful anniversary calendars; in discovering how your chapter can profit financially from their distribution; and in learning how they increase the importance of F. F. A. right in your own home town. So send off that coupon today for the complete facts.

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BROILER TESTS

By HAROLD A. MOSTROM
Director, Essex County Ag School

FOR THE FOURTH consecutive year, trial studies in broiler production have been conducted by the Essex County Chapter of Massachusetts. These projects are intended to raise funds for the Chapter treasury, to make comparative tests of broiler feeds, to make comparative tests of broiler stock strains, and to provide statistical summaries of results for teaching material in poultry classes.

Each year, two lots of 400 cockerel broiler chicks are started simultaneously in separate pens. Five hundred of them are sold at 12 weeks and the balance capetted and carried to 20 weeks.

One year a local farm supply cooperative wanted an accurate comparative test made of two broiler feed formulas and supplied feed at no charge for 800 birds up to 12 weeks of age.

Under the supervision of Instructor J. Stanley Bennett of the Poultry Division at the school, the boys weighed the birds at regular intervals, and the feed conversion results were given to the manager of the farmers' cooperative. Because of the free feed, a profit of several hundred dollars was added to the Chapter treasury that year.

In other experiments, various broiler stock strains have been compared—Rhode Island Reds versus New Hampshire cockerel chicks, White Rocks versus Cornish New Hampshire crosses, etc.

This year, White American cockerels and Buff and White Cornish crosses are being tested. The relatively new White American breed was originated by Instructor Ellery E. Metcalf of the school staff. Mr. Metcalf has worked on the creation and development of this breed for about 20 years. In the 1951 National Chicken-of-Tomorrow Contest, the White Americans were the highest-scoring white breed and placed third among the 40 entries of all breeds competing in the contest.

In every project, the broilers are weighed periodically to check gains and feed efficiency. Eight, 10, 12, and 20 weeks are the ages in which we are especially interested, though we do chart weekly feed consumption.

School trustees allow the Chapter to use school farm equipment and a building, but all supplies and labor costs are provided or financed by the Chapter.

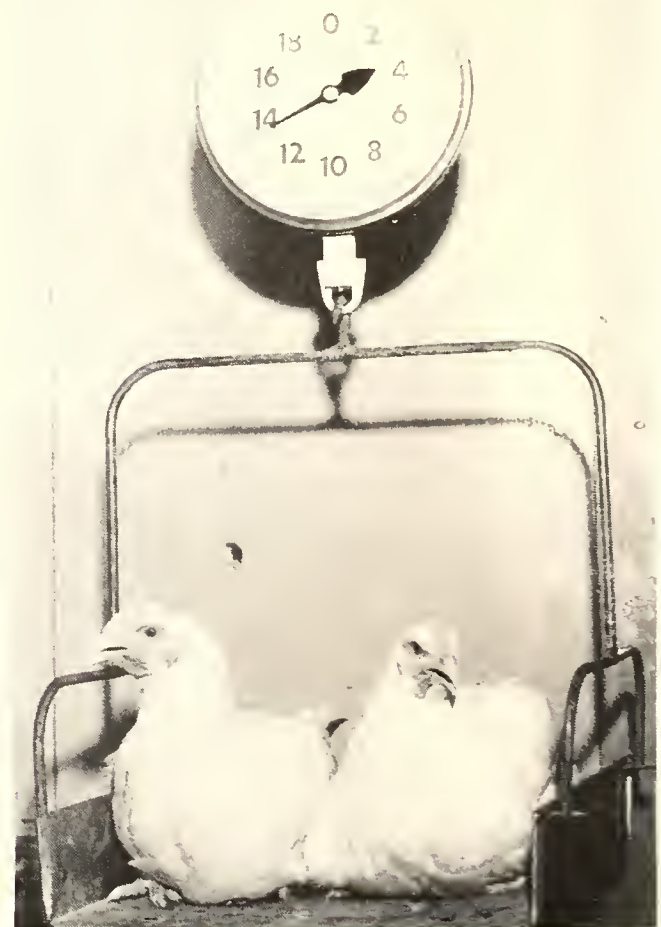
The final financial results of the 1952 project are not yet known; however, at present feed prices, the cost of running an 800-bird project with 300 birds carried to heavy weight reaches about \$800.

