



# Chapter Chats

Published by

The Virginia Association, Future Farmers of America

*The State Organization of Students Studying Vocational  
Agriculture in the High Schools of Virginia*



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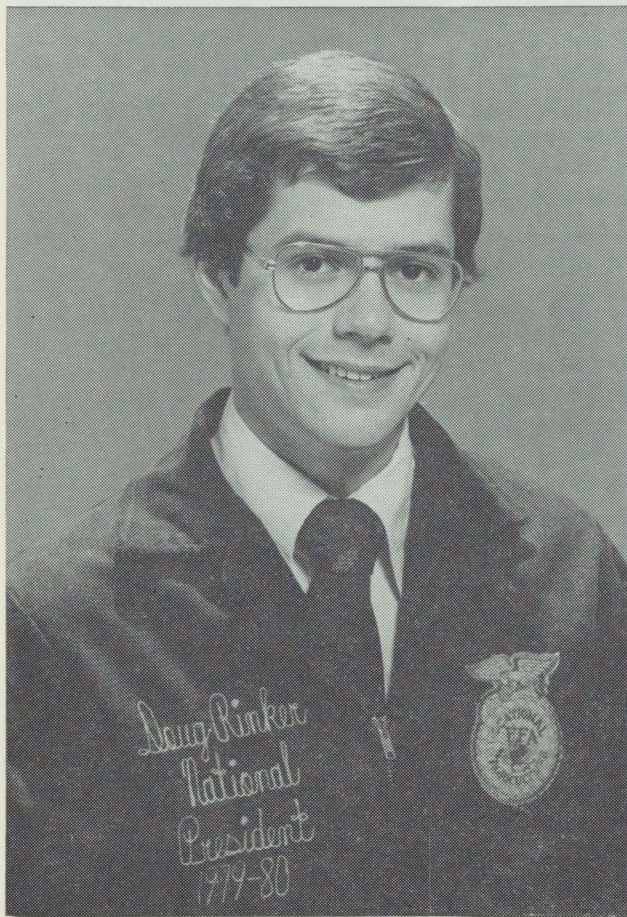
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NUMBER 2

## RINKER NEW NATIONAL PRESIDENT!



Doug Rinker, former President of the Virginia Association FFA is the 1979-80 National FFA President. Only the third Virginian ever elected to this high post, Rinker will dedicate the next year to representing the FFA on a national and international basis. He has taken a one year leave of absence from Virginia Tech so that he can fully serve the 500,000 members across the country.

Rinker, 20, is a 1977 graduate of James Wood High School in Winchester. He was an active FFA member, serving as Chapter and Federation President and was elected State President for 1977-78. He won the State Public Speaking Contest in 1977.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rinker of Winchester, Doug is an outstanding example of what can lie in the future for an FFA member. As a Greenhand, he set his goals at the top, aspiring to become National FFA President and then worked to achieve those goals. Doug estimates he spent 300 hours studying for the interviews that led to his nomination and election to the Presidency.

Doug freely attributes his success to his FFA Advisors and teachers of Vocational Agriculture. We are grateful for the dedication and enthusiasm of T. L. Karpac, Roger Crosen, Hylton Clark and Robert Sutphin and both congratulate and thank them for the encouragement they gave to Doug.

All of us in the Virginia Association are proud of this truly remarkable young man and pledge the support of 20,000 Virginia members and advisors to him during the coming year.

## Virginia Places First, Second, Third In FFA Judging

The Broadway FFA team placed first in dairy management, Turner Ashby was runner-up in poultry judging and Stuart's Draft had the third place team in livestock judging during the 34th annual Eastern U. S. FFA Judging Contests at the State Fair September 22.

Members of the winning Virginia dairy management team are Michael Good, Vickie Keplinger and Chris Stover. D. M.

Smith is team coach. Ohio placed second. Maryland and Delaware finished third and fourth respectively.

In poultry judging, Turner Ashby was runner-up to Maryland. Team members are Greg Grove, Lynn Koontz, and Mark Revercomb. The team is coached by C. C. Shiftet, Jr.

Members of the third place Stuart's Draft livestock judging team are Kim

Beyeler, Charles Mullins, and Mike Rodgriez. The team coach is Robert Christian. First place in livestock judging went to Indiana and second to Ohio.

The teams and their coaches were guests of six major manufacturers of farm machinery at an awards breakfast. Joint hosts for the breakfast were Allis-Chalmers, Ford, International Harvester, J. I. Case, Massey-Ferguson, and Universal Tractor-Equipment Corporation.

## CHAPTER CHATS

Published by  
THE VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF  
THE FUTURE FARMERS

Address all communications to the Virginia Association of the Future Farmers of America, care of State Department of Education, Box 6Q, Richmond, Va. 23216.  
Randolph Trivette .....Editor

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#### Vice President

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State President Tim Gano meets Mr. Will Creasy.

## The Future Meets the Past

State President Tim Gano shook hands with history recently while on a visit to Carroll County. Tim met Mr. Will Creasy, a resident of the Galax area. Mr. Creasy was one of the first instructors of vocational agriculture in Virginia and one of the oldest living members of the esteemed profession.

Mr. Creasy spoke at length on the early events of his career with vocational agriculture and the FFA. It was a rare experience for Tim who reported that it was one of the most interesting visits he has had.

## Are You Talented?

Do you play a musical instrument? Can you sing? Dance? Juggle? Do you want to serve the state association and have a good time doing it? The State FFA Convention needs you.

If you wish to be a part of the State Convention entertainment, there is a need for members of the State Band and State

Chorus. Ask your advisor for an application.

In addition, if you can sing, or dance, or have any other talent you think the State Convention would enjoy, contact any state officer for information. We are especially interested in highlighting the talents of FFA members and would like to include you in our program.

## Paul Bennett in National Contest

Paul Bennett, of the Randolph-Henry FFA chapter was runner-up in the 1979 National Public Speaking Contest. The contest was conducted during a session of the National FFA Convention in Kansas City. Paul received a plaque and a check for \$275.

Paul earned his way to the National Contest through a series of other contests. He placed first in his chapter contest, then won his Federation and Southside Area contests. In June, he was named winner of the state competition in Blacksburg and represented Virginia successfully in the tri-state event in North Carolina. After the Tri-State, he journeyed to Springfield, Massachusetts, where he was named winner of the Eastern Regional Competition. From there he went to Kansas City.

Each Public Speaking contestant must formulate, research and write a speech on their own, using an agriculturally related topic. The six to eight minute speech must be thoroughly researched. During the contest, the member is judged on how well the speech is delivered as well as on the responses to five minutes of questioning by the judges. In addition, the written speech manuscripts are graded. A cumulative score determines the victor.

Paul is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Bennett of Red House, Virginia. His speech entitled, "Beef—An Unsure Situation" concerned the reasons for escalating beef prices at the supermarket.

He is a freshman at Virginia Tech majoring in Animal Science.

## John Green To Visit Germany

John Green, Treasurer of the Virginia Association FFA, will attend the International Green Week Exposition in Berlin, Germany, as the official representative of the state association. The exposition features seeds, feeds, machinery, fertilizers, garden equipment, livestock and an international flower hall. It is expected to attract over 100,000 visitors daily.

In addition, John will attend the Annual Congress of European Young Farmers and hear debates on the agricultural policy of the Common Market. The German Rural Youth Organization will host the visitors at two large receptions.

