



# Chapter Chats



Published Bi-Monthly by

The Virginia Association, Future Farmers of America  
The State Organization of Boys Studying Vocational Agriculture  
In the High Schools of Virginia

T. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

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NUMBER 3

## Ag-Ed Conference Set for July 7-10

The 53rd Annual Conference of Virginia Instructors of Agricultural Education will be held at VPI, Blacksburg, Virginia, July 7-10, 1970 according to J. M. Campbell, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education. Approximately 375 instructors of agricultural education, supervisors, teacher trainers and guests are expected to attend.

The conference program is still in the planning stage, however, note should be made that registration will begin Tuesday morning, July 7, 9:00 a.m. The conference is being set up on the same schedule as last year. The first general session is scheduled for Tuesday afternoon beginning at 2:00 p.m.

The theme selected for the conference is "Relating Agricultural Education to Occupational Opportunities." Highlights of the opening session includes a presentation by J. M. Campbell, State Supervisor, titled, "Retrospection and Projection in Agricultural Education." A keynote address, "Relating Agricultural Education to Occupational Opportunities" will be made by Dr. A. H. Krebs, Head, Agricultural Education, VPI. Convention committees will meet at 7:30 p.m.

The second general session of the conference will convene Wednesday morning at 8:30 a.m. During this session, several division superintendents will make presentations covering the present situation in agricultural education, the need for change, and needs of the local school divisions. The morning session will close following an Interrogation Panel reacting to the morning address.

The third session will get underway Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. and will be a continuation of the morning session. A topic titled, "Developing the County Plan for Agricultural Education" will be developed by a division superintendent, followed by an Interrogation Panel.

L. M. Jewell, assistant supervisor, will

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STATE OFFICERS TO PRESIDE AT THE STATE CONVENTION, JUNE 15-18—(L-R) Bill Dudley, treasurer; Vince Garland, vice president; Joe Yoder, vice president; Jim Combs, vice president; David Shiflett, president; Kenny Attkisson, vice president; Don Holley, secretary; J. B. Cruise, vice president; Martin Auville, vice president; L. C. Harold, reporter; and Joe Harper, sentinel; Richard Bailey, past president, absent.

## One Thousand Virginia Future Farmers Will Attend 44th State FFA Convention

Approximately 1000 high school students and their instructors of agricultural education will attend the 44th Annual State Convention of the Virginia Association Future Farmers of America at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, June 15-18. The first session will convene Monday evening June 15 and the convention will close at noon Thursday, June 18, 1970.

About 243 judging teams representing local FFA chapters and high school departments of vocational agriculture will compete for state honors in crops, dairy, farm mechanics, livestock, and poultry judging contests. The high scoring team in dairy, livestock, and poultry judging will represent the State in a similar national contest this fall. A state spon-

(Continued on page 6)

**CHAPTER CHATS**

Published Bi-Monthly 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, Richmond, Va. 23216.

John W. Myers.....Editor

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**Meet Your State Officers**

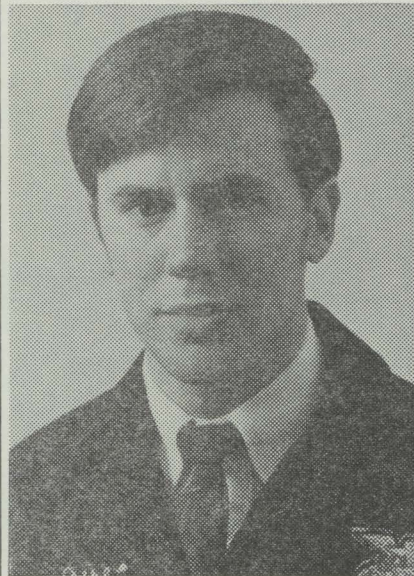
Kenny Attkisson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carey K. Attkisson, Rockville, Virginia. He attended Patrick Henry High School in Hanover County. His high school instructors of vocational agriculture were Mr. H. D. Seal and Mr. C. M. Hall.

During his high school years, Kenny's enterprises consisted of three brood sows,

In addition to this, he won his chapter award in farm shop, farm safety, and forestry. While a sophomore in high school, he received the Lincoln Arc Welding award.

In high school, Kenny was also a member of the Key club and Beta Club. He is a member of the Goochland Baptist Church.

At present, Kenny is attending V.P.I. majoring in horticulture.



**KENNY ATTKISSON**

J. B. Cruise, State Vice President in the Blue Ridge area, is a native of Carroll County. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Roy Cruise, Woodlawn, Virginia, and is a 1969 graduate of Woodlawn High School.

Young Cruise served as president of his local FFA chapter. During his high school career, he represented his chapter on 13 judging teams, was active in public speaking, placing fifth in the state contest and represented his chapter at the National FFA Convention.