The yearly task of preparing advance financial estimates on the broiler project is done by the poultry major class under the guidance of Instructor Bennett. On the basis of their report and recommendation, the entire Chapter membership, in open meeting, votes on the appropriation to finance the project. Money for it is taken out of the reserve in the treasury.

During the past four years, the going has not all been smooth. There have been many difficulties to overcome. Yet, from these experiences, we have learned what is encountered in commercial poultry practice. We feel that the projects have yielded excellent returns, both educationally and financially, with \$100 to \$200 net profit being added annually to the Chapter's treasury.



Robert Caley, left, and Richard Williams, ag students of Essex County Agricultural School, Hawthorne, Mass., using a capette applicator on a Buff-Cornish cross.



White American cockerels, 15 1/2 weeks old, tipping the scales at 13 1/2 pounds. This breed was developed by Ellery E. Metcalf of the Essex County School staff.

There's Money in Rabbits

By JOHN METTE

CONTRARY TO popular belief, there is money to be made in rabbit raising. All over the United States, with heaviest concentration on the West Coast, domestic rabbit production is becoming increasingly more popular.

After over eight years as a breeder and producer of high-grade rabbits for breeding and show stock, commercial fryers and miscellaneous by-products, I've come to the conclusion that more and more Future Farmers of America should become interested in rabbits.

America's rabbit industry is in the pioneer stage. By no means has it reached proportions of other livestock and poultry industries. Yet, unbelievable as it seems, domestic rabbit production spells profit for thousands.

The publisher of a leading California agriculture paper recently remarked that "there was more money in ten good does than 200 laying hens." If we were all able to see with our own eyes the progress people are making raising rabbits on a large scale, we would have little doubt that the publisher's statement was true.

Rabbit raising as a vocational agriculture project not only provides profit, but offers vital training in management and responsibility—essentials in modern farm training.

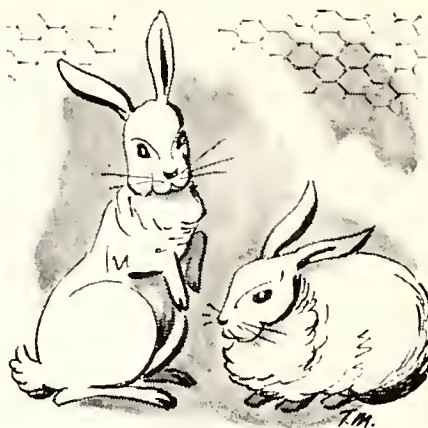
Most important in beginning a rabbit enterprise are good stock, proper housing, sanitary conditions and careful management practices.

Preparations should be completed for housing, feeding and proper care before animals are purchased. Some people with an urge to "get started" buy their stock, then find they have no place to house it.

Some repeatedly insist that "any" stock is equal when meat production is concerned. I personally disagree.

My judgment of a top-notch, productive herd is not based solely on the number of individual bunnies a doe produces in one litter, but on weight gains the litter makes, uniformity of youngsters in the litter; number of litters per year a doe can produce and traits and characteristics certain does and bucks can reproduce consistently.

In rabbits, just as in any livestock, there is a distinct difference in qual-



ity of grade and purebred animals. And as in the case of most other types of stock, rabbits have a governing standard of perfection and a parent organization. In this case the guardian of rabbit associations and member breeders is the American Rabbit and Cavy Breeders Association.

As the American Guernsey Cattle Club, for example, improved the Guernsey breed of dairy cattle, so do representative breed clubs improve varieties and breeds of rabbits.

Good stock is not expensive in a long run program. Original economic outlay is most easily repaid when purebred animals were the reason for expenditure.



"Withdrawals, next window, please!"

When buying try to select an honest, square-dealing breeder from whom you can purchase stock. His interest in you will be shown by stock he sells, prices he asks, and his willingness to help you get a start.

It is sometimes a tendency for young men to strive for a "get-rich-quick" project. Rabbits, by no means, are one of these. Although not super money-makers, they do provide lasting values.

Careful management equally stressed with good housing conditions, proper feeding methods, care and improved selling methods will reward any young man well for his work.

