

MICHIGAN FFA

*A Legacy of
Great Lakes Leadership*

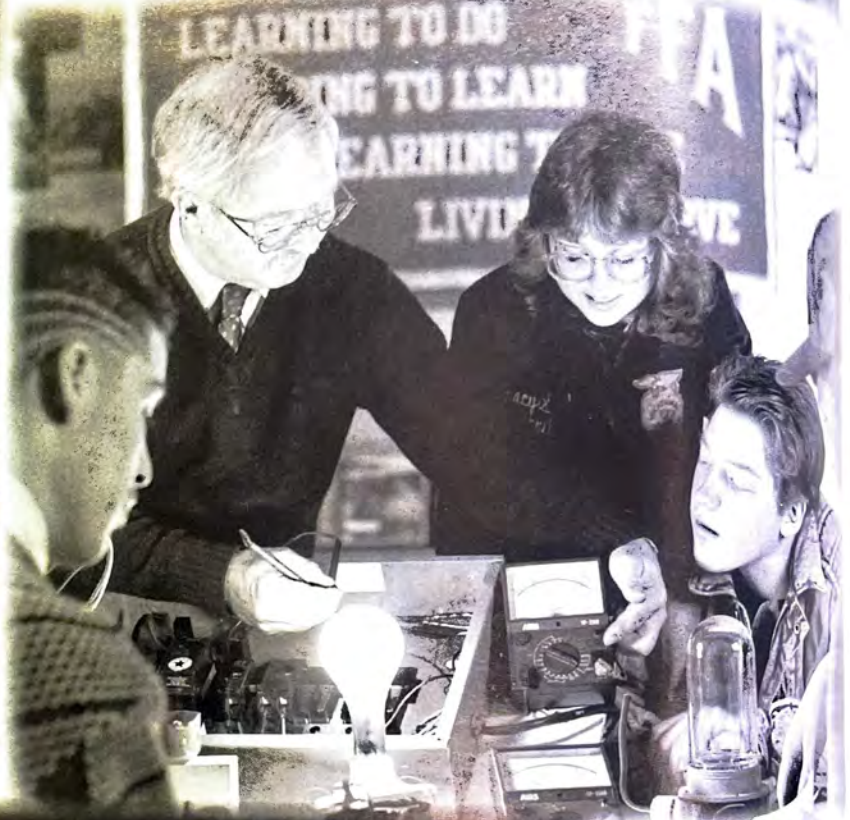
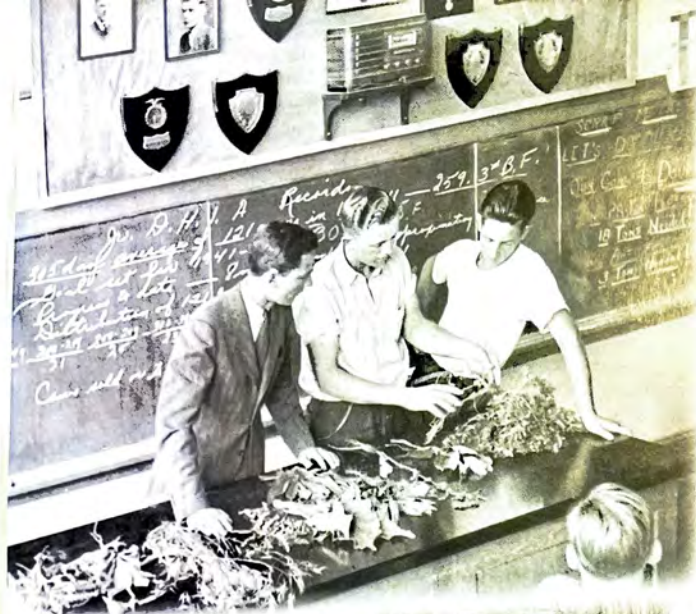
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DEDICATION

This volume of history is dedicated to a group of men and women who, throughout our long and distinguished existence, have kept the wheels of the Michigan FFA Association turning. Some of their names might be lost to history, but the indelible mark that they have left cannot be ignored. This book is dedicated to the FFA advisors of the past, present and those who have yet to serve.

"I am a teacher of vocational agriculture by choice and not by chance...I believe in rural America; I dedicate my life to its development and the advancement of its people... I will strive to set before my students by my deeds and actions the highest standards of citizenship for the community, state and nation... I will work for the advancement of vocational agriculture and I will defend it in my community, state and nation... My love for farm youth will spur me on to impart something from my life that will help make for each of my students a full and happy future."

- Vocational Agriculture Teacher's Creed, 1953



HAIL THE F.F.A.

Revised Words by
W. A. ROSS (*)

PIANO ARRANGEMENT

Music by
RALPH SARGENT

With spirit ♩ = 112

mf

Sing!— Oh sing a song of ac - tion!
Sing!— Oh sing a song of ser - vice!
Sing!— Oh sing a song of prog - ress!

Sing the song of F. F. A.
Sing the song of F. F. A.
Sing the song of F. F. A.

f

Hail!— Oh hail the Fu - ture Far - mers,
Hail!— Oh hail the Fu - ture Far - mers,
Hail!— Oh hail the Fu - ture Far - mers,

Learn ers of the bet - ter
Lead - ers trained to point the
Build - ers of a bet - ter

FOREWORD



My involvement with the Michigan FFA spans more than 50 years. That lengthy tenure started in Caledonia where I was a local FFA member and continued in Caro as a teacher of agriculture education and FFA Advisor. My state level participation started in 1966 as a staff member in the Michigan Department of Education and then becoming State FFA Advisor in 1972 – a position I held until retiring in 1997. Throughout this entire time, the FFA organization has had a significant impact on my life both personally and professionally. My agriculture education teacher and FFA advisor, Gerald Adler, played a significant role in my life by influencing me to go to college and become a teacher. I'm positive that there are countless past FFA members that could make the same statement. So it is easy to see why this organization has such a rich history of success.

Fifty years of involvement has given me the opportunity to see this organization evolve and change. An organization for farm boys has expanded to include girls and agribusiness, horticulture and many other agricultural careers. Proficiency award areas increased from six to over forty. One of the states top awards area has expanded from star farmer to stars in placement, agribusiness and Agriscience. In addition Ag Skills contest areas have more than doubled and a similar expansion has occurred in the leadership contest areas. It's hard to imagine what the future will look like in these areas.

As I reflect back on my experiences with this organization I can think of so many individuals who have gone on to successful careers and who have given credit for much of this success to the FFA organization. With the financial support that has been established through the FFA Foundation, both at the state and national levels, this organization has a bright future. This book is a wonderful history of the past. It exhibits the solid foundation that has been laid for the future growth of the organization and for opportunities for students in Agriscience Education and the FFA.

State Advisor
1972-1997



1. BEFORE THE REST

1800-1928

What we know and hold today as the FFA might never have existed had it not been for a precocious Catholic priest known as the “second founder” of Detroit.

Father Gabriel Richard was born into a privileged and cultured family in eighteenth century France. The son of a clerk, he taught mathematics before being ordained into the priesthood and setting sail for the United States in 1792, escaping the chaos of the French Revolution. Here, in his new home, the priest described as tall, lanky and bony, would make differences in so many avenues of life.

Father Richard, himself a learned man, insisted on bringing culture to Detroit (then little more than a trading and fur trapping town of about 1,200 people) and the surrounding area. One of his earliest missions was to bring schools to the town and the “three Rs” to his congregation. Outside of reading, writing and arithmetic, it was Father Richard who saw the potential for more. He was one of the first to go on record as saying that agricultural instruction should be commonplace in schools across the country.

The good Father would go on to accomplish much more. He published Detroit’s first newspaper by bringing the first printing press west of the Alleghenies, co-founded the prototype of the University of Michigan and the Michigan Historical Society, opened the first library in Detroit and became the first priest to serve in the halls of the U.S. Congress. Dying in 1832, he is honored with a grandiose statue that reigns over Belle Isle in Detroit, just a short distance from where the members of the Golightly FFA Chapter study the topics that he thought to be essential in a well-rounded education.

Regular students of his time, however, would not have the opportunity to be schooled in agriculture education for years to come.

But what would the students learn about Michigan agriculture? The earliest inhabitants of the Great Lakes state,



Statue of Father Richard on Belle Isle, in Detroit

the American Indians, produced modest amounts of corn, squash, pumpkins and peas and by the time the Europeans arrived (namely the French), they had made little impact on the land. The French would, for the most part, ignore the potential held by the land and turn their attention to the fur pelts and forests of Michigan. Even after the era ended, the inhabitants of the state failed to understand what they could have. The 1816 Tiffany Survey, the first major review of the lower peninsula that set boundaries for many of the early counties, described Michigan as "a land of unhealthy swamps and a sandy waste that was wholly unsuitable for agriculture."

Eventually, however, the possibilities were understood.

Immigrants were coming to the new American nation. Michigan in particular was becoming an agricultural haven for these hardworking new citizens. The bottom third of the state was the first to be settled, wheat and wool becoming the chief products of the area. The Upper Peninsula, with its often harsh northern climate was home to hay and potato crops. Farming was the leading industry of the land.

By the middle of the nineteenth century, many thought that Michigan needed a public institution dedicated to the ideal of agricultural education. The Michigan Farmer magazine and the Michigan State Agricultural Society (MSAS) led the fight. When the state constitution was rewritten in 1850, a section was added that called for the establishment of such an institute of agriculture or a department of agriculture in an already existing school. It was the word "or" that caused some debate.

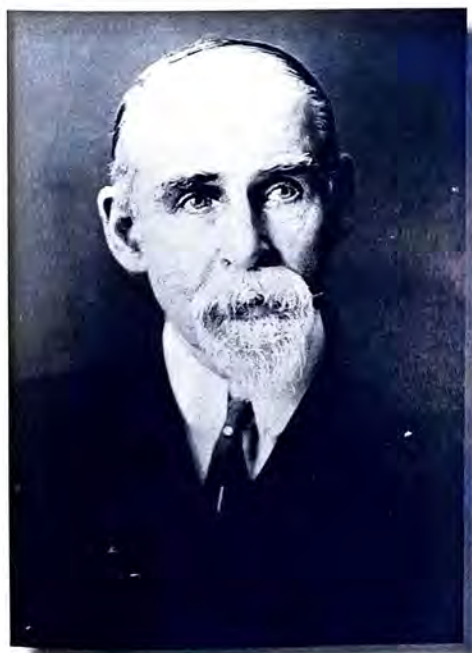
John C. Holmes, a noted horticulturalist of his time and the secretary of the MSAS, wanted a new, separate institute where young men from all over the state and the Midwest could come and study the finite details of America's largest and most important industry. He wanted an agricultural college. Opposing him was the President of the University of Michigan, one Henry P. Tappan. Tappan wanted to create an agriculture department within his thirty-eight year old college, claiming that it would save the state money. It was a harsh fight, but in the end, on February 12, 1855, Governor Kingsley S. Bingham signed into law the creation of the Agricultural College of Michigan (the name would be shortened to the State Agricultural College in 1861 and then finally Michigan Agricultural College or MAC in 1909).

The Michigan government gave the new college 677 acres in the Lansing-area and a first year budget of \$40,000. Seven years later in 1862, the federal government enacted the Morrill Land Act that allowed for federal funds to be used for land grant schools,



The three men who had a hand in the establishment of what would become Michigan State University. Top: John C. Holmes and Henry P. Tappan; bottom: Governor Kingsey S. Bingham.

MAC being the first in the entire nation. Land grant institutions were unique in that students would be drawn to them for an education in the practical agricultural sciences but many would find new and interesting learning opportunities and change career



Delos Fall

path is entirely. Michigan had its college of agriculture; high schools across the state would surely follow.

In 1901, a Public Act of Michigan first provided for a study "in the elements of agriculture," but things didn't really take off until three years later when Delos Fall, then Michigan's Superintendent of Public Instruction, asked the question, "Why not develop agricultural skill, ingenuity and intelligence in public schools?" By 1906, there would be 300 schools teaching agriculture and by 1909, that number would more than triple. North Adams would become the first school to offer a full course in agriculture that was prepared by Michigan Agricultural College. This all happened nearly a decade before the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917.

On June 15, 1915, a man by the name of Branson Alva Walpole (he was most commonly referred to as B.A.) was hired by Ypsilanti Central High School to teach biology and agriculture. He would be paid \$1,000 a year to educate young minds, but he would do much more than that.

Walpole hailed from Morgan County, Ohio where he spent much of his childhood in bed, suffering from typhoid fever. He developed a love of agriculture and horticulture, hoping that he would one day have his own farm (his father worked at a brick factory). After attending Ohio University, he was called to Ypsilanti to begin his work as a teacher.

Almost immediately, Walpole noticed an inequality in his school. Ypsi Central had two fraternities, the Estrabrooks and Gamma Betas. These groups were so exclusive that it was impossible for any farm boy to get in – only the sons of wealthy men could be found on the membership rosters. The fraternities disliked the local farm boys so much that they went so far as to prevent them from using a public pool in the community.

Walpole knew that something had to be done. He decided to take steps to form his own group within the school which would foster camaraderie between his young agricultural students and help them reach their potential. Immediately, the Estrabrooks and Gamma Betas opposed the group and worked to disband it. Walpole, however,



Left: B.A. Walpole, the Father of the Michigan Future Farmers who paved the way for the National FFA.

Bottom left: An early Farm Boys Camp, organized in 1921 by Walpole.

Bottom right: The 1920 Stock Judging Team of Ypsilanti Central High School. Walpole is in the back row, right. Students are, from left to right, Ivan Galpin, Lloyd Lyke and George Campbell.



was prepared and spoke with a state attorney who advised him how to organize legally. According to state law, no one could be refused. It is for this reason that girls were allowed to join the first known high school organization for agricultural students in the nation.

The group set out to find an identity, a name being the first order of business. Walpole wrote many years later of the process: "Every member put a name on a slip of paper...I put all the names on the blackboard and then the members voted on the one they desired. Among the names we had: Young Farmers, Future Farmers, Agricolae Club...and to my surprise, all the votes were for Agricolae." The new name meant "farmer" in Latin and was a direct slam at the fraternities that had tried so hard to keep them down. The Agricolae Club chose for their motto, "Learn to Do by Doing" and purple and gold as their colors. They adopted a constitution and an emblem – with a cross section of corn. B.A. Walpole, the man from Morgan County, Ohio, is indeed the Father of the Michigan FFA.

This all happened in 1915, thirteen years before the formation of the Future Farmers of America and eleven years before Henry Groseclose, a man considered the Father of the FFA, founded the Future Farmers of Virginia. In nearly every published history, Groseclose is treated as the founder and Walpole almost never even mentioned. B.A. wrote about this a year before his death in 1951. He said, "Immediately [after Groseclose was named the first Executive Secretary of the National FFA in 1928], he tried to claim the organization was founded in his school. But I soon proved to the National Vocational Office that Michigan had a state organization long before he started to teach in Virginia and that Ypsilanti had been organized even before that. The only thing Virginia could claim was the "Future Farmer" name... [and] even one of our members had suggested "Future Farmer." Hopefully one day, Walpole will receive the credit and respect that he has so obviously earned.

Outside of the Agricolae Club, it's quite possible that other clubs popped up around the state, but records were not kept so we may never know. What we do know is

that in 1917, the same year of the national Smith-Hughes Act, the Michigan High School Agricultural Association (MHSAA) was formed – nine years before the creation of the Future Farmers of Virginia. The MHSAA's motto was "I learn to do by doing." At its peak, there were 59 schools that had membership in the state organization.

The MHSAA began the tradition of the yearly judging contests to be held at Michigan Agricultural College; the first such event being held in 1920. They called it Junior Farmer's Week and it is continued today as the Ag Spring Skills Contests. The winners of these state judging contests would then move onto a regional competition between several states (Michigan most often would compete in Iowa). After competing and winning at the regional level, students would move onto the big time – Kansas City, Missouri.

In Kansas City, the Michigan delegation would have experienced a dizzying array of sights, sounds and smells that they had never found back home. They met other farm boys from Nebraska, Kentucky, New York and everywhere in between. They would have tasted the legendary Kansas City barbeque and smelled the aroma coming from the street vendors. For these farm boys, it was a whole new world.

When the American farm boys met in November 1926, there were 1,544 of them from 22 states. It was in this year that they took a step toward organizing a national group, forming the National Congress of Vocational Agricultural Students. This early coalition probably had very little actual power and was most likely a forum which allowed the sharing of ideas and friendships beyond state borders.

What happened two years later is known by most all that have proudly worn the blue corduroy. At the Baltimore Hotel in the heart of Kansas City, 33 young men with a passion for agriculture assembled to form the Future Farmers of America – a group that, over the years, would include future governors, legislators, judges and a U.S. President, future businessmen and women, future teachers and service people, future generations of American success. There were no limits in sight.

In the Beginning...

By: O. Donald Meaders
MSU Professor Emeritus

The governing board of the State Agricultural College in 1908, at the recommendation of President Jonathan L. Snyder, established the position of Professor of Agricultural Education and hired Dr. Walter F. French to start on July 1st, 1908. The story begins earlier but that date is recognized as the beginning of the professional agricultural teacher education program at Michigan State University. What were the circumstances which probably were most influential in the decision-making process for President Snyder to make that recommendation; and what did President Snyder establish as the nature of the position for this newly hired professor? And how should we celebrate the anniversary of the 100th year for agricultural teacher education at MSU?

For several years before 1908 many of the agricultural faculty had been asked by teachers in the many rural schools for advice about plants and equipment for the school grounds, recommendations for using school gardens to provide the basis for teaching practical science, and other questions about such topics as insects, crop diseases, farm animals and sources of information in the agricultural and natural science fields. The annual reports from the agricultural faculty regularly included information about the kinds of volunteer services which were provided by faculty members, often times through trips to the schools, or by meeting with individual teachers who came to the campus.

President Snyder was well acquainted with Walter French. In 1897, when French was the Commissioner of Education in Hillsdale County and chairman of the County Education Commissioners group at the annual meeting of the Michigan Education Association, Snyder also attended that meeting. He heard French report that during the past two years there had been a great improvement in the appearance of the school grounds in Hillsdale County. French indicated "Officers, teachers, and pupils have removed rubbish, set out trees, planted and trained flowers, this making the 'school home' attractive."

At that meeting in 1897 President Snyder expressed concern for having the four-year colleges and universities offer programs to prepare teachers. In a formal statement, Snyder was an advocate for making a four-year college course, or its equivalent, the standard for entrance into teaching, as in other professions.

However, there were many, many rural schools with students in grades 1-8, which was the basis for ongoing requests

from teachers and administrators. In the annual report by the Department of Public Instruction (now called the Department of Education) for 1897 there were 7,151 school districts with 491,812 pupils in both graded and ungraded schools

By 1900 there was much interest in having nature study in the curricula of the public schools and the many teachers' institutes were introducing such instruction for teachers in their training. There was considerable interest by leaders in the agricultural communities and organizations in having agriculture taught in the schools. That interest resulted in an Act by the Michigan Legislature in 1901, Public Act No. 144, "to provide for the establishment and maintenance of rural high schools." One of the requirements was that the course of study in such schools should be approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the president of the Michigan Agricultural College.

The Legislature passed several acts in subsequent years, attempting to fine tune the requirements for the agricultural schools. Among other details such as requiring at least 10 acres of land for practice and demonstrations, instruction in soils, plants and animals, farm accounts, the Act specified that "no person shall be eligible to a position as superintendent of any schools established under this act, who is not a graduate of a state college of agriculture." That action was taken about one year before the position of Professor of Agricultural Education was established by the Michigan Agriculture College (MAC).

But President Snyder was more concerned with getting agriculture taught in the regular high schools, and getting teacher training in agriculture at the college to provide future teachers in primary schools with the appropriate knowledge and skills, rather than through the many county institutes, attached to high schools.

Perhaps the work of Walter French in the Michigan Department of Public Instruction was the major factor in President Snyder's decision to move ahead with the establishment of the agricultural teacher education program at MAC. French was appointed in the fall of 1900 as Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction and began his duties in January 1901. By today's definitions, French would have been described as an activist for promotion of public education, a supporter of policies for professionally qualified teachers, and state services to support the work of the teachers.

There were other influences at work at the turn of the century. After the successes of the Morrill Act and the establishment of agricultural and mechanical colleges in many states, there were many demands for practical education for the children in primary and secondary schools. In 1907 the Federal government had adopted the Nelson Amendment to the Agricultural Appropriations Act which provided that agricultural colleges could use some of the money "for providing courses for the special preparation of instructors for teaching the elements of agriculture and the mechanic arts."

In the summer of 1907 President Snyder attended the annual meeting of the National Education Association (NEA) in Los Angeles. He heard reports on programs for preparing teachers of agriculture in many states at many agricultural colleges. In addition, he heard a report that in Michigan the Teachers Institute at Ypsilanti [now Eastern Michigan University] had proposed starting a program to provide agricultural instruction in the pre-service program for rural teachers.

The 1907 report by the Superintendent of Public Instruction contained a list of publications which the department had been prepared and distributed to "teachers and patrons." Three of the 12 publications focused on county schools of agriculture and agricultural instruction, all of which French had responsibilities for directing.

When President Snyder made his recommendation to hire a professor of agricultural education, he preceded the recommendation with remarks about the necessity of colleges of agriculture to begin the work of extending the teaching of agriculture in the public schools, in both the elementary and secondary schools. He mentioned that when he attended the NEA meetings in the summer of 1907 one of the papers read mentioned the work in thirty-three states and that Michigan was not one of them "although we claim to be one of the leaders in Agricultural Education."



Left: Walter French, as memorialized on the MSU Campus in Erickson Hall

President Snyder's description of the qualifications for the person to be hired was an indication of the seriousness of the recommendation.

"It is not a position for a young man nor a cheap man. The one who undertakes this work should know the state thoroughly and particularly the public school system and the school men of the state. He must be thoroughly in sympathy with this type of education and the peculiar needs and conditions of country life. To organize all these forces will call for a high degree of administrative ability. He must be forceful, tactful and able to endure pain."

The Board adopted the motion to hire Walter H. French to begin July 1st, 1908, in accordance with the recommendations of President Snyder.

As we approach the 100 year mark in the work at Michigan State University for preparing teachers of agriculture, one of the questions to be raised is: how should that anniversary be recognized and celebrated? What should the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources do to acknowledge both the past and the future for an educational program that serves the interests of the people of Michigan in food production, conservation, a quality environment and development of civic-minded citizens? And what should the organization for professional agricultural educators do to pay tribute to those leaders in the past who were pioneers in starting new programs and in adapting programs as the many changes came to both agriculture and society? Many changes have occurred over the years since 1908. The rate of change seems to have accelerated. Perhaps none of those changes has been more significant than those changes in technology which have facilitated communication and internationalization of production and marketing.

