THE VISITOR

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NEWS ABOUT NEWS

Mr. Lee Sandager, one of Minnesota's top agriculture instructors, has demonstrated a knack for solving problems in his community. As the agriculture instructor in the Climax, Minnesota high school, Mr. Sandager found himself in a small town serving a large farming community. Many of the facilities and services commonly taken for granted in larger centers were not available. Among the services which were noticeable for their absence was a local newspaper. By reading between the lines of Mr. Sandager's report which is given below, we are sure you will detect the fine hand of some excellent community leadership in helping to solve this problem of turning a disadvantage into an advantage. In many ways this illustrates, in a concrete fashion, something that William Shakespeare once said which goes like this, "Sweet are the ways of adversity which, like the toad, though ugly and venomous wears yet a precious jewel in his head." This knack, this ability to turn adversity into opportunity characterizes Mr. Sandager's work. THE VISITOR enjoys presenting the write-up that Mr. Sandager sent us in response to a request as to how he used the local newspaper as a medium for disseminating information in his community.—Editor

A LOCAL FARM PAPER FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

By Lee Sandager

Adequate publicity is a problem for the vocational agriculture department in a rural community such as Climax, Minnesota. Climax has a population of about 300 and the community does not have the benefit of a local newspaper. This problem no doubt confronts many agriculture instructors in similar communities and perhaps the only available outlet through the press may be a newspaper in an adjacent town. The use of the press does not always prove satisfactory unless it can meet the people on a local level.

Confronted with this problem, the Climax FFA has edited a monthly paper free to the farm people as a community service feature for 300 farm families in the school area. The paper is designed to bring the farmers information that is pertinent and will definitely associate the high school agriculture department with their interests. The Climax chapter has regarded the following areas as significant and important contents for their farm paper which is entitled *Agricultural News*.

1. Farm Outlook. Farm outlook gives the future outlook on various farm enterprises, both crops and livestock. This information is the consensus of opinion of eminent agricultural economists taken from various reliable sources.
2. Current and factual articles pertaining to the interests and problems of the farmers in the community. An attempt to recognize and provide a solution for these problems is made in the selection of the articles.
3. Local chapter news in which the activities and functions of the FFA are brought to the attention of the farm families.
4. News and views from the vo-ag instructor. In this section, the agriculture instructor is given an opportunity to provide notices and information concerning the activities and facilities of the department such as adult evening classes, young farmer classes, community services, and so forth.
5. Want ad section containing "wanted" and "for sale" items from both the farmers and local business men.
6. Brief bits of information, philosophy, and humor, adding variety to the paper.

The contents of the paper are written by the boys in the FFA chapter and are organized and compiled with the instructor's assistance. A variety of current magazines and books serve as some of the sources of information for the articles to be used in the paper. These articles are then culled and those which meet the immediate needs are selected. The remainder are kept on file for future use.

With all of the information compiled and typed, the paper is ready to go to press on the school mimeograph machine. The paper usually averages four sheets, 8½ inches by 14 inches, set up in double column form.

After mimeographing, the paper is folded, stapled, addressed, stamped, and taken to the post office for delivery. The expense of

(Continued on page three)

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M. J. PETERSON, *Editor*

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION A FOUNDATION FOR MANY FIELDS OF WORK

Agricultural education offers possibilities as a foundation for many types of work. We need only look at some of the graduates of agricultural education and note the variations in their careers. The latest example is the story of Arthur E. Dracy.

Arthur E. Dracy

Dr. Dracy, who graduated under Dr. A. M. Field with a major in agricultural education in June 1943, is at the present time associate professor of dairy husbandry at the State College of Agriculture, Brookings, South Dakota. Dr. Dracy, who is better known as "Art" to his many friends and associates, was born at Virgil, South Dakota, and was raised at Bruno, Minnesota. After graduating from the Bruno High School in 1935, he attended the School of Agriculture at the University Farm campus and graduated in March 1939. Four years later he received his B.S. degree from the University of Minnesota with a major in agricultural education. Immediately upon graduation, he entered the graduate school at the University of Minnesota, and received his Master's degree in dairy husbandry, December 1946, under the guidance of Dr. T. W. Gullickson, who is also a graduate in agricultural education. During this time, Art also spent fourteen months in the armed services. In January 1946, he began studying for the Ph.D. degree with a major in dairy husbandry under Dr. W. E. Petersen, who also did his undergraduate work in agricultural education. Dr. Dracy received his Ph.D. degree in June 1949 with a major in dairy husbandry and a minor in physiology.

Dr. Dracy is becoming well known for his research in the field of ova transfers. Although other investigators have successfully isolated ova by either sacrificing the animal or by surgical intervention, it was not until this spring that Dr. Dracy developed a technique to facilitate removal of the fertilized ova by non-surgical methods. In this same connection ova have been transferred to a recipient animal by non-surgical procedures. As yet no full term pregnancies have occurred but one transferred ova remained viable three months. At the present time, Dr. Dracy states that ova transfer procedures are only in the experimental stage but he hopes that soon it will become an important adjunct to artificial insemination for the improvement of dairy cattle. Should ova transfers become of practical importance, under normal conditions seventeen ova could be expected annually. Of this number, fifty per cent would produce heifers. To further increase the number of ova to be collected from one good cow, he is also investigating several pituitary hormones known to have favorable effects upon the ovary.