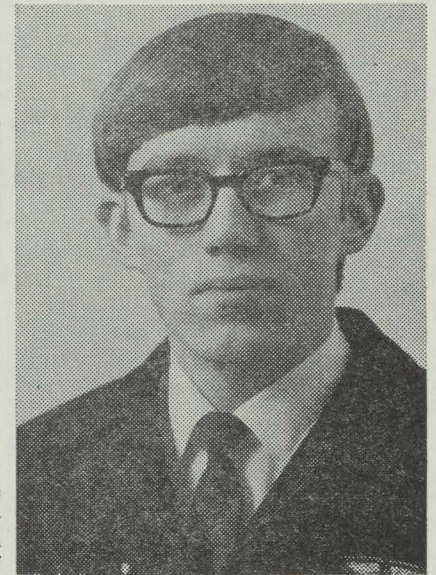
In association with his father and brother-in-law, he raised beef cattle and swine for his enterprises during his first year in agricultural education. As he progressed, his enterprises were expanded and he became interested in showing horses at fairs and shows.

His high school activities included varsity basketball, member of the dramat-

seven acres of small grain, and 15 acres of scotch pines. He now has twenty acres of scotch pines in partnership with his father which he plans to sell for Christmas trees in the urban Richmond area.

While in high school, Kenny served as vice president and reporter of his local chapter. He also served as vice president and treasurer of the Richmond Federation.

Kenny's years in the FFA were highlighted by the winning of the State Home and Farm Electrification award.



**J. B. CRUISE**

ics club and sports editor of the school paper.

He is presently a freshman at VPI, majoring in Animal Science. In the future, he hopes to manage a ranch and raise both beef cattle and horses.

William C. Dudley III is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Dudley Jr. of

**Call to the State Convention**

Dear Fellow Future Farmers:

As State President of the Virginia Association FFA, it is indeed a pleasure for me to extend you an invitation to attend the 44th Annual State Convention to be held on the Virginia Polytechnic Institute Campus, Blacksburg, Virginia, June 15-18, 1970.

Those attending the convention will be judging team members, State Farmer degree recipients, award winners, members of the State Band and State Chorus, officer candidates, advisors, and friends of the FFA.

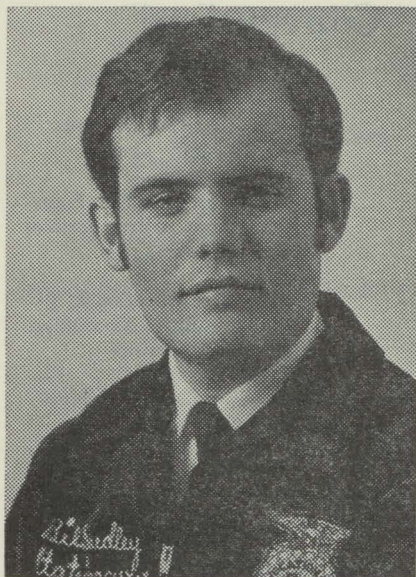
The State Convention is the culmination

of our year's activities. Your State officers believe we have planned an outstanding convention. I encourage each of you to be guided by the "Code of Ethics" in your conduct, to attend all sessions, and to dress as becoming a Future Farmer.

This year, our keynote speaker will be Harry Birdwell, National President, Future Farmers of America.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you at the convention.

Sincerely yours,  
 David Shiflett  
 State President



BILL DUDLEY

Pamplin Virginia. He attended Appomattox County High School and was a member of the Robert E. Lee F.F.A. Chapter. While at Appomattox his Agricultural Education Advisors included H. B. Pack, R. B. Carter, D. W. Torrence, and W. T. Johnson

Throughout his five years as a chapter member his supervised farming activities were made up of the management of 165 acres of timberland, a home garden, small fruits, ornamental horticulture, strawberries, and grapevines.

He served his chapter as Reporter and Secretary along with being the Chairman of various committees.

Bill participated in both the degree team contest and the forestry judging contest. He participated in the National Chorus in Kansas City. Public Speaking was enjoyed by him very much and he won both the State and Tristate contests and then went on to place third in the Southern Region Public Speaking contest in Jackson, Mississippi.

He was President of the Student Government in his local school and a member of the Beta Club. Other extracurricular activities along with varsity sports took up much of his time. He was President of the Associational Youth group for his Church.

Bill is married and makes his home in Blacksburg where he is attending Virginia Tech and studying Agriculture Education. He is a active member of Alleghany Baptist Church.