Now in the 21st Century there are different issues, issues which involve quality of food, environment, natural resources and others, all of which are concerns which the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources is addressing. There are concerns about public education which encompass all grade levels, the curricula, the qualifications of teachers, youth organizations, and adult education. Science education is one of the curricular areas which provides special challenges for the future of agricultural education for teachers.

Let us use the immediate future to plan for the long range future. Let us look back but put a focus on the future. Societal concerns must be identified, different groups within society must be involved, and appropriate roles identified for the best use of resources from within the University as well as through cooperation with outside stakeholders.



2. 29TH IN '29

1929-1939

Word was spreading throughout the country that the Future Farmers of America had been formed to offer young farm boys an opportunity not only to expand and share their knowledge of American agriculture but also to be shaped into young leaders. By the end of 1928, seven states had become chartered associations.

Michigan students had been at that first meeting of the Future Farmers of America in Kansas City and the movement would surely carry onto the Great Lakes state, but the time had to be right to broach the topic with the entire state. Therefore, it was decided that the ideal moment to call together farm boys for a special meeting would be at the annual Junior Farmer's Week held annually during each spring at Michigan State College in East Lansing. Here, agricultural high school students competed in many agricultural judging competitions.

A call went out for each chapter of the Michigan High School Agricultural Association to send two representatives to the special meeting. Of the 59 chapters, 31 responded, sending a total of 117 delegates. Early on the morning of May 2nd, 1929, these delegates came from rural communities all over the Michigan countryside and congregated in Agriculture Hall at MSC.

As the delegates took to their seats and the chatting minimized, a short, middle-aged figure took to the podium. The man who would be the temporary chair of this meeting was Edward E. Gallup (he was called E.E. by all those who knew him and would eventually earn the affectionate title of "Dad" by the members that were inspired by him). Gallup had been serving as the State Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture since 1918 in the Michigan Department of Education and prior to that held the title of superintendent in several Michigan school districts.

The chairman introduced the temporary secretary who would take minutes of this noteworthy meeting, Mr. B.A. Walpole, who had since left Ypsilanti High School to teach at Michigan State College.

Gallup went on to explain to the delegates why they had assembled. He told them about the gathering last fall in

DAY, MAY 4, 1930

Youths Attending Junior Farmers Week Form State Chapter of Future Farmers of America



When more than 2,000 students in Smith-Hughes agricultural high schools of the state gathered at Michigan State college Thursday and Friday during Junior Farmer's Week, they voted to join the Future Farmers of America and organize the Michigan chapter. Officers were elected and are pictured above. Reading from left, they are: Front row—Charles Gill,

Ypsilanti, executive committee; Lewis Taylor, Caro, secretary; Keith Tanner, Charlotte, president; Frank Swagart, St. Johns, vice president; back row—Harry Gibson, Fowlerville, treasurer; Berwyn Pemberton, Imlay City, executive committee; Edward Strenzel, representative; E. E. Gallup, state superintendent of agricultural education, adviser.

Kansas City and the mission and goals of the new organization. He answered a few questions posed by the delegates and told the assembly, "It is entirely in the hands of the delegates whether or not Michigan joins the national movement."

After a few seconds of silence and the delegates probably thinking to themselves about what would happen next,

of Caro, Treasurer Henry Gibson of Fowlerville and Reporter Edward Strenzel of Reed City. Later on that same day, three additional members were added to the officer team and given the simple title of "Executive Committee Members," (this office title would remain on the state officer team until 1946). These members were: Glen W. Munsell of Fowlerville, T. Berwyn Pemberton of Imlay City and Charles Gill of Ypsilanti.



Agriculture Hall on the campus of Michigan State College in East Lansing

Allen Cox, a future teacher of vocational agriculture, rose to his feet and moved "that the agricultural associations of Michigan become federated as the Michigan Association of Future Farmers of America." D. Woodruff of Jackson seconded the motion and Gallup asked for a vote.

The answer was a resounding, unanimous yes. The Michigan High School Agricultural Association was now gone and replaced with the Michigan Association of Future Farmers of America.

The delegates moved on to electing officers for the new association. Keith Tanner of Charlotte was elected the first president and took the podium. The other members of that first officer team were: Vice President Frank A. Swagart of St. Johns, Secretary Charles L. Taylor

There's an interesting side note that can be included here. The first treasurer of the Michigan FFA, Henry Gibson of Fowlerville, would actually serve more terms as a state officer than any other person in Michigan FFA history. He was reelected to be the 1930-1931 State Secretary and finally as the 1931-1932 State President. Also, until 1945, the President of the Michigan Future Farmers was always a member of the previous year's officer team.

The business of the first state convention continued. E.E. Gallup was elected to be the first State Advisor (yes, elected). State dues were set at 25 cents and when the floor began to discuss where the \$5 fee necessary to become a chartered association of the Future Farmers of America would come from, the new State Advisor stepped forward and offered to pay the astronomical sum from out of his own pocket. Members rose to their feet and applauded this profound act of kindness.

As the meeting was adjourned and the premier members of this new association left for home, the new officers of the Michigan Future Farmers stayed behind to fill out the charter application. The charter would be granted on September 30, 1929 and the power was then there to grant charters to Michigan chapters.

There were 42 chapters to initially apply, Ypsilanti being the first. This first batch of Michigan charters were granted on December 31, 1929. Of these 42 pioneers, 16 remain active in today's association: Charlotte (#2), Lowell (#7), Dowagiac (#11), Fremont (#13), Mason (#14), Milan (#16), Centreville (#22), Dansville (#24), Breckenridge (#29), Grant (#37) and Alma (#40).

And then the work began. The work began to shape an association and set precedents that would be followed for decades to come. At the helm of the ship was E.E. "Dad" Gallup. A married man with no children of his own, he became a true counselor to the young men that he would work with over the next ten years. Unlike today where it is the state officers that travel to speak at banquets and Greenhand Initiations, it was Gallup himself that was requested to give stirring

orations on the Future Farmers movement and the future of agriculture as he saw it. His knowledge and experience were so well respected that in 1931 he was named to the very first National Advisory Council.

At the 1930 State FFA Convention, the first class of State Farmers were named (known today as State Degrees), 21 receiving the honor. Also handed out that year were the first recipients of the Honorary State Farmer Degree: E.E. Gallup, B.A. Walpole and the advisors of the Owosso and Mason chapters.

The first state newsletter, entitled *The Michigan Future Farmer*, began that year. Written primarily by Gallup and the state reporter, the newsletter shared stories of chapter's development and information to advisors and members on the events of the new association. The newsletter would run in some form or another until the late 1960s when budget difficulties ceased production.



*Above: Lloyd Ruesink,
First State Star Farmer
Right: Darwin Clupper,
First State Winner in
Prepared Public Speaking*



Members at the National Convention that year approved an official dress to be used by all members: blue shirt, trousers and a tie. The blue corduroy jacket would not be adopted for three more years and even when it was adopted, it didn't come into full use immediately. The Great Depression was

still in full swing and the jackets were considered a luxury that many, including some state officers, couldn't afford.

Money or the lack thereof, was such an issue for these new fledgling chapters that many held fundraisers in order to raise funds to send members to the state conventions. Some chapters put on plays written by the members to raise the funds.

To help save money, many chapters, while having their annual banquets, would partner up with their school's home economic classes and hold a joint banquet – the girls would prepare and serve the majority of the food while the boys would provide a main dish; sometimes a hog or chickens. This close relationship between the Future Farmer boys and the home ec girls (who would eventually form their own national organization dubbed the Future Homemakers of America or FHA) lead to more than a few budding relationships between the group's members – and teachers. It was headline news in the July 1933 Michigan Future Farmer when Fennville FFA Advisor Earl Bjornseth married the home economics teacher Miss Kathryn Grettenberger.

It was in these early years that Michigan was home to its first national officer. Elected as the 1933-1934 National FFA Secretary, Carl Shopbell of Dansville had a year of service that would be quite different than what national officers are used to in the 21st Century. He spent little time actually traveling the nation; at the height of the depression, spending most of his time in Michigan, communicating instead through mail. Shopbell would go on to become an instructor of vocational agriculture at the Reading FFA Chapter and then that school's longtime superintendent.

At the Third State FFA Convention, the first leadership contest was held: prepared public speaking, known as the State FFA Oratorical Contest at that time and sponsored by the Michigan State College Fraternity Alpha Zeta. The winner was Darwin Clupper from Berrien Springs. His topic has been lost to history, but this was the first inkling of the huge impact that leadership development would play on the Michigan FFA. History was also made that year when Darwin gave his state winning speech live on WKAR radio in East Lansing. This was the beginning of a long lasting relationship

between the radio station and the association.

Other highlights of those early conventions included a special award, the B.A. Walpole Award, which was given to the chapter that was deemed to be the best chapter in the entire state of Michigan. Also present was an official Michigan FFA Band. The first few bands were made of up entirely of members of the Centreville FFA Chapter which showed the initiative to give Michigan its own band. Once members of the state saw the incredible performances of the Centreville band, interest reached such a high that a state band was formed with representatives from all over the mitten. Nick Musselman, the band teacher at Okemos High School, home of a prospering FFA chapter, was hired as the director of the Michigan Future Farmer Band. A one week band camp was held in Cadillac, Michigan and the band was so renowned that it was asked to play all over the Midwest: a three-day participation in the National Cherry Festival Program in Traverse City, the World's Poultry Congress in Cleveland, Ohio and even on the Farmers' Day Radio Program on NBC. The Michigan Future Farmer Band would go on to be invited to many National Conventions to be an entertainment highlight.

To get to these early National Conventions, members of the Michigan FFA traveled together, in style. Starting in 1932, a train, dubbed the "Future Farmer Express," was chartered for all members of the state to take to



1936 Michigan Future Farmer Band

Michigan F. F. A. News Letter

Official Organ of
Michigan Association of
Future Farmers of America



The State Organization
of Students of Vocational
Agriculture

F. F. A. MOTTO

Learning to do
Doing to learn

Earning to live
Living to serve

Volume VII

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Number 6

MICHIGAN'S VOCATIONAL CONGRESS

Approximately 3,000 F. F. A.'s were guests of the Michigan State College May 6-7. Junior Farmers' Week attracted the F. F. A.'s from both peninsulas. The attendance exceeded all previous years by four hundred. Much credit is due President Shaw and Dean E. L. Anthony and the committee in charge of Junior Farmers' Week for the very efficient way in which this congress of vocational agricultural students was managed. The conduct of the boys was all that could be desired. Every activity moved like clockwork. The Michigan Junior Farmers' Week is now one of the largest gatherings of vocational agricultural students in America. The National Vocational Congress at Kansas City is the only convention of these vocational boys that exceeds the Michigan congress.

The Eighteenth Michigan Junior Farmers' Week was made up of many activities—the Ninth Annual State Convention of F. F. A., the Seventh F. F. A. Public Speaking Contest, the grain, potato, livestock, dairy, and poultry judging contests, and the entertainment of the boys by the college.

These activities determined who should represent Michigan in the corresponding national activities at Kansas City next October. The livestock, the meat, the dairy, and the milk judging teams were determined by the judging contests. The delegates who will represent the Michigan Association of F. F. A. at the Tenth National Convention of F. F. A. at Kansas City were elected by the Ninth Annual State Convention of F. F. A. The winner of the Seventh F. F. A. Public Speaking Contest will represent Michigan at the North Central Regional F. F. A. Public Speaking Contest at Ames, Iowa, June 25.

THE NINTH STATE CONVENTION OF MICHIGAN F. F. A.

110 chapters sent 220 delegates to the Ninth State Convention of F. F. A. 74 chapters were without representation. The delegates assembled promptly at 9:00 a. m. Thursday, May 6, in the ballroom of the M. S. C. Union Building. They settled down to business routine at once and reflected the training they had received in their local chapters. Knowledge of parliamentary law and procedure was evidenced by the delegates who led the convention activities. President Lohr's report of the Ninth National Convention of F. F. A. at Kansas City last October was interesting and instructive. The president of the Student Grange presented the Student Grange Plaque to Willis Griffin of Beaverton Chapter No. 77 as the outstanding member of the Michigan Association for 1937.

The following were elected as officers of the Michigan Association of F. F. A. for the ensuing year:

President, Norman Hull, Bangor Chapter No. 6

Vice President, Ulysses Tremblay, Flushing Chapter No. 113

Secretary, Willis Griffin, Beaverton Chapter No. 77

Treasurer, Orville Rasmussen, Big Rapids Chapter No. 65

Reporter, Cleo Buxton, Haslett Chapter No. 26

Members of Executive Committee—Robert E. Dennis, Adrian Chapter No. 12; Leon L. Childs, Unionville Chapter No. 99

Adviser, E. E. Gallup, Lansing

Delegates to National Convention—President Norman Hull, Bangor Chapter No. 6; Secretary Willis Griffin, Beaverton Chapter No. 77

The Executive Committee recommended the following forty applicants for the State Farmer Degree as eligible and worthy:

Robert Bower, Adrian Chapter No. 12

Robert E. Dennis, Adrian Chapter No. 12

(Concluded on page 2)

VOCATIONAL JUDGING CONTESTS

A total of 2,724 participated in the livestock, dairy, poultry, grain, and potato judging contests.

The Ionia team placed first in the livestock judging contest. D. Seller, M. Larson, and R. Wolverton are the boys who piled up the points for the Ionia victory. This team will represent Michigan at the National Livestock Judging Contest at Kansas City next October. The Lakeview team placed second with Arthur Fitzer, John Brockway, and Chester French as judges. Hanover with Glen Denning, Harold Petke, and Lynn Weston placed third.

The Ionia dairy judging team also placed first. M. Larson, W. Sprague, and H. Nash knew their dairy cattle. This team will represent Michigan at the National Dairy Judging Contest at Kansas City next October. For the second place Fairgrove and Olivet tied. Harold Metcalf, Arthur Feinauer, and Norval Enos upheld the honor of Fairgrove and Joe Walker, Donald Eppelheimer, and Harold Bradley did the same for Olivet. Williamston took third honor with Donald Dexter, Kenneth Pingle, and Samuel Shirley as judges.

Bangor carried off first honors in the poultry judging contest, through the good work of William Schemenauer, Loyd Schemenauer, and Tom Donovan. Owosso placed second with Wayne Freeman, Glen Menter, and Robert Hudson. Hanover placed third with Robert Wolfe, Glen Denning, and Robert Reinecke.

The grain judging contest was won by the Mason team consisting of Stanley Froedert, Eugene Hadwin, and Dale Gretton. Williamston with L. G. Rothney, Jarvis Smith, Russell Haar, and Homer Lott (Haar and Lott tied) placed second. Melvin Sisson, Knowlton Petark, and Russell Hehl knew their grains well enough to put Monroe into third place.

The potato judging contest was won by the Harrisville team made up of

(Concluded on page 4)

their ultimate destination of Kansas City. Members would make the trek to Lansing, the starting point of the long trip into the heartland. Stops along the way were planned: Shedd Aquarium, the Field Museum and the Board of Trading, all in Chicago. These annual events gave members the unprecedented opportunity to escape for a short time from the world they knew and see what else was out there. Chester Hansen of the Greenville FFA Chapter and a member of the 1932 Michigan Livestock Judging Team that competed at National Convention, said at the time of his trip, "The main value of the trip was that it was the first time I had ever been out of Michigan. On our trip, the things of value were the coal mines, something I had never seen before. In Illinois the large cornfield surprised me very much because I never dreamed of seeing so much corn in one field. Some of the cornfields I think were about a hundred acres... The trip to Kansas City gave me an inspiration to go on in life and try to accomplish some of the things these boys have..."

These trips and other FFA activities gave the members a much needed outlet from the world that they found themselves in. Times were hard wherever one looked and it took a long time for things to start looking brighter. The optimism in America came when Franklin Delano Roosevelt

was elected President of the United States in 1933. He offered a bright future that could be obtained through patience and hard work. His many social programs were organized under one title – the New Deal.

This New Deal inspired one former FFA member, Willis McCulloch of the Beaverton FFA Chapter, to write an editorial in his former chapter's newsletter entitled, *The Farm Boy Gets a New Deal*. He wrote:

The farm boys of America get a new deal in agricultural education through the organization of the Future Farmers of America. A few years ago the farm youth who wanted to study agriculture soon found there were very few places where it was taught. The high school didn't teach it nor did the teachers colleges. The only place where any agricultural training could be obtained was at the agricultural college and even there courses were very limited, the idea at that time being "any fool can farm."

Today it is different. The idea today is "it takes a smart fool to farm." This is the correct viewpoint for never before in the time of America did we need educated farmers more than at the present time. No longer are there vast areas of rich farmlands to be developed as there were in the past. We must use what we have. With the increasing population and immigration, we must do more than make two blades of grass grow where one grew before. We must make three blades grow on the same ground at less cost. Better quality at lower cost of production is the coming thing. A man that wants to be a successful farmer in the future must have an agricultural education. Today he can get that very thing and get it without much cost.

In the last ten years a great change has taken place in the schools of Michigan. Agricultural departments have been added and a qualified Smith-Hughes agricultural teacher placed in charge of the department. The students who are studying agriculture



The Caro FFA builds a brooder house in the late 1930s

in these schools have an organization which is known as Future Farmers of America. It is a national organization of farm boys who are studying agriculture in Smith-Hughes high school all over the United States. At the present time in Michigan alone there are over two hundred agricultural departments and 115 F.F.A. chapters with a total membership of more than two thousand. The course of study offered by these schools will give the student a fair working knowledge of the science of agriculture. The home project gives him a chance to put in actual practice what he has taught in the classroom.

It is my sincere hope that the time will soon come when every farm boy will have a chance to study agriculture under a Smith-Hughes teacher and belong to a chapter of Future Farmers of America. The Future Farmers of today are the farmers of tomorrow. In many cases they are the farmers of today. One trip to Washington or Kansas City is enough to convince anyone that a new deal has come to the farm boy. In the past, city youth organizations were the center of attraction. Today the farm youth movement is the center of attraction. The farm youth of today has an opportunity to go far and I hope that every one of them will take advantage of it.



As the 1930s came to an end, the world was still in the grasp of the depression and rumblings of war could be heard across the ocean, but the Michigan FFA was celebrating its tenth year of existence and state membership stood at 5,321. Times were good.

One major change near the end of the decade would affect the association for the next sixty years. The duties of the State Advisor were becoming overwhelming due to the fact that he was expected to handle the day-to-day business of the Michigan Future Farmers and as State Supervisor, he was put in charge of all vocational agriculture programs throughout the state. Even though the State Supervisor employed a small group of consultants (usually former vocational agriculture teachers), the job was becoming too much. Therefore, a new position was created: Executive Secretary. This new office would deal primarily with the business of the Michigan FFA: chapter rosters, officer training, circulating the state newsletter and much more.

The first person to serve in this capacity would be E.E. Gallup who stepped down as State FFA Advisor in 1937. The new State Advisor would be Harry E. Nesman (we'll learn more about Mr. Nesman in the coming pages). The Michigan Future Farmers was expanding and on the move.

We were, however, saying goodbye to an old friend, strong supporter and father figure. 'Dad' Gallup stepped down as Executive Secretary in 1939 to run for a state political office. At the 1939 Michigan FFA State Convention, many members of previous state officer teams were present to bid farewell. Gallup was presented with a gold watch, engraved with a message thanking him for his many years of service and his incredible contributions. With tears in his eyes, he thanked the members there and waved goodbye.

We were now standing at the dawn of a new, distinctly different era.

Meet Miss Bradley

By: Andrea Kerbuski
Past State Officer

While most women were content to remain in the relative comfort of their homes, one woman dared to step outside of the box to do something no woman had done before – become a teacher of vocational agriculture, and in doing so, an inspiration to countless others.

Hester Rosamund Bradley was born in 1900 in Kalamazoo County, Michigan, growing up on a small dairy farm with her two sisters, Evelyn and Hazel, and brother, Ferris. She milked jersey cows with her family to sell the bottled milk along with growing some crops on the family land. After World War II, Fort Custer bought their farm and today, it is a national cemetery.

**"SHE WAS A WOMAN IN A MAN'S
JOB, BUT NEVER LET ANYONE
FORGET SHE WAS A LADY."**

**-CHARLES PELHAM
FORMER BYRON SUPERINTENDENT**

As a teenager, Miss Bradley wanted to quit high school but her mother talked her out of it, telling her that if she finished high school, she could stay on the family farm and work – which is where she would rather be anyway. Needless to say, Miss Bradley graduated high school and as fate would have it, her mother also talked her into attending Michigan Agricultural College (MAC).

At MAC, Miss Bradley prospered. She was voted Most Popular Girl on the college campus and was friends with fellow classmate John Hannah, who would go on to be, arguably, the most celebrated President of Michigan State University.

In 1923, Miss Bradley graduated from MAC's school of agriculture. She would be the first of her siblings to graduate from that school – all of them receiving degrees in agriculture and her two sisters teaching as well.

With school completed, she now needed a way to support herself. "I always thought someday I would be a farmer's wife, so I specialized in poultry and beekeeping and took teaching because of its cultural value," Miss Bradley wrote in a letter to a relative. However, her future plans had changed. Somehow, she decided she wanted to become a teacher rather than a farmer's wife. Ironically, Miss Bradley never married nor had children of her own.

Miss Bradley took her first teaching job in Howell receiving \$1,400 a year. Before teaching agriculture she taught high school science including chemistry, physics and physical geography. She was content with her career and as time progressed, moved to Montrose, Crystal Falls and then Bath, Michigan where she would receive an opportunity of a lifetime.



Miss Hester teaches co-ag, but . . .

'Her Boys' Love It!

By Mel-Lou Foo

Michigan State College

● HOW MANY WOMEN can effectively teach principles of farming, win the respect of 250 Michigan men, and be a successful cupid, too? There's just one—Miss Hester Bradley, Richland, Mich.

Miss Bradley is the only "lady" vocational agricultural teacher in the state. A check of available national records indicates that she may be the only one in the United States.

At the annual conference of the vocational agricultural teachers held at Michigan State College, East Lansing, Hester stands out, but she never stands alone. She is surrounded by men—her fellow teachers who know her as a friend, as well as a highly-qualified, competent person in this "man's field of endeavor."

(The Lover Story)

interested in their class work but also in their personal problems as well.

One factor which makes Hester so popular, her colleagues say, is that her time and any of her possessions are always there for her youngsters. Students respect and love her. Her homeroom at noon time rivals the school cafeteria as youths take their lunches to her room so they can visit together.

Miss Bradley prepares her students to enter farming as an occupation by planning schoolwork to fit their specific needs. This includes both classroom and on-farm instruction.

Girls Get Help, Too

She says she is not only interested in training boys for farming but also in helping girls to get adequate training that will fit them for farm life.

Hester
Bradley



and her boys



HENRY HOFFA . . .
A Michigan State Farmer, 1954.