To round out the tour, the group will sightsee in East and West Berlin, including the Berlin Wall and checkpoint Charlie, Olympic Stadium, Kaiser Wilhelm

(Continued on page 8)



Gary Thomas, Randolph-Henry Chapter advisor (left) with Paul Bennett runner-up in National Public Speaking Contest.

## FFA Offers International Experience

How'd you like to help out with the rogen and rapo harvest—or help muster and draft cattle?

Sounds pretty "foreign" doesn't it? It's not anymore to members of the FFA who have taken part in these other "different" and exciting aspects of global agriculture through the FFA's Work Experience Abroad (WEA) Program.

WEA is a working and learning experience open to all FFA members. Through it, members can get a better understanding of global agriculture and a greater perspective of the scope of agricultural employment in the world. In WEA, students work and live on farms and agribusinesses throughout 25 countries in Europe, Latin America, the South Pacific, and Asia.

"It's more of a total immersion into a given culture, rather than a simple visit to a country," said Lennie Gamage, the FFA's specialist for International programs. "We feel that the real benefit in a program of this type is realized when the individual becomes a genuine working part of a foreign family for a time—learning the language, eating what they eat, and working right alongside them." Gamage is quite enthusiastic about the program and would like to have more members take advantage of it.

Nicholas Kristof of Gaston, Oregon, spent the summer of 1978 picking fruit on a small farm in France. When just two weeks into his program, Kristof fig-

ured out that in the course of his work picking cherries he had walked enough to get from there to Oregon and back almost three times. He says he found the experience "very broadening", indicating that he got more out of WEA than just work experience. Kristof learned about the French way of life, French farming techniques, and the hardships of life in a small, poor community.

WEA's main objective—work experience that stays with a person and enhances their future career and job opportunities—seems to be quite validly founded.

"The most important aspect of my program was the career potential that I gained through it," said Warren Clark, a participant in 1974. Clark worked in Denmark at a national feed and seed cooperative and says the experience "opened his eyes" to other cultures. "A springboard for a career in international agriculture" is how Clark describes a big plus of his program.

Each year, more than 200 FFA members and young people from other countries participate in WEA. Through this program, participants are provided with work experience, room and board, and a monthly stipend which averages about \$100 per month, depending on the work and country. Programs are available for three, six and twelve months—and many times participants work in several coun-

(Continued on page 11)



State officers stand behind the National Officers at sub-regional conference in Alexandria.

### *State Officers at Sub-Regional*

Ten of the Virginia Association FFA Officers attended a Sub-Regional Leadership Conference September 6-8 at the National FFA Center in Alexandria. While at the Conference, they sharpened their skills in Public Speaking, Communications, Parliamentary Procedure, FFA Ceremonies and Leadership.

The conference was conducted by the 1978-79 team of National officers and the National Center staff. There were state officers present from Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, West Virginia and Virginia.

### **Turner Ashby FFA Activities**

Turner Ashby FFA Chapter opened the year with 175 members, the highest number of membership ever. They are under the leadership of Kevin Shank as President, Lynn Koontz as Vice President, Wes Wright as Secretary, Vickie Kiser as Treasurer, Rodney Shull as Reporter and Richard Ritchie as Sentinel.

In our first meeting, we held the election of assistant officers. They are as follows:

- President—Fred Miller
- Vice President—Jerry Fifer
- Secretary—Tammy Lam
- Treasurer—Bobby McClure
- Reporter—Bobby Callendar
- Sentinel—Brad Miller

The Rockingham County Federation meeting was held at Elkton High School. The meeting was held to elect federation officers. Lynn Koontz was placed as Vice President, Richard Ritchie was placed as Director.

The Rockingham Federation Forestry Judging contest was held at Massanutten.

(Continued on page 10)

### **Smithfield Camp To Open June 16**

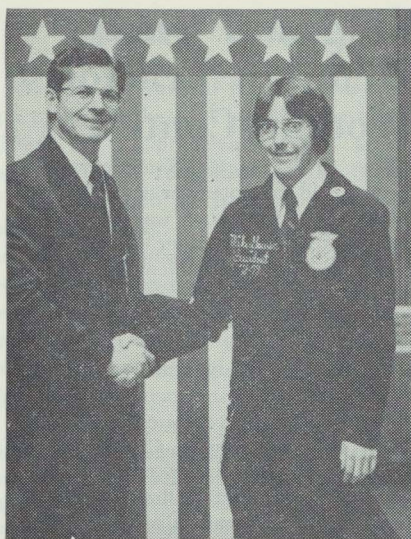
The FFA-FHA Camp at Smithfield will operate June 16 through July 26, 1980. The camp is open to any FFA or FHA member in Virginia and runs for one week at a time. Camp opens on Monday afternoons and the camping week will end after breakfast each Saturday morning. The fee for one week's attendance is \$35.00 per camper. This includes lodging, meals, recreational activities (except field trips) and a chance to enjoy the company of other FFA and FHA members. This activity can be a part of your chapter's Program of Work under the Recreation Committee's division.

In addition to the regular camping program, the FFA will hold its annual Leadership Training Camp July 28 through August 1. This is an opportunity for chapter officers to participate in a challenging, fun-filled week of learning activities. The camp will be conducted by the 1979-80 team of State Officers. Plan now to be your chapter's official representative to either or both camping programs. Camp applications are due by April 15, 1980, along with a \$5.00 reservation fee per member.

Ask your FFA advisor for more details and we will see you at camp!



Mark Sanborn, National President, presents Jeff Leonard from Fauquier the American Farmer Key. He was one of 31 Virginians to receive the degree.



Michael Gowen, 18, of Gladys, Virginia, is congratulated by Mr. Bernie Staller, Executive Director, National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. Michael was the National Winner in the FFA Agricultural Sales and/or Service Proficiency Award Program Sponsored by the Allis-Chalmers Corporation as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

## Michael Gowen Is National Winner

J. Michael Gowen, the National Winner of the Agricultural Sales and/or Service Proficiency Award, wants to go into business for himself as a Surge Milking Equipment dealer. He is getting experience right now as a salesman, deliveryman, mechanic and serviceman for Campbell County Manufacturing, Inc., and as a Surge Equipment salesman and distributor. Mike has worked for Campbell County Manufacturing since 1976, and has received training in the proper operation and maintenance of Surge Milking Equipment. He began as a mechanic and was promoted to sales manager recently. As sales manager, he is responsible for a five-county route covering dairy farms in assisting with installing and maintaining dairy parlors, automatic wash systems, vacuum systems, and cow flow trainers. Mike operates on a 24-hour call to enable the farmer to continue milking on schedule. He is continually receiving training in management for Campbell County Manufacturing, Inc., so that he can take on additional responsibility after graduation from high school.

Mike's FFA Activities have included

## National Chapter Award Program

KANSAS CITY, MO.—Superior performance in activities involving leadership, scholarship and community service have qualified 120 of the nation's most active chapters of the Future Farmers of America to receive the organization's National Gold Emblem Award.

Ceremonies conferring the award on those select few, chosen from over 8,000 FFA chapters in the nation, were held in Kansas City at the National FFA Convention.

The FFA's National Chapter Award encourages FFA chapters and members to actively participate in a wide variety of educational activities in vocational agriculture/FFA. In addition to the "Gold Emblem" presentations, 116 chapters received the "Silver Emblem" award and another 125 were honored with the "Bronze Emblem" award.