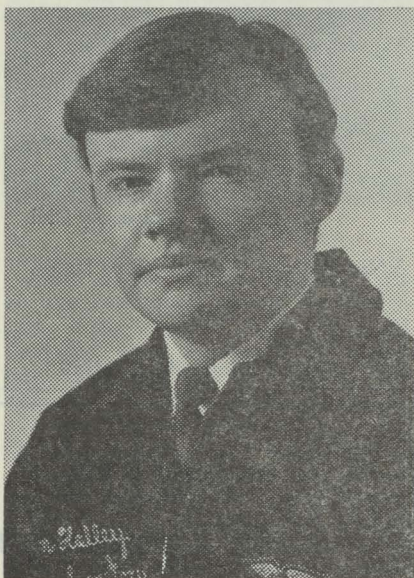
Don Holley is the son of Mr. and Mrs P. L. Holley of Route 1, Dry Fork, Virginia. He attended Tunstall High School in Pittsylvania County where he was enrolled in vocational agriculture. His high school vocational agriculture instructors were Mr. T. D. Bur-

gess, Mr. J. W. Thomasson. and Mr. J. J. Bohannon.

When not at VPI, where he is enrolled in agricultural education, he resides on his father's general farm. Don has a supervised farming program of beef steers, several different types of crops and also an active part in helping his father farm.

Don served the Tunstall FFA Chapter as parliamentarian, secretary, vice president, and president. He also served as secretary on the 1968 state champion degree team and was named to the all state degree team. He participated in public speaking in both FFA and AIC public speaking contests. He was also a member of various other judging teams.

High school and community activities included participation in several high school plays, a member of the high school debate team, speaking engagements with the various civic clubs in the community, and his part-time position as radio announcer at a Danville



DON HOLLEY

radio station, which Don has held for the past 3½ years.

Don is also a member of the Baptist Church, and following graduation from college, he hopes to be engaged in some agriculture related occupation.

Lacy Clyde (L. C.) Harold is the 19 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ewell Harold of Route 2, Ararat, Virginia. He is a 1969 honor graduate of Blue Ridge High School in Patrick County. L. C. lives on a 24 acre orchard that he and his father operate. Of this acreage, a determined number of acres is set aside for his use. His supervised farming program usually consists of peaches, apples, and some vegetable

(Continued on page 6)

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## Tentative Program 1970 State FFA Convention

- Sunday—June 14**  
**Afternoon**  
 2:00 State Officers Meeting,  
 \* \* \*
- Monday—June 15**  
**Morning**  
 9:00 Executive Committee Meeting  
 10:30 Registration
- Afternoon**  
 2:00 Executive Committee Meeting  
 2:00 Band Practice  
 2:00 Chorus Practice  
 2:00 Interviews—State Officer Candidates  
 3:00 to  
 4:30 Swimming—War Memorial Gym  
 3:30 Soft Ball  
     a. (Drill Field)  
     b. (Drill Field)  
 5:30 Dinner—College Dining Hall
- Night**  
 7:00 Vespers  
 7:30 First Session—Burruss Hall  
     State FFA Band—Directed by  
     Mr. Tom Dobyns, Band Director, VPI  
     National Anthem  
     Opening Session  
     Invocation  
     Address of Welcome  
     Nomination and Election of  
     State Farmer Degree Candidates  
     Greetings—Harry Birdwell, National President FFA  
     Greetings—YFV  
     Awards—  
     Efficiency Dairy Production  
     Chapter Safety  
     Seaboard and Farm Forestry  
     Agribusiness  
     Placement in Agricultural  
     Production  
     Natural Resources Development  
     Distinguished Service Award  
     Closing Ceremony  
 11:00 Lights out

- \* \* \*
- Tuesday—June 16**  
**Morning**  
 7:00 Breakfast—College Dining Hall  
 8:30 State Judging Contest — Live-  
     stock, Dairy, Poultry, Crops,  
     and Farm Mechanics  
 8:30 Chorus Practice  
     Band Practice  
 8:30 Interviews—State Officer Candidates  
 8:30 Tractor Operators Contest—Writ-  
     ten Exam, Agricultural  
     Engineering Building

- 9:00 Preliminary Public Speaking Con-  
 test—Burruss Hall  
 11:00 Review of Judging Classes  
 12:00 Lunch—College Dining Hall

- Afternoon**  
 1:30 Second Session—Burruss Hall  
     Opening Ceremony  
     Music—State FFA Chorus  
     Report of Retiring Officers  
     Awards—  
     Livestock Farming  
     Dairy Farming  
     Degree Team  
     Poultry Farming  
     Crop Farming  
     Soil & Water Management  
     Agricultural Mechanics  
     Committee Announcements  
     Closing Ceremony  
 1:30 Interviews—State Officer Candidates  
 2:30 Committee Meetings  
 2:30 Band & Chorus Practice  
 2:30 Tractor Operators Contest  
 4:00 Softball  
     a. (Drill Field)  
     b. (Drill Field)  
 3:00 to  
 4:30 Swimming—War Memorial Gym  
 4:45 Reception FFA Foundation  
     Donor Representatives,  
     East Lounge, University Club  
     (informal)  
 5:30 Dinner—College Dining Hall
- Night**  
 7:00 Vespers  
 7:30 Third Session—Burruss Hall