The year was 1942 and World War II was calling men from their teaching positions to fight for their country overseas: the Bath teacher of vocational agriculture included. Not only was she the first female vocational agriculture teacher in Michigan, but she was also the first female FFA advisor (and either the first or second in the nation to reach such an accomplishment).

She retained her title of teacher of agriculture when she moved back to her home district of Richland High School. Miss Bradley taught her students (mostly young men) skills that would be essential for their future in farming, including classroom and on-the-farm instruction.

Miss Bradley once said, "To have a hand in helping these young folks mold their lives is most satisfying. You can never tell how long your teachings will affect them, nor where your influence will end."

Outside of the classroom, the pioneer educator proved her ability to play cupid with her students. She always lent out her Studebaker to Jack Welborn to use to take his favorite girl, Dorothy Yeomans out on dates. Miss Bradley felt his old Model B Ford truck was unsuitable for such an occasion. Only a few years later, Jack Welborn married the same young lady and Miss Bradley was a proud guest at their wedding. That same student of hers, Jack Welborn would go on to become an official for the U.S. State Department, in charge of agricultural advice for 23 African nations, and a 1976-1977 president of the Michigan Agricultural Conference.

For 31 years, she selflessly dedicated her life to teaching the aspects of agriculture to students in the classroom and on the farm. She taught agriculture until 1957, when she relocated to the Napoleon School District to teach for eight additional years before retiring. However, she remained a member of the Michigan Association of Teachers of Vocational Agriculture. She never missed a meeting during her 35-year membership.

Not only did she have a passion for agriculture and helping her students learn the importance of it, but Miss Bradley opened her home to nine people that desperately needed her help. Whether it was students of hers or children of former students, she accepted them as family. Her generosity and kindness never stopped at the high school, but was carried into her everyday life outside of teaching.

"She always saw the best in people. She found worth in every person she came across and that is why she connected with so many people. She is a legend," remarked David Mitchell, a nephew of Miss Bradley and former teacher of vocational agriculture.

Her inspiration and love for both agriculture and the FFA can still be felt and her influence has not ended. Miss Bradley demonstrated how to teach with her heart and have genuine love for people. She has inspired current agricultural teachers and FFA advisors who will continue to inspire their own students. Miss Bradley's legacy will continually impact students.

Successful Farming

THE MAGAZINE OF FARM BUSINESS AND COUNTRY LIVING



Isabelle and Leonard Johnson
mother-son; poultry-improvement

1940-1959

As agricultural students and FFA members across Michigan reported back to school in 1940 after a summer spent planting, cutting hay and raising livestock for the county fair they were greeted with news that no one wanted to receive.

On August 1st at his home in Lansing, E.E. "Dad" Gallup passed away. And while he was no longer officially connected with the Michigan Future Farmers, he still held something of an "elder statesman" position in the hearts of members and advisors across the state, still receiving invitations to be a guest speaker.

Upon his death, a large portion of his estate was left to the then Michigan Association of Teachers of Vocational Agriculture (known by the acronym MATVA and the forerunner of today's Michigan Association of Agricultural Educators, or MAAE). That money is still making an impact today, buying classroom equipment and instructional materials to continually inspire young minds looking for a future in the large fields of agriculture and natural resources.

The two men to take helm of the Michigan Future Farmers were Harry E. Nesman, made State FFA Advisor in 1938 and Luke H. Kelly, made Executive Secretary in 1939.

Nesman came from the Nashville, Michigan area and had learned early the importance of agriculture. There is a story that as a very young boy in the early years of the new century, his father was ill and his older brothers were left with the task of caring for the family farm. One day, he followed his brothers out to the corn field to help pull weeds. Soon enough, one of his brothers brought Harry into his father, reporting that the boy was pulling out the corn along with the weeds. His father took young Harry out to the field and gave him a challenge: he would get his own row of corn to raise and would be responsible for all components of its care. This lesson and early love of agriculture would carry into his professional life as he became the teacher of vocational agriculture at Walled Lake High School. He would go on to become the school's principal and eventually the superintendent, leading the school



Members of the Michigan Future Farmers attend a leadership training camp at Pine Lake in 1940.

during the Great Depression and actually saving it from bankruptcy. He became a champion of agriculture as the State Advisor and as Richard Sandbrook, the 1947-1948 Region V State Vice President remembers, "He was a great leader and a strong supporter of the motto, 'If you don't stay in farming, get into something closely related to farming.'"

Nesman's partner in the workings of the association was Luke Kelly. A consultant of Vocational Agriculture for the state since 1928, he had seen the birth of the Michigan Future Farmers. In the past, he had served as teacher, principal and superintendent of numerous Michigan locations: Haslett, Okemos, Benzonia and Lupton to name some. He was a large, rotund man who came to be known for his love of the FFA and the young men that were in its ranks.

When writing of Luke Kelly, his daughter does him the best justice. Roberta Kelly First Delamarter (who actually married a state officer that served under Mr. Kelly) said, "Four ideals help to describe his life: curiosity, discovery, enthusiasm and hard work. Dad always saw the good in

everyone...Often farm boys felt as if they were looked down upon, but...I remember being told that it didn't matter what field I chose, even if it was to dig ditches for a living. Be the best ditch digger I could be, doing the best to my ability and I would be able to work up the ladder of life. I would always be able to be proud of myself."

These two men, Nesman and Kelly, would lead the Michigan Future Farmers through its formative teenage years and another world war.

Upon returning home from Sunday church services on December 7, 1941, FFA members and the world were informed that the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii had just been attacked by Japan. The world was at war.

Young men clamored to get to their local recruitment offices, signing up to fight foes thousands of miles and countless dangers away. When the count was made at the end of the war, it was found that 3,558 members and former members from Michigan had served during what would be called the second war to end all wars.



A member of the Springport FFA shows at a 1942 fair.



Vocational Agricultural Consultants in 1948: Harry Nesman, Raymond Clark, John Hall, Elmer Lightfoot and Luke Kelly.

The home front during those four years of utter destruction was devoted to doing everything possible to help the boys who had gone to war. Rationing of gasoline, rubber, meat and other foods was commonplace. Young people played an important part in the war effort. Metal, rubber and other materials were needed to make the weapons of war and when the call went out, the Michigan Future Farmers answered. At the 1942 National FFA Convention, it was announced that Michigan led the nation in scrap paper collecting – making up two-thirds of the entire national collection. As of November 1943, Michigan boys had also collected 157,435 pounds of rubber and 3,445 tons of scrap metal. They had also repaired 4,719 farm machines and 1,687 of them had become labor assistants on local farms to try to make up for the large work force that had been shipped overseas to fight the Axis Powers.

One reason for these major Michigan involvements could be that the State Advisor Harry Nesman served on the State War Board. In his work with that group, he coordinated programs of County War Boards which an innumerable amount of vocational agriculture teachers served on. The work at home was in safe hands.

The news from overseas was reported in the Michigan Future Farmer newsletter. Dean Radtke, the 1939-1940 State President, was serving in Germany where he was wounded in action in 1944. After he was wounded and rescued, he reported to the newsletter what had happened to him. "Ten German fighters attacked with guns blazing. I looked up just in time to see a German plane coming in. Then there was a flash in the cockpit as 20 mm shells exploded. I called to the bombardier, and he came into the cockpit. He held on my oxygen mask and helped me fly all the rest of the way." Michigan FFA lost many of its young men over on the beaches of Normandy, the islands of the Pacific



Wartime 1944 State Convention.

and the deserts of northern Africa. Donald Seager, a member of the 1942-1943 State Officer team was just one of many casualties.

Captain Donald Hearle, the Caro FFA Advisor, was awarded the Silver Star for saving the lives of at least five men. He was just one of many Vo Ag teachers to leave the classroom to go to war. Luckily however, many of them found their way back to their former posts when Germany and Japan surrendered in May and August 1945, respectfully.

The work of the Michigan Future Farmers, however, pressed on to the best of its abilities. For the 1942, 1943 and 1944 State Conventions, the festivities were cut down to one day and held two weeks earlier than usual so as to not to interfere with necessary farm labor which was already at a shortage due to the war. Judging contests were not held from 1942 to 1947 and the 1945 State Convention was held by mail, chapters being sent ballots to elect the

next team of state officers. Despite all of these hindrances, strides were made. At the 1943 State Convention, the Parliamentary Procedure contest made its debut and quickly became one of the more popular events. The Williamston FFA Chapter was the first winner of the contest, Midland and Lowell coming in second and third, respectfully. Parliamentary Procedure became the third contest to offer leadership development, joining Prepared Public Speaking and Demonstration. Farm Forum, the forerunner of Agricultural Forum which then became today's Agricultural Issues, became the fourth in 1954.

Leadership development would become a top priority of the Michigan Future Farmers as the century approached the halfway mark. State Officers and any other member that desired to could attend Camp Miniwanca near Shelby, Michigan. Here, members would spend two weeks getting instructed and participating in activities that would develop



them mentally, physically and religiously. A typical session of the 1940s was "The Life and Teachings of Jesus." The camp would go on to become nationally renowned.

State Officer teams would go through physical changes as well. In 1946, the first regional state vice presidents were elected, replacing the Executive Committee Members and ceremonial vice presidents that had been part of the State Officer team since the birth of the Michigan Future Farmers. There were eight vice presidents, one from each of the regions. Another addition coming in 1952 was the office of sentinel which up until this point was more of an optional office, much like today's historian, parliamentarian and chaplain.

As the Michigan Future Farmers was going through a period of change, as was the world. The enemy of the 1930s and 1940s, Nazism, was gone and replaced with Communism. When asked to address the 1952 Michigan FFA State Convention, then Governor G. Mennen Williams warned his captive audience of this new threat. He said, "We have three groups of people. One group, the communists, believe that there is no salvation for the individual, that the individual counts for nothing. Another group would hang on to our accomplishments and do nothing but dream of the past. But the rising sun emblem by the FFA

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Executive Office - Lansing



MICHIGAN FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA WEEK

The future progress and prosperity of Michigan is dependent to a great degree upon the skills and efforts of those citizens who operate the many farms of the state.

The Future Farmers of America organization is composed of boys who are studying vocational agriculture in public secondary schools as preparation for careers in agriculture. The Michigan Association, Future Farmers of America, during the past thirty years has been outstanding in developing leadership, encouraging cooperation, promoting good citizenship, teaching sound methods of farming and inspiring patriotism among its members.

Michigan now has 245 active chapters of Future Farmers with nearly 10,900 active members and more than 65,000 former members. These present and former members of the Future Farmers of America in Michigan perform valuable community services, provide important leadership in developing our agricultural economy and help significantly to build a better State of Michigan.

The week of February 22, 1958 through March 1, 1958 has been set as National Future Farmers of America Week throughout the United States, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

THEREFORE, I, G. Mennen Williams, Governor of the State of Michigan, do hereby proclaim the week of February 22, 1958 through March 1, 1958, as

MICHIGAN FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA WEEK

In Michigan, and urge all our citizens to take notice of the many contributions made by the Future Farmers of our state and to encourage in every possible way the further growth of this splendid organization for our farm youth.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Michigan, this Twentieth Day of January, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-eight and of the Commonwealth the One Hundred Twenty-first.

G. Mennen Williams
GOVERNOR

president's chair indicates what your path will be. You have real confidence in the future." With this message, the membership was urged to take action in the world around them – and they did just that. During the 1953



1953-1954 National FFA President David Boyne of Michigan

State FFA Convention, the members did something that had never been done before or since. At that convention, delegates voted that, in their opinion, the legal voting age in local, state and federal elections should be lowered from 21 to 18; understanding that if an 18 year old could go and fight the Germans, he was mature enough



to vote for President. The members were nearly two decades ahead of their time, 18 year olds not being given the vote until 1971 with the 26th Amendment. Another example of action took place at the 1954 National FFA Convention. In those days (and until the 1980s), only 2% of a state's membership could receive the State Farmer Degree. Students and advisors would become very frustrated when an incredibly qualified member didn't receive his degree. Many times students had to reapply a second or even third time to earn the honor. Noticing this dilemma, the Michigan delegates proposed a constitutional amendment that would allow 3% of a state's membership to receive the State Farmer Degree. Unfortunately, nothing ever came of the proposal.

In the 1950s, Michigan was home to two National Officers. Elected as the National FFA President of 1953-1954 was David Boyne of Marlette. David was elected at the National Convention that featured the first address from a sitting U.S. President, Dwight D. Eisenhower. During his year in office, he traveled a record-setting 60,000 miles across the United States. After his term in office, he would go on to head the Agricultural Economics Department at Ohio State University.

Norman Brown of the Temperance FFA Chapter served as the 1958-1959 National FFA Secretary. In his year

of service he was granted the incredible opportunity to travel internationally on a goodwill tour to Japan, Honk Kong, Thailand, Guam and the Philippines. Finishing his term, he returned and graduated from MSU, becoming a teacher of vocational agriculture in Bath, Michigan before returning to Michigan State where he became the coordinator of student programs in the College of Agriculture. His later life would be filled with philanthropic work with the W. Kellogg Foundation and the Partners of the Americas.

New programs hit the Michigan Future Farmers in this era. In 1949, the Chicken of Tomorrow contest was added, originally being sponsored by the Allied Poultry Industries in Michigan. The contest instructed students to raise chickens for a specified period of time, bring them to be slaughtered and have their chickens judged. It was, of course, the predecessor of today's Poultry Contests.

Also that year, the Michigan FFA became involved with the Christian Rural Overseas Program (CROP), an involvement that continues to this day. CROP originally developed as an effort for rural American farmers to send food to impoverished third-world countries. Today, however, for the most part, it is money that is raised to support this incredible effort.

Michigan FFA became one of the first state associations to join the age of television in 1953 with the program, *Opportunity Knocks*. The details of that show are lost, but the goal to increase membership worked as the Michigan Future Farmers claimed over 10,000 members for the first time in history. Such a large membership caused the state convention to be extended to three days in length, as it remains today.

The Michigan FFA didn't stop at just television – they were soon participating in international affairs. In 1947, Alexander Campbell from Aberdeenshire, Scotland, attended the National FFA Convention. At that convention, he struck up a friendship with Robert Oesterle, who had served as the 1944-1945 State Vice President. After the convention, Alexander went back home with Robert to Williamston, Michigan where he spent two weeks with the Oesterle family. He toured farms, visited with agricultural industries and attended surrounding FFA chapter functions. He also experienced the pastime of American football, taking in games at Michigan State College and the local high school. Thus, the first foreign agricultural exchange took place in Michigan, as informal as it was.

A more formal visit would be held seven years later as part of the International Exchange Student Program. This time, John Pickthall of Great Britain came and spent four months with David Boyne, then State President. Pickthall was a member of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs of Great Britain.

As the 1950s rolled on, the Michigan FFA was dealt a devastating loss. In 1956, Luke H. Kelly died suddenly. Kelly had actually stepped down as Executive Secretary in 1952 when he accepted an assignment from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to travel to New Delhi, India and work on establishing centers of agricultural education. Before he left (his plane was set to take off immediately after the 1952 State Convention adjourned), he was presented with an honorary blue corduroy jacket by

the boys that he cared for so much. He returned from his assignment in July 1953, coming back to work as a Vocational Agriculture Consultant in Michigan.

After he passed, his family set up the Luke H. Kelly Scholarship Fund, handing out a scholarship at each state convention starting in 1957. This money would go to an FFA'er who was graduating high school and hoped to go into vocational agriculture. It was continued into the 1970s.

When Kelly left for India in 1952, taking his stead as the new Executive Secretary was Elmer Lightfoot. Lightfoot served many years as a Vo Ag teacher at Holly and Williamston, finally coming to be a consultant in 1948. Former Shelby FFA Advisor Phil Carter remarked, "Elmer's one vision was to make the Michigan Association the best it could be and #1 in the U.S. He worked tirelessly to promote the FFA and to assist every student he came into contact with. There was only one Elmer."

As the 1950s drew to an end, the decade of Ozzie and Harriet, Ike and suburban contentment and normality gave way to a time of social and political changes – changes that the Michigan Future Farmers would not run from, nay, they would embrace them. They would acknowledge that they could not "become what they needed to be by remaining what they were."



Michigan members of the National FFA Choir

An American Son

By Earl Benedict
Former FFA Member

Earl Ray Benedict is my name. I was born in Lowell, Michigan on November 6, 1937. I have lived all my life on Bennett Road in Saranac, Michigan. My parent's names were Charles Sible Benedict, and my mother's name was Florence Katherine Parker Benedict. My brother's name is Roger Elmer Benedict; he was born November 5th, 1934.

Today, my wife and I are International Tractor Collectors. We collect the Letter Series and restore them to show them at parades.

My childhood dream, up to the age of 12 years old was to have my dad buy a Farmall M tractor. My family had been International for three generations. On April Fool's Day in 1950, my childhood dream came true: my dad and grandfather purchased a brand new M from my great uncle who was an International dealer in Ionia, Michigan.

I could hardly see over the steering wheel but I could still drive that tractor. I was with my dad every day working and driving tractors. I never wanted to be in the house.

The crops we raised were wheat, navy beans, oats, corn and several acres of hay for dairy cows. We milked about 24 cows at that time. We would buy about 100 feeder pigs a year. We had several laying hens which my grandmother and mother would

use for groceries and household needs. We owned 250 acres and my dad rented another 80 acres.

I had a mongrel collie dog and after seeing the show of Lassie, I had to name her Lassie.

My kindergarten through 8th grade schooling was in Saranac which at that time was called public school and since then it has been called Saranac Community Schools. I never attended the Old Country School at the end of the road which has long since been torn down and gone. The reason we didn't attend that school is because World War II was on. The gas rationing was on and it was hard to find a new teacher.

My Grandmother Benedict, who was retired, served 20 years as treasurer of Mud Street School District. The school district was called Mud Street because most of the time the road was impassable for three months. Many times they had early fall and summer school.

My grandparents lived across the road from our house. Grandmother would make me come across the road after supper, when I wanted to play with my Lassie. She would say to me, "Young man you need to work at your homework of mathematics and science." I hated homework, and I hated school hours because it interfered with my recess. My grandmother got me through my elementary years with much improved grades.

Then came my freshman year in high school, where I met my lovely wife, Carolyn. She came in from North Bell Rural School.

I went out for football that fall along with 60 boys, and I made varsity starting at left guard. My dad didn't think he liked football, and like all boys, I thought I would get out of chores. So he said he would move chores back one hour for me to get out of practice. After practice I would climb a 40 foot silo to throw silage down and milk cows. My dad said I better never complain about bumps and bruises. However, my dad and mother never missed a game whether it was at home or away.

The friends and neighbors would go together and go to the away games together.



Benedict with dog Lassie.



Men watched games while ladies talked about what ladies talk about. Later, I heard my dad tell a neighbor the only reason he went to football games was to make sure he would have help on Saturday morning. But he was always on the sidelines when I

came off the field. We had an undefeated and untied season that year. We averaged 42 points a game. Whether you were a freshman or a senior, we had a binding of friends which still holds today.

We were mostly farmers in the community. We all wanted to be in FFA.

We worked hard to get our Greenhand Degree. For my supervised farming program I had a dairy heifer. We had a young instructor, who we greatly admired, and he was fresh out of Michigan State University. He had a lot of discipline in his teaching but he was still like a big brother. He made Ag Class very interesting so we worked hard to become Chapter Farmers. He visited everyone's home to help with our projects.

He often talked and told us the possibility of the Supervised Farming project and records and that our senior year we could apply for

State Farmer Degree. As I recall there were eight or nine W. I. Farmers, that of which was Darold Simpson of Saranac, who was Star State Farmer in 1956. His father had ill health and was proud of him when he accomplished this. I was out - and always behind both her men. After hugging him several times with love and pride, she hugged each one of us after the ceremony.

Darold's dad passed on two years later. Darold went to MSU receiving a Dairy Husbandry Degree. Today his wife, Anne and he, along with their son Robert, own and operate a large dairy operation in Keene Township.

This teacher and instructor often talked with pride, that there was a great possibility that we could apply and make it for an American Farmer Degree and receive the golden charm of the American Farmer. This instructor married a local girl from Saranac and left the teaching career and went on to become an Ionia Ag Agent. Then he went to MSU to head the Ag Department of Michigan State University with pride and respect. My wife Carolyn and I have always felt very honored to know this man; his name being Fred Peabody.

In my family, I was the first and only FFA member until our children Connie Rae and Charles Earl became members of the Saranac FFA. Then our daughter's children, Ashley Nicole Orłowski and Joshua Earl Orłowski became members.

Our chapter in Saranac FFA was a very active program. In Parliamentary Procedure, we won gold three years in a row, Public Speaking we won silver three years in a row, and Farm Forum which also won silver three years in a row. We had a farmer in the area who donated 15 acres for us to grow wheat for a project. We also had a broiler project. We donated our chickens for the sports banquet where 100 students and family members were served that of which my wife and the whole home economics



Benedict, far left, with Farm Forum team.



Benedict, middle front, at the National FFA Convention in 1958 where he received his American Farmer Degree. His wife is on his right.



department helped to serve. We had several students show animals in the Ionia County Free Fair every year. The football field was in bad repair and with the financial support of local merchants in Saranac, the fathers of the FFA and football team, we reconditioned and reseeded the football field. It was much safer to play on and appreciated by the community. We had soil judging and livestock teams and farm safety – and even we won a gold award from State. I was sentinel for four years in my chapter, and it was highly competitive because many ran for all FFA offices.

In our day, it was called Supervised Farming Program. I had a heifer and my dad let me farm 13 acres that he had rented for years for cropping. Elmer Lightfoot was Executive Secretary for State FFA. He interviewed me for the American Farm Degree. The State Convention was held at Fairchild Theater on MSU campus. It was during Spring Break and lasted for five days and all chapters in the State were present. The State Officers made the convention very interesting and educational, and banquets were outstanding. National officers attended and talked to us, as well as the Agricultural Extension from MSU.

Our chapter always had an annual summer camping trip to the Upper Peninsula by Newberry and Lake Superior for five days where we camped out along with our advisor. Local



"HIS STORY WAS SO AMAZING, SO SIMPLE - SO AMERICAN. WHEN WE ORIGINALLY CONTACTED HIM AS A FORMER AMERICAN FARMER DEGREE WINNER, WE JUST HAD A FEW QUESTIONS. BUT WHEN THIS ESSAY CAME BACK, WE KNEW IT WAS A STORY THAT HAD TO BE TOLD. IT HAD TO BE TOLD BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT THERE ARE SO MANY STORIES JUST LIKE IT THAT MUST BE TOLD. OUR HISTORY MUST BE PASSED ON."

- CAITLIN LORENC
PAST STATE OFFICER

Benedict and his wife Carolyn.

school board member Paul Cahoon did all the cooking and bus driving for us. Years later we still talk about that when we go to the Saranac FFA annual meeting. I had been out of school for about two years and served in the United States Army. Carolyn and I were married and expecting our first child. We had gone into partnership with my parents.