Chapters named for the National Chapter Award received a special plaque or, in the case of those have previously received a plaque, a spur for attachment to the plaque. The awards are provided by the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

Chapters earning awards for this year follow:

**GOLD EMBLEM:** Appomattox Sr. Chapter, Appomattox; Broadway Chapter, Broadway; Caroline Chapter, Milford; James Wood Chapter, Winchester; Montevideo Chapter, Penn Laird; Patrick Henry Chapter, Ashland.

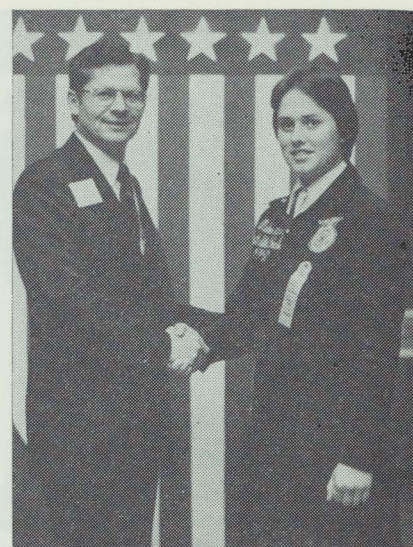
**SILVER EMBLEM:** Carroll County Chapter, Hillsville; Gretna Jr. Chapter, Gretna; Nottoway Sr. Chapter, Nottoway; William Campbell Chapter, Naruna.

**BRONZE EMBLEM:** Blackstone Jr. Chapter, Blackstone; J. J. Riegel Middle Chapter, Naruna; Independence Chapter, Independence; Pulaski Chapter, Dublin; Stonewall Jackson Jr. Chapter, Mechanicsville; W. R. Legge Chapter, Winchester; West Point Chapter, West Point.

National Convention chapter representative, Federation President, Chapter President, Reporter and Secretary, a member of the State Crops Judging Team.

Mike's activities outside the FFA include: Debate Team President, Wesleyan Youth Group, Boys State, Yellow Branch Wesleyan Church Pianist.

His advisor at William Campbell is Mr. James D. Puckett. Mike and his parents, Mr. & Mrs. James A. Gowen, are of Route 2, Gladys, Virginia.



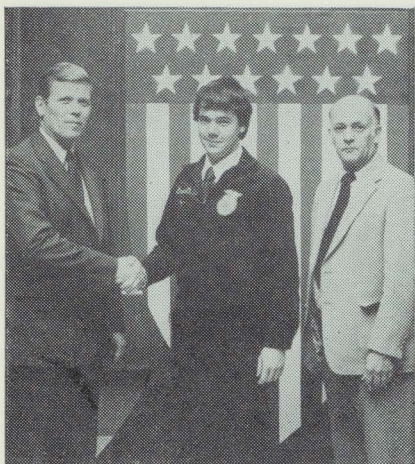
Melanie Burgess, 18, of Harrisonburg, Virginia is congratulated by Mr. Bernie Staller, Executive Director, National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee, Madison, Wisconsin, at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

## National Poultry Award Won By Melanie Burgess

Melanie J. Burgess of the Broadway FFA Chapter, was named the National winner for the Poultry Production Proficiency Award. Melanie has a ten percent interest in her family's broiler business. Melanie's interest in poultry started when she raised 20 hens when she was six years old. Her family moved and began a poultry operation when she was 11. They operate two double-decker broiler houses, and raised around 253,000 broilers in 1978. Melanie does a lot of work in the broiler houses and from these experiences she has learned to calculate feed conversions, recognize various diseases, medicate chicks to serviceman's recommendation and keep automatic equipment functioning properly. Melanie says, "all my experiences in agriculture, FFA, and the poultry activities will be very valuable to me in my future career." Melanie is enrolled at Virginia Tech and majoring in Agriculture Education.

Melanie's FFA Activities have included: State and Federation President, a member of the winning National Poultry Judging Team, Chapter Vice President, Secretary and Reporter. Her participation in other activities include: Church Member, 4-H Club, Polled Hereford Association, Track Team, Concert and Pep Band.

(Continued on page 6)



Bennett Hurt, 18, of Blackstone, Virginia, is congratulated by Mr. Dale Larson, Director of Marketing, Wayne Feeds, Division of Allied Mills, Chicago, Illinois, and Mr. Robert Lyons, Manager, Incentive Programs, A. O. Smith Harvestore Products, Inc., Arlington Heights, Illinois, at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. William was a National Finalist in the FFA Diversified Livestock Production Proficiency Award Program co-sponsored by the A. O. Smith Harvestore Products, Inc. and Wayne Feeds, Division of Allied Mills as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

## Hurt Receives Livestock Award

Bennett Hurt is the Eastern Region Winner of the FFA Diversified Livestock Production Proficiency Award. Bennett lives on a 400 acre farm near Blackstone. He had a strong start in his program with Holstein cows and veals, dairy goats and sheep. Along with his project at home, Bennett spent a lot of time gaining practical experience in marketing. From a job at Southside Stockyards learning about marketing, Bennett has moved to assistant manager in the barns and also manages several area farms and a marketing program of his own. This will be an asset since he wants to go into cattle buying after he completes an Agricultural Economics degree at Virginia Tech. He is a member of Nottoway Senior FFA Chapter. During his FFA career he has served as Chapter President, participated in Public Speaking and Crops Judging and was named recipient of the Star Greenhand, DeKalb and Outstanding FFA Senior awards. Some of his other activities include; 4-H Member, National Honor Society member, Soil and Water Conser-

(Continued on page 14)

## National Chapter Safety Awards

KANSAS CITY, MO.—In recognition of their continuing promotion of safety awareness, 119 chapters of the Future Farmers of America received outstanding achievement awards as a part of the National FFA Chapter Safety Award Program.

Sponsored jointly by the Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute (FIEI) of Chicago and Dow Chemical U.S.A. of Midland, Michigan, through the National FFA Foundation, the awards were presented at the 1979 National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

The top 20 FFA Chapters were presented "Gold Emblem" safety awards, the highest award in the program. "Silver Emblem" awards were presented to another 37 chapters, and 62 chapters received the "Bronze Emblem" award.

At the national level chapters were presented a gold, silver or bronze spur designating their rank. The spur is to be placed on a plaque presented the first year the chapter earns recognition. The plaque is designed for spurs to be attached over a period of several years.

Chapters that earned Safety awards were as follows:

**SILVER EMBLEM:** Caroline Chapter, Milford; Gretna Jr. Chapter, Gretna; Montevideo Chapter, Penn Laird; Patrick Henry Chapter, Ashland; Pulaski Chapter, Dublin; West Point Chapter, West Point.

## King and Queen Victor in Tractor Trouble Contest

The 1979 Tractor Troubleshooting Contest held in September at the Virginia State Fair in Richmond was won by the King and Queen chapter from Eastern Area. One team from each area comprised the state contest. In the contest, participants try to repair a "bugged" tractor. By replacing parts, timing the engine, and making final adjustments according to specifications, contestants attempt to make the tractors operate correctly.