- Music—State FFA Band  
 Opening Ceremony  
 Music—State FFA Chorus  
 Public Speaking Contest  
 State FFA Band  
 Recognition of FFA Founda-  
 tion Donor Representatives  
 Special Feature  
 Awards—  
     Farm Electrification &  
     Public Utilities Association  
     Tractor Operators  
     Public Speaking  
 Results First Days Judging  
 Closing Ceremony  
 11:00 Lights out

- \* \* \*
- Wednesday—June 17**  
**Morning**  
 7:00 Breakfast—College Dining Hall  
 8:30 Judging Contest—(Five High  
     Teams in Each Contest)  
 8:30 Chorus Practice  
 8:30 Fourth Session—Burruss Hall  
     Music—State FFA Band  
     Opening Ceremony  
     Report of Executive Secretary-  
     Treasurer  
     Music—State FFA Band  
     President's Annual Address—  
     David Shiflett  
     Music—State FFA Chorus  
     Awards—  
     Chapter Forestry Contest  
     Chapter Wildlife  
     Forestry Judging  
     Ornamental Horticulture

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*The great use of a life is to spend it for something that will outlast it.—William James*

Home Improvement  
Business Session  
Committee Reports:  
Auditing  
Budget  
Constitution and By-Laws  
Chapter Chats  
FFA-FHA Camps  
Nomination State Officers  
Closing Ceremony  
Band & Chorus Practice

12:00 Lunch—College Dining Hall

#### Afternoon

1:30 Committee Meetings  
1:30 Educational Tours, Hikes — In-  
structors Responsible  
2:15 Band & Chorus Practice  
3:00 to  
4:30 Swimming—War Memorial Gym  
4:00 Softball—Championship Game  
(Drill Field)  
5:30 Dinner—College Dining Hall

#### Night

7:00 Vespers  
7:30 Fifth Session—Burruss Hall  
Music—State FFA Band  
Opening Ceremony  
Recognition of other vocational  
clubs: DECA, VICA, FBLA,  
FHA  
Address—Harry Birdwell, Na-  
tional President  
Conferring Active State Farmer  
Degrees  
Music—State FFA Chorus  
Conferring Honorary State  
Farmer Degrees  
Citation—Officers Parents  
Music—State FFA Band  
Presentation of the Star Farmer  
Awards  
Closing Ceremony

11:00 Lights Out

\* \* \*

Thursday—June 18

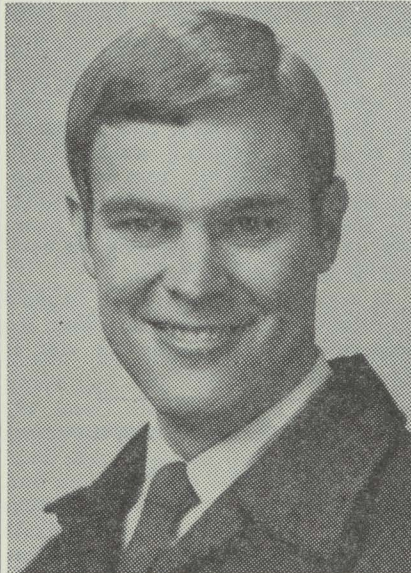
#### Morning

7:00 Breakfast—College Dining Hall  
8:30 Sixth Session—Burruss Hall  
Opening Ceremony  
Committee Reports:  
Program of Work  
Contests and Awards  
Public Relations  
FFA Advisory Council  
Resolutions  
Music—FFA Band & Chorus  
Election of Officers  
Awards—  
Community Service  
Superior Chapter  
Chapter Contest  
Softball  
Housing Award  
Judging Contests

12:00 Lunch—College Dining Hall  
Leave for Home

## Harry Birdwell, National President, To Attend Virginia State Convention

Harry Birdwell, 20, national president of the Future Farmers of America from Fletcher, Oklahoma, will be featured speaker at the Virginia State FFA Convention to be held June 15-18 at VPI, Blacksburg, Virginia.



HARRY BIRDWELL

About 1,000 Virginia Future Farmers are expected to attend the convention, it was reported today by J. M. Campbell, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education. Official delegates from each of the State's 197 local chapters will comprise the voting body to conduct the business of the convention.

