

# THE VISITOR

Devoted to the Interests of Agricultural Education in Minnesota Schools

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Placing his signature on the legal documents for the newly organized Minnesota F.F.A. Foundation is O. A. Holkesvig and looking on, from left to right, are G. R. Cochran, W. J. Kortsmaki, M. J. Peterson, and Peter Fog.

## MINNESOTA F.F.A. FOUNDATION

On December 28, 1953 the Minnesota Future Farmers of America Foundation was organized. This capped more than two years of careful planning and earnest effort by the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce. Particular praise must go to Mr. Nathan Haw, director of the Agriculture Department of the Chamber, for his leadership. This activity illustrates the high order of interests and purpose that is characteristic of modern business organizations. It also dramatizes the recognition of the interdependence that exists be-

tween business, and farming and the vital role of education in both of these pursuits. The Visitor congratulates all those who have had a part in this venture. As the Minnesota FFA Foundation moves forward in improving the educational opportunities for farm people The Visitor pledges its support.

The members of the Board of Trustees are O. A. Holkesvig, manager, American Crystal Sugar Company, East Grand Forks; Rudolph Gustafson, Ottertail Power and Light Company; Ron Edstrom, Glen-

## VISITOR

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## THE STAFF

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The officers of the Minnesota Future Farmers of American Foundation are: president, G. R. Cochran; vice-president, Elwood Gilbertson; secretary-treasurer, W. J. Kortesmaki. The executive committee is composed of Lee Sandager, Duane Baringer, Milo J. Peterson, Mr. Gilbertson, Mr. Kortesmaki, and Mr. Cochran.

The incorporators who signed the articles and by-laws of the non-profit corporation are: Mr. Holkesvig, Mr. Gustafson, Mr. Edstrom, Mr. Thue, Mr. Gilbertson, Mr. Carnes, Mr. Wells, and Mr. Nelson.

The Future Farmers of America Foundation, Inc., was established to provide business, industrial, civic, farm, and service organizations and individuals an opportunity to cooperate in furthering the programs of Future Farmers of America

and the vocational agriculture in the public secondary schools.

All funds accepted by the Foundation will be used exclusively for the purposes which will stimulate and promote the best interests of students of vocational agriculture and FFA members. The Foundation will provide on a statewide basis prizes and financial awards to deserving members of the FFA who have achieved distinction in their supervised farming programs, scholarship and rural leadership. The FFA Foundation provides students of vocational agriculture with an opportunity to learn how the problems of business and industry affect agriculture, and how agriculture's problems affect business and industry.

The program of the Future Farmers of American Foundation is designed to stimulate and encourage farm boys who have received systematic instruction in vocational agriculture to become satisfactorily established in farming.

## A NEW TEACHING RESOURCE

BARBARA H. WRIGHT\*

Vocational agriculture teachers and veteran agriculture teachers will be interested in securing *You and Farm Problems*, a 32 page resource unit for teacher use, issued recently by the University of Minnesota. While this was prepared primarily for social studies teachers to use in the 12th grade "problems" course, it contains much that agriculture teachers can use, both with their high school classes and with adult groups.

This is one of a series of five bulletins in the *You and Economic Issues* series, developed as a result of four workshops on Economic Education held during the summers of 1949-1952 at the University of Minnesota. This particular bulletin was developed by a committee of teachers with the advice of Dr. Fred R. Koller, agricultural economist at the University of Minnesota.

*You and Farm Problems* outlines teaching content related specifically to Minnesota communities. It is intended to help teachers lay a background of information

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which will enable young people to discuss more intelligently the current battle about price supports, and to interest pupils in the social and community (as well as the scientific and technical) aspects of conservation of resources and improvement of fertility.

The section of the bulletin dealing with Teaching Procedures contains some sixty suggestions for studying these problems through various class assignments, group activities, and use of community resources. Many of them will prove suggestive to teachers who are looking for new ways of enlisting pupil interest and studying real community problems.

A bibliography of materials suitable for classroom use is current and checked to indicate reading level.

*You and Taxation*, another resource unit for teachers in this series, should also be on the desks of agriculture teachers. Similar to *You and Farm Problems* in organization and format, this deals with understanding government taxes and spending. It contains a good deal of factual information difficult to locate about the taxes levied in Minnesota and how they are used. With this background students should be able to discuss local tax issues with more understanding.

The other three bulletins in this series are *International Trade and You*, *Comparative Economic Systems*, (comparing Free Enterprise with Socialism, Communism, and Fascism) and *Understanding the Ups and Downs of Business*.