The King and Queen Chapter placed first. Team members were; Dale Wright, Woodrow Clark and William B. Gwathmey, advisor. Second place was James Wood; team members were Gary Keplinger, John Simpson, and Hylton Clark, advisor. Tied for third was the Lee Davis FFA team of Frank Weber, Mike Diacont, and David Nobles, advisor; and the Appomattox FFA team of Paul Krayewski, Frank Tanner, and advisor, W. C. Perrow. Placing fifth was the Carroll County team of Vince Goad, David Kemp, and advisor Gary Cockram.

## National Poultry Award

(Continued from page 5)

Melanie is a 1979 graduate of Broadway High School. Her FFA advisors at Broadway were Mr. James Hively and Mr. Dennis Smith. Melanie is the 18 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Burgess of Route 2, Harrisonburg.



Dr. Carl Brown from Virginia Tech presents the Virginia dairy management team, Vickie Keplinger, Chris Stover and Michael Good from Broadway, a plaque for first place in the Eastern U. S. Dairy Management Contest.

## Apply Now!

Now is the time to prepare your applications for the FFA awards programs! There are 23 proficiency award areas which will be recognized at the State FFA Convention in June. If you have interests in any of these 23 areas of achievement, obtain an application from your agriculture instructor and make it your goal to complete and return it. You may receive medals, cash awards and trips from the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

There are several points to keep in mind when preparing the proficiency awards. Remember—do the very best job possible when completing an application form. It may earn for you a national award. The following points were taken from a letter dated August 14, 1979, from Robert A. Seefeldt and Ted Amick from the National FFA Center concerning the applications reviewed by the National Committee. These points may help you to complete your application more accurately.

1. Numerous spelling and math errors were observed on many applications. Check and double check everything on the application. Make certain all totals are accurate and logical.
2. Do not add extra pages, or exceed the recommended number of photographs or length of caption. Points will be deducted for either infraction.
3. Use the Agricultural Proficiency Award Handbook in the large blue notebook in your agriculture education department.
4. Too much guessing, unrealistic and inflated figures were used in preparing some financial statements. Note that cash value of life insurance policies is **NOT** the amount received by the beneficiary in case of the insured's death. Rather, it is the amount received if premium payments are halted and the policy is surrendered to the company.
5. You must account for your entire net worth at some place in the application. Some applicants had up to \$140,000 more net worth than could be accounted for in earnings and gifts received.
6. Some efficiency factors reported were incorrect and unbelievable. For example: 2¼ lbs. gain per 1½ lbs. of feed fed to swine.
7. Acknowledge all gifts and/or in-



W. W. Cupp of Montevideo receives Honorary American Farmer Degree.



James White, Caroline FFA Advisor, is recipient of Honorary American Farmer Degree.

8. The Diversified Livestock Production Award area still is causing applicants to have problems. Many were disqualified because of the two-thirds rule. This rule is "In no case, can one class of livestock, covered in another proficiency award area, namely, beef, swine, sheep and horses, contain more than two-thirds of the total animal

heritance as such. Failure to do so distorts the financial statement and makes the application suspect.

units involved in the applicant's program the year in which an application for an award is made." It would also be very helpful if the applicant could be more specific as to the type of livestock they have, such as: 10 beef cows rather than 10 beef. This is necessary because one beef cow is one animal unit whereas beef under one year of age are 25 hundreds of a unit and all other beef are a half an animal unit.

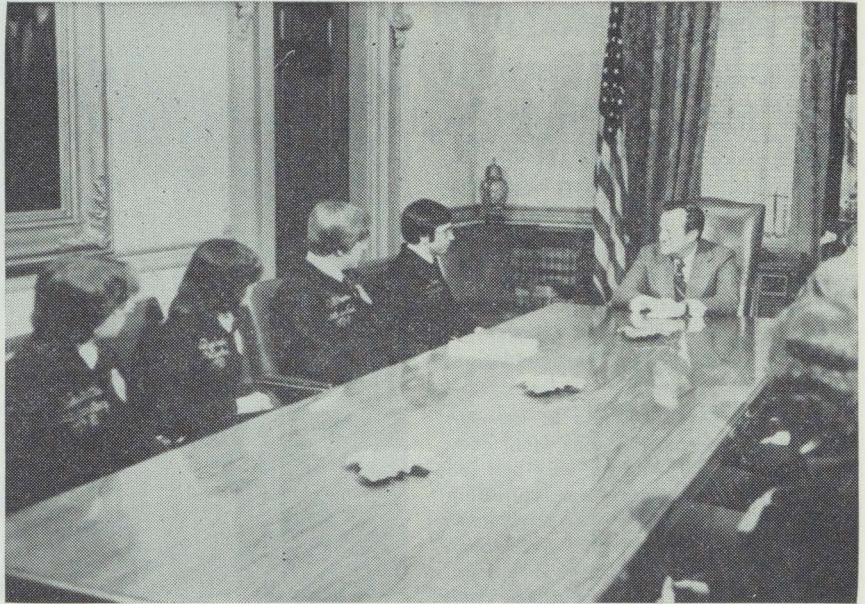
## Officers Attend Executive Committee Meeting

Ten officers of the Virginia Association FFA met December 17-19, 1979 in Richmond to plan the 1980 State FFA Convention. The meetings were held in House Committee Room 2 of the State Capitol Building. Tim Gano, State President, presided over the sessions, which included discussions on contests, award procedures, session length, member conduct and various other matters.

The officers presented reports of their official activities since election in June. By December 17, the ten officers had conducted 186 chapter visits and traveled 55,000 miles representing the Virginia Association. Additionally, they have logged visits to many community organizations, appeared on radio and television programs, written news articles, and attended meetings of agriculture teachers. Their goal is to visit every chapter in Virginia by May 15, 1980.

During their sessions, the officers discussed the many aspects of conducting a successful convention. Virginia's own Doug Rinker, National President, will attend the convention, as will representatives of the six other vocational student organizations, as well as representatives of business and industry from across the state.

In addition to their business sessions, the officers conducted the second annual State Officers Good Will Tour, visiting Phillip Morris Company, Southern States headquarters and Virginia Farm Bureau Federation offices to express their appre-



Governor John N. Dalton meets with State Executive Committee during their meeting in December in Richmond.

ciation to these organizations and individuals who so avidly support FFA programs.

They met with S. Mason Carbaugh, Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services to discuss agriculture in the state and the important relationship of agriculture and the FFA. It was noted that Commissioner Carbaugh is a former FFA member and instructor of vocational agriculture. He holds the Honorary State and American Farmer Degrees and has served as a judge of the National Public Speaking Contest.

At the conclusion of the Executive Committee Meeting, the group met with Governor John Dalton to sign the proclamation for National FFA Week in Virginia. Governor Dalton, holder of the Honorary State Farmer Degree, was presented with a paperweight and a copy of the History of the Virginia Association FFA.

Attending the sessions with the officers were Mr. Julian Campbell, State Advisor, Mr. W. C. Dudley, Convention Advisor and Mr. Randy Trivette, Executive Secretary.

### John Green

(Continued from page 3)

Church, and will attend a special showing of the German Opera. The group is also scheduled for a visit to Munich and Frankfurt, stopping at a Bavarian farm and the University of Munich Research Station.

The ten day trip will begin January 25 when the Study Seminar departs New York City.

John is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Green of Golansville in Caroline County and attends J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College.

The trip is sponsored by many donors and the Virginia Association FFA. Any chapter wishing to contribute may send a check payable to Virginia Association FFA to the address on page two of this issue. A participating chapter may include the contribution as a part of international understanding on the Program of Work.