Besides the ova transfer work, Dr. Dracy has initiated an extensive research project dealing with the physiological causes of reproductive failures in dairy cattle. He is also conducting a minor project utilizing milk by-products in connection with the health and well-being of dairy calves. In addition, Dr. Dracy teaches one course in milk secretion and another course in artificial insemination.

In 1943, Dr. Dracy married Irene Haley of the Agricultural Education Department. They now have a daughter six months old. Many "Ag Ed" men will remember Irene Dracy with a great deal of affection and join with THE VISITOR in wishing Dr. and Mrs. Dracy continued success.

MINNESOTA'S INTERNATIONAL FLAX WILT NURSERY

by DR. M. F. KERNKAMP

Associate Professor of Plant Pathology
University of Minnesota

One of the most interesting and valuable pieces of ground in the plant pathology portion of University Farm is a plot known as the "flax wilt nursery." This nursery was established in 1912 for the purpose of testing

Charles Rohde, research assistant in Agronomy and Plant Genetics, demonstrates emasculation and crossing in barley, the first steps in development of new barley varieties by hybridization. This picture was taken by Lavern Saphore, agriculture instructor at Herman, on a field trip during the first summer session of 1949. Watching Mr. Rohde are Mr. Olaf Kolari, Eagle Bend, and Mr. Ray Ahlfors, Alexandria, agriculture instructors.

flax varieties for resistance to flax wilt, caused by the fungus, *Fusarium lini.* The fungus lives in the soil for many years and always infests susceptible varieties of flax as long as it remains present. Therefore, many strains of the fungus were mixed with the soil in the nursery plot in 1912, and many more strains have been added since then in order to subject the flax to as many of the pathogenic strains as possible. To obtain infection in the flax plant all that is necessary is to plant the seed in infected soil. Nature takes of the rest. The susceptible varieties become infected and die and the healthy resistant plants remain.

Since 1912 thousands of varieties, strains, and selections of flax have been planted in this "wilt nursery." In cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, with the Division of Agronomy and Plant Genetics, with investigators from surrounding states, and with investigators in Canada all of the more promising breeding material from these sources is tested for wilt resistance in the nursery. Each year the material comprises several thousand selections from various crosses, introductions, or other sources.

The Minnesota flax grower should have special interest in the "wilt nursery" because it protects him from the ravages of flax wilt and makes it possible to grow flax successfully every year. Until several decades ago the traditional practice was to grow flax on a piece of land only once every seven years because of "flax sick soil." Now all of the varieties that are recommended in Minnesota are resistant to wilt because they have survived the severe test of the nursery. These varieties can be grown on the same field year after year as long as they remain resistant to wilt. Many of the varieties tested in the flax wilt nursery have been grown year after year for ten or fifteen years before being supplanted by new varieties. Two or three flax varieties in the nursery have been planted year after year for a period of about twenty years and still maintain flax wilt resistance.

The use to which this little plot of ground on the experiment station at University Farm is being put illustrates in dramatic fashion the work of the Division of Plant Pathology.

A Local Farm Paper from the High School Agriculture Department

(Continued from page one)

publishing this paper is covered by voluntary contributions on the part of the subscribers to the want ad section. The local businessmen are especially desirous of having their ads run frequently in this FFA newspaper.

The *Agricultural News* of the Climax community has served as an excellent means for disseminating information from the high school agriculture department to the farm people as well as providing a means for bringing to their attention the functions of the department. It has done much to stimulate interest in adult evening classes and FFA chapter events. The public is more likely to support and cooperate with a department which recognizes their interests through activities such as this publication which is designed especially for them.

Not only has the paper been used as a tool to gain necessary publicity in this community, but also as a learning device in the classroom. A variety of learnings are accomplished in selecting and writing the articles as well as in promoting cooperative efforts in the editing of the paper. In many ways we are probably better off than if we had a local newspaper available to help us in our public relations work.