State FFA officers who will preside over the convention are David Shiflett, president, Fort Defiance High School; Kenny Attkisson, vice president, Patrick Henry High School; Martin Auville, vice president, Turner Ashby High


School, J. B. Cruise, vice president, Woodlawn High School; Joe Yoder, vice president, William Campbell High School; Jim Combs, vice president, John Battle High School; Vince Garland, vice president, Rappahannock High School; Don Holley, secretary, Tunstall High School; Bill Dudley, treasurer, Appomattox High School; L. C. Harold, reporter, Blue Ridge High School; Richard N. Bailey, past president, Tunstall High School.

Birdwell was elected at the national FFA convention in Kansas City, Missouri, last October. At that time, he was a junior at Oklahoma State University. He has taken a leave of absence from school for a year to fulfill the duties of his FFA office. Birdwell is majoring in Radio-TV broadcasting in college and is considering a career in agricultural broadcasting.

Harry currently shares in a partnership with his father on a farm located 2½ miles southeast of Fletcher, Oklahoma. The Birdwell operation consists of 80 acres of pasture which the family owns and an additional 40 acres of pasture which young Birdwell rents.

An experienced FFA leader, Birdwell was a vice president of the Oklahoma State FFA Association in 1967-68 and president in 1968-69. He has won three State FFA speaking contests and was presented the American Farmer Degree at last year's National Convention. In high school, Birdwell was an alternate All State selection in basketball, and Junior and Senior Class President. In college, Birdwell has been on the Dean's Honor Roll four semesters, and has been active in several organizations.

*Definition:* Being nervous is when you feel in a hurry all over, but can't get started.



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## State FFA Convention

(Continued from page 1)

sored trip to the National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, will be awarded to the top teams in crops and farm mechanics judging. The second high teams in dairy, livestock, and poultry judging will compete at the Virginia State Fair.

This year, the FFA Advisory Council has amended the State Convention Regulations as related to judging teams in attendance as follows: "Each chapter is entitled to one judging team for the first 100 active members or less. One additional judging team may be entered for active memberships above 100.—No school may enter more than one team in the same contest."

Also, in an effort to equalize representation at the convention, delegates to represent the chapters during the business sessions may be elected on the following basis: "Each chapter is entitled to send two delegates from its active membership to the State convention, plus one additional delegate for each 50 active members over 100.—"

Attendance at the convention will be limited to judging teams from each chapter, state farmer candidates, award winners, state band, state chorus, public speakers, tractor operators, state officers, teachers and supervisors. The official delegates will be elected from members in attendance at the convention.

Every member in attendance must be under the direct supervision of his teacher of agricultural education. It is further recommended that no one teacher bring more than five boys for which he will be responsible. This recommendation applies to multiple teacher departments.

A State FFA Tractor Operators contest will be held again this year. Six contestants, one from each supervisory area, will participate in this contest. The written examination will be given Tuesday morning and the actual contest will be conducted in the afternoon.

State Farmer Degrees will be awarded to approximately 280 members and several adults will receive the honorary degree. The most outstanding member in production agriculture will be designated State Star Farmer and receive a \$200 award from the National FFA Foundation. Area Star Farmer awards of \$50 will be given to the top candidates in each of five supervisory areas.

This year, for the first time, an award comparable to the Star Farmer, will be made to the member conducting a program in an option other than production agriculture. The award will be titled, "State Star Agribusinessman." The award also will be funded by the FFA Foundation in the amount of \$200 for the State winner and \$50 to each of the five supervisory areas. Other win-

ners will be recognized and presented appropriate awards.

Approximately 50 members from throughout the State will be selected to play in the State FFA Band during the convention. The State Band will be under the direction of Mr. Tom Dobyms, Band Director at VPI. Another 35 boys will be selected to sing in the State FFA Chorus. The State Chorus will again be directed by Mr. Archie Snyder, Director Choral Music, Giles High School.

Other groups attending the convention will include one contestant in public speaking from each supervisory area, the State FFA Officers, and instructors of vocational agriculture who are chapter advisors. Delegates from each chapter selected from the delegation attending the convention will officially represent the chapter in transacting the business of the state association.

A registration fee will be charged instructors and students attending the convention to help defray the cost of the convention expenses.

## Ag-Ed Conference

(Continued from page 1)

discuss means of "Effectively Using ETV in Agricultural Education." At 6:00 p.m., a special dinner for teachers participating in the Sears-Roebuck sponsored Livestock Improvement Program will be held at Hardie House Restaurant. Invitations will be extended to those instructors expected to attend. The dinner will be followed by a meeting of standing committees.

Thursday morning, the Geigy Agricultural Chemical Corporation will host a breakfast for all members of the conference at 7:15 a.m. Breakfast will be followed by a meeting of the VVATA with Jack Rudolph, Independence, President of the organization presiding.

