

# THE VISITOR

Devoted to the Interests of Agricultural Education in Minnesota Schools

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## LEO KNUTI RECEIVES APPOINTMENT AS STATE SUPERVISOR

The readers of the VISITOR will be interested to know that Mr. Leo Knuti has been appointed to the position as state supervisor for Agricultural Education in Minnesota.

Mr. Knuti is a real Minnesotan reared on a farm near Aurora. He received his high school preparation at the Aurora High School where he studied agriculture as a part of his secondary school training. Mr. Knuti's interest in farming and in rural education brought him to the University Minnesota, where he graduated from the College of Agriculture in 1926. After graduation he taught agriculture at Granite Falls for two years. Then the call of the North took him to Esko, Minnesota, where he taught agriculture in the Thompson Township Consolidated Schools for two years. The fine program Mr. Knuti developed for rural youth attracted the attention of Superintendent Arthur Lampe, who called him to the position as principal and agriculture supervisor for the St. Louis County rural schools. He served in this capacity for six years. It was from his leadership work in St. Louis County that he was called to the larger field of service as state supervisor.

The VISITOR not only extends greetings and congratulations, but also pledges its loyal support and full cooperation to Mr. Knuti in his new position of leadership.

Since his graduation from the University, Mr. Knuti has been a constant student of the problems of Agricultural Education. Whenever time permitted, he has returned to the University, where he has continued his studies in the graduate school. During the last summer session

he completed his research problem, A Study of the Potato Growing Enterprise in St. Louis County, as partial requirement for the Master of Science degree. He plans to complete the few remaining course credits as soon as the opportunity will permit.

## Teachers of Agriculture Awarded the Master's Degree

Two Minnesota teachers of agriculture—W. G. Wiegand, Austin; and Harald G. Sandhoff, Elk River—were granted master of science degrees on March 18, 1937, at the winter quarter graduation exercises at the University of Minnesota. This item will be of real interest to agriculture teachers, because, as a group, they are thoroughly convinced that continued study is essential to progress in their ever-changing field of work.

Mr. Wiegand's education and experience has been long and varied. He graduated from the Slayton High School in 1916. His first agriculture instructor, R. F. Crim, who is now extension agronomist at the University of Minnesota, inspired him to find something worthwhile in agriculture.

He received his B. A. degree from Hamline University in 1920, with a major in Foreign Languages and Economics, and a minor in Science. Because of his desire to engage in agricultural education, he entered the University of Minnesota and completed a major in Agricultural Education and a minor in Dairy Husbandry, receiving his B. S. degree in 1922. He taught one year at Pipestone, Minnesota. In 1923 he began as agriculture instructor at the Austin High School. The enrollment during the first year was 12 students. There has been a remarkable growth in numbers during the past 14 years. The enrollment in the agriculture classes averaged more than 100 students during the past five years. Over 100 students who have completed 2 years of agriculture or more, are now engaged in farming or other related agriculture vocations.

During his many years of teaching high school agriculture, Mr. Wiegand has taught adult evening classes each



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## THE VISITOR

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### THE STAFF

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year. His first class was held at the Corning Creamery in 1923. This class has continued each year, thereby making a record of achievement equaled by few teachers of agriculture. He organized his first part-time class for farm boys in 1928. Mr. Wiegand feels that the richest treasure provided for his students is the opportunity to coordinate the farm practice and the varied experience in agriculture vocations along with classroom assignments.

Under Mr. Wiegand's leadership as local adviser, the agriculture boys have maintained continuous membership in the Future Farmers of America. One of the students, Norman Goodwin, earned the American Farmer degree, the highest honor conferred by the national organization of the F. F. A. At the 1932 annual convention, in recognition of his services in developing the F. F. A. program, the Minnesota Association of the Future Farmers of America awarded Mr. Wiegand the gold key and the honorary degree of State Farmer.

For his graduate work, Mr. Wiegand selected his major in Agricultural Education and the minor in Dairy Husbandry. The thesis submitted as partial requirement for the M. S. degree is entitled "An Analysis of the Content and Methods of Preparation of Teachers in Selected Universities and Colleges of Agriculture."

As a hobby, Mr. Wiegand raises purebred Hampshire and Southdown sheep, purebred Holstein cattle and standard bred production type White Leghorn chickens on his farm near Austin.

Harald G. Sandhoff graduated from North High School in Minneapolis in 1919, and received the B. S. degree from the College of Agriculture in 1924. While in college he was especially interested in livestock, but he also found time for

active participation in a variety of college student activities.