Our advisor Fred Peabody had gone on to Extensive Service and Lyle Plews was the advisor at that time which was 1958. He came out to see Carolyn and I, and to ask if we would like to try for the American Farmer Degree. There had not been any for a long time in Ionia County. We applied for it and in a few days Elmer Lightfoot came to interview us. We were very surprised we made it. So we left the first part of October for Kansas City, Missouri with Lyle Plews and other friends of FFA for the National Convention.

It was an outstanding experience for us. The FFA meeting was great as well as the National Officers and the entertainment. The highlight of the convention was walking on the stage and receiving my Golden Chain of the American Farm Degree.

In 1968, I received a letter in the mail to apply for the Kellogg's Farmer Study Program which is a three year program. We applied, and were in the third group. The first year, they studied Ag Economics of the State which involved a week tour of Michigan. The second

year was the United States and we took a two week tour of the U.S. and the third year was the world where we participated in a 32 day world tour.

We still farm - crop and feeder cattle. I still have my jacket from the American Farmer Degree. Our son died at 39 years old and our daughter still lives next door with her husband Joseph and our two grandchildren. Our granddaughter is graduating from Saranac High School this next year. She was the Region V representative in the year 2004. This last year, she was elected President of Saranac High FFA. She is planning on running for State Office this spring.



Benedict with his daughter Connie Orlowski, granddaughter Ashley Orlowski and wife Carolyn. At the 2006 Michigan FFA State Convention, Ashley was elected to serve as the 2006-2007 Region V State Vice President



4. CHANGES

1960-1969

In 1960, the nation elected the youngest president in history and the Michigan FFA saw the election of its forth National Officer. But it almost didn't happen.

Ron Cook, hailing from the Marshall FFA Chapter and the 1958-1959 State FFA Secretary, was selected to be the Michigan candidate for National Office. He was slated to head to Kansas City the weekend before the 32nd National FFA Convention to begin the interviews that would determine the focus of the next year of his life. Ron's immune system, however, had different plans.

"On Sunday, one week prior to the beginning of the interview process I had been taken home, unconscious, in an ambulance and hospitalized with severe pneumonia," Ron said. "They packed me in a bed of ice due to a temperature in excess of 105 degrees. The doctor was not exactly enthralled about my getting out of the hospital to immediately embark on a long driving trip that would demand a lot of energy. I was not exactly ready to take 'NO' for an answer. I believe that I got out of the hospital on Friday afternoon in a very weakened condition and we (my parents and I) drove on Saturday and Sunday to Kansas City to be there for the interview process on Monday. I was nearly too weak to participate."

But he did participate and was elected the 1960-1961 National FFA Secretary. He would follow his year of service with many more as he ministered in the Chicago area. He would be the last national officer to be elected from Michigan for over forty years.

As Michigan enjoyed yet another National Officer, a new program was about to debut that would be carried from the shores of the Great Lakes to Kansas City. In 1961, the longtime Michigan FFA supporter and MSU Professor Dr. H. Paul Sweany designed the first ever vespers program for the Michigan FFA State Convention – an aspect of the state convention that continues to this day. The Michigan vespers program became so well known that for the 1962 National FFA Convention, Sweany was asked to design a vespers program for that event – something that also continues today.

Sweany had long been influential in training the state officer teams and when honored in May 1963 by the Michigan Electric Suppliers, it was said, "His counsel, advice, sympathy and understanding have contributed tremendously toward outstanding state FFA officers each year in the Michigan Association." His dedication to the Michigan Future Farmers would continue in the established

Sweany Scholarship, a helpful boost to those who dreamt of becoming teachers of vocational agriculture. To date, more than two hundred scholarships have been handed out and the pot is still not empty.

The country was inspired by a young president, John F. Kennedy and his idea of service by giving back to society

Ron Cook speaking at the 1961 State Convention



Members of the Benzie Central FFA Chapter compete in Donkey Basketball in the early 1960s

and the world as the 1960s progressed. FFA members jumped at the chance to become more involved. The Peace Corps was an organization founded by President Kennedy to bring the best of humanity to the poorest areas of the world; helping to build, educate and rejuvenate these areas with the best of intentions. The call went out and the Peace Corps asked the FFA and

the New Farmers of American (an organization for African American farm boys in the southern portions of the United States that went by the acronym NFA) to search their memberships for a special mission to Pakistan - they needed people with an agriculture background and where better to look than in the ranks of these two incredible groups? Among those who answered the call, were members of the Michigan FFA - and not only members, teachers of vocational agriculture. As



Michigan Future Farmers head to Europe as part of an international leadership program in 1966

years came and went, those of the Michigan Future Farmers would continue to naturally be drawn to the Peace Corps, honoring the dream of a leader slain for his ideals.

handed out the first Scholarship Recognition Awards for academic excellence. Since then, more than a thousand students have been awarded this honor.

While the Future Farmers were embracing every aspect of success, it was questioned in 1964 whether the name of the organization would even remain the Future Farmers of America. At that year's National Convention, changes were considered. To acknowledge the increasing importance of leadership to the organization, the Future Leaders of America was a suggestion. Another idea was the Future Farmers and Agriculturalists to mark the growth of the organization beyond just production agriculture. Both ideas failed miserably.

One idea that did, however, succeed was the thought to reward those members of the Michigan FFA that excelled in the classroom. At the 1965 State Convention, the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources



Vincent Worley, 1961-1962 State President and Leo C. Mulholland, 1962-1963 Region V State Vice President serve as delegates to the 1962 National FFA Convention



Harry Nesman at his desk

By 1965, America was changing. A decade before, the Supreme Court decided that "separate but equal" wasn't going to work anymore, deeming that schools could no longer be segregated. In 1963, Martin Luther King marched on Washington, telling America of his dream. And while the rest of the country was still debating the merits of the new integrated society, the National FFA took action. At the 1965 National Convention the NFA, a group much like the Future Farmers of America only with a membership of African American young men dedicated

to the field of agriculture merged with the FFA creating one American face of the future of agriculture.

Longtime Marshall Advisor Floyd Beneker said, "The merger of the NFA and FFA was one of the smoothest transitions you could ever see. I attended the National Convention at which this took place. It was a happy occasion. I personally felt we should be one organization. This makes for a more united front when dealing with Ag and education issues."

As the 1960s dragged on, the man who had stood at the helm of the FFA and vocational agriculture in Michigan for nearly thirty years decided that it was time to step down. On March 31, 1966, Harry E. Nesman retired as the State FFA Advisor and Michigan Chief of Vocational Ag. During his tenure, he saw the Michigan Future Farmers grow like no one could have ever imagined. The membership went from 4,833 to more than 11,000. In 1964, 4,552 members received their State Farm Degrees, 225 Michiganders received their American





Above: FFA members attend an annual leadership camp

Right: Delegates of the 1963 Michigan State FFA Convention pose in front of the MSU Auditorium

Farmer Degree and 316 young boys had served as state officers. Despite all these accomplishments, numbers can't tell the whole story.

Thomas Beatty, the 1955-1956 State President, said, "I spent many hours with Harry. He was a gentleman's gentleman at all times. In his own way he would challenge me to think bigger, more and always better. I'm sure I challenged him at times but he never showed

it. He was a tremendous person and I thought the world of him."

Teachers too would often look to this legend for advice and guidance. Longtime FFA advisor and teacher of vocational agriculture, L.A. Cheney wrote years later, "I first met Mr. Nesman the spring of 1939 during my senior year at MSU...as I was about to take my first job in Saranac, Michigan. I will always remember the summer



DeLane Ruess (middle) of Owosso was named the Central Region Star in 1968

conferences [run] by Harry and his staff. His guidance, inspiration, encouragement and challenge to meet needs of students and community was helpful in starting a new school year."

Harry would live out his retirement in general peace, caring for his tree farm, spending time with his family and never staying too far away from the profession and

Roger Bloss, of Swartz Creek with his wife, was named the Central Region Star in 1969



association that he treasured so deeply. He passed away in 1994 at the age of 98.

Taking over for Nesman was longtime Vocational Agriculture Consultant, Edwin St. John. St. John had been a chapter advisor and Vo Ag teacher for 16 years, in Stanton, Wayland, Olivet and Charlotte. He was an honest man who valued integrity. His daughter Judy Saurer remembered this: "One time when I was about eight and no longer believing in Santa, he spent several hours in my bedroom during Christmas Eve looking out my window and trying to convince me that the red light on a neighbor's chimney was most certainly Santa and we should keep watching until we saw him come out."

With the team of St. John and Lightfoot, a new goal was set – to give girls the right to wear the blue corduroy jacket. In fact, in the very first newsletter that introduced St. John as the new State Advisor, the question was posed, "why haven't girls been given the opportunity to stand among our membership?"

Years later when St. John sat down and wrote about his life, he spoke of this time. He wrote, "One of the big changes we instituted was to include girls in the Vo Ag program as well as...the FFA. This wasn't easy...because a number of teachers resisted it. So did the boys in the FFA. It took two years and some tact and diplomacy but it happened. Many boys said, 'We don't want them because girls will soon want offices in the FFA and take our jobs.' Well the boys were right, because it wasn't long before the girls were being elected to local, state and national FFA offices." But how did it happen?

As early as 1934, the fight began at that year's National Convention. The Massachusetts State Legislature had passed a bill governing to student organizations that demanded equal treatment amongst the genders, so girls were allowed to join the Massachusetts Future Farmers. As one of their delegates put it, "They can be in vocational agriculture classes, so why not FFA members? On the convention floor that year in Kansas City, debate lasted for hours. It was finally decided that girls would be allowed to participate on a local and state level (if the state allowed such participation), but the national level would remain strictly a boys only club.

In 1966, Michigan took a shot at equality when at the state convention, 59% delegates voted to allow girls to join. Unfortunately, a two-thirds vote was necessary.

At last, on Friday morning, March 22, 1968, the Michigan Future Farmers changed forever as girls were finally allowed to join the ranks of membership. The happenings of that day are reminiscent of a cunning political action that would be carried out in the halls of Congress, but it was the state officer team who prepared to make history.

John Craig, the 1967-1968 Region IV State Vice President, said, "Our strategy was to assume a 50/50 split in the topic of allowing females to enter the program. With that in mind, certain officers prepared motions to be submitted on the floor with seconds if needed. During the discussion, we were prepped with certain statements to respond to anticipated arguments against the invitation to allow females into the association... We all did our part and the job was accomplished. The motion passed by the slimmest margin necessary to carry forth the change... It probably was the most lobbied issue ever

presented at the state convention, since that was our assignment before the state convention started. We had a straw poll, although there wasn't an official vote before the convention. We were to poll members in our region and provide feedback before the state convention started. Our state officers were unanimous in the decision to proceed with the change at the convention we were participating in, even though the advisors thought it best to introduce the idea at this convention, then wait a year and vote at the next convention."

One year later, the National FFA finally came to its senses. The issue was brought to the floor, as it had been many times before. A motion was made. A second was given by Michigan's own Bob Craig, the 1969-1970 State President. A vote was taken and this time, it was official – girls could be an FFA member in Maine and Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico and anywhere in between. The convention dances got a lot more fun, too!

The sixties had been full of changes, both for our association and the country. In the decade of Kennedy and King, we saw our highest membership ever – 11,188 in 1963. What would the next chapter and set of transformations hold for the Michigan Future Farmers?



Dale Nye, 1966-1967 President (with headset on), and Ed St. John, State Advisor (standing to the right of Nye) appear on WKAR Radio out of MSU

An Electric Bond

While the Michigan Future Farmers was busy being born, the young men that would soon swell its ranks were living hard, agrarian lives not unlike their great-grandfathers of the early 19th Century. To most in 1929, an easier life, complete with mechanized farm implements and electricity was still an unrealized dream. In 1930, nearly 90 percent of all rural Americans lived without electricity.

In 1944, a committee on rural electrification began meeting at Michigan State College (now Michigan State University). This group, made up of electric utility companies from around the state, hoped to bring power to small communities and farmers.

As years went on, electricity was made more available to the rural population and oftentimes, Michigan farmers banded together to form their own electric cooperative. These relationships, those between agriculturalists and electric authorities, would eventually affect into the Michigan Future Farmers of America in a deep way.

In 1951, the Detroit Edison Company, Consumers Power Company and Rural Electric Cooperatives Association of Michigan came together to host a banquet honoring all those that had served as officers of the Michigan FFA. The next year, these three firms would honor Michigan FFA'ers that had received their American and/or Star Farmer Degrees. A year later, vocational agricultural teachers were being honored.

All this giving, all this devotion to an organization, its young members and its ideals nearly 30 years before the Michigan FFA Foundation was ever dreamed of.

These banquets, honoring on group of dedicated individual or another, would continue for some years. In 1956, the three electric suppliers decided to honor a single vocational agricultural teacher, Mr. Reynold G. Oas. Oas had been a teacher at Paw Paw since 1921 and an FFA advisor since that chapter was chartered in 1930.

And these bonds between Michigan's electrical suppliers and young agricultural leaders continue to this day.



Charles Arensmeier and Jack Deppong (both on left) with representatives from Michigan electric companies

For years, Raymond Bollaert of DTE organized annual visits the Michigan FFA state officers would take to their Detroit corporate headquarters. The firm would (and does to this day) take officers to a Detroit Tigers baseball game and allows the association full use of its conference room to make proposals for the coming year.

"DTE Energy has always looked to the Michigan FFA Association as the leadership voice of Michigan's agribusiness community," said Bollaert.

Carolyn Bloodworth of Consumers Energy routinely helps the state association put its annual theme into a logo, providing promotional materials whenever asked.

And continuing a tradition began over a century ago, these three firms annually recognize an agriscience educator that has given so much to his or her students.

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Agriscience education award

Pete Siler honored by utility businesses
one way of learning about utility businesses
Siler said sponsors of utility
particular awards are all utility
companies, which are vital
and they sponsor

Year in 1989, 1992, 1995 and
1996.
He also served as the In-
structional Director of Michigan A-
griculture Teachers' Association of Vol-
unteers from 1970 to 1980. He was it's
President from 1980 to 1982. He has
been the American Farm School
of Agriculture.

by Barbara Gall
Staff Writer

The Michigan Power Sup-
plyers this year chose
California resident Pete Siler
as the recipient of their
Outstanding Service Award for
Agriculture Education.

Siler, who heads the FFV
and agriscience education
programs at Lowell High
School, received the honor
March 4 during the MFA
College of Agriculture and
Natural Resources Dinner
in conjunction with the
State Convention.

The award was pre-
sented at the

"They are committed to agriscience education and the FFA because they know these students will some day be their customers as they enter both the ag production, and the food and fiber industries," he said. "I know these students will be the work force of the future."

"They know these students also will be entering the workforce soon, and they support FFA for its leadership programs. We really emphasize communication and working cooperatively, skills that are competitive to industry."

"The Dean's Luncheon is quite special, because it's one time of year when there's a special effort to get the alumni together to talk about the direction of agriculture and its related industries," Siler said.

"The award now is being included as part of this luncheon, and I felt very honored."

Year in 1989, 1992, 1995 and 1996

also served as the last
chairman of the Michigan As-
sociation of Members of Voca-
tional Agriculture
the M.V.A. as it be-
came the American Associa-
tion of Agricultural Education
(M.A.A.E.) was chairman of
the state FFA advisor
Committee for five years and
is a past president of the
Millington Education Associ-
ation.

Siler, whose FFA advisor-ship is part of his job as an agriscience educator, said that teaching today actually is harder than the days when all teachers had to do was lecture to their classes.

"In FFA, our job is to cheer them on, help them set goals and work to achieve them. I try to encourage my kids to be proud of what they've learned in the effort.

"All I ask of them is that they do their best and believe in themselves. Once they do, there's no holding them back, and there isn't much they can't achieve. One of the joys of

Under his direction, the Lowell chapter has chalked up

Chapter Awards; eight American FFA Degree recipients and 65 state FFA Degree recipients. He has coached close to 30 state contest winners and runners-up and an equally impressive number of state and national management and judging teams in a variety of areas.

The Lowell High School boys' state basketball team, including the only freshman player, and the only freshman coach, have been elected regional champions including 10 regional players, and more than 100 Lowell FFWA members have won district and regional membership contests, with 61 receiving gold and silver awards at state.

Besides his teaching and FFA work, Siler is an active member of Holy Family Catholic Church in Caledonia, where he helped found Stephen Ministry Lay-Caring Program 13 years ago. He also has served as Parish Council Chairman and Budgeting Committee member.

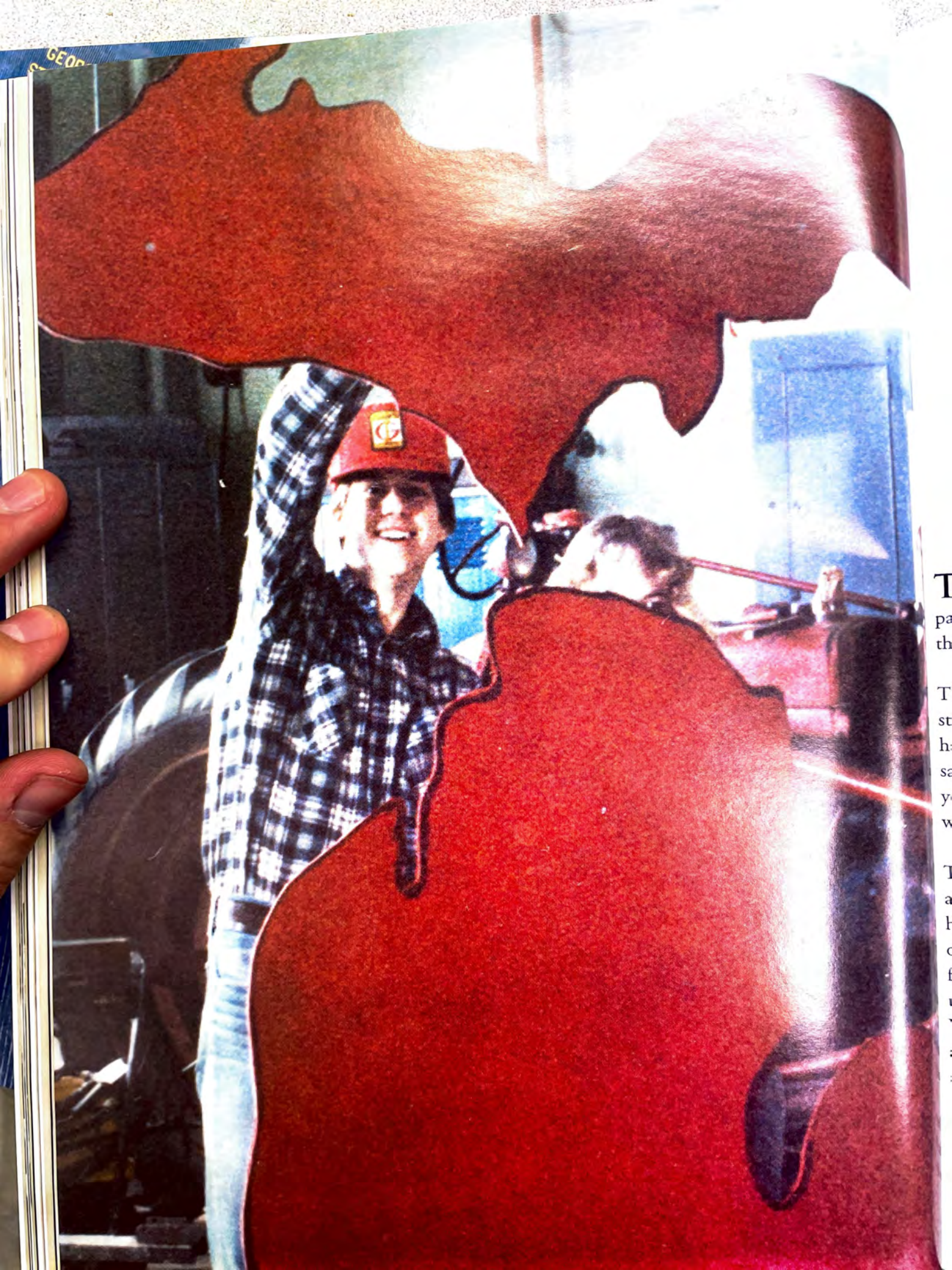


*Raymond Bollaert of DTE receives the
Honorary American Degree in 2002*

Power Suppliers Outstanding Teacher

- 1956—R.G. Oas, Paw Paw
1957—Elwood Little, Onsted
1958—Harry E. Nesman, Michigan Department of Education
1959—Harold M. Byram, Michigan State University
1960—Thomas B. Poole, Deckerville
1961—Elmer A. Lightfoot, Michigan Department of Education
1962—Milon Grinnel, Michigan Farmer magazine
1963—H. Paul Sweany, Michigan State University
1964—George S. McIntyre, Michigan Department of Agriculture
1965—Raymond M. Clark, Michigan State University
1966—Ross O. Beatty, Cassopolis
1967—Adelbert D. Huber, St. Louis
1968—Thomas H. Kerry, Michigan Department of Education
1969—Albert D. Ackley, Ovid-Elsie
1970—Jacob G. Venema, Blissfield
1971—Louis F. Reuter, Sandusky
1972—Clyde B. Ray, Charlotte
1973—Norwin W. Braun, Chesaning
1974—Clark Bullen, Portland
1975—Russell Johnson, Lakeview
1976—William Garvey, Bellevue
1977—Fred Bartlett, Rockford
1978—Clare Monroe, Pittsford
1979—Lowell McMillen, Niles
1980—Earl French, Reese
1981—Keith Griffin, Montague
1982—Floyd Beneker, Marshall

- 1983—Ron Stevens, Lakewood
1984—Frank Corrin, Corunna
1985—Roy Miller, Hopkins
1986—James Potier, Perry
1987—Walter Weber, Ravenna
1988—Clifford Machacek, Benton Harbor
1989—Jack Sanderson, Fremont
1990—William Wheeler, Webberville
1991—Richard Barnes, Merrill
1992—William Bartow, Alpena
1993—Clayton Dailey, Port Hope
1994—Kenneth McCoy, Dowagiac
1995—Curt DuVall, Beal City
1996—Grant Fettig, Grant
1997—Pete Siler, Lowell
1998—Carl Keiser, Unionville-Sebewaing
1999—Don Wheeler, Laker
2000—Alan Steeby, Caledonia
2001—Willard Fowler, Jonesville
2002—John Trott, Branch Area Career Center
2003—Kenneth Bollinger, Lenawee Vo-Tech Center
2004—Steve Beattie, St. Louis
2005—Jerry Block, Benzie Central
2006—Charles Arensmeier, Michigan Department of Education
2006—Richard Karelse, Michigan Department of Education
2007—Charles Snyder, Michigan State University
2008—Mark Forbush, Corunna



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5. TIME OF TRANSITION

1970-1988

The FFA was now open to anyone who desired to take part. And while war and scandal would play a predominant part of the coming decade, the Michigan Future Farmers had their eyes set on the future and what it could hold for them.