Generally, today, commercial breeders are willing to accept production of domestic fryers as their number one objective; with breeding and show stock, pelts and fertilizer as secondary.

Fryers from commercial-type breeds reach marketable size (four to five pounds) at six to eight weeks.

Although some raisers hit the shows heavily, they as a rule pay off rather poorly to the inexperienced. With exception of an occasional showing for pleasure's sake, I would advise a beginner of staying clear of the show room until he learns more about rabbits.

There is every possibility for success in this pioneer industry. Individual households, hotels, restaurants, markets, plus specialty sidelines are waiting to be explored by potential rabbit raisers.

The American Rabbit and Cavy Breeders Association, 4323 Murray Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, have prepared booklets for FFA and 4-H club members consumption. They warrant careful study.

If you are interested, send for them, ask for their specialty club listings and write individual breed clubs for detailed information on their respective breeds and varieties. Use this information wisely and enter rabbit raising cautiously and seriously.

When you have joined the ranks of America's rabbit growers, maybe you'll hit the jackpot too. Remember, the jackpot isn't too large now, but it can grow with your additions and become one of the finest treasurers of them all.



Your community depends upon you to accept this challenge

Join the Second Annual Rat and Mouse Control Achievement Campaign Now!

Your Group Wins — Your Neighbors Win When You Assume This Important Leadership

Here's an invitation to | **FFA CHAPTERS**

Hundreds of FFA chapters have merited Gold and Silver Awards in the first annual rat and mouse control achievement campaign. While winning, they have contributed immeasurably to the improvement of the general health and welfare of their communities.

If your chapter's name is not on the first year's award list — or if you began but did not complete your campaign — then plan to make this the year that your community becomes rat-free.



Fill out the coupon and mail it today to receive everything you need to conduct a successful campaign.

ENTRY BLANK

Educational Director
WISCONSIN ALUMNI RESEARCH FOUNDATION
 P. O. Box 2059, Madison 1, Wisconsin

Please enroll our chapter in the second annual rat and mouse control achievement campaign. Send us all the information we need to conduct a successful campaign.

Name of Chapter.....

Address.....

President.....Secretary.....

Adult Advisor.....

Number in Group.....

THE FIRST ONE DOESN'T HAVE A CHANCE

Can you read this? It appears on a sign in a Texas Cafe:

der
Seville Dago
Tousan busses Inaro
Nojo Dems Strux
Summit Cowzin
Summit Dux



"Take that thing off! Do you want to get shot?"

A Crosley driver ran out of gas on a country road. Along came a Cadillac. Its driver offered the stranger a tow to the nearest station. They were spinning along at 50 miles an hour when the Crosleyite spotted a cop behind them. He honked his horn in warning.

The big car driver sized up the situation, increased his speed to 80 to give the cop the slip . . . with the Crosley man honking again, this time in terrified supplication to slow down. Finally the cop did give up, strode into the police station, stripped off his badge and gun:

"I'm through," he announced. "I've seen everything. I might expect to be outrun by a Cadillac, but when there's a Crosley behind him giving him the horn, that's too much."

A man had a slight difference of opinion with his wife. But he acknowledged his error generously by saying: "You are right and I am wrong, as you generally are." Then he hurried off to catch his train.

"So nice of him to put it like that," his wife said to herself—and then she began to think about it.

Anybody that enjoys work can have a heck of a good time farming.

"Your baby learned to walk yet?"
"Goodness, no! He's just now learned to drive the car."

Hens, as somebody may already have noticed, lay their eggs the hard way—broad end first. Why they do this is anybody's guess, including two British scientists who recently tried to discover the reason for the hen's eccentricity. In their experiments, the two scientists, researchers in the anatomy department of Cambridge University, got themselves a hen, trained an X-ray camera on her, and settled back to wait. Pretty soon the camera revealed an egg—and it was arranged efficiently, the narrow end first. But, about an hour before it was laid, the egg mysteriously turned around inside the hen. The scientists have been unable to explain why the egg should reverse its axis. The hen had no comment.



"... after watching that first half, I think we should go back over a few points . . . now, first of all, this is a football . . ."

Two young men saw two pretty girls meet and embrace.

Said one: "That's what's wrong with the country."

"What do you mean?" asked his friend.

"Women doing men's work."