The fourth session will feature "Highlights in Agriculture" and will give teachers an opportunity to hear of the latest developments in the field of agriculture presented by members of the VPI staff. The remainder of the afternoon will be devoted to area meetings, assistant supervisors from the six supervisory areas, to be in charge.

The guest speaker for the Annual Banquet is Dr. Dale Baughman, University of Indiana. Service awards will be made and guests of the conference will be recognized.

The final session will meet Friday, 8:30 a.m. Standing committees will make their reports to the convention. Following intermission, participants in the convention will be privileged to hear from a group of young optimists in the Industry of Agriculture. The conference will adjourn following closing remarks by J. M. Campbell, State Supervisor.

## State Officers

(Continued from page 3)



L. C. HAROLD

crops. During these past four years, he has received approximately 30 prizes in competition at local fairs. Of these, over 25% were blue ribbons. L. C. is a member of the Blue Ridge Chapter of FFA. He has held the offices of secretary twice and vice president in his chapter and the offices of vice president and president in the Fairystone Federation. He also served as president of the chapter's degree team which went to the state contest. He received the Star Chapter Farmer award and State Farmer Degree two years ago. During his four years of vocational agriculture, he competed in 15 contests and was awarded trips to the National FFA Convention, National A.I.C. Convention, and State Forestry Camp.

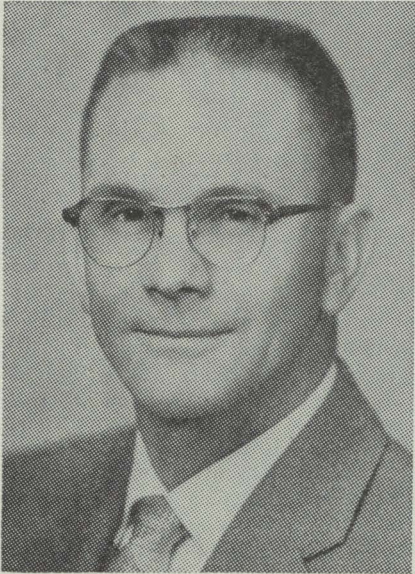
L. C. was also a member of the Beta Club, Monogram Club and Baseball Team. Last September, he entered V.P.I. after receiving two scholarships. He is presently enrolled as a freshman in agricultural education and is an active member of the S. G. A. Senate.

Upon graduation, he plans to teach vocational agriculture in the public schools of Virginia.

**Elkton**—The Elkton High School FFA members presented a Horseman's Clinic March 14 at the school. They discussed the health, shoeing, grooming, handling and grass management for horses. The clinic was conducted by several persons from Virginia Tech.

**Windsor**—Robert Bland Atkins, President of the Windsor High Chapter of FFA was named class honor student. He plans to attend VPI after graduation.

## Be A Success . . . Be Yourself



WILLIAM PAUL GRAY  
National Executive Secretary

### Turner Ashby Holds Parent-Son Banquet

Mr. Wm. Paul Gray, National FFA Executive Secretary, U. S. Office of Education, Washington D. C. was the guest speaker at the Turner Ashby FFA Chapter Parent-Son Banquet held on March 25th in the school cafeteria. Martin Auville, president of the Chapter and Northern Virginia Vice-President was toastmaster for the occasion.

Mr. Gray stated the FFA emphasized the development of cooperation, agricultural leadership and citizenship. He told the group that the FFA is the "show window of vocational agriculture." He stressed the leadership training available in the FFA and said it "was a device to release the hidden power of youth."

Another outstanding feature of the banquet was the awarding of two Honorary Chapter Farmer Degrees. The recipients were Samuel E. Ritchie school principal and Miss Paula Wheelbarger, assistant school secretary. They were cited for their cooperation and assistance in the promotion of the program of work of the local chapter. The initiation ceremony was conducted by the assistant officers.

David Shifflett, state president, brought greetings from the State Association. Also, Mr. John W. Myers, Jr., executive-secretary, represented the State Association and Mr. W. R. Crabill, assistant supervisor, represented the Northern Virginia area as special guests.

Warnie Shifflett, Barry Arey, and Denny Snyder entertained the group with a short skit and door prizes donated

By: Vince Garland, State Vice President

This little fellow named Hasmoo was a stone cutter and he was a stone cutter because his father had been one and his grandfather and his great grandfather. He was very skillful in this occupation of stone cutting. One day he became dissatisfied because he thought that there was something in this world more glorious, would have more honor to it than just being a stone cutter.