The early 1970s were full of more, you guessed it, change. First and foremost, Ed St. John and Elmer Lightfoot stepped down from their positions as State Advisor and State Executive Secretary, respectively. Lightfoot, a man who had been on the job for eighteen years, was replaced by Jack Deppong. Former Webberville FFA advisor, Bill Wheeler, said, "Jack Deppong was always a happy person who continued the legacy of having a professional FFA...Jack was young as compared to the other secretaries and did an excellent job taking the reigns over from Elmer Lightfoot. It was a tough job and he handled it very professionally."

The office of State Advisor was initially filled with Clifford Haslick who remained in that position for about a year and then passed the torch to Duane Dalglish who stayed for roughly the same time. Both were older gentlemen and had been Vo-Ag consultants for the state for many years and were teachers and FFA advisors for even longer. Because of the men's short tenures, the best judges of their character would be their own children. Roger Haslick said of his father, "My dad was a kind and gentle man who worked hard at everything he did...He believed that education was of utmost important and encouraged scholarship and high academic achievement..." About her dad, Marlene Dalglish Williamson added, "He could have been the model for 'Father Knows Best.' He was equally kind to humans and animals...If a piglet needed its ears notched on the farm of one of his students, he held that little guy very tenderly and felt badly that this had to be done."

Despite these adjustments, progressive strides were made during this time as well. 1970 brought about a new award: the BOAC, or Building Our American Communities. Now, chapters could be awarded for making a positive impact in their hometowns. Ubly was the first Michigan winner.



When the first person was named Michigan's State Star in Agribusiness, the recipient, Dennis Matthews was in the hospital with mono. Luckily, his friend Dan Conklin stood in for him. From left to right, Jerry Butts (Corunna High School Vocational Director), Mrs. Lloyd Matthews, Conklin, Mr. Lloyd Matthews, Frank Corrin (Corunna FFA Advisor) and Wade Alderman (Dennis' employer)

Another State Star category was added to reflect the growth of agriculture. Dennis Matthews of the Corunna FFA Chapter was named the first State Star in Agribusiness in 1971.

In 1973, a new award was introduced to the Michigan Future Farmers. At that time the Alpha Gamma Rho agricultural fraternity at MSU awarded the Outstanding Junior FFA Agricultural Award for the first time. There were thirty recipients that year and Kendal Denis Nash of the Pittsford FFA Chapter was named the first Outstanding Junior. To this day, there are annually upward of 300 recipients of the Outstanding Junior Award, now cosponsored by the Sigma Alpha sorority at MSU.

A new event in the always popular leadership contest debuted a year after the Outstanding Junior. The Job Interview Contest, allowing students to hone the skill they would need as they prepare to enter the work force was introduced. The first winner was Cheryl Carpenter of the Lapeer Future Farmers who was applying for secretarial position.

It was around this time that Michigan adopted its own Opening and Closing Ceremonies. In 1972, the National FFA appointed a committee to review and update all of the official ceremonies to broaden the role of the definition of agriculture to encompass more of the modern membership. However, when these changes were presented to the delegates at the National Convention, they were not adopted. Michigan liked the changes and implemented them as the Michigan Official FFA Ceremonies. In 1982, once National FFA "saw the light," and changed their ceremonies, Michigan came into line with the rest of the country.

MICHIGAN OFFICIAL FFA CEREMONIES



FOR LOCAL CHAPTERS:
OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONY
CEREMONY FOR RECEIVING GREENHANDS
CEREMONY FOR RAISING GREENHANDS TO THE
CHAPTER FFA DEGREE
INSTALLING OFFICERS
HONORARY MEMBERS



Members of the Beal City FFA Chapter sell oranges

These ceremonies, similar in most aspects to the traditional ones, differed in that they encompassed a broader meaning of agriculture and the growing diversity of FFA members. Michigan aligned itself with National FFA's ceremonies in 1982, once those were changed.

A new partnership was about to take shape.

In 1972, then Executive Secretary of the Michigan FFA, Jack Deppong, had a full plate. As was true for all previous Executive Secretaries, that position has been given the charge of working closely with state officer teams in their training and day-to-day business. All of this, of course, in addition to his heavy workload with the Michigan Department of Education. There just wasn't enough time in the day.

Therefore, the Michigan FFA applied for a grant from the Michigan Department of Education. This grant would make it possible to hire a new member of the team whose job it would be to be the coordinator of statewide FFA events and supervise the members of the state officer teams.

The first person to hold this office would be Charles Arensmeier. At that time, Charlie was in his third year of graduate work at Michigan State University. A native of Missouri, he was a member of that state's

FFA association and even taught vocational agriculture there for a time.

Charlie said, "My philosophy was that all students deserved the same chance to learn and grow. I tried to involve every student in the chapter in some FFA activity and I don't think that changed much during the time I taught." It was this same attitude that he would bring to his many years of work in Michigan.

Charlie remained at his post as the first Projects Consultant for two years, until in 1974 when Jack Deppong decided to go into private business and stepped down as Executive Secretary of the Michigan FFA. Charlie took over for Jack, joining another would-be legend of the Michigan Future Farmers.

Rich Karelse began his work as the State FFA Advisor in 1972 but had been serving as a Vocational Agriculture Consultant in the Michigan Department of Education for many years after he taught Vo-Ag at Caro. Karelse himself was a former FFA member and about his chapter advisor, Jerry Adler, said, "My Ag teacher inspired me and



Jerry Centers



Corunna FFA Chapter - "Big Acre" Jacket Winners

made it possible for me to go to college. He arranged for me to meet people when I came down to MSU who would get me work and I worked my way through college at Brody Hall in the kitchen. I washed thousands of dishes and cleaned millions of tables."

These two men, Arensmeier and Karelse, became an unstoppable team that kept the Michigan FFA afloat during a time of almost constant budget problems and uncertainty. Even today, many hail them as the two that kept vocational agriculture alive in the state of Michigan. And during that close working relationship, the two men became good friends. Karelse remembers, "We would take our families camping together."



Parliamentary Procedure team from Perry FFA Chapter (1979)

For a short time, the position of Projects Consultant was left vacant. Then, in 1975, another man came down south, Jerry Centers from Kentucky, came to lead. Centers was a character that the Michigan Future Farmers hadn't seen the like of before. Teresa Black Acre, 1980-1981 State FFA Treasurer remembered, "Jerry was always pulling pranks on someone and always laughing. He usually kept things light and was an 'idiot sort of guy!'" The 1977-1978 Region VII State Vice President, Dennis Engelhard, added, "The instigator, the motivator, the troublemaker, funny, loving, crafty, witty – all those things

in just the right mixture to mold growing, talented young people into a rock solid lifelong team...I didn't join the team until September when another officer had to resign for family responsibilities. With a firm handshake and ten sentences he trained me, welcomed me and made me a solid part of my officer team forever."

In the last years of the 1970s, the Michigan Future Farmers prepared to celebrate its 50th birthday. Each chapter submitted material for a large time capsule that was assembled at the 1978 Michigan FFA State Convention. Included in the capsule were letters from members and advisors, tape recordings that reported on the progress of their chapters and local agriculture and pictures that told the story of the members.

More growth and opportunity for the Michigan Future Farmers appeared in 1978 when a Collegiate FFA Chapter was formed at Michigan State University. The group took part in numerous MSU traditional activities – Autumnfest, Ag Olympics, Small Animals Day and more. The collegiate chapter would last into the 1980s when it died out.

In 1979, Michigan added the extemporaneous public speaking contest to its repertoire of leadership events. There were now six contests where students could sharpen their leadership, teamwork and public speaking skills.

But where were the members to take advantage of these opportunities?

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, 78 FFA chapters were disbanded. This is the largest number during any point in the history of the association. But why all the closures?

Certainly budgets played a part; it always had. But many school districts were finding it harder to justify having vocational agriculture classes like "Ag I" and "Ag II" and ag shop when more and more students were coming from the "town" and not from the farm homes as they had in the past. Additionally, a larger percentage of students were on the track to attend some sort of post-secondary schooling.

The Future Farmers was having an image problem. Bystanders were finding it hard to understand the depth of the agriculture industry and how it truly touched every aspect of American life. Agriculture was not merely farming.



Members of the 1985-1986 State Officer team at a Tiger's game

Our student leaders took this challenge of perception and decided to do something about it. At the National FFA Convention in 1988, members voted to change the organization's name from the Future Farmers of America to simply the National FFA Organization.

Also at that time, the ranks of membership was opened to include middle school students. Soon, these young leaders would be able to compete in their own leadership contests and career development events in Michigan.

As the 1980s were coming to an end, it became evident that more change was in store for the Michigan FFA. State Projects Consultant Jerry Centers left the association and was replaced with a familiar face of the Michigan FFA.



Shelby FFA Chapter thinning out a woodlot

Climbing to Success

By: **Caitlin Lorenc**
Past State Officer

He moves on. While struggling to grip the mountainside with 25 mph winds striking his back, trying but unflinching to pull him off the mountain, he moves on. He gasps one last breath, struggling to fill his lungs with air, and continues to haul his body to the top. Nothing could stop him, not even the -25° Fahrenheit temperatures would prevent Dale Darling from reaching his goal: to join the 112 people who have climbed all seven of the highest summits in the world. Dale Darling is moving on.

Born and raised in Monroe County, Darling has always been motivated, pushing himself to go farther. He grew up on a dairy and cash crop farm that has been in the family since the 1830s along with his brother and sister who completed six generations of dairy farming. As a child, Darling participated in 4-H, showing dairy cattle at the county fair and had other assorted projects. He attended Milan High School and became a member of the Milan FFA chapter just as his grandfather, father, and siblings had done.



Darling on his latest climb of Mt. Vinson in Antarctica

As an active member in FFA, Darling was led by his two advisors, Ira Jump and Tom Stahl. He held various chapter offices and became chapter president his senior year and also became a regional officer. During the 1983 State Convention of his senior year, Darling was elected to serve as the Michigan FFA State Secretary, received the State FFA Degree, honored as the State Star Farmer, received Dairy Proficiency Award and was state runner-up in the demonstration contest. He moved on to attend Michigan State University, during which he received his American FFA Degree. Darling states that, "FFA taught me adult responsibility, the art of communication, teamwork, goal setting and achieving, as well as the ability to understand success. FFA has, among other lifetime opportunities, helped me to shape my life and future."

Darling's freshman year at MSU was a busy one. While serving as state secretary, he was also occupied majoring in animal science. During his time at Michigan State, he was active in the Dairy Club, Alpha Zeta Honorary, Student Senate, softball teams and the Dairy Judging Team. He also worked as a welding instructor, and assisted in the agricultural engineering labs among other several occupations, while still working weekends on the farm. During his sophomore year, Darling participated in an overseas program in London, England where his true passion for international travel and business flourished. After four years of college, Darling graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Animal Science and continued to pursue his Masters Degree in Agricultural Economics.

After graduating from MSU, a marketing firm for frozen beef and dairy genetics called World Wide Sire, which he was then employed by, brought him out to California. He became Area Director of Marketing and covered sales in Europe, Asia and Russia. The corporation required Darling to travel extensively for eleven years. During his travels, he was always flying over mountains and was awestruck at their beauty. While living in Visalia, California, Darling was only one hour away from the 13,000 foot mountains of Mineral King National Park, so he began to hike regularly. His fondness for hiking carried on to his overseas trips where he embarked on climbing foreign soil. His love for spy novels, culture, food, people and great atmosphere further fueled his desire for climbing. However, his true inspiration for mountain climbing came, not only from childhood horseplay of climbing into straw piles, hay mounds and trees, but from the book, *Seven Summits* by Dick Bass and



Frank Wells. This novel depicts two men who decided to climb the highest mountain on all seven continents. The adventure shared by these two men amazed Darling who decided to try a few of their experiences.

Dale Darling's first summit, out of a total of six climbed, was Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, which was followed by Elbrus in Russia, then Aconcagua in Argentina, then Mt. McKinley in Alaska, and then the prevalent obstacle of mountains: Mt. Everest in Tibet and Nepal. His latest summit was the Vinson Massif in Antarctica. Darling's seventh and final Summit will be in Australia in November 2006. This unique ambition started out first as a hobby and then became his passion to pursue all seven summits after achieving his fourth. His vacations were primarily mountain climbing, where he would finish one major climb per year, until succeeding Mt. Everest which took a total of two months. Following a job change to Blue Diamond Growers (the world's largest almond cooperative), where he is now currently employed, during the middle of his seven summit climb, he was able to arrange two months leave, assisted by local Michigan Farm Bureau, to achieve his goal.

During his experiences, Darling endured such things as temperatures lower than -40°F and winds higher than 80 mph. Teamwork, in most cases, was the difference between life and death as well as having the nudging thought of being frozen to death as a constant reminder of how precious life is. Other challenges included dehydration, sickness, as well as adapting to breathing and eating in atmospheres with depleted oxygen levels. One of Darling's

most frightening moments was balancing precariously on a six inch wide path that had a 5,000 foot drop and slipping on a steep, rocky edge. While on his climbing expeditions, it was not uncommon to see bodies of those less fortunate. "When you are on mountains seeing people die, experiencing first hand the value of life, you are able to keep the working world in perspective," said Darling. "You learn how to prioritize, communicate, the importance of teamwork, and how to efficiently and effectively pursue your personal and team goals."

Today, Dale Darling is enjoying married life and his involvement in his local church. He still plans to pursue his dream of climbing the Seven Summits and will accomplish this in November 2006 in Australia. He would also like to share his knowledge of the mountains with beginners and experts alike. Every year, Darling takes countless beginners up various mountain climbs in California to teach them basic mountaineering skills. After finishing the Seven Summits, he plans to climb the Matterhorn in Switzerland as well as begin long cycling rides.

When asked the inevitable question of "why," Dale Darling refers to a quote made by legendary climber, George Mallory, who died on his Mount Everest climb: "It's not about failure or success, it's not about living or dying - understand that you have come to Everest to conquer yourself. Whether you are climbing Everest, Vinson, the tree in the back yard, or the new project at work, it's about doing your best and improving your best, and along the way we learn a little more about ourselves."



6. A NEW WAY

1989-2006

The Reagan era in America came to an end in 1989 and the country looked to a new time. The Michigan FFA, too, looked ahead as a former Agriscience teacher and FFA advisor, Charles Snyder became the third Projects Consultant. A member of the Michigan FFA himself while attending Marshall High School, he had taught at North Huron, Laingsburg, Homer, Quincy and the Branch Area Career Center before coming to work at the state level.

Darron Birchmeier, the 1997-1998 State Vice President, said, "Charles Snyder was dedicated to the FFA. Being a single man, the FFA was his family and he treated those in the FFA like one of his own. He was a passionate man and very detail-oriented which was very much necessary in his position. He worked hard to build relationships and was instrumental in getting the Michigan FFA to the great position it is in today."

Under the guidance of Snyder, the association faced positive and progressive changes. He improved the quality and quantity of chapter visits that were conducted by the state officer teams, becoming the first to require the visits. Snyder said, "It was the responsibility of state vice presidents to organize chapter visits to all the chapters in their region."

Also, the State Leadership Conference for Chapter Officers (or SLCCO, formerly known as Chapter President's Conference) was joined by the State Leadership Conference for Regional Officers, or SLCRO. Held each summer on the campus of Michigan State University, both conferences continue to inspire students at each level of leadership to reach their full potential.

Also, after nearly fifty years, the annual State Convention moved across the campus of Michigan State University to the newly erected Wharton Center. This new home was equipped with over 2,500 seats in the Great Hall, state-of-the-art projection screens, sound systems and the capability to host large scale Broadway plays and major concerts. This move allowed for the return of a feature that was prevalent at early state conventions: the Michigan FFA State Band. Through the work of Snyder and advisors throughout the state, this musical portion of state conventions



St. Louis FFA Advisor Steve Beattie enjoys a hearty meal on the 1990 National FFA Convention trip

returned and continues to entertain thousands to this day. State Conventions would never look the same again. The entire Michigan FFA would change, too; all because

the end. The meal was eaten, the tip was left and Mrs. Glassbrook pulled a check out of her purse and handed it to Karelse, adding that she hoped it might help. The check was for \$100,000.



Dave Hildrebrand, the 1993-1994 State President, receives his American FFA Degree. Hildrebrand went on to serve in the Michigan House of Representatives.

of one fateful lunch date. One day in the early '90s Pauline Glassbrook called State Advisor Rich Karelse and asked him to lunch. Glassbrook had been the longtime secretary to Harry Nesman and was a fervent supporter of the FFA and the young men and women she worked with. She and her husband, Stanley, had never had children and had a soft spot for the members of the Michigan FFA. The lunch went on without incident until

With that generous contribution, the Pauline Glassbrook FFA Scholarship was created. The scholarship is awarded annually to students who are attending MSU and pursuing a career as a teacher of agriscience. A few years later, Mrs. Glassbrook would help the Michigan FFA Foundation begin an endowment that would guarantee the future of the Michigan FFA.

But no amount of money could stop inevitable change. As membership numbers decreased in Michigan and budget problems forced the elimination of many Agriscience programs, it became apparent that the regions in the state had to be redrawn. The eight regions were originally created in 1946 to ensure that each area had equal representation on the state officer team and to make contests between areas easier (before this time contests were held within county associations and small informal districts, some chapters not even being included in a county association or district). So, in 1996, eight regions became six. Most regions changed in some way or another, the largest change happening in Region VI which now consisted of the entire Upper Peninsula and the top half of the Lower Peninsula.

It was in these lean years, however, that Michigan had some of its greatest triumphs. In 1995, Randy Petrosus of the Hopkins FFA Chapter was named the National FFA's Star Farmer – the first national star in Michigan's history. With an SAE of Dairy Production, Petrosus commented,, "I grew up somewhere between the milking parlor and the tractor cab...I always knew what I wanted to do in my life. I wanted to be a dairy farmer; the way of life I loved and cherished."

Just one year later, a member of the Marshall FFA, Chad Bischoff, was named the 1996 National FFA Star in Agribusiness. Two stars in a row! Bischoff started simply cutting firewood and selling it, but soon, it led to a business opportunity in which he and his father owned there own business, dealing Sachs-Dolmar chainsaws, Bolen tractors and more. He said, "I would certainly be remiss if I didn't credit the FFA program and the agriscience classes I had in high school for some of my success. I was exposed to the opportunity to have

an SAE and 'learning to do' and 'doing to learn.' Through the encouragement of my advisor and my father, I was able to achieve the third line of the motto, 'earning to live.' As I continue in my business enterprise, I hope to become more involved in the last line of the FFA motto, 'living to serve"...I look forward to the challenge each day brings. The FFA has provided me with direction and incentives to meet those challenges.

In 1997, a 25 year chapter closed in the Michigan FFA as State Advisor Rich Karelse and Executive Secretary Charlie Arensmeier retired. According to Karelse, the State Department of Education had been urging the "old timers" as he put it, to retire. So, both he and Arensmeier sat down individually and crunched the numbers, eventually deciding that the time was right.

As Arensmeier retired, the position of Executive Secretary was completely done away with. The duties held by that office were transferred to the Projects Consultant Charlie



Snyder and his then assistant, Jennifer Decker. The office of State Advisor was changed so that the position would no longer be held by an employee of the State Department of Education, instead the Projects Consultant became the State Advisor. Thus, three jobs with diverse and innumerable responsibilities were combined into one. Some thought that the Michigan FFA lost a little prestige that day.

When Karelse and Arensmeier stepped down, the knowledge that they had given life to the association and kept it running was in the minds of all involved with the Michigan FFA. Of Arensmeier, Bruce Struder, the 1975-1976 Region VI State President, said, "I wonder if he really knows how many opportunities he provided to young men like myself. He is the type of man I hope I can be remembered as." Karelse also received powerful praise. Former Ovid-Elsie FFA Advisor Alan Alaga simply remarked that, "He will always be by the owl."

A mere two years later, another retirement hit the Michigan FFA. Charles Snyder stepped down as State Projects Consultant and State Advisor. He said, "I was three months shy of sixty when I retired. The job requires a lot of energy and motivation in addition to



Jennifer Decker, longtime state FFA office secretary and "mom"

all of the other skills to be a successful teacher. I did not want to be one who hung on beyond his or her productive years."

The students who had worked with Snyder not only



Members of the Montague FFA Chapter

learned how to be good state officers, but better adults as well. Stephen Dailey, the 1990-1991 Region III State Vice President, said, "...one of his favorite sayings that he drilled into us so much that I still follow it 15 years later: 'to be five minutes early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, and to be late is unacceptable.'"



The 1998-1999 State FFA President, Nathan Clark added, "Mr. Snyder let you know when you messed up – trust me I know – but you still knew he was doing it for your own good as well as for the good of your association. He has a heart of gold. Though you may have messed up, the next day you were probably going to lunch with him – paid for by him of course – and it was like nothing ever happened."

When Snyder retired, he was replaced with the first member of state staff to have been a state officer in the Michigan FFA. Becoming the State Projects Consultant and State Advisor in 1999 was Jeff Hawes who had

served as the 1988-1989 Region I State Vice President. He went on to become an Agriscience teacher and FFA advisor at Homer before stepping up to state service.

With Hawes at the helm, more improvements were made. Two more national stars were named from Michigan. Ryan Sweeney of the Mason FFA was named National FFA Star in Agribusiness in 2001 and three years later, Jeremy Glaspie from Springport was named the National FFA Star in Agriscience. It was clear to all that Michigan was still a hotbed of agricultural endeavors.

Despite that knowledge, it didn't help increase membership

numbers. Membership for the 2003-2004 year fell to a low of 4,966 – the second lowest membership since 1938-1939. Only a year before that, the number of chapters in Michigan became 98. The last time Michigan had that few chapters, the year was 1930. The future was, and to some degree, uncertain.

In 2003, then State Reporter Scott Smalley along with MSU Professor and longtime supporter of the Michigan FFA Michael Woods decided that the time was right to establish a new avenue of communication for the Michigan FFA. In March of that year, they debuted the Michigan FFA Creed magazine, a bi-monthly publication that would be inserted into the issues of the New Horizons that would be sent to Michigan members, lifelong alumni, advisors and sponsors. The magazine would be looked at by other state associations when designing their own inserts and never stop working

towards the goal of justly and accurately celebrating the many accomplishments of the Michigan FFA and its membership.

Near the middle of the first decade of the new millennium, many changes were brewing. Jeff Hawes after six years of steady progression as the State FFA Projects Consultant, stepped down from that position. He was replaced by David Wyrick, longtime advisor of the Byron FFA Chapter and principal of that school. Wyrick envisioned a bright future for the association and continues to work toward that future.