After graduation, Mr. Sandhoff taught agriculture at New Prague for three years. He then accepted a position as agriculture teacher and community leader at Gilbert, Minnesota, where he remained one year. The yen for the southern Minnesota farms called him to Lake Crystal where he served as teacher of agriculture for six years. During the past two years he has been employed as agriculture teacher at Elk River.

In his work as a teacher, Mr. Sandhoff has developed a well-balanced program for farm boys and farmers. His work in part-time schools, evening schools, farm practice and 4-H Clubs has been a distinct contribution to the program of agricultural education for rural youth.

During these busy years he found time to devote to his studies in the graduate school at the University of Minnesota. His research problem—"The Development of a Course of Study in Poultry for Vocational Agriculture Students in the Elk River High School" is a valuable contribution to the improvement of the program for teaching agriculture.

The VISITOR is happy to extend congratulations to Mr. Wiegand and to Mr. Sandhoff. May each find abundant satisfaction as a reward for his achievement. Their graduate study has not only improved their own work as teachers, but it has also had a wholesome influence upon the agricultural education program for the entire state.

### Felix Nylund Promoted

Mr. Felix Nylund, who has served as evening school specialist in crop production for the St. Louis County schools since 1932, has been promoted to the position of county supervisor. He takes over the activity formerly carried on by Leo Knuti, who has been appointed state supervisor for agricultural education in the State Department of Education.

Mr. Nylund graduated from the College of Agriculture, University of Minnesota, in 1930. Since graduation from the University, Mr. Nylund has continued his studies in the graduate school with the view of qualifying for the degree of master of science.

Following his graduation he carried on a very successful program for rural youth, as teacher of agriculture at Hinckley. He later served as teacher of agriculture and community leader at Cherry, St. Louis County. It was from this position that

he was called to develop the evening school instruction program in St. Louis County. By personality, training, experience and nationality, Mr. Nylund is admirably fitted for his new work as county supervisor. The VISITOR joins with his many friends in predicting for him an interesting and successful service in his new leadership role.

### Chart Filing System

Charts, maps and pictures are used extensively by teachers of agriculture. How to file them so that they are readily available for teaching purposes is a serious problem for every teacher. And that made an inventor of Errol Anderson, teacher of agriculture at Hector, Minnesota.

Mr. Anderson had the chart storing box described by Dr. F. W. Lathrop in the March 1925 issue of the VISITOR. But he felt the need of some convenient way of hanging the charts and pictures so that they could be readily removed and hung up for class use. Necessity was the inspiration for the invention of the Anderson Metal Chart hook. The rest of this story is quoted from a letter received by the VISITOR from Mr. Anderson.

"The charts are hung in the cabinet by means of an ingenious metal hook fastened directly and securely on to the chart. These hooks are made of a light weight sheet metal with a split base and are attached in the following manner:

1. Locate the center of top edge of chart.
2. Insert the chart in the split base of the hook with center of hook in center of chart.
3. Squeeze the two sides of the hook base together as tightly as possible, forcing the points thru the chart and thru corresponding holes on the back and clinch tightly.

The chart is now ready for use or to be hung in the cabinet.

The cabinet that has been used by the writer is one that can be constructed in any school shop using plywood panels and 1"x2" pine for the framing.

The size of the cabinet will of course depend upon the size and number of

charts to be filed. The following size will hold 75 to 80 charts of the largest size that one is likely to use. Height 3' 6". Depth from front to rear—2' 6", Width 2'.

The front side can be either left open or closed with a door. If a door is used two doors hinged at the side and meeting in the center are advised.

The top consists of two parts, the back half is fastened to the top of the cabinet, the front half being hinged onto the back half. This provides space for an index and allows the entire front and half of the top of the charts to be exposed. The rod upon which the charts are hung runs thru the cabinet from left to right about 1½ to 2" from the top of the cabinet.