Directory of Vocational Departments of Agriculture for the School Year 1949-50

Post Office	Teacher of Agriculture
Ada	Orville Eng
Aitkin	John Soderlund
Akeley	M. D. Johnson
Angora	John Ketola
Albert Lea	Donald Paulson
Alexandria	Clarence Hemming, Ray Ahlfors
Annandale	Elroy Homuth
Austin	Leland Arneson, Don Ritland, P. J. Holand
Barnesville	Clarence Ebert
Barnum	S. E. Robinson
Belgrade	Carl Ziebarth
Bemidji	L. M. Johnson
Bertha	Leslie Colby
Blackduck	A. M. Gorden
Brainerd	E. A. Gray
Brookston	John Reitz
Buffalo	Windsor Streiff
Cambridge	Willard Erickson
Cannon Falls	Carl Ostrom
Canton	R. Abrahamson
Clarissa	E. M. Fragodt
Clarkfield	J. W. Nelson
Climax	L. D. Sandager
Cloquet	M. C. Olson
Cook	Antony Grebenc
Cotton	Elias Ogann
Cromwell	M. F. Anderson
Crosby	W. A. Frey
Dassel	C. W. Dowling
Dawson	Alvin Schwandt
Detroit Lakes	John Clason
Eagle Bend	O. E. Kolari
Elbow Lake	Arnt Aune
Elk River	R. G. Kezele
Embarrass	Edwin Takala
Esko	George Saksa
Eveleth	W. J. Ryan
Fairfax	Frank Dalke
Faribault	Paul Marvin, Layton Hoysler
Farmington	H. Schmiesing
Fergus Falls	E. J. Halverson
Floodwood	William Fortman
Foley	Ignatius Brady
Forest Lake	Lowell Doebbert, Tom Jansa
Fosston	Martin Korsman
Franklin	Kenneth Ingvalson
Frazee	Roy Johnson
Freeborn	Wilton Wendlandt
Garden City	Verl Rollings
Glencoe	A. G. Sandahl
Graceville	Walter Anderson
Grand Rapids	G. Erickson
Granite Falls	J. G. Undlin
Greenbush	Darrell Sand
Halstad	Ardee Johnson
Harmony	Norman Brakken
Hastings	Ernest Palmer
Hawley	Truman Tilleraas
Hector	W. E. Smith
Hendrum	Ormond Johnson
Herman	Lavern Saphore
Hibbing	Sulo Ogakangas
Hills	Gerald Hafner
Hinckley	Leslie Matts
Hitterdal	Elmer Quist
Hopkins	H. W. Firmage
Houston	Hugh Walker
Hutchinson	Ray Eberhart
Iron	Charles Malovrh
Jackson	Donald Doll
Karlstad	Clifford Zaffke
Kelliher	Robert A. Stevenson
Kenyon	Donald W. Moeller
Kimball	Russell Stansfield
Lake Crystal	Einard Waisanen
Lake City	Harry J. Johnson
Lakefield	Lloyd Graham
Lakeville	Marvin Merbach
Lancaster	Delbert Sand

Post Office	Teacher of Agriculture
Le Center	Roger Hamstreet
Lewiston	Gordon Jacobsen
Litchfield	Joe Duncomb
Little Falls	Earl Rundgren
Littlefork	Peter A. Reuter
Long Prairie	Noel Hatle
Luverne	Harry P. Franz
Mabel	L. D. Richards
Madelia	R. E. Blackburn
Madison	Dwight Quam
Mankato	Harold Sandhoff
Marietta	Merton Aldrich
Marshall	Loyal J. McCann
McIntosh	Dean McNelly
Melrose	Harold Sorknes, Robert Borchardt
Milaca	Stan Sahlstrom, Eldon Madison
Minneapolis	C. E. Luke
Minnesota Lake	Marvin Thomsen
Montevideo	R. E. Hubbard
Moose Lake	E. Schwochert
Mora	J. T. Barnes
Motley	Marvin Gentzkow
Mountain Lake	J. H. Tschetter
Nevis	Perry Schenk
New Prague	Joe Malinski
New Richland	R. L. Palan
New Ulm	Edward Fier
North Branch	Jack Steeves
Northfield	Ruben Hovland
Northome	C. W. Bray
Norwood	C. A. Thoreson
Olivia	Odell Barduson
Ortonville	R. H. Hoberg
Owatonna	Thomas Raine
Park Rapids	A. C. O'Banion
Paynesville	Leroy Hillbrand
Pelican Rapids	Harold Anderson
Perham	T. R. Williams
Pillager	Wayne Rowe
Pine City	A. A. Hoberg
Pine Island	Eldred Phillips
Pipestone	R. J. Knutson
Plainview	Bruce Oxton
Preston	Loyal W. Joos
Princeton	R. L. Stende
Proctor	Cyril Milbrath
Red Lake	Roy Petreil
Red Wing	Deane Turner
Redwood Falls	Nate Bovee
Renville	L. B. Kodet
Rochester	Glenn Scott
Rushford	Henrik Aune
St. Charles	Frank Tolmie
St. Cloud	E. J. O'Connell
Sandstone	Leo Keskinen
Sauk Centre	Russell Stende
Sebeka	Orville Thomas
Springfield	Cecil Femling
Spring Grove	Harold Karli
Staples	Joe Raine
Stephen	R. R. Mitton
Stewart	Ed Zeleznikar
Taylors Falls	Gunnar Berquist
Thief River Falls	H. F. Harrison
Tracy	Morrell Seeds
Two Harbors	William House
Ulen	Peter Fog
Villard	C. L. House
Wabasha	C. C. Hickman
Waconia	Vernon Bruhn
Wadena	John Hill
Warren	Eino Neittamo
Watertown	David Anderson
Westbrook	Bernard Cranston
Wheaton	Laurie A. Monson
Willmar	Michael Cullen
Willow River	Irvin Prachar
Windom	Avison Francis
Winnebago	Harold Nelson
Winona	A. B. Carlson
Winthrop	Amos Hayes
Worthington	Elvin Thue, Walter Larson