The State FFA Office also saw a change and a move. The office had been located in Agriculture Hall on the old part of the MSU campus, but in 2004, department within the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources were shuffled, including the FFA. Thus, the



office moved across campus to the Natural Resources Building where it sits today.

As the days of summer 2005 were winding down, monstrous winds and torrential rains were beating down the landscape of the Gulf Coast as Hurricane Katrina destroyed the homes and personal belongings of the people of southern Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, killing thousands and leaving literally millions homeless. Hundreds of FFA chapter and Agriscience programs were destroyed. While these people are hundreds of miles away from the members of the Michigan FFA, a sense of brotherhood overcame the membership and the National FFA program, Seeds of Hope, came to our shores. Chapters across the state raised money and collected food.

It was evident to all associated with the Michigan FFA

that a new, bright day had come. For the first time in over forty years, a National Officer would call Michigan home. Ryan Peterson from the Cassopolis FFA Chapter was elected to serve as the 2005-2006 Eastern Region National Vice President.

A year later, after nearly a twenty year absence, the Michigan FFA State Convention went back to its old home at the MSU Auditorium. The 78th State FFA Convention was gaveled into session at the same place where E.E. Gallup had bid goodbye to the association he helped establish and the same place where girls had been voted into membership.

And the Michigan FFA continues to move on. Students from Cassopolis to Ubly and from Golightly to Stephenson share in the lessons that are taught in the classroom, experienced in the SAE and expressed in the FFA.





7. A LEGACY OF SERVICE

THE MICHIGAN FFA ALUMNI

It was reported in the March 1934 issue of the Michigan Future Farmer newsletter that "There is a growing demand for an organization of 'former F.F.A.s' – Michigan will surely send her quota of delegates to this first national convention when it is called."

That first national convention for "former F.F.A.s" was finally called in 1972 when the National FFA Alumni was formed. That same year, the Michigan Future Farmers of America Alumni Association was created and a new legion of leadership was established for those that hoped to stay involved in the agricultural organization. Within five years, nearly a dozen affiliate chapters had chartered with the state association.

Leading the Michigan FFA Alumni is a state council, comprised of a president, vice president, secretary, a vice president from each region, an at-large member and an administrative director. The administrative director has usually been housed at the Michigan Farm Bureau where he or she also acts as the Young Farmer Director. In the early years of the 21st Century, a past state officer representative has also served on the council.

To build support for the FFA on a chapter level, in 1988 the Michigan FFA Alumni began sponsoring a trip to the National FFA Convention for high school administrators, school board members and others. By targeting these individuals, the alumni hoped that the administrators will realize how beneficial it is to have an FFA chapter in their schools by allowing them to better understand what the FFA is. Administrators will meet with members of their home chapter (if one exists), MSU Agricultural Education staff, alumni members and the state FFA officers.

Longtime FFA alumni member and former Marshall FFA advisor Floyd Beneker stated, "I felt a great deal of enthusiasm building each day as the school personnel took part in this powerful event. On the final morning before heading home, the Montague chapter members told of their experiences as FFA members and what FFA mean to them. This really made an impression on the school leaders. The...fieldtrip will continue to be one of the most important events sponsored by the Michigan FFA Alumni. The more we can promote the premier



Michigan Department of Agriculture Director Dean Pridgeon and Mike Kovacic, Michigan FFA State Alumni Chairman

leadership of the FFA, the more agriscience programs and FFA chapters we will have in Michigan."

The Michigan FFA Alumni also works to ensure that FFA members can take advantage of all the opportunities available to them. Through funds raised at the state annual alumni banquet and meeting's silent auctions, full and partial scholarships are given out to students who want to attend the Washington Leadership Conference. There, students can meet with their legislators, see historic sights and be trained in the finer points of leadership, teamwork and citizenry. Because of the state alumni, dozens of young men and women have been to this conference that otherwise would not have been able to go.

The state alumni aren't above encouraging some good old fun, too. Each year at the Michigan FFA State Convention in East Lansing, the alumni sponsor the

Wednesday night dance. Serving up pizza or apples and apple cider, thousands of FFA members can distress for two hours and forget about leadership contests, proficiency rankings and running for an office and just dance and enjoy each other's company.

Today, the Michigan FFA Alumni and its countless affiliate chapters throughout the state continues its promise – a promise to provide members with a support system that will allow them to take advantage of every opportunity that is offered in the FFA. Alumni chapters offer scholarships to graduating FFA members, finance trips to national convention, work with skills and leadership contest teams and so much more. It's safe to assume that as long as there is a strong alumni presence in the state of Michigan, the members will continue to achieve the successes that they have become used to.



Attendees of the 2005 Administrator's Trip to National Convention



FFA members enjoy the State FFA Convention Dance, sponsored by the Michigan FFA Alumni

MICHIGAN

FFA



AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE

7. BUILDING A CORNERSTONE THE MICHIGAN FFA FOUNDATION

While the National FFA Foundation was established as far back as 1944, Michigan didn't establish its own foundation until nearly 40 years later in 1981.

This isn't to say that Michigan waited that long to seek out financial contributors. In the early days of the Michigan Future Farmers, many companies assisted chapters by providing them with useful materials. As early as 1930, Swift and Company had donated framed portraits of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson to any chapter that requested them – the John Deere Company added a miniature plow to each chapter's paraphernalia.

The first time donors were honored happened in March 1947 at the State Convention. Luke H. Kelly, then Executive Secretary of the Michigan FFA, assembled a group of fifteen businesses and corporations that had made generous donations to the Michigan Future Farmers in the past year. Among these were Michigan Milk Producers Association, A&P Tea Company, Kroger Grocery and Baking Company, General Motors Cooperation, J.I. Case and Company, Deere and Company, Standard Oil Company of Indiana and Allis Chalmers Company.

The steps toward the formation of the Michigan FFA Foundation as we know it to exist today began at the 1981 State FFA Convention. It was here that the state foundation was voted into existence by attending delegates. Almost immediately, the Michigan FFA Foundation set out creating a body of work to raise monies for the state programs. The first theme was Building Tomorrow's Today and the first fundraising effort asked each chapter to solicit \$100 in local contributions – the North Branch FFA being the first to rise to the challenge. Earl Martindale became the first individual to contribute to the group. By the fall of 1982, the Michigan FFA Foundation had garnered its first \$1,000.

Despite the best of efforts, the Foundation floundered in those early years. It wasn't until the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) became involved that the ball truly got rolling. Dr. Jake Wamhoff, a former teacher of Vo-Ag at Ubly, was at that time the chairperson of the Agricultural Extension and Education (AEE) Department



Don't Gamble on the Future



FFA Foundation hired its first Executive Director, Dave Krueger. Originally of Idaho, Krueger was hired in a unique way. The funds were not available to hire a full time director so a deal was worked out in that 50% of his time would be dedicated to the foundation, 25% to the Michigan Association of Agriscience Educators (MAAE) and the Michigan Horticultural Teachers Association (MHTA) and the other 25% of the time he would serve as an Associate Professor at MSU. Immediately, Krueger and the Foundation Board of Directors set about building a cornerstone.

Also that year, John Hilt, who was then serving as the President of the Foundation Board of Directors, helped initiate a successful fundraising program that continues to this day. Hilt, who just so happened to be Chairman

within the CANR and had sat on the Michigan 4-H Foundation Board of Directors. Wamhoff liked the structure and, as a firm supporter, wanted to strengthen the Michigan FFA Foundation. Teamed up with Charles Snyder, Charlie Arensmeier and Rich Karelse, they set out to accomplish just that.

In 1993, the Michigan

of the Board of Quality Tractors. He worked with ERTL Company and offered the first Michigan FFA Collector Tractor. These model tractors were available in Quality Farm & Fleet and Country Post stores across the state with all proceeds going directly to the Michigan FFA Foundation. That first year, \$26,000 was raised. The tractor series is still offered, today by Tractor Supply Co. stores.

Someone who helped in strengthening the Foundation was Pauline Glassbrook. In addition to the \$100,000 that she originally gave, beginning the Glassbrook Scholarships, she also gave a sum in November 1993 that, when added with other substantial donations, would become the Glassbrook Endowment. This endowment accrues a generous amount of interest each year, half of which is put back into the trust so that it will grow and the other half is awarded in grants to high school programs and FFA and Agriscience programs, allowing them to add a new aspect to their curriculum or FFA chapter, providing for the continued development of students across the state.

The Michigan FFA Foundation grew to a point that a full time director was needed. In 1994, Krueger became an assistant MSU professor in Agricultural and Natural Resources Communications.

At the time of Krueger's departure, the foundation faced another change. Through the strong support of Jack Laurie, the President of the Michigan Farm Bureau, the foundation moved to those headquarters in Lansing. Julie Chamberlain, a MFB employee, became the new executive director.

In succeeding years, the executive director would change often. After Chamberlain, Josh Merchant came, followed, in order, by Molly Avis, Corey Flournoy, Kate Powers and Megan Hirschman. These young professionals would continue to inspire growth in the foundation.

With the new millennia came a new fundraising event. The first FFA Masters Golf Outing was held in the summer of 2000 at the Emerald at Maple Creek

Golf Course near St. Johns, Michigan. Here, players complete an 18-hole game before enjoying a steak dinner and auction. The money raised from this event is used annually for the six regional camps.

A new opportunity for financial advancement appeared in 2004. At that time, the Michigan FFA and National FFA Foundations partnered up to host an FFA Race Day at the Michigan International Speedway (MIS) in Brooklyn, Michigan. Heavily advertised as a worthwhile fundraising event, with the simple phrase, "I'm with the FFA," attendees could meet NASCAR drivers, win prizes and gain entrance to the FFA hospitality tent and more. During its first year of existence, the FFA race day raised \$2,500 and continues to this day, only now, it is the Michigan FFA and the Ohio FFA that partners for the event.

That same year, the former State FFA Project Consultant, Charles Snyder, designated a \$500,000 estate gift to the foundation. This is the largest gift that has even been given to the Michigan FFA Foundation. Snyder said, "I thought about making this gift for a long time, and I decided I wanted to pay tribute to all those wonderful students who did so much to enrich my life. What better way to do that than to support future generations of young people enrolled in agriscience and FFA programs."

In 2006, it was announced that the Michigan FFA Foundation, now in its 25th year, would be returning to the place of its creating: Michigan State University's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. After a lengthy absence, it was hoped that this move would stir the foundation to build upon its legacy of lucrative financing and expand its horizons.

FOUNDATION DIRECTORS



David Krueger
1991-1994



Julie Chamberlain
1994-1999



Joshua Merchant
1999-2001



Molly Avis
2001-2003



Corey Flournoy
2003-2004



Kate Powers
2004-2005



Megan Hirschman
2005-Present

INTO THE FUTURE...

We were born into a time of great depression and came of age during world war. As our nation debated civil rights among the races and genders, we took action. In the FFA, growth isn't just an idea to which we give lip service, it is an essential ideal embedded into our members.

This ideal of growth has taken us to heights that those original farm boys who met one day in May 1929 could never have foreseen. Today, there are FFA chapters in downtown Detroit and new programs are popping up every year at urban technical centers. Young women assume over half of all leadership positions and all of the hues of humanity can be found wearing the blue corduroy. What would those original Michigan Future Farmers have to say about all this change – all this progression?

Without the advent of a time machine (and leave it to an FFA member to have the drive to make this piece of science fiction a reality), we can only guess. But we can hope that those who gave birth to a movement, an organization and an idea would look upon us like proud, doting grandfathers - grandfathers that toiled and gave of themselves so that their namesakes could reap the rewards of so much blood, sweat and tears. We can hope.

And as we look into the past, wide eyes cannot help but turn towards an unknown future: of both agriculture and the Michigan FFA.

We believe in the future of agriculture, but the details of that future are best left to a "great discussion filled with experts and ideas and diction and energy and honesty."

What does the crystal ball hold for this association? Will we once again see a state membership of 10,000? Will we be able to keep up with the times as we have in the past? We can hope.

Even if, God forbid, there comes a day when the FFA is no more and the blue corduroy jackets have been packed away to never again be worn, what millions of young men and women have stood for will never die. The lessons that we are taught as naïve Greenhands are still imbedded in our beings long after the day we bid farewell to high school and high school dreams. These lessons are universal.

It's been said by some that the FFA deserves a grand national monument – perhaps in Kansas City where we were founded or in Indianapolis where home is or even on the mall in Washington D.C. – and while this is an amazing sentiment, it isn't completely necessary. Our monument can be found in the young student who is no longer fearful to stand up and speak in front of their peers. Our monument can be found in young men and women who are returning to the high school classroom, only this time as teachers of agriculture in efforts of giving back some of what was given to them. Our monument can be found all over this nation, in all avenues of the workforce, the halls of government and yes, the few remaining great fields of agriculture. Our monument lies with the member and the former member and the way they live their lives. There is nothing grander that can ever be created out of stone and cement.

And now we are left with the knowledge that the future is not for us to decide. The students that make up the membership of the Michigan FFA are constantly challenged with the mission of leading their chapter,

region or the entire association to bigger and better things. This mission is best stated in a reading that was at one time given every Memorial Day by the married acting couple Ossie Davis and wife Ruby Dee. In *Today is Ours*, they present the challenge and hopes of every American generation. May the coming generations of our membership forever rise to meet the challenges of their time.

*Today is ours – let's live it.
And love is strong – let's give it.
A prayer can help – let's say it.
And peace is dear – let's bring it.*

*The past is gone – don't rue it.
Our work is here – let's do it.
The world is wrong – let's right it.
If evil comes – let's fight it.*

*The road is rough – let's clear it.
The future vast – don't fear it.
Is faith asleep? – let's wake it.*



RECREATION
COOPERATION
THRIFT
CITIZENSHIP
LEADERSHIP
ESTABLISHMENT
IN
FARMING



STATE OFFICERS - 1929-1930



Back Row: Harry Gibson, Treasurer, Fowlerville; Truman Berwyn Pemberton, Exec Committee, Imlay City; Edward Strenzel, Reporter, Reed City; Edward E. Gallup, State Advisor
Front Row: Charles Gill, Exec Committee, Ypsilanti; Charles Lewis Taylor, Secretary, Caro; Keith Tanner, President, Charlotte; Frank A. Swagart, VP, St. Johns *(Not pictured: Glen W. Munsell, Exec Committee, Fowlerville)*

STATE OFFICERS - 1930-1931



Harry Gibson
 Secretary
 Fowlerville



Charles Gill
 Treasurer
 Ypsilanti



Lewis K. Heyd
 Exec Committee
 Luther

(Not pictured: Charles L. Taylor, President, Stearns)

STATE OFFICERS - 1931-1932



Harry Gibson
President
Fowlerville



Lloyd W. Ruesick
Vice President
Adrian

(Not pictured: Lawrence Stowe, Secretary, Williamston; Clarence Warner, Treasurer, Centreville; Harold Hendershot, Reporter, Imlay City; Gerald Krupp, Exec Committee, Grand Ledge; Earl C. McKim, Exec Committee, Ypsilanti)

STATE OFFICERS - 1932-1933



Carl D. Shopbell
Secretary
Dansville

(Not pictured: Morell Russell, President, Centreville; Willis McCulloch, VP, Beaverton; Ward I. Aldrich, Treasurer, Fairgrove; Paul Kuhful, Reporter, Haslett; Maynard Brownlee, Exec Committee, Leslie; Lynwood Webb, Exec Committee, Howell)

STATE OFFICERS - 1933-1934



Carl D. Shopbell
*President
Dansville*



Kenneth Schram
*Exec Committee
Mason*

(Not pictured: Douglas Gainder, VP, Hickory Corners; Donald Piper, Secretary, Bangor; Carl Loss, Treasurer, Deckerville; Anthony Smith, Reporter, Benton Harbor; Robert Smith, Exec Committee, Luther)

STATE OFFICERS - 1934-1935



Loron Walker
*Treasurer
Olivet*



Norman Smalley
*Reporter
Dansville*

(Not pictured: Donald Piper, President, Bangor; Kenneth C. Olsen, VP, Howell; Robert Robinson, Secretary, Hartford; Robert Follmer, Exec Committee, Edwardsburg; John Freeman, Exec Committee, Okemos)

STATE OFFICERS - 1935-1936



Norman Smalley
President
Dansville

(Not pictured: Roy J. Hickey, VP, Fairgrove; Wilbur Lohr, Secretary, Dundee; Fred Schuneman, Treasurer, Imlay City; Keith C. Sowerby, Reporter, Greenville; Herschel L. Krebs, Exec Committee; Fay Heim, Exec Committee, Luther)

STATE OFFICERS - 1936-1937



Norman Hull
Secretary
Bangor

(Not pictured: Wilbur Lohr, President, Dundee; Richard D. Leslie, VP, Ypsilanti; Lawrence Marr, Treasurer, Addison; Charles Whitney, Reporter, Leslie; Burdette Carroll, Exec Committee; Harold Metcalf, Exec Committee, Fairgrove)

STATE OFFICERS - 1937-1938



Norman Hull
President
Bangor



Leon Childs
Exec Committee
Unionville



Willis H. Griffin
Secretary
Beaverton

(Not pictured: Ulysses P. Tremblay, VP, Flushing; Orvill Rasmussen, Treasurer, Big Rapids; Cleo W. Buxton, Reporter, Haslett; Robert Dennis, Exec Committee, Adrian)

STATE OFFICERS - 1938-1939



Dean M. Radtke
Secretary
Morrice



Wilmot McDowell
Exec Committee
Union City

(Not pictured: Willis H. Griffin, President, Beaverton; Raymond Powell, VP, Haslett; Donald Eppelheimer, Reporter, Olivet; L.G. Rothney, Exec Committee, Williamston)

STATE OFFICERS - 1939-1940



Dean M. Radtke
President
Morrice

(Not pictured: Milo F. Harrocks, VP, Onaway; Frank Merriman, Secretary, Deckerville; Donald Smith, Treasurer, Stockbridge; Wilfred Bennett, Reporter, Milford; James Hemminger, Exec Committee, Buchanan; Dale McAlvey, Exec Committee, Farwell)

STATE OFFICERS - 1940-1941



Leo M. Cropsey
Reporter
Dowagiac

(Not pictured: Frank Merriman, President, Deckerville; Lewis A. Small, VP, Benzonia; Leo Reich, Secretary, Deckerville; Bernard Wilson, Treasurer, Leslie; Russell Johnston, Exec Committee, Mt. Pleasant; Robert M. Tobin, Exec Committee, Three Rivers)

STATE OFFICERS - 1941-1942



L to R: Max Decker, Treasurer, Deckerville; Luke H. Kelly, State Executive Secretary; George Fogle, Secretary, Okemos; Robert Bush, Exec Committee, Caro; Francis Bryde, VP, Eaton Rapids; Elwood Mellinger, Exec Committee, Ithaca; Leo Reich, President, Deckerville; Don Southworth, Reporter, Elkton; Harry E. Nesman, State Advisor

STATE OFFICERS - 1942-1943



Dorwin Williams
Secretary
Dansville



Paul W. Seeger
Reporter
Bath

(Not pictured: George Fogle, President, Okemos; Harold Shannon, VP, Dowagiac; John E. Andrus, Treasurer, Reese; Donald L. Lahring, Exec Committee, Byron; Donald Seager, Exec Committee, Onsted)

STATE OFFICERS - 1943-1944



Back Row: Luke H. Kelly, State Executive Secretary; Merle W. Harris, Treasurer, Edwardsburg; Douglas Barlund, Reporter, Olivet; Donald Spencer, Exec Committee, South Haven; Harry E. Nesman, State Advisor
Front Row: Dorwin Williams, President, Dansville; Max A. Loudenbeck, VP, Maple Rapids; Donald L. Allen, Secretary, Williamston

(Note: Roland D. Murphy of Midland was originally elected as VP but due to the WWII draft, he resigned and Max Loudenbeck, originally an Exec Committee member was appointed as the VP)

STATE OFFICERS - 1944-1945



Standing: Lyle Lynd, Treasurer, Olivet; Raymond Marske, Exec Committee, Berrien Springs; Luke H. Kelly, State Executive Secretary; Robert E. Oesterle, VP, Williamston
Seated: Ronald K. Richmond, Reporter, Grand Ledge; A.J. Robinson, Secretary, Dowagiac

(Not pictured: Donald L. Allen, President, Williamston; Lawrence Peterson, Exec Committee, South Haven; Edward Poole, Exec Committee, Deckerville)

STATE OFFICERS - 1945-1946



Dale Rosel
President
Coopersville



Leonard Johnson
Vice President
Olivet



Merlyn R. Swab
Treasurer
Okemos



Wendell Wilk
Reporter
Alma

(Not pictured: Ray H. Peffers, Secretary, Rudyard; Clifton Wells, Exec Committee, Jonesville; Carlton Woodhams, Exec Committee, Allegan)

STATE OFFICERS - 1946-1947



Gordon A. Briggs
President
Romeo



Jack V. Miller
Region IV State VP
Ovid



Mark Owens
Region VII State VP
Midland

(Not pictured: Ted Moe, Secretary, Midland; Robert Casey, Treasurer, Hastings; Donald E. Beebe, Reporter, Onsted; Richard Morris, Region I State VP, Decatur; Charles W. Vincent, Region II State VP, Springport; Frank Buich, Region III State VP, Fairgrove; Charles Hendrickson, Region V State VP, Fremont; Ralph Clark, Region VI State VP, Traverse City; Ray H. Peffers, Region VII State VP, Rudyard)

STATE OFFICERS - 1947-1948



John Heim
President
Traverse City



Keith Little
Secretary
Cass City



Elmore Higby
Region III State VP
Romeo



Richard Sandbrook
Region V State VP
Blanchard

(Not pictured: Gordon Nash, Treasurer, Ionia; George Frost, Jr., Reporter, Romeo; Norman Grigsby, Region I State VP, Allegan; Eldine R. Finkbeiner, Region II State VP, Saline; Dale Southward, Region IV State VP, Olivet; Bob D. Herner, Region VI State VP, Marion; Walter E. Pieper, Region VIII State VP, Pinconning)

STATE OFFICERS - 1948-1949



Jerry L. Jorgensen
President
Williamston



Harry Densmore
Secretary
Alma



Max McConnell
Reporter
Olivet



A. LaJean Marshall
Region I State VP
Quincy



Loren Gerber
Region VI State VP
Reed City

(Not pictured: Dean Sloan, Treasurer, Almont; R. Dean Mead, Region II State VP, Springport; Everett G. Bristol, Region III State VP, Almont; Richard Bigelow, Region IV State VP, Alma; Carl P. Sneller, Region V State VP, Fremont; George J. Lombard, Region VII State VP, Oscoda; Eugene James, Region VIII State VP, Iron River)