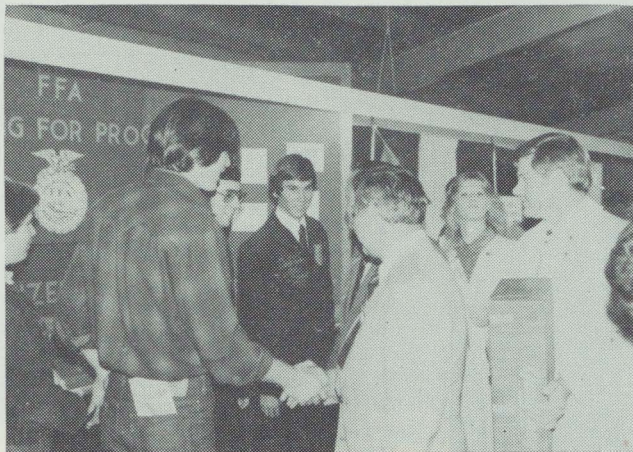


Tim Gano presents a copy of the History of the Virginia Association FFA to S. Mason Carbaugh, Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

### Mechanics Exhibit At State Fair

For the first year at the State Fair, FFA chapters participated in an Agriculture Mechanics Exhibit. A total of \$859 was given in premiums for this exhibit by the State Fair of Virginia. The most outstanding chapter exhibit award went to Appomattox; the grand champion metal project award went to James Wood; and the award for the grand champion wood project went to Loudoun Valley. The best chapter displays were Appalachian—Rye Cove, Blue Ridge—Dan River, Central—King George, Eastern—Gloucester, Northern—Highland County, and Southside—Appomattox.

Members who wish to display their projects at the 1980 state fair should contact their FFA advisor so plans can be made for the exhibit.



State President Tim Gano, and State Vice President, Richard Locke, greet Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture, Mason Carbaugh, and Governor John Dalton. (Partially hidden by Mr. Carbaugh)



State Secretary, David Stratton, stands beside one of the FFA unit exhibits in the Youth Building at the State Fair.



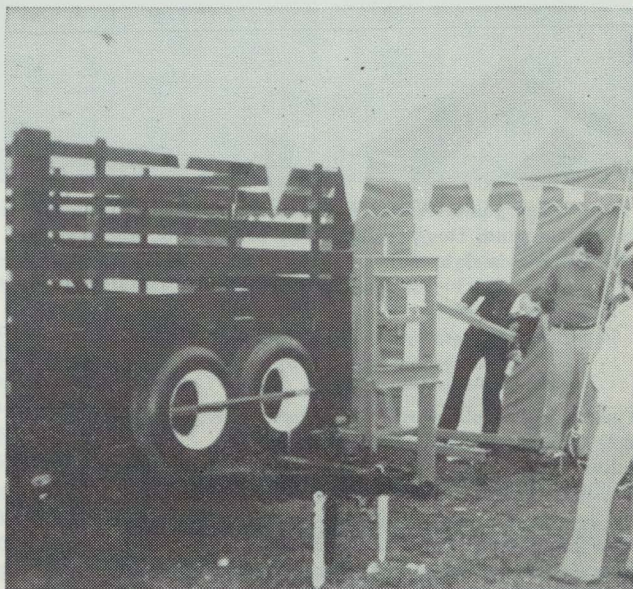
Mr. C. C. Shiflet from Turner Ashby gets a report from his student delegation to the State Fair judging contests.



Contestants judge in the livestock contest.



Members participate in the Poultry contest at the Virginia State Fair.



Cumberland Chapter was one of the chapters that assisted with the care of the first agricultural mechanics exhibit.



Doug Rinker is welcomed home by his former FFA Advisors. From left: R. B. Harper, Roger Crosen, Doug, Hylton Clark, Robert Sutphin.



A crowd of James Wood FFA members welcomed Doug home at National Airport in Washington. Doug is flanked by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rinker. On Mrs. Rinker's right is Don Trimmer, National Vice-President from Maryland.

## Turner Ashby

(Continued from page 4)

Turner Ashby placed third in the contest. Bobby Callendar placed second high individual and Bobby McClure placed fourth high individual in the contest.

The chapter chicken Bar-B-Que was held. The chapter bar-b-queued 850 halves. It was very successful with the help of Dave Shirkey and chapter members.

The chapter Safety Slogan contest was held, with 100% participation. The win-

ner was Brent Sayer with the slogan "Set a good place, be safe in every place."

Second place—Terry Long  
Third place—Donnie Forbus  
Fourth place—Tammy Wilfong  
Fifth place—Mike Chapman

The Wildlife Feed Plot contest was held the week of November 5. The Bridgewater and Dayton Ruritan Clubs donated \$32.00 in prize money. The winners included Richard Ritchie with first place plot.

The Leadership Training school was

## First State Creed Contest

The first annual State Creed Speaking Contest will be held during the State FFA Convention in June. The contest is designed to encourage leadership and participation among first year members who, as a part of the Greenhand requirements must learn and recite the FFA Creed.

The award is sponsored by Mr. Edward Long, Vocational Director of Rockingham County Schools. Mr. Long has often spoken of the contributions made by the FFA to young people, including his own sons. One son, Tim, received the American Farmer Degree in November.

The state contest will be the climax of a series of preliminary events, beginning on the local chapter level. Chapter representatives will compete in federation contests. Area contests will feature the winners of the Federation competition and the six area winners will compete for the state title. State and area winners will receive plaques in recognition of their accomplishments.

## Pierson Wins Creed Contest

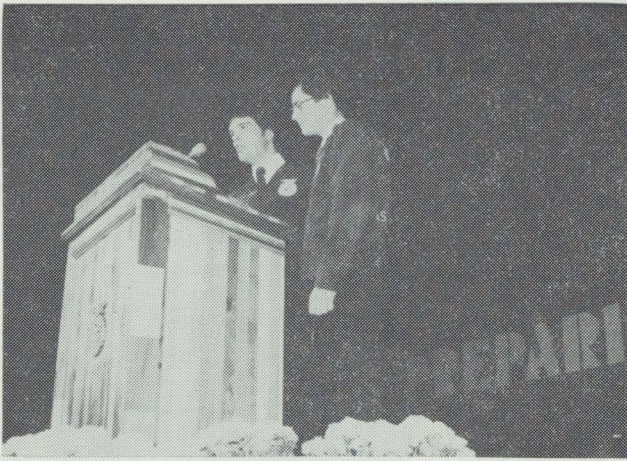
Rodney Pierson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Freddie Pierson, of Route 4, Gretna, was the winner of the FFA Creed Contest held at a recent chapter meeting of the Gretna Jr. Chapter. Rodney received \$5.00 for winning first place. David Short won \$3.00 for second, and Ronnie Cooke received \$2.00 for third place. The contest was open to all of the 106 first year members. Each contestant introduced the creed giving the name of the author and dates of convention at which it was adopted and revised. Three questions were answered based on the creed.

The winner will represent the chapter in the Pittsylvania County Federation Contest.