He looked about himself and saw the sun shining very radiantly about the earth, looking very powerful. He looked up and said, "The sun, the sun, O Lord, I would be," said Hasmoo. The Lord answered, "You are the sun, Hasmoo." So for many days he shone very radiantly about the earth radiating his light and being very powerful and making plants grow.

One day a cloud drifted by and came between the sun and the earth and blotted the sunlight from it. Hasmoo turned and said, "The cloud, the cloud. Oh Lord, there is yet a force even greater than I, make me a cloud." The Lord said, "Hasmoo, you are a cloud." And for many days he floated about the universe blocking the sunlight from the earth.

But one day a very strong wind came by and blew the cloud away. Again Hasmoo turned and said, "The wind, the wind, Oh Lord, whose force is even greater than I, make me the wind." The Lord said "Hasmoo, you are the wind." So for many days he blew to the four corners of the earth blowing the clouds about and being very powerful.

One day he ran up against a stone and the stone stopped Hasmoo very still. He turned and he said, "The stone, the stone, Oh Lord, there is a force even greater than I, make me the stone." The Lord said, "Hasmoo, you are the stone." And so for many years Hasmoo was a stone lying beside an untrodden trail. Then one day a little old stone cutter came by. He stopped by the stone, took out his tools, and began chopping away. Once again Hasmoo turned and he said, "The stonecutter, the stonecutter. Oh Lord, there is a force even greater than I. Make me the stonecutter." The Lord

by local business firms.

There were 140 members, parents, members of the board of supervisors, honorary members and other invited guests in attendance at the banquet.

Officers of the Turner Ashby Chapter are, Martin Auville, president; Douglas Kiracofe, vice-president; Ray Smith, secretary; Garland Huffman, treasurer; Douglas Eye, reporter; Denny Snyder, sentinel, R. Z. Arey and R. C. Cupp, advisors.

said, "Hasmoo, be your ownself and be a stonecutter."

The moral of this quaint little old story is this: be your ownself but be the best of whatever you are.

You, as FFA members, have an advantage over other boys by having a background in agriculture. Looking to the future when we will have a family and be on our own, look for the good things, not the faults. It takes a good deal bigger sized brain to find out what is not wrong with people and things than to find out what is wrong. The little man often actually rates his capacity by the number of things he can find wrong. The valuable fellow is the one who finds what isn't wrong and improves upon it.

What the future has in store for you depends in large measures on what you place in store for the future. We as FFA members have enthusiasm. Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm. We have to have patience. Patience is waiting. Not passively waiting. This is laziness. But to keep going when the going is hard and slow—that is patience. We have to be responsible. Responsibility walks hand in hand with capacity and power.

We have to have wealth. Wealth is not his who gets it, but his who enjoys it. It's good to have money and the things that money can buy, but it's good, too, to check up once and awhile and make sure you haven't lost the things that money can't buy.

We have to be sincere. Sincerity is to speak as we think, to do as we pretend and profess, to perform and make good what we promise and really to be what we would seem and appear to be. We have to have thought. Thought, a power which binds and makes men free. The precedent of actions yet to be. We have to be a guide. A guide, a builder as self control. Shaping the destiny of the soul. We are young men getting ready to go out into the future. We have no problems. We have opportunities. Most of all in life, we have to succeed. For without success, the others don't amount to a hill of beans. Like the poem, "The Success Family" says:

The father of Success is Work  
The mother of Success is Ambition.  
The oldest son is Common Sense  
Some of the other boys are: Perseverance, Honesty, Thoroughness, Foresight, Enthusiasm, Cooperation.  
The oldest daughter is Character  
Some of the sisters are: Cheerfulness, Loyalty, Courtesy, Care, Economy, Sincerity, Harmony.  
The baby is Opportunity.

(Continued on page 8)

## National Board Action Affecting Virginia FFA

The National Board of Directors and National Officers of FFA met in Alexandria, Virginia, March 2-5, 1970. These two groups make up the official governing board of the national organization. Action taken by the Board, of interest to and affecting members of the Virginia Association, follow:

1. **FFA Jackets:** The price of FFA jackets will be increased by \$1.00 in the next catalogue.
2. **Official Dress for Members:** The Board approved the use of a blazer as an option to the jacket. Each state may approve this action. The jacket is still the official dress for Virginia members.
  - Boys:** Jacket or blazer, white shirt, FFA tie, dark trousers, and black shoes.
  - Girls:** Jacket or blazer, white blouse, dark skirt, natural hose, black shoes, and FFA scarf.
3. **Magazine Subscriptions to Non-Members:** Yearly subscriptions to the National Future Farmer magazine are increased to \$1.00 for non-members. Complimentary subscriptions will be up 50¢ next year.
4. **1971 Theme:** Beginning with the National Convention the theme for 1971 will be "FFA—Involved in America's Future"
5. **Advanced Degrees for Girls:** The National Constitution provides for three (3) years membership before a member is eligible for the American Farmer Degree and two (2) years membership prior to receiving the State Farmer Degree. Accordingly, girls will not be eligible for the American Farmer degree until 1972 and the State Farmer degree until 1971. Girls received membership during the 1969 State and National Conventions.
6. **Agricultural Proficiency Awards for 1971:** Next year there will be 15 Agricultural Proficiency Awards available to the States, however, the National Board limited the number each state may select on the basis of active paid membership. States with a paid membership of 5,000 or less may select eight (8) proficiency awards. From 5,000 to 9,999 nine (9) awards; from 10,000 to 14,999 ten (10) awards; and so on. Only states with a membership of 35,000 or more may elect to apply for all 15 of the agricultural proficiency awards. Areas in which awards are available are:
  - a. Agricultural Mechanics
  - b. Crops Production
  - c. Dairy Production

## Boost Your P. R. Program Calendar Needs Your Support

Last year only 10 or 5% of the local FFA chapters in Virginia participated in the National Official FFA Calendar program. These chapters are to be highly commended, however, we are hopeful that more chapters will consider this project part of their program of activities for the 1970-71 school year.

Nationally, there are 8,281 local chapters, of this number 1,054 or 12% are participating in the calendar program. These figures indicate Virginia is considerably below the national average in chapter participation.

The 1971 calendar program is underway. It is recommended that many more chapters use this as one means for more effective public relations.

Three plans of participation will be offered: Plan A, with a sponsor; Plan B, where chapters place an order; Plan C, for chapters desiring a preprinted order.

We urge every local advisor in the state to secure a calendar kit from John M. Pitzer, Associate Editor, The National Future Farmer, P. O. Box 1513, Alexandria, Virginia 22309. Upon receipt of this material, call a meeting of the chapter executive committee, review the various plans and recommend to your chapter the appropriate action for a boost to your P.R. program.

## Union Camp Vo-Ag Exposition May 15

Under the direction of J. A. Minetree, Chief Conservation Forester, Union Camp, Franklin, Virginia, the first "Union Camp Vo-Ag Exposition," will be held at Franklin, Va., May 15, 1970.

In all probability, this activity will become an annual event. Its purpose is to serve as an added incentive for FFA members to excel in their forestry activities during high school.

First and second place federation winners in the area serving Union Camp within the states of Virginia and North Carolina will be invited to attend. Included in the Virginia area are portions of three supervisory areas, namely, Eastern, Central and Southside. The assistant supervisors in these three areas will notify Mr. Minetree, who will extend an invitation on behalf of Union Camp to those chapters selected to attend. Please note, only those schools receiving invitations are eligible to attend.

The proposed program indicates a rewarding and educational exposition. Included in the day's activities are a tour of the paper mill, sawmill, and woodland areas. There will also be a short interstate contest between a selected team from Virginia and North Carolina. Dinner will be served at the Bronco Hunt Club after which awards will be presented and the teams will return home.

## Be a Success . . . Be Yourself

(Continued from page 7)

Get acquainted with the old man and you will be able to get along pretty well with the rest of the Family. All you have to do is work and success is all yours. The rest goes along with it. Remember: Nothing succeeds like suc-

- d. Farm and Home Electrification
- e. Fish and Wildlife
- f. Forestry
- g. Home Improvement
- h. Livestock Production
- i. Ornamental Horticulture
- j. Outdoor Recreation
- k. Placement in Agricultural Production
- l. Placement in Processing
- m. Placement in Sales or Service
- n. Poultry Production
- o. Soil and Water Management

It is obvious that the Virginia Association FFA cannot finance five (5) additional Proficiency Awards. Plans will be made and an announcement forthcoming during the summer of the Virginia plan for participation in the National Agricultural Proficiency Awards program.

cess. Nothing fails like a failure.

Finally, I would like to read a poem by an unknown author, entitled, "What is Life to You?"

To the soldier life's a battle  
To the teacher life's a school  
Life's a "good thing" for the grafter  
It's a failure to the fool.  
To the man upon the engine  
Life's a long and heavy grade;  
It's a gamble to the gambler,  
To the merchant it's a trade.  
Life's a picture to the artist,  
To the Rascal life's a fraud.  
Life perhaps, is a burden  
To the man beneath the hod.  
Life is lovely to the lovers,  
To the player life's a play;  
Life may be a load of trouble  
To the man upon the drag.  
Life is but a long vacation  
To the man who loves his work.  
Life's an everlasting effort  
To the ones who like to shirk.  
To the earnest Christian worker  
Life's a story ever new.  
Life is what we try to make it.  
Brother, what is Life to you?