Harry Densmore
Secretary
Alma



Carl W. Sanford
Region III State VP
Sandusky



Earl Gerstacker
Region VII State VP
Midland

(Not pictured: John Norton, President, Cassopolis; Carl Silvernail, Treasurer, Caro; William Bricker, Reporter, Hart; Dale W. Kretchman, Region I State VP, Benton Harbor; Roger L. Bradley, Region II State VP, Springport; Royce Lockwood, Region IV State VP, Williamston; Gerald F. Larson, Region V State VP, Lake Odessa; Edgar Powell, Region VI State VP, Manton; Dale J. Dent, Region VIII State VP, Iron River)

STATE OFFICERS - 1950-1951



Standing: Charles Fisher, Region I State VP, Wayland; William Andrus, Region III State VP, Elkton; Richard A. Pylam, Region IV State VP, Grand Ledge; Jerry Spencer, Region V State VP, Hart; Edgar Powell, Region VI, Manton; Duane E. Spyker, Region VII State VP, Midland

Seated: Fred Williams, President, Marlette; Dale W. Kretchman, Secretary, Benton Harbor; Robert V. Wenger, Treasurer, Middleville; William Weisgerber, Reporter, Ionia

(Not pictured: J.C. Drake, Region II State VP, Jonesville; Darrell Hunch, Region VIII State VP, Richford)

STATE OFFICERS - 1951-1952



Officers: Robert I. Nemcik, President, Elsie; Duaine Mizer, Secretary, Alma; Roger A. Wyngarden, Treasurer, Fremont; Carlyle Hager, Reporter, Marlette; Barton Richardson, Region I State VP, Cassopolis; Richard W. Snow, Region II State VP, Hanover; Alfred M. Petiprim, Region III State VP, Caro; Rollin D. Blosssey, Region IV State VP, Williamson; John K. First, Region V State VP, Ionia; Russell E. Gerber, Region VI State VP, Reed City; Stanley Streeter, Jr., Region VII State VP, Oscoda; Glenn Crisp, Region VIII State VP, Pickford

STATE OFFICERS - 1952-1953



Standing: Richard Dean, Region I State VP, Middleville; Wesley Prine, Region II State VP, Springport; John P. Hyde, Region III State VP, Yale; Wilbur Rykert, Region IV State VP, Williamston; Loren E. Gray, Region V State VP, Felch Barryton; Michael A. Yonkman, Region VI State VP, Mesick; Roger L. Coorware, Region VIII State VP, Ovid;
Seated: John Halsey, Reporter, Oliver; Duane S. Girbach, Treasurer, Saline; Raymond D. Hooker, Region VII State VP, Gladwin; David H. Boyne, President, Marlette; Kenneth Austin, Secretary, Ovid; Amos Weaver, Sentinel, Charlotte

STATE OFFICERS - 1953-1954



Standing: Larry Ferrigan, Region VII State VP, Pinconning; Paul W. Thompson, Region I State VP, Allegan; Francis Stout, Region V State VP, Ionia; Donald J. Atkins, Region III State VP, Marlette; Kenneth Shepard, Region VI State VP, East Jordan; Clarke Schlabach, Sentinel, Elkton

Seated: Frank Kirinovic, Reporter, Ovid; Ronald Halsey, State Secretary and Region IV State Vice President, Oliver; Richard K. Arnold, President, Plainwell; Bill Raynard, Region VIII State VP, Pickford; Max Allen, Treasurer, Williamston; Clarke Schlabach, Sentinel, Elkton

STATE OFFICERS - 1954-1955



Officers: James Boyne, President, Marlette; Ronald Popp, Secretary, Almont; Earl Phelps, Treasurer, Cedar Springs; Robert E. Hyde, Reporter, Hale; Wayne Blosssey, Sentinel, Williamson; Fred TenHoor, Region I State VP, Wayland; Carl Cornstubble, Region II State VP, Parma; John H. Williamson, Region III State VP, Sandusky; Donald McVannel, Region IV State VP, Merrill; Millard Bransington, Region V State VP, Edmore; James Shepard, Region VI State VP, East Jordan; Jerry Haines, Region VII State VP, Gladwin; Arnold Blomquist, Region VIII State VP, Felch

STATE OFFICERS - 1955-1956



Thomas Beatty
President
Williamston

(Not pictured: Richard R. Enos, Secretary, Vassar; Donald D. Hewitt, Treasurer, Swartz Creek; Anthony Korican, Reporter, Milan; Ronald Alexander, Sentinel, Sandusky; Craig McCoy, Region I State VP, Benton Harbor; Edward D. Mead, Region II State VP, Springport; Wayne E. Schember, Region III State VP, Elkton; James Gillis, Region IV State VP, Breckenridge; Philip Jones, Region V State VP, Saranac; Dennis Sellers, Region VI State VP, Petoskey; Francis Shearer, Region VII State VP, Gladwin; Raymond Salo, Region VIII State VP, Rudyard)

STATE OFFICERS - 1956-1957



Standing: William Kissane, Region IV State VP, St. Johns; Jack R. Hill, Region II State VP, Adrian; Gerald Simpson, Region VII State VP, Bay City Handy; James Helmer, Region I State VP, Colon; Erik A. Ball, Region VIII State VP, Sault Ste. Marie; William Anderson, Region VI State VP, Scottville; Ron Pierson, Region V State VP, Ionia; Gerald Thorp, Region III State VP, Carol

Seated: Darold Simpson, Sentinel, Saranac; Donald D. Hewitt, Treasurer, Swartz Creek; Norman A. Brown, President, Temperance; Ervin West, Secretary, Williamston; Kenneth Bortel, Reporter, Britton

STATE OFFICERS - 1957-1958



Standing: Donald Huff, Region I State VP, Dowagiac; Arden L. Ford, Region II State VP, Blissfield; Eldon E. Wright, Region IV State VP, Charlotte; Dean Hyde, Region V State VP, Carson City; Larry Herweyer, Region VI State VP, McBain; Donald Lutz, Region VII State VP, Bay City Handy; William Ross, Region VIII State VP, Rudyard
Seated: Gerald F. McVannel, Reporter, Merrill; John P. Jackson, Secretary, Onsted; Gerald Neil, President, Williamston; Robert Baur, Region III State VP, Pigeon; Edward R. Barton, Sentinel, Plainwell

STATE OFFICERS - 1958-1959



Standing: Lawrence Thompson, Region I State VP, Allegan; Karl W. Kimerer, Region II State VP, Britton; William McCarty, Region III State VP, Elkton; Richard Spike, Region IV State VP, Chesaning; Russell VanderVeen, Region VI State VP, McBain; William Shearer, Region VII State VP, Gladwin; Bela Feher, Region VIII VP, Stephenson
Seated: Kenneth I. Kline, Sentinel, Mattawan; Floyd L. Engelhardt, Treasurer, Sebawaing; Daniel O'Brien, President, Holly; Eddie Wittenbach, Region V State VP, Belding; Ronald J. Cook, Secretary, Marshall; John Goodchild, Reporter, Caro

STATE OFFICERS - 1959-1960



Left: Thomas McPherson, Region I State VP, Marshall; Charles VanDenBurg, Region II State VP, Litchfield; Robert J. Campbell, Region III State VP, Yale; Gerald Lover, Region IV State VP, Elsie; Melvin J. Ekkel, Region V State VP, Fremont; Dirk Maxwell, Region VII State VP, Midland (*Not pictured: Michael Gollinger, Region VIII State VP, Sault Ste. Marie*)

Right: J. Michael Ranger, Sentinel, Carson City; Donald Nugent, Region VI State VP, Benzonia; James E. Bremer, Secretary, Reese; Ronald E. Hamlin, President, Webberville; Peter W. Spike, Treasurer, Milan; Lawrence Wagner, Reporter, Britton



STATE OFFICERS - 1960-1961



Standing: R.V. Baker, Region I State VP, Climax; Glen Ziegler, Region II State VP, Litchfield; N. Lynn Schriber, Region III State VP, Caro; Robert Wiles, Region IV State VP, Byron; Gail Norman, Region V State VP, Rockford; Robert Davidson, Region VIII State VP, Felch Norman Miller, Region VI State VP, West Branch; Thomas G. Moran, President, Sandusky; Bruce Alexander, Secretary, Cassopolis; George Kowalczyk, Jr., Sentinel, Caledonia
Seated: Ross Rockenbaugh, Reporter, Hart; Richard Walsworth, Treasurer, Traverse City

STATE OFFICERS - 1961-1962



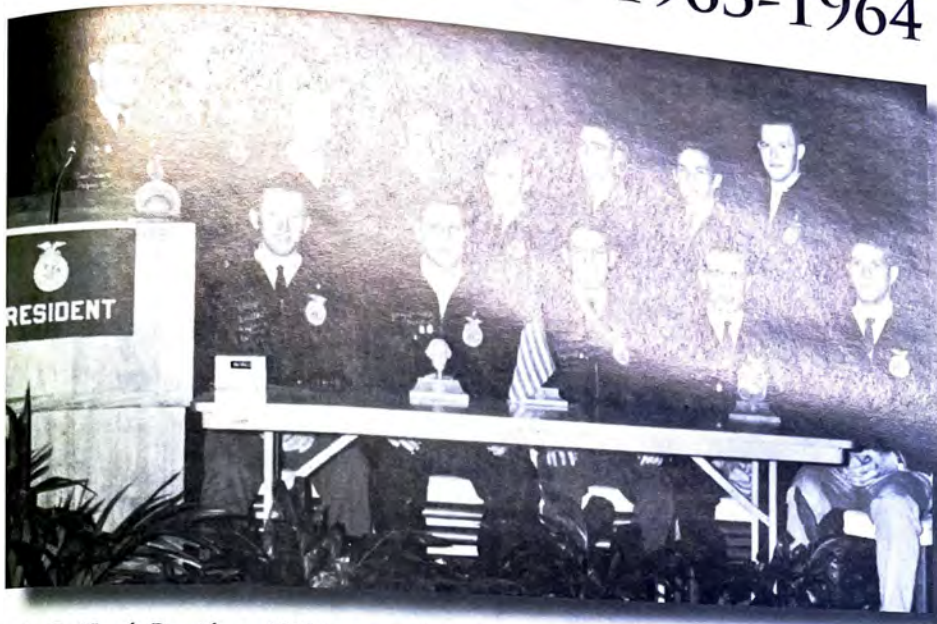
From top left, clockwise: James B. Mamph, Region VIII State VP, Rudyard; Vincent Worely, President, Hillsdale; Ronald Kohn, Secretary, Croswell-Lexington; Wayne E. Burkhart, Treasurer, Pellston; Gary W. Gee, Sentinel, Stockbridge; Dennis Meyers, Region V State VP, Saranac; Roger K. Pfister, Region IV State VP, Williamston; Marvin Kelso, Region VI State VP, Gaylord; Roger W. Carr, Region I State VP, Colon; Jeffrey Ehlert, Region II State VP, Blissfield; Robert Lutz, Region III State VP, Sebewaing; Robert Papin, Reporter, Alcona (*Not pictured: Larry R. Kleinhardt, Region VII State VP, Clare*)

STATE OFFICERS - 1962-1963



Standing: Karl A. Schmidt, Region II State VP, Springport; James Nunn, Region III State VP, Croswell-Lexington; William D. Byrun, Region IV State VP, Leslie; Leo C. Mulholland, Region V State VP, Lakeview; James Shoup, Region VI State VP, Mason Co. Eastern; John Wilford, Region VII State VP, Gladwin; Roger Blomquist, Region VIII State VP, Felch
Seated: Robert F. Barr, Sentinel, Yale; Gary L. Benjamin, Treasurer, Williamston; Victor Lutz, President, Bay City Handy; Wilfred D. Smith, Secretary, Ovid; Thomas M. Kempf, Reporter, Fremont

STATE OFFICERS - 1963-1964



Standing: Marvin E. Head, President, Williamston; Larry Copeland, Region I State VP, Tekonsha; Don Jahr, Region III State VP, Sebawaing; Richard Hamlin, Region IV State VP, Webberville; Robert Wilson, Region V State VP, Lakeview; Clayton H. Gibbard, Region VI State VP, Paul E. Shearer, Region VII State VP, Gladwin; Laverne Buzzo, Region VIII State VP, Felch

Seated: Gary D. Smith, Sentinel, Litchfield; Jerry Brandel, Treasurer, Hart; Nelson Franciso, Reporter, Marshall; Gary H. Smith, Secretary, Morenci; Harold Heath, Region II State VP, Milan

(Note: Early in his term, Laverne Buzzo was drafted into military service and replaced by Roger Blomquist, Felch)

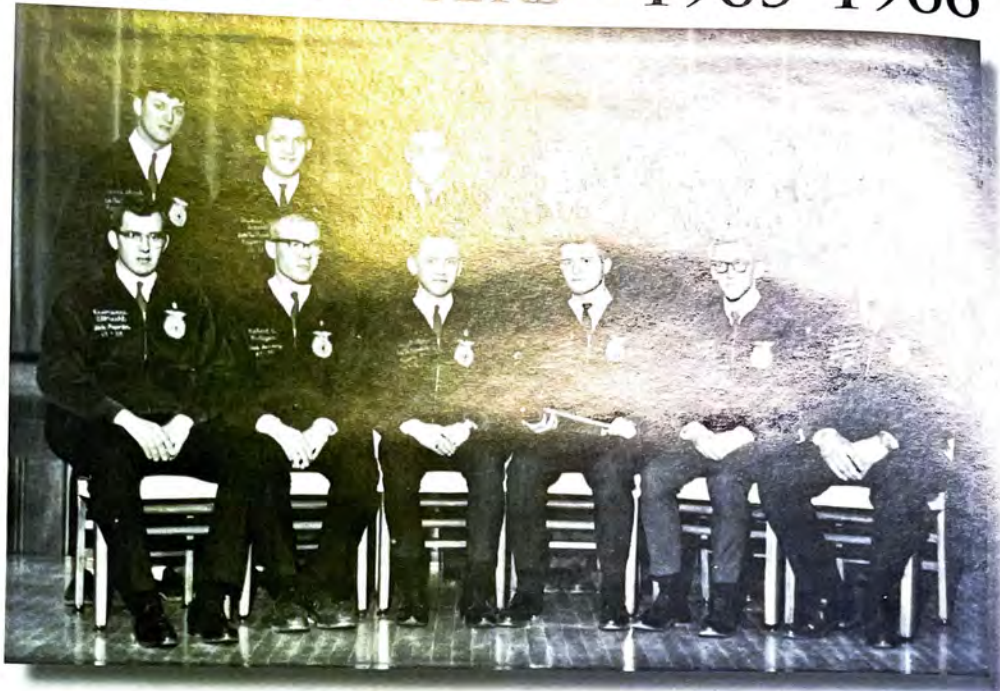
STATE OFFICERS - 1964-1965



Standing: Jerry Wiggins, Region I State VP, Niles; Paul Vergote, Jr., Region II State VP, Blissfield; Douglas Bodenbender, Region III State VP, Byron; Vernon A. Wittenbach, Region IV State VP, Belding; George Parsons, Region V State VP, Rudyard; Duaine E. Vogel, Region VI State VP, Bay City Central; Scott Brood, Region VII State VP, Manchester; Brian J. Glover, Region VIII State VP, Ludington; Douglas B. Spike, Secretary, West Branch; Harold F. Anderson, Reporter, Fowlerville

Seated: Daniel J. Shoup, President, Eaton Rapids; Roger Wangler, Treasurer, Fowlerville

STATE OFFICERS - 1965-1966



Standing: Spencer Shunk, Region VIII State VP, Sault Ste. Marie; Michael Schwab, Region VII State VP, Standish-Sterling; Thomas Herremans, Region V State VP, Ravenna; Howard Falker, Region III State VP, Romeo; John Trott, Region II State VP, Reading; Kenneth A. Bohn, Region I State VP, Galien
Seated: Lawrence Albrecht, Reporter, Carsonville; Robert A. Milligan, Secretary, Cass City; Thomas Atherton, Region IV State VP, Byron; Richard D. Byrum, President, Leslie; Thomas E. Spike, Treasurer, Chesaning; Gordon Behrenwald, Sentinel, Lakeview

STATE OFFICERS - 1966-1967



Standing: Dennis Lambert, Region I State VP, Hopkins; Bill Bailey, Region II State VP, Sand Creek; David G. Bush, Region III State VP, Caro; Vern Hartenburg, Region IV State VP, Eaton Rapids; Ronald M. Wood, Region VI State VP, Scottville; DeVere Dennings, Region VII State VP, Gladwin; Charles E. Brown, Region VIII State VP, Sault Ste. Marie
Seated: Douglas Lewis, Reporter, Jonesville; David Tutak, Secretary, Montague; Dale E. Nye, President, Lakeshore; Gary Keefer, Region V State VP, Portland; Earl Fox, Treasurer, Beal City; DeLane H. Ruess, Sentinel, Owosso

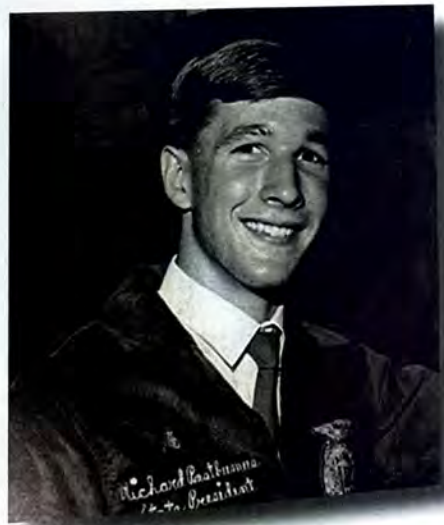
STATE OFFICERS - 1967-1968



Walt Barta, Jr.
President
Chesaning

(Not pictured: Robert Gregory, Secretary, Sebewaing; Rodney Brood, Treasurer, Rudyard; Roger W. Bloss, Reporter, Swartz Creek; Neil E. Braden, Sentinel, Byron; Russell E. Coffey, Region I State VP, Hopkins; Carl Horkey, Region II State VP, Dundee; Zan Powell, Region III State VP, Peck; John Craig, Region IV State VP, Ovid-Elsie; David W. Smith, Region V State VP, Carson City; Richard Olds, Region VI State VP, Kingsley; Donald Bell, Region VIII State VP, Sault Ste. Marie)

STATE OFFICERS - 1968-1969



Richard E. Posthumus
President
Caledonia

(Not pictured: Dennis R. Konczal, Secretary, Fowlerville; Roger Courtland, Treasurer, Scottville; Jim May, Reporter, Sparta; Arlen Bell, Sentinel, Sault Ste. Marie; Bill White, Region I State VP, Cassopolis; Gary Leininger, Region II State VP, Waldron; Tom Richardson, Region III State VP, Brown City; Phil Strauch, Region IV State VP, Corunna; Dwight Nash, Region V State VP, Portland; George Hubbard, Region VI State VP, Lakeview; Roger Dennings, Region VII State VP, Gladwin; Dennis C. Greenman, Region VIII State VP, East Jordan)

STATE OFFICERS - 1969-1970



Back Row: Gordon L. Lawson, Region I State VP, Cassopolis; Richard J. Metz, Region II State VP, Ida; David Batkie, Region III State VP, Sandusky; John Oakley, Region IV State VP, Dansville; Charles R. Hodges, Region V State VP, Caledonia; Eric Armentrout, Region VII State VP, Clare; Larry Ebnit, Region VII State VP, Ithaca; Harvey Bell, Region VIII State VP UP, East Jordan; **Front Row:** Robert G. Craig, President, Ovid-Elsie; John Goebel, Region VIII State VP LP, East Jordan; Paul Grill, Secretary, Fowlerville; Tom Atherton, Treasurer, Marlette; Gary Towne, Reporter, Lakeview; Randy Bedell, Sentinel, Williamston

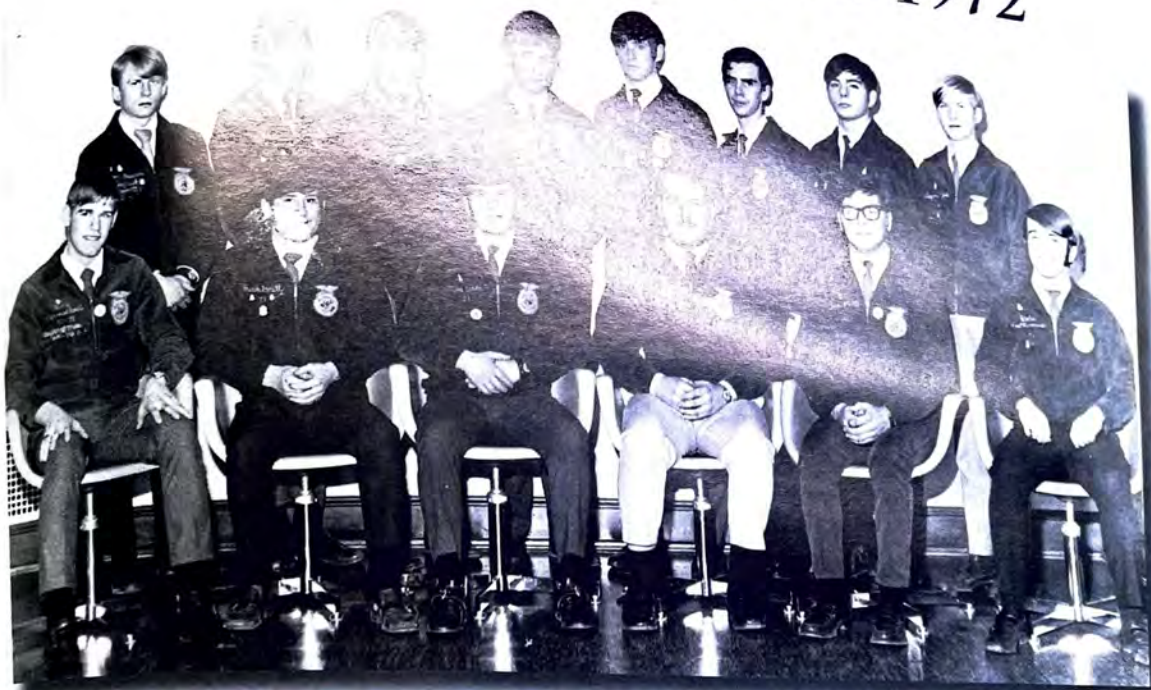
STATE OFFICERS - 1970-1971



John D. Young
President
Harbor Beach

(Not pictured: Henry Behrenwald, Secretary, Lakeview; William Pridgeon, Treasurer, Reading; Bruce Smith, Reporter, Onstead; Fred Creager, Sentinel, Ravenna; Paul Metzger, Region I State VP, Bronson; Keith Eisenmann, Region II State VP, Blissfield; Steve Hoeksema, Region III State VP, Imlay City; John Powell, Region IV State VP, Williamston; Alan Steeby, Region V State VP, Caledonia; Thomas McDonald, Region VI State VP, Mt. Pleasant; Randy Miller, Region VII State VP, Ogemaw Heights; Ken Hatch, Region VIII VP LP, Alpena; Doug Hoolsema, Region VIII State VP UP, Rudyard)