First soldier, regaling a group of girls with an exaggerated account of his part in capturing a small town: "Then an explosion tore up the main street."

Girls in unison: "Goodness! And what did you do?"

Second soldier, standing by: "He tore up a side street."

Menu for the Advisor

- A "Pinch" of Patience
- An "Ounce" of Understanding
- A "Drop" of Midnight Oil
- A "Dash" of Dependability
- A "Teaspoon" of Initiative
- A "Tablespoon" of Organization
- A "Bowlful" of Ambition.

Result—CITIZEN FARMER!

By Bill Craner
Vo-Ag Instructor
Preston, Idaho

You've seen this before (on this page).

There
See, Bill, they go,
Thousand busses in a row.
No, Joe, them's trucks.
Some with cows in,
Some with ducks.

STATISTICALLY YOU

EVERY Future Farmer is a statistic. By himself he totals one—combined with every other member, he and they add up to the greatest membership in the history of the organization—a 1951-52 record membership of 352,916.

This year, 38 of the 48 states enrolled new members, but Texas Future Farmers, totaling 34,814 are still the most plentiful bunch. North Carolina (21,244) and Illinois (17,057) rank second and third in membership, and 14 states contain more than 10,000 Future Farmers.

Fifteen hundred new Georgia members gave that state the largest percentage gain over last year.

The Future Farmers of America now have 8,500 local chapters in the 48 states, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.



"... of course the signals are a secret, silly, but you can tell us!"

Country Twilights Haven't Changed...

The tired old sun still drops behind the landscape with his same defiant flourish. The shadows stretch, the valleys yawn, and the low clouds blush "goodnight," the same as always.

Still, there have been changes since the old days.

As the shades of evening lower, the farmer faces homeward with a lighter heart. The tasks he set for himself this day are done—and probably more. The approach of darkness brings with it a sense of fulfillment, and the promise of pleasant hours at home.

For today, power farming enables the farmer to enjoy home life at its highest standard. The benefits of radio, television, and many other modern appliances and conveniences have become commonplace in the rural home.

This is the modern miracle in which John Deere is proud to have participated so prominently.



Since 1837



J O H N D E E R E • M O L I N E • I L L I N O I S



have **GREEN FEED** the year 'round

Packed with mineral-rich leaves and succulent blossoms, green-cut forage is a protein concentrate in itself. Protein often exceeds 20 percent in legume or grass silage made with the Allis-Chalmers Forage Harvester.

Here's your answer to rain spoilage of hay. Harvest standing green forage, save it *all*, with your own wide-throated, big capacity Forage Harvester and 2-plow tractor.

Power takes the crop all the way from field to silo. The Forage Harvester's power-saving, cup-shaped knives are spiraled to give an easy-shearing, cut-and-throw action that delivers clean-chopped forage to a trailing wagon. A new rear bumper attachment permits easy rear loading into trucks.

Now you can follow the ideal soil-building system, with more legumes and grass, more high-carotene feed, longer lactation life for your cows. To livestock, to your land, and to you, the Allis-Chalmers Forage Harvester can be the most welcome machine on the farm.

ALLIS-CHALMERS
TRACTOR DIVISION • MILWAUKEE 1, U. S. A.

FORAGE HARVESTER

3 harvesters in 1

Three attachments for the Forage Harvester include: 1. A reel and sickle for green standing crops, or clipping pasture and stubble. 2. Pick-up attachment for dry hay, wilted hay or straw in the windrow. 3. A row crop unit for corn silage or sorghum.

Built-in knife sharpener

Cupped knives are power-honed by a sliding carborundum stone, without being removed from machine.

4-way auxiliary motor

Available for use with smaller tractors. Inexpensive attachments permit interchanging motor with Forage Harvester, ROTO-BALER, ALL-CROP Harvester, Blower.

ROTO-BALER and ALL-CROP are Allis-Chalmers trade marks.

FORAGE BLOWER

Has big nine-inch pipe capacity to match the Forage Harvester's tannage. Power-saver blower fan has special curved blades that overcome friction-drag, throw into highest silos. Long, low, 11 1/2-ft. lift-up blower conveyor is ideal for power unloading wagons.

Properly capped, silage can also be stored in outdoor stacks or trench silos.