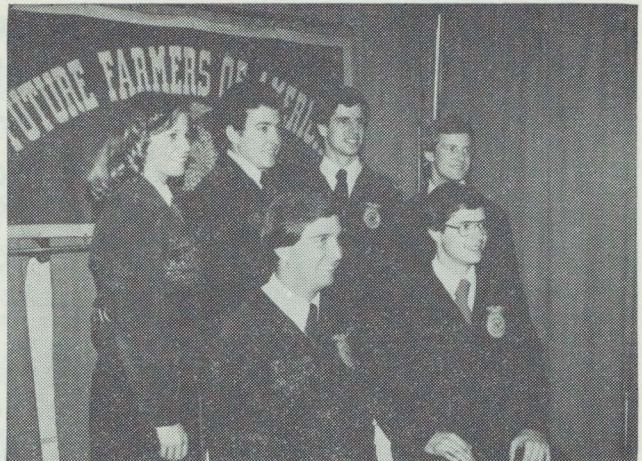
held at Elkton High School and 20 members from Turner Ashby attended. Tim Gano, the state President spoke to the group.

The Turner Ashby chapter officers initiated 13 chapter members for greenhand degree. They were:

Clinton Carr  
Wanda Crider  
Rodney Farnin  
Donnie Forbus  
Richard Gaines  
Ellen Kiser  
Barry Liskey  
Larry Liskey  
John Lambert  
Connie Reeves  
Richard Rexrode



President Mark installs Doug Rinker as 1979-80 National President.



1979-80 National Officer Team: (seated L. to R.) National Secretary, Philip B. Benson of California; National President, Doug Rinker of Virginia. (Standing L. to R.) National Vice President Western Region, Elin Duckworth of Arizona; National Vice President Central Region Dee James of Kansas; National Vice President Eastern Region, Don Trimmer, Jr., of Maryland. National Vice President Southern Region, Jeff C. Kirby of Arkansas.



Doug is congratulated by National Advisor, Byron Rawls.

## Two Tech Students National Officers

Virginia has two National FFA officers this year! A surprising fact, since no state can have more than one candidate for National office in a year. The truth is that two students of Agricultural Education at Virginia Tech were elected National officers for 1979-80. Along with President Doug Rinker of Winchester, Don Trimmer of Woodsboro, Maryland will serve as National Vice-President from the Eastern Region.

Don, a past state officer of the Maryland Association, was enrolled as a student at Virginia Tech at the time of his election, as was Doug Rinker. The young men shared some of the same classes and both hope to become teachers of Vocational Agriculture in the future.

## FFA Offers

(Continued from page 3)

tries through an "Around the World" option.

Cece Gaddy was on the Around the World program in 1976, when she worked in Switzerland at a flower shop, and in New Zealand on a sheep farm. Gaddy explained that Around the World participants spend five months in Western Europe, and then five months in the South Pacific or Latin America, with travel time in between. Gaddy is still involved in WEA—she now helps coordinate programs for people interested in global agricultural experience through WEA.

WEA programs begin in June and September every year. If you would like more information on WEA and programs that are available, write the International Department, National FFA Center, P. O. Box 15160, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.

Oh, by the way—rogen and rapo are

## Lancaster Youth On WEA Program

Jennifer Courtney of Lancaster has been accepted to participate in the FFA Work Experience Abroad program this summer. The program is an international educational exchange activity of the FFA and rural youth organizations in other countries.

A recent announcement from the National FFA Center in Alexandria, noted that Jennifer will be placed for agricultural work experience for three months next summer in one of more than 25 countries participating in the exchange program.

By living and working with a family, Jennifer says that she will have the opportunity to learn about their way of life, to exchange ideas in agriculture, and

sugar beets to the West Germans, and when you muster and draft, you're roundin' 'em up and sortin' 'em out in Australia.

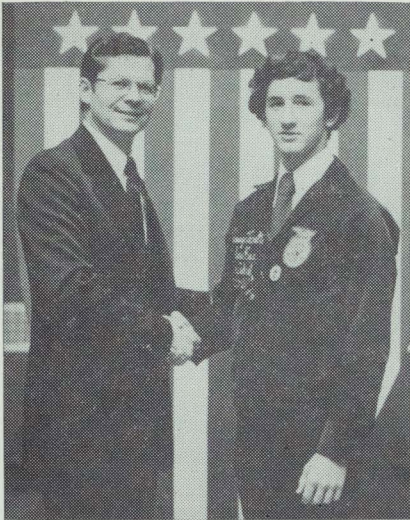
contribute to international understanding.

Jennifer is a 1979 recipient of the American Farmer Degree, having been an active member of the Lancaster FFA Chapter while in high school, and completing an agricultural experience program. She is presently a Junior at Virginia Tech majoring in Animal Science.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Courtney of Lancaster. Her FFA Advisor and instructor of Vocational Agriculture is Mr. Ernest Palin.

**Wise County Vo-Tech Center**—Glenda Estep, new advisor at the Wise County Center has begun a new program with members.

**Hermitage**—Recently held a plant sale of mostly poinsettias. Advisor, Tommy Ashe, reported a "bumper crop." Reports that he is using a time clock for his students to punch in and punch out.



Danny Trivette, 17, of the Caroline chapter is congratulated by Mr. Bernie Staller, Executive Director, National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee, Madison, Wisconsin, at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. Danny was a National Finalist in the FFA Floriculture Proficiency Award Program sponsored by the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

## Trivette Receives Floriculture Award

Danny Trivette of Ladysmith, has been named the Eastern Regional National Finalist for the Floriculture Proficiency Award. Danny became interested in floriculture when he helped build a greenhouse for his FFA chapter. Then he and his father built a greenhouse of their own, and began selling flowering plants. They have added hanging baskets, shrubs, fruit trees and bedding plants to the inventory. Danny also uses new practices to improve his productivity, including proper fertilizers, shade cloth, proper soil mixture, herbicides, pesticides, and he has installed a heater in the greenhouse. Danny advertises his plants through school and local newspapers, in the school yearbook, has constructed a sign at his greenhouse. He has attended many conferences and horticulture shows to keep up to date on all of the current improvement practices.

Danny's FFA activities include; Star Greenhand award, Soil, Swine, Dairy and Forestry Contests. He has served as chapter Sentinel and Vice President. He is currently Chapter and Federation President. He was named Vice-President of the All-State Parliamentary Procedure Team in 1979.

His other activities include; President of Jr. Beta Club, Baseball Team member,

(Continued on page 13)

## State Teams Excel at National

Seven judging teams from Virginia competed in national events during the National Convention. Six of the teams earned Gold ratings and one team earned a Bronze rating.

Each team had earned a berth in the National Contest by winning the state competition in June during the State Convention. Since that time, team members and advisors had worked to sharpen the skills needed in the contest.

Each team that performs well is awarded a Gold, Silver or Bronze award, with gold being the highest rating. Additionally, the high scoring individuals are awarded Gold, Silver or Bronze ratings. The Virginia individuals received 11 gold, 11 silver and one bronze rankings. This is one of the best years for our State Association in competition at the National level. All members and advisors from the participating teams are to be strongly congratulated.

The following is a summary of the judging contests.