Sold outside the State of Minnesota for 50 cents a copy, these bulletins are available without charge to persons in Minnesota. If your school does not already have these, send a postcard requesting the ones you want to Miss Barbara H. Wright, Field Worker in Economic Education, 210 Burton Hall, University of Minnesota. For your convenience, this is the list of the *You and Economic Issues* series.

- Unit 1 *You and Taxation*
- Unit 2 *You and International Trade*
- Unit 3 *Comparative Economic Systems*
- Unit 4 *Understanding the Ups and Downs of Business*
- Unit 5 *You and Farm Problems*

## 'ANDY', MY AG TEACHER\*

I guess I liked Andy from the first time I saw him. Round-ruddy-faced, thin-sandy-haired, scrupulously clean Andy. No matter where you met him he carried a scent of pine tar, lysol, or carbolic acid and an infectious laugh.

When Andy came to town, our school didn't have an ag department. But it wasn't long before we did have one. By combing the countryside for crops, weeds, and soil samples he converted an outgrown chemistry lab into a shrine for the agricultural folk of our community. With borrowed tools from the forestry service and a handful of boys he made a shop by digging out an unexcavated part under the high school. He equipped it by renovating old tools donated by "dads" in the area.

And for a lab he used every farm within 30 miles of the school house. It was sometimes 20 degrees below zero and sometimes 100 in the shade, but if there was a job to be done—it was done.

Our community was too small and set apart to have a veterinarian—but we didn't need one when we got Andy. With calm assurance he'd secure a hog and with deft hands perform the operation before the animal knew what it had lost.

My mother used to say, "Andy! Andy! That's all I hear. Don't you have any other teachers?" And dad would register a smile as he listened to endless narrations of what we did in ag. I knew if there was a judging trip to the ag college coming up, dad would see it my way.

Andy made a game out of general science and biology and turned "Pearson's Square" into an Aladdin's Lamp in our ag classes. When he coached basketball it wasn't the big clumsy boys and the little frail ones he had to work with that won, it was the spirit of the team that put us on top.

At one time Andy was ag teacher, president of the district fair, secretary of the PTA, commander of the Legion post, mayor of the town, veterinarian, secretary of the Potato Growers association

\* We wish to express our appreciation to Warren S. Jewett, editor of *El Mustang*, California State Polytechnic College, San Luis Obispo, California for this article.

and confidant to half a hundred boys. Besides this he had time to raise the biggest garden and one of the biggest families in town.

Would you like to appraise the effect he had on the lives in our community? It would be a big job! But it was all in a day's work for Andy. He was an ag teacher—my ag teacher—and my hat is off to him and to all the fellows like him from the state of Washington to Puerto Rico and from the state of Maine to Hawaii.

### STEM RUST

Lesson plans, specimen material and printed matter can be obtained without charge for a study of the stem rust disease of small grains. Send your request to the Barberry Eradication Office, University Farm, St. Paul 1, Minnesota.

A twenty-minute movie (16mm. sound Kodachrome) "Stem Rust-Airborne Enemy of Grains" is also available through the Audio-Visual Education Service, University Farm, St. Paul 1, Minnesota.

Arrangements can be made for a member of the Barberry Eradication staff to meet with groups in your community. This service is available for high school FFA classes, Young Farmer Associations, Veterans classes, Adult Farmer classes, or other groups of those interested in stem rust control. If you wish to make such arrangements submit your request to the Barberry Eradication Office, University Farm, St. Paul 1, Minnesota.

### VISITOR CONGRATULATES AGRICULTURE INSTRUCTOR

Ed Fier, agriculture instructor at New Ulm High School, was named New Ulm's Outstanding Young Man of 1953 Monday night.

He was presented the distinguished service award of the Junior Chamber of Commerce at the Jaycees' annual Bosses' Night dinner in Turner Club.

A member of the faculty since January, 1947, Fier has helped to bring national honors to the city. In 1953, a dairy cattle judging team coached by him won the national championship at Waterloo, Iowa.

Two youths in Fier's Future Farmers of America chapter here have won the highest national award, the American Farmer degree. They were LuVerne Schugel in 1950 and Leon Fritsche last year.

Another member of the local FFA, James Albrecht, won two All-American awards recently for Holstein cattle.

Fier is a charter member of the New Ulm Jaycees chapter which was organized in 1950. He is a member of the Civic and Commerce Association and of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Last month Fier served as chairman of the Jaycee Christmas baskets project, one of the top Jaycee community service functions of the year.

He is married and father of an infant son, Jay. They live at 108½ South Minnesota. Fier hails from Taunton, near Marshall, and graduated from the University of Minnesota following military service.