The filing system has been used by other members of the faculty and found to be very satisfactory. If any further

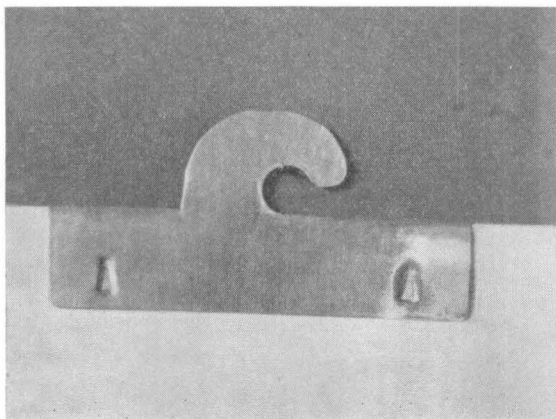


Chart Hook Designed by Errol Anderson

information is desired I shall be glad to furnish all particulars. If these hooks are demanded in large enough quantities to merit large scale production they will be made available to other teachers at a relatively small cost."

### Student's Agriculture Library

During the current school year students in the agriculture department at Owatonna have devoted considerable time to the discussion of problems concerning standards for farm practice. One of the outcomes from the discussion was a decision to make the building of an agricultural library one of the farm practice activities for each student. A descriptive plan of the activity is told by one of the

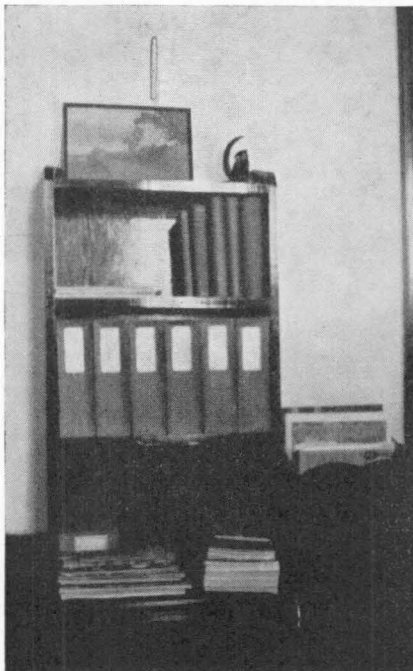
students, Adolph Borchert, in the following story:

"Last year was my first as a student in the Owatonna Agriculture Department. I found in carrying on farm practice activities, that there were many problems which required considerable study. During the school year I had access to the library of the agriculture department. In the summer, however, I did not have this opportunity, because my home is nearly ten miles from town.

This year, in our class discussions of farm practice, we set up a list of activities, one being an agricultural library. We decided that to come up to the standard of a major improvement enterprise, the home library should include the following material as a minimum:

- 150 agricultural bulletins
- 50 commercial bulletins
- 3 agricultural books
- 2 complete yearly files of farm magazines
- 1 agricultural scrapbook
- 1 bookcase

I have my library nicely started for this year with several books, magazines and some 300 bulletins which I have obtained from the State College of Agri-



Book Case and Special Home Library Owned by Adolph Borchert, Owatonna, Minnesota

culture and from the United States Department of Agriculture. I have also made a bookcase and files for my bulletins.

The bulletin files are made of heavy cardboard cut from one piece, then folded and pasted together. Binding tape is used around the edge to make it more firm and durable.

Even with the short time I have had my library, it has proved a great convenience and has created a good deal of interest on the part of the other members of the family. It gives me information on most farm questions, and I enjoyed making it. It can be put to practical use by any farm boy."

### The University Press

On April 11th, the University of Minnesota Press celebrated its tenth anniversary as a publishing concern. Among the outstanding publications of interest to teachers of agriculture, the following are worthy of special mention: A PROGRAM FOR LAND USE IN NORTHERN MINNESOTA by Oscar B. Jesness and Reynold I. Nowell, A SYSTEMATIC SOURCE BOOK IN RURAL SOCIOLOGY by Pitirim A. Sorokin and others, and THE AMERICAN FARMER AND THE EXPORT MARKET by Dowell and Jesness. Theodore C. Blegen's book MINNESOTA: ITS HISTORY AND ITS PEOPLE contains chapters on "The Pioneer Development of Agriculture," "The Farmer's Alliance" and "Rural Life."

### Future Farmers in Action

The state convention of the Minnesota Association of the Future Farmers of America, which is scheduled for May 20, 21 and 22, offers an opportunity for the professional improvement of our teachers of agriculture as well as a stimulus and practical training for the future farmers themselves. No instructor should pass up the opportunity of participating in this program, and by his participation make a great contribution to the program of agricultural education in the state.

As state supervisor of Agricultural Education, I would like to assure the teachers of my interest in the F. F. A. It would be encouraging to see every one of our 114 vocational agriculture departments represented by a group of three to five boys participating in the judging and public speaking contests and with paid up delegates at the state convention of Future Farmers. —Leo L. Knuti.