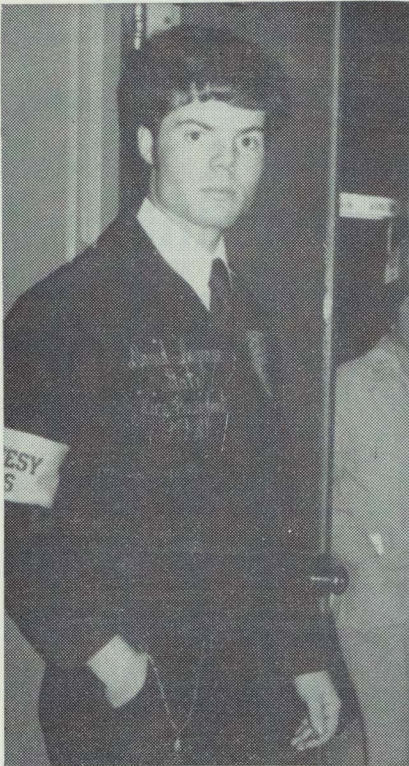
Team	Individual	Placing
Ag. Mechanics (James Wood) (Bronze)	David Nichols	Silver
	David Omps	Silver
	Tim Gano	Bronze
	Coach: Mr. Robert Sutphin	
Dairy Cattle (Riverheads) (Gold)	Brian Davis	Gold (4th)
	Lee Heizer	Gold
	David Heizer	Silver
	Coach: Mr. Eugene McIlwee	
Dairy Cattle Showmanship	Bruce Monroe (Nokesville)	Silver
Farm Business Mgmt. (Carroll) (Gold)	Bobby Beamer	Gold
	Tony Marshall	Silver
	Kenneth Dalton	Silver
	Coach: Mr. C. W. Combs	
Floriculture (Herndon) (Gold)	David Ostrich	Gold (1st)
	Skip Edgemond	Gold
	Chris Edney	Silver
	Coach: Mr. T. L. Graley	
Livestock (Fort Defiance) (Gold)	Jeff Slaven	Gold
	Lyndon Wine	Gold
	Dale Reeves	Silver
	Coach: Mr. Martin Auville	
Livestock Showmanship	Lynn Kline (Nokesville)	Gold
Nursery/Landscape (Louisa) (Gold)	Jane Ware	Gold
	David Pippin	Silver
	Janet Harvey	Silver
	Coach: Ms. Phyllis Payne	
Poultry (Broadway) (Gold)	Randall Reedy	Gold
	Kent Armentrout	Gold
	Kerry Armentrout	Silver
	Coach: Mr. Dennis Smith	

## Moomaw Winner in Engines Contest

Richard Moomaw has been declared the winner of the State Small Engines Contest.

The first annual Small Engines Troubleshooting Contest was held in September at the State Fair in Richmond. In the contest, one FFA member from each area is given a practical examination to quiz the knowledge and skill contestants have

concerning troubleshooting small engines. Winners in the 1979 contest were as follows: 1st—Richard Moomaw—Stonewall Jackson Sr., 2nd—Jim Mitchell—Patrick Henry (Glade Springs); 3rd—Kirk Lindsey—Stonewall Jackson Jr.; 4th—Blake Robertson—Amherst; 5th—Tommy Johnson—Gretna; 6th—David Goodman—John F. Kennedy.



State Vice President, David Ingram, performs one of his many duties while in Kansas City. David assisted at the entrance to the convention hall.



State Star Farmer, Mike Good, is representing Virginia in the massing of the flags in Kansas City.

## Building American Communities Awards Presented

KANSAS CITY, MO.,—Outstanding community action efforts by chapters of the Future Farmers of America were recognized when the Building Our American Communities (BOAC) Awards were presented at the 1979 National FFA Convention.

BOAC Awards were presented to 151 of America's over 8,000 chapters during the FFA's 1979 National Convention. The BOAC program is sponsored by Lilly Endowment, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, and honors chapter efforts to make their communities better places to live and work.

Twenty-seven chapters with the most comprehensive community action programs were presented National Gold Emblem Awards, the top award in the BOAC program. One hundred and twenty-four FFA chapters received National Silver and Bronze Awards for their efforts in community development. During the Convention one of the twenty-seven National Gold Emblem chapters was selected to receive the National Citation for the best community improvement program in the nation.

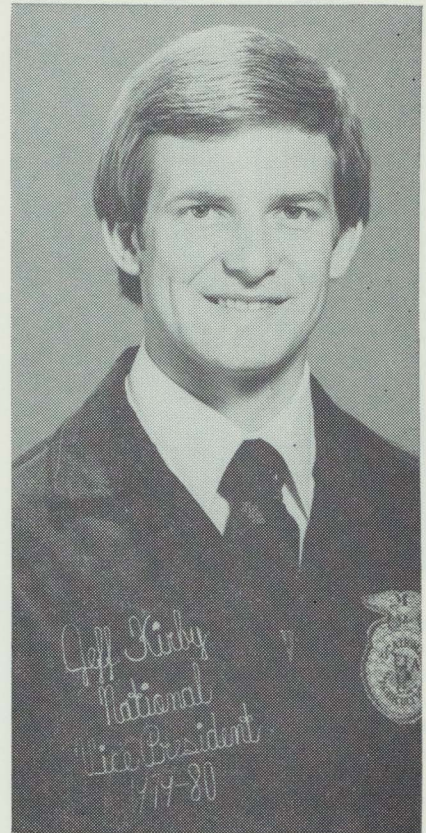
The following chapters from Virginia received awards in BOAC:

**SILVER EMBLEM:** Appomattox Sr. Chapter, Appomattox.

**BRONZE EMBLEM:** Carroll County Chapter, Hillsville; Gretna Jr. Chapter, Gretna; James Wood Chapter, Winchester; Turner Ashby Chapter, Dayton; William Campbell Chapter, Naruna.



Betsy Coc, a member of the National Band, solos during one of the sessions. Betsy is from the Nokesville chapter.



JEFF KIRBY

## Jeff Kirby Visits Virginia

Jeff Kirby, National Vice President from the Southern region visited Virginia January 13-20, 1980. As a part of his training for his year as a national officer, Jeff met with local chapters, agriculture instructors, administrators and state staff personnel while in the Commonwealth. One highlight was his meeting with S. Mason Carbaugh, Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Jeff was elected to office at the National Convention in November and will serve with 5 other officers from across the country, including National President Doug Rinker from Winchester.

## Trivette Receives Award

(Continued from page 12)

member of National Honor Society, Church Youth Group member.

Danny is the 17 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Burle Trivette of Ladysmith. His FFA advisors are J. G. White, Lewis Brubaker and L. L. Boxley. The award was presented during the National FFA Convention in Kansas City.



Darrell Cockram, 17, of the Carroll County chapter is congratulated by Mrs. Charlotte Schield, Consultant, Briggs & Stratton Corporation, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. Darrell was a National Finalist in the FFA Fruit and/or Vegetable Production Proficiency Award Program sponsored by the Briggs & Stratton Corporation as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

## Cockram Wins Regional Award

Darrell Cockram is the Eastern Region Winner of the FFA Fruit and/or Vegetable Production Proficiency Award. Though raised on a cabbage farm, Darrell did not actually start farming until his first year of vocational agriculture classes. He started with six acres of cabbage that he worked with his grandfather. His program has grown to 35 acres and he hopes to expand even more when he graduates. When Darrell began, he used all of his grandfather's equipment. He now owns some of his own, a disc used for cutting up old and broken cabbage and preparing new transplant beds. A new power sprayer, the most modern one available, has really helped Darrell produce the high quality cabbage that is necessary for him to retain his marketability. Darrell sells through a produce broker to assure himself a reliable market. To maintain that market, he must continually produce cabbages that are free of insect and disease damage, and they must weigh approximately 2½ pounds each. Darrell's career objective is to become more established in cabbage farming.