STATE OFFICERS - 1971-1972



Standing: Duane Stuever, Region III State VP, Capac; Gary McMullen, Region VII State VP, Mayville; Craig Schweitzer, Region V State VP, Sparta; Dan Gallagher, Region VIII State VP UP, Sault Ste. Marie; Adrian Greenman, Region VIII State VP LP, East Jordan; Ron Wieferich, Region VI State VP, Mt. Pleasant; Randy Sober, Region II State VP, North Adams
Seated: Gary Carmichael, Sentinel, Evart; Richard Grill, Secretary, Fowlerville; Mike Accoe, Region I State VP, Dowagiac; Joe Fabian, President, Coopersville; Elmer Gowell, Treasurer, Montague; Dale Posthumus, Reporter, Caledonia

STATE OFFICERS - 1972-1973



Standing: Ed Oplinger, Region VI State VP, Chippewa Hills; Dennis Miller, Region I State VP, Hopkins; Larry Sheridan, Region IV State VP, Fowlerville; Bernard Meier, Region VII State VP, Ogemaw Heights; Alan Rosel, Region V State VP, Coopersville; Mike St. Louis, Region VIII State VP UP, Rudyard; Burton E. Keefer, Region III State VP, Lapeer; Ronald L. Gillison, Region VIII State VP LP, Benzie Central
Seated: Glenn Preston, Reporter, Quincy; Frank H. Holcomb, Sentinel, Milan; Karl Kincade, President, Port Hope; John Meister, Region II State VP, Waldron; Lynn Whiting, Secretary, Ovid-Elsie; Gregory V. Varner, Treasurer, Breckenridge

STATE OFFICERS - 1973-1974



Top Row: Raymond Daniels, Region VII State VP, Standish-Sterling; Mike Kovacic, Region IV State VP, Durand; Walter Smith, Jr., Region VIII State VP, Fairview; Ed Kretchman, Region I State VP, Lakeshore

Middle Row: Paul Gross, Region VI State VP, Beal City; Keith Hesche, Region V State VP, Ionia; John Vincent, Region II State VP; Randy Rutkowski, Region III State VP, Ubly

Bottom Row: Brian R. Hasty, Treasurer, Union City; Kevin Fullerton, Reporter, Charlotte; Allen. K. Nofziner, President, Waldron; Kim Newell, Secretary, Caledonia; Randy Turner, Sentinel, Sault Ste. Marie

STATE OFFICERS - 1974-1975



L to R: Jim Schrader, Sentinel, Centreville; Kim Heisler, Reporter, Oliver; Ron Carlisle, President, Cassopolis; Anita Stuever, Secretary, Capac; Kendall Nash, Treasurer, Pittsford



L to R: Maurica Squires, Region V State VP, Eaton Rapids; Don Batchelor, Region I State VP, Buchanan; Bruce Porter, Region II State VP, Blissfield; Greg Buning, Region VI State VP, McBain; James Durance, Region VII State VP, Whittemore-Prescott; Charlie Green, Region IV State VP, Ovid-Elsie; Ken Rutkowski, Region III State VP, Ubly; Mike Andrews, Region VIII State VP, Sault Ste. Marie

STATE OFFICERS - 1975-1976



L to R: Dennis Grabil, President, Grant; Julie Luchies, VP, Fremont; Ed Hague, Secretary, Webberville; Leona Daniels, Treasurer, Whittemore-Prescott; Dale Stuever, Reporter, Capac; Richard Hollister, Sentinel, Bronson; Dennis Boughton, Region I State VP, Marshall; Bill Kasefang, Region II State VP, Blissfield



L to R: Bob Rutkowski, Region III State VP, Ubyly; Ron Haarer, Region IV State VP, Perry; Mike Johnson, Region V State VP, Rockford; Bruce Studer, Region VI State VP, Shelby; John Krick, Region VII State VP, Reese; Donald Horn, Region VIII State VP, Harbor Springs

STATE OFFICERS - 1976-1977



Standing: Brian Troyer, Region I State VP, Centreville; Margo Lemmon, Region II State VP, Camden-Frontier; Clark Brock, Region III State VP, Brown City; William Butcher, Region IV State VP, Byron; Craig Dow, Region IV State VP, Lakewood; John Byl, Region VI State VP, Shelby; Jerry Wonsey, Region VII State VP, St. Louis; Kim Sumerix, Region VIII State VP, Alpena

Seated: Vern Brown, Sentinel, Jonesville; Butch Wagner, Secretary, Colon; James Licht, President, Laker; Bruce Foster, VP, Niles; Dale Briggs, Treasurer, Hemlock; Robert Engler, Beal City, St. Louis

STATE OFFICERS - 1977-1978



Top Row: Dan Wyant, Region I State VP, Cassopolis; Bill Earl, Region II State VP, Reading; Marie Malburg, Region III State VP; Almont; Bob Butcher, Region IV State VP, Byron; Bill Cline, Region V State VP, Portland; Ron Hodges, Region VI State VP, Lakeview; Dennis Engelhard, Region VII State VP, USA; Diane Brazier, Region VIII State VP, Petoskey
Bottom Row: Chuck Squires, Sentinel, Cedar Springs; Gordon A. Zook, VP, Lakewood; Scott A. Foster, President, Niles; Kathy Vrable, Secretary, Chesaning; Ralph A. Hansen, Reporter, Hopkins; Peter Nellis, Treasurer, Chippewa Hills

STATE OFFICERS - 1978-1979



Top Row: Marc L. Roberts, Region I State VP, Quincy; David A. Godfrey, Region II State VP, Jonesville; Louis Pechette, Region III State VP, Laker; Raymond Griffes, Region IV State VP, Webberville; Darlene K. Hanenburg, Region V State VP, Coopersville; Peggy A. Studer, Region VI State VP, Shelby; Jill M. Spiekerman, Region VII State VP, Breckenridge; Steven Gonyea, Region VIII State VP, Alpena
Bottom Row: Philip J. Hall, Sentinel, Hopkins; Tim. L. Young, Treasurer, Lakeview; Dale Schian, VP, Brown City; Craig Berry, President, Reading; Marie Wirostek, Secretary, Chesaning; Donald L. Steeby, Reporter, Caledonia

STATE OFFICERS - 1979-1980



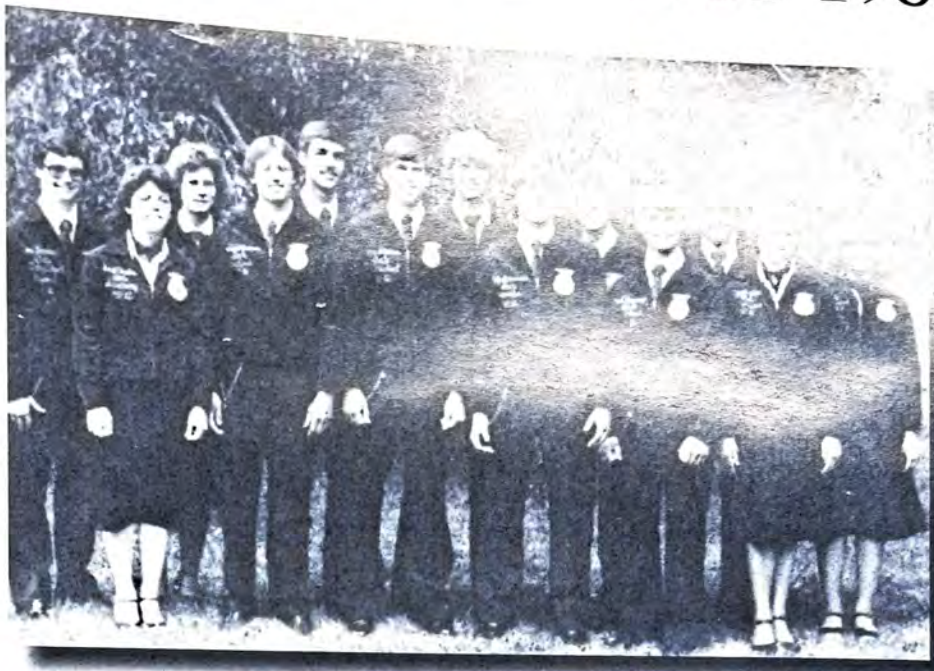
Top Row: Paul Varner, Region VII State VP, Breckenridge; Mark Sequin, Region VIII State VP, Alpena
Middle Row: Beverly Bosch, Region I State VP, Hamilton; Doug Darling, Region II State VP, Milan; Craig Kubacki, Region III State VP, Ubly; Karen Green, Region IV State VP, Ovid-Elsie; Johanna Ray, Region VI State VP, Chippewa Hills
Bottom Row: Timothy Dailey, Sentinel, Sand Creek; James Baker, Reporter, St. Louis; Victor Verchereau, President, Chelsea; Jeff Brazo, VP, Niles; Connie Gehring, Secretary, Harbor Beach; Rick Burkett, Treasurer, Cassopolis (*Not pictured: Paul Bennett, Region V State VP, Bellevue*)

STATE OFFICERS - 1980-1981



L to R: Steve Kanaski, Region III State VP, North Huron; Michael West, Region IV State VP, Perry; Margie Krussell, Region VIII State VP, Petoskey; Brian Martindale, Corunna, VP; Mark Varner, Sentinel, Breckenridge; Scott Johnson, Region VI State VP, Lakeview; Kimber Decker, President, Chippewa Hills; Gene Graham, Secretary, Williamston; Dan Gleis, Region II State VP, North Adams; Randy Bernhardt, Reporter, Laker; Teresa Black, Treasurer, Ovid-Elsie; Cheryl Frost, Region I State VP, Niles; James Connors, Region V State VP, Caledonia

STATE OFFICERS - 1981-1982



Officers: Paul R. Wegmeyer, President, Alpena; Perry Storms, VP, Centreville; Barbara Jo Ebenhoeh, Secretary, New Lothrop; Theresa Batora, Treasurer, Ovid-Elsie; Jeff Stevenson, Reporter, Coopersville; Dwight Brown, Sentinel, Jonesville; Tom Marshall, Region I State VP, Quincy; Alan V. Dickerson, Region II State VP, Britton; Yvonne Pionk, Region III State VP, Ubly; Jim Webster, Region IV State VP, Webberville; Lynn Wilcox, Region V State VP, Lowell; Bill Weldon, Region VI State VP, Clare; Joseph Kelpinski, Region VII State VP, Whittemore-Prescott

STATE OFFICERS - 1982-1983



Top Row: Gerald D. Gonder, President, Benzie Central; Bill Brown, Region I State VP, Cassopolis; Darryl Fowler, VP, St. Louis; Terry Finegan, Region II State VP, Jonesville; Craig A. Binkowski, Region V State VP, Olivet; Mike Schmidt, Reporter, Blissfield

Bottom Row: Mary Jo Whiting, Region IV State VP, Ovid-Elsie; Mike Turner, Treasurer, Owosso; Janice A. Meyers, Secretary, Caledonia; Ann M. Osentoski, Region III State VP, Ubly; Yvonne Dobson, Region VII State VP, Whittemore-Prescott; Karen Kokko, Region VIII State VP, Sault Ste. Marie; Jim Grecheski, Sentinel, Cedar Springs; Craig Carmichael, Region VI State VP, Evart

STATE OFFICERS - 1983-1984



L to R: Robert Sollman, President, Imlay City; Kent Kimerer, VP, Britton; Dale Darling, Secretary, Milan; Shaun Gary, Treasurer, Caledonia; Michael Hard, Reporter, Quincy; David Pape, Sentinel, Mayville; Dennis Bosch, Region I State VP, Hamilton



L to R: Diane Crow, Region II State VP, Camden-Frontier; Lance E. Walker, Region III State VP, North Branch; David Ivan, Region IV State VP, New Lothrop; Jeffrey L. Gasper, Region V State VP, Belding; Clarence Rudat, Region VI State VP, Montague; Eric DeVuyst, Region VII State VP, Ithaca; Andy Green, Region VIII State VP, Stephenson

STATE OFFICERS - 1984-1985



Standing: Robert Fortine, Region VIII State VP, Benzie Central; Burt Henry, Treasurer, Shelby; Valerie Welch, Secretary, Alma; Tim Stein, VP, Standish-Sterling; Bart Marshall, President, Quincy; Ross Demerly, Reporter, Perry; Shelly Pickard, Sentinel, Caledonia; Tom Persons, Region I State VP, Colon

Seated: Dan Quackenbush, Region VII State VP, Chesaning; Andy Hagenow, Region V State VP, Cedar Springs; Mickey Sigafosse, Region IV State VP, Owosso; Raymond Shephard, Region III State VP, Brown City; Clint Barrett, Region II State VP, Camden Frontier

STATE OFFICERS - 1985-1986



L to R: Bradley J. Parish, President, Quincy; Marshall R. Jenkins, VP, Breckenridge; Dale Johnson, Secretary, Lakeview; Doug Covert, Treasurer, Leslie; Jenny Dine, Reporter, Lowell; Shawn Newport, Sentinel, Centreville; Kim Byers, Region I VP, Bronson



L to R: Patrick Driscoll, Region II State VP, Milan; Jeff Ladd, Region III State VP, Deckerville; Steve Cheney, Region IV State VP, Mason; Leslie M. Hoxsie, Region V State VP, Cedar Springs; Randy Wilford, Region VII State VP, Gladwin; William M. Swinson, Region VIII State VP, Alcona

STATE OFFICERS - 1986-1987



Standing: Kevin Byrne, Sentinel, Fowlerville; Jody Pollok, Reporter, Webberville; Kevin Dutcher, Region IV State VP, Perry; Tony Bognar, Region II State VP, Jonesville; Mike Wenkel, Region VII State VP, Standish-Sterling; Beth Ann Stuever, Region III State VP, Capac; Ron Hostetler, VP, Colon
Seated: Robin Johnson, Treasurer, Benzie Central; Waneta Burr, President, Alpena; Mary E. Malburg, Secretary, Almont; Janet Cornell, Region V State VP, Cedar Springs; Julie Behrenwald, Region VI State VP, Lakeview; Earl Souva, Region VIII State VP, Alcona; Bridgitt M. Flynn, Region I State VP, Marshall

STATE OFFICERS - 1987-1988



Standing: Dave Byrum, VP, Leslie; Kathy Fettig, Treasurer, Grant; Chad L. Alverson, Secretary, Caledonia; Charles E. Scovill, President, Fennville; Dwight Hardies, Region VIII State VP, Hillman; Randy Nye, Region II State VP, Camden-Frontier; John P. Holmes, Reporter, Lenawee Vo-Tech; Shelly M. Siemen, Region III State VP, Harbor Beach; Matt Kimerer, Sentinel, Byron

Seated: Sara Carter, Region VI State VP, Shelby; Beth Fulton, Region IV State VP, Perry; Lisa Locke, Region V State VP, Charlotte; Chantal Cochrane, Region I State VP, Quincy; JoAnna A. Gillis, Region VII State VP, Breckenridge

STATE OFFICERS - 1988-1989



Standing: Jeff Hawes, Region I State VP, Quincy; Angela Schuette, Region III State VP, Laker; Tom Nugent, VP, Lowell; Mike Flickinger, Treasurer, Milan; Russell Laurenz, Region VII State VP, Breckenridge; Susann Malburg, President, Almont; Ronald Behrenwald, Sentinel, Lakeview

Seated: Michele Payn, Secretary, Litchfield; John Schwandt, Region VI State VP, Lakeview; Doug Pennington, Region V State VP, Lakewood; Diana Cross, Region IV State VP, Owosso; Bernie Stewart, Reporter, Centreville; Becky Cutchall, Region II State VP, Jonesville

STATE OFFICERS - 1989-1990



Standing: Stacy B. Darling, Region V State VP, Lakeview; Rodney M. Laurenz, Region VII State VP, Breckenridge; Dennis L. Anibal, Region IV State VP, Byron; Jim H. Kronmeyer, Region VIII State VP, Pickford; Patrick T. Henne, Region III State VP, North Branch; Scott D. Poet, Region II State VP, Saline; Eric A. Trott, Reporter, BACC; Darold Howard, Region VI State VP, Chippewa Hills; Scott A. Krohn, Treasurer, Laker
Seated: Jamie Cook, VP, Lowell; Julene T. Lohr, President, Camden-Frontier; Melissa M. Potter, Secretary, Caledonia; Heather Hawyer, Region I State VP, Centreville

STATE OFFICERS - 1990-1991



L to R: Dennis R. Pennington, Region V State VP, Lakewood; Stacy E. Beute, Sentinel, Lowell; Carol A. Schmucker, Region II State VP, Camden-Frontier; Heather Gordon, Secretary, VP; Karen A. Geiger, Reporter, Deckerville; Debra S. Laurell, Region I State VP, Quincy; Andrew Brown, Treasurer, Laingsburg; Jennifer Fenton, Region VII State VP, St. Louis; Philip M. Bowman, President, Caledonia; John P. Holloway, Region VIII State VP, Petoskey; Raymond Wagester, VP, Chippewa Hills; Stephen C. Dailey, Region III State VP, Port Hope; John L. Adams, Region IV State VP, Byron

STATE OFFICERS - 1991-1992



L to R: Sara Persons, Reporter, Chippewa Hills; Amy Stroven, Region VI State VP, Fremont; Eric Salisbury, Region II State VP, Blissfield; Melissa Memmer, Region V State VP, Caledonia; Troy Crowe, VP, Corunna; Mike Smego, President, Cassopolis; Chad Bellville, Region VII State VP, Whittemore-Prescott; Jason Abbott, Sentinel, Camden-Frontier; Ken Schapman, Treasurer, Lapeer; Heather Combs, Region I State VP, Homer; Casey Kuchar, Region IV State VP, Corunna; Kelly Jo Siemen, Region III State VP, Harbor Beach

STATE OFFICERS - 1992-1993



Standing: Brent Leininger, Region II State VP, Waldron; Michael Prelesnik, VP, Mason; Randy Petroschus, Region I State VP, Hopkins; John Schut, President, Hopkins; Brett Birchmeier, Region IV State VP, New Lothrop; Michael Henne, Region III State VP, North Branch; Pete Barnum, Sentinel, Byron
Seated: Tina Mills, Region VIII State VP, Pickford; Sarah Anderson, Region VI State VP, Chippewa Hills; Holli Bowman, Treasurer, Caledonia; Renee Nugent, Region V State VP, Lowell; Sue Ann Stuever, Reporter, Capac; Melinda Schwab, Region VII State VP; Tamara Wagester, Secretary, Chippewa Hills



Standing: Alan Peters, Region II State VP, Milan; Dave Hildenbrand, President, Lowell; Daniel Schulz, Secretary, USA; Matt March, Treasurer, Beal City; Jason Martin, Sentinel, Ithaca; Randy Greiser, VP, Lowell; Michael Storey, Region VI State VP, Chippewa Hills; Nick Hilla, Region VIII State VP, Alpena

Seated: Brandie Smego, Region I State VP, Cassopolis; Jeanette Humphrey, Region IV State VP, Laingsburg; Amanda Barry, Region III State VP, Laker; Kara Bouchard, Region V State VP, Coopersville; Charla Smith, Reporter, Alma

STATE OFFICERS - 1994-1995



Top Row: Matt Smego, VP, Cassopolis; Luke Haywood, President, Hastings; Jason Thomas, Secretary, Hopkins

Second Row: Sandra Campbell, Region VIII State VP, Alcona; Nicole Lowe, Region IV State VP, Webberville; Lori Chamberlain, Treasurer, Webberville; Wendy Pline, Reporter, Ovid-Elsie; Dawn Green, Region I State VP, BACC

Third Row: Jenny Wheeler, Region III State VP, Laker; Jodi Bartholomew, Region VII State VP, Alma; Kara Endsley, Region V State VP, Hastings; Lisa Memmber, Sentine, Caledonia

Bottom Row: Ann Brooks, Region II State VP, Lenawee Vo-Tech; Beth McNeilly, Region VI State VP, Chippewa Hills

STATE OFFICERS - 1995-1996



Standing: Brad Hinton, Treasurer, Fremont; Brian Devine, Region VI State VP, Ogemaw Heights; Andy Royston, Region I State VP, Charlotte; Brian Wernstrom, Region V State VP, Montague
Seated: Shannon S. Fisher, President, St. Louis; Jenny Lindemann, Sentinel, BACC; Julie Gleason, Reporter, Gladwin; Carolyn Alwin, Region IV State VP, Laingsburg; Carrie Griffith, Secretary, Sand Creek
(Not pictured: Brad Cesal, VP, New Lothrop)

STATE OFFICERS - 1996-1997



Standing: Gabe Camp, Treasurer, Homer; Kyle Fiebig, Region III State VP, USA; Kevin Nugent, VP, Lowell; Jack Schut, Sentinel, Hopkins; Stephanie Sumerix, Region VI State VP, Alpena; Melanie M. Endres, Region V State VP, Saranac
Seated: Kristin Prelesnik, Secretary, Mason; Anelyce Jones, Region I State VP, Vicksburg; Teresa Swamba, President, Capac; Carrie Grant, Region II State VP, Sand Creek; Kelly A. Wizner, Region IV State VP, Laingsburg; Kelly Ackerman, Reporter, North Adams

STATE OFFICERS - 1995-1996



Standing: Brad Hinton, Treasurer, Fremont; Brian Devine, Region VI State VP, Ogemaw Heights; Andy Royston, Region I State VP, Charlotte; Brian Wernstrom, Region V State VP, Montague
Seated: Shannon S. Fisher, President, St. Louis; Jenny Lindemann, Sentinel, BACC; Julie Gleason, Reporter, Gladwin; Carolyn Alwin, Region IV State VP, Laingsburg; Carrie Griffith, Secretary, Sand Creek
(Not pictured: Brad Cesal, VP, New Lothrop)

STATE OFFICERS - 1996-1997



Standing: Gabe Camp, Treasurer, Homer; Kyle Fiebig, Region III State VP, USA; Kevin Nugent, VP, Lowell; Jack Schut, Sentinel, Hopkins; Stephanie Sumerix, Region VI State VP, Alpena; Melanie M. Endres, Region V State VP, Saranac
Seated: Kristin Prelesnik, Secretary, Mason; Anelyce Jones, Region I State VP, Vicksburg; Teresa Swamba, President, Capac; Carrie Grant, Region II State VP, Sand Creek; Kelly A. Wizner, Region IV State VP, Laingsburg; Kelly Ackerman, Reporter, North Adams

STATE OFFICERS - 1997-1998

Back Row, L to R: Kevin Robinson, Region II State VP, Jonesville; Darron Birchmeier, VP, New Lothrop; Nick Ladd, Sentinel, Waldron; Leslie Siefka, Treasurer, St. Louis; Shari Grieser, Secretary, Lowell; Melissa Scully, Region