During his FFA career Darrell served

## Broadway Chapter Meeting Held

The Broadway FFA Chapter recently held their monthly meeting. At this meeting fifteen first year vocational agriculture students were raised to the Greenhand Degree. This is the first degree awarded to an FFA member.

During the meeting an FFA Quiz Contest was held for the Greenhands to test their knowledge of the FFA.

The results of the Chapter Creed Contest were announced. Marcia Good won first place, with Kathy Moyer second. Kathy will represent the Broadway Chapter in the Federation Creed Contest.

Mr. Hively reported that thirteen chapter members attended the National FFA Convention at Kansas City in November.

## Smith Mountain Chapter Is Active

Bobbie Jo Bray, President of the Smith Mountain FFA Chapter, was recently selected Miss Staunton River High School. A senior, Miss Bray is Vice-President of her class in addition to her FFA duties.

The chapter recently held its Greenhand initiation. Sherri Simmons secured the most signatures of members and teachers, receiving ten silver dollars as winner. Robert Harper won the Creed Speaking Contest, earning a new FFA jacket.

Smith Mountain reporter Bobby Harris states "this year's citrus fruit sales were about average with 2,700 boxes sold."

## Hurt Receives Award

(Continued from page 6)

vation Youth Board Member, Junior Class President, member of St. Lukes Episcopal Church and Acolyte Secretary.

Hurt is the 18 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Hurt. His advisors are Mr. D. R. Dewhurst and Mr. L. E. Williamson, Jr.

as FFA Chapter Vice President, Chairman of Safety, Leadership, and Recreation Committees and participated in the tractor operators contest.

Some of his other activities include; VICA Vice President, Home Room President, 4-H President, Basketball member. His FFA Advisors were C. W. Combs and G. L. McGrady. He is the 18 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Cockram of Meadows of Dan. The award was presented during the National Convention in Kansas City.

Tazewell—Jody Harris is the first State FFA Officer in the history of Tazewell's chapter.

Something  
to remember  
when you're  
on your own



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## President Carter Issues Challenge

President Carter has issued a personal challenge to FFA members all across the nation. He has pledged to recognize the one local chapter in the United States that contributes the most to conservation of energy sources. It is expected that the President will present the award in person at the White House or at the 1980 National Convention.

A former secretary of his local FFA Chapter in Plains, Georgia, President Carter issued the challenge to the organization during the State President's Conference in July. State President, Tim Gano and State Secretary David Stratton were present for the conference in the White House Rose Garden.

The National FFA Center mailed a brochure on the President's Challenge to each FFA Chapter on September 15, 1979. The brochure contained a commitment card to be returned to the center by chapters wishing to participate in the program. Upon receipt of the card, the chapter was sent an "Action Information" packet containing program ideas, a copy of the challenge, a certificate and application form.

A "Blue Ribbon" selection committee will review the application of each chapter and determine the National winner. The committee will be composed of representatives from the White House, the Department of Energy, the Department of Agriculture, the National FFA and others.

The deadline for the chapter applications is July 1, 1980 and the committee will meet July 11, 1980 to select the winning chapter. The Virginia Association hopes to recognize the state's participating chapters; however, since the selection will not take place until July, it will not be possible to recognize them at the 1980 State Convention. An alternate time and place will be selected later.

All application forms are to be mailed directly to the National FFA Center in Alexandria.

Every chapter is urged to consider participation in the President's challenge. This may be a one-time-only award program and the FFA is the only student organization that will receive this very special award. Ask your chapter officers or advisor for details.

## National FFA Week February 16-23

National FFA Week will be celebrated February 16-23, 1980. This is an opportunity for FFA chapters across the country to publicize their organization and to recognize those who have contributed to its success.

The theme is "Preparing For Progress." Chapters should utilize this central theme in planning their local activities. Many ideas are included in the "How-To-Do-It and Idea Packet" mailed to advisors last fall. Consult with your advisor and chapter officers to find out what plans are being made to celebrate in your chapter.

Be sure to send photographs and news articles to the local newspaper. Contact your local radio and/or television stations about local programs. You may want to place displays in store windows, decorate bulletin boards in school, or have a school assembly program. There is much to be done. Let's publicize FFA.

## Chapter Notes

**Norfolk Tech Center**—Held open house for many local officials and others who have assisted with their program. Terry Cornelier and Advisor, Terri Brite attended National Convention.

## Notes From The National Center

"Convention Time—FFA" is the work title for a new FFA Film that is being sponsored through the National FFA Foundation by the Coca-Cola Company of Atlanta, Georgia. Drawing on some powerful footage of the last three National FFA Conventions, the film will capture the enthusiasm, inspiration and competitive spirit generated at the nation's largest youth convention. One hundred prints will hopefully be ready for distribution in early April.

The Mitsui Company of Japan is once again sponsoring the National Officers' International Experience Tour to that country on February 6-18, 1980. After visiting Japan the officers will return home for a brief rest, then split into two groups for the National Officers' Tour in this country, February 24-March 8.

The National FFA Band Agricultural Sign on/off, sent to about 800 television stations across the nation is meeting with great success. About 75 per cent of the stations contacted say that they will use the National Anthem clip! Sperry New Holland made this a reality.

"The President's Challenge", a film showing President Carter addressing the FFA State Officers in the Rose Garden, is available for sale through the Supply Service. The President's Challenge recently received another boost. The ESTECH GENERAL CHEMICALS COMPANY has funded a \$400 cash grant for each of the four regional winners in the Challenge, the money to be used by the winning chapter to improve local projects in energy, SOEP, or leadership. The company will also fund plaques and partial travel for winners to go to Washington, D.C. in July.

## Marvin Myers, National FFA Chorus Director

The Virginia Association regrets to note the passing of Marvin Myers, director of the National FFA Chorus for the past twelve years. After bringing musical happiness during his long career, he passed away at 3:30 a.m. on January 2. Mr. Myers retired from the National Chorus position at the 1979 National Convention. His devotion to FFA members and their music ran a total of 25 years in Indiana and on the national level. The family has requested that memorials be made to the Heart Fund or the Purdue Music Organization at Purdue University. Plans are underway to begin an FFA Memorial fund to honor him.

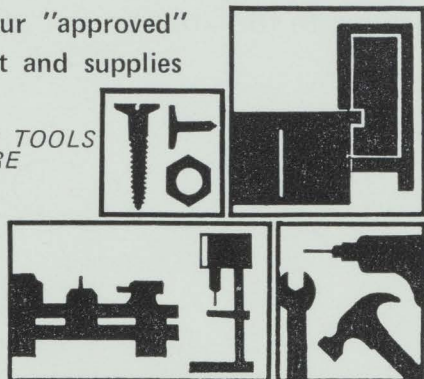
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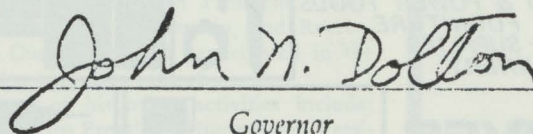
# *Certificate of Recognition*

*By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution  
in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia,  
there is hereby officially recognized:*

## **FFA WEEK**

The Future Farmers of America chapters across Virginia and the nation perform a valuable service in developing leadership, cooperation and good citizenship among young people in agriculture.

Calling attention to this contribution, the organization has set aside the period February 16-23, 1980, as FFA WEEK, and I call its significance to the attention of all Virginians.

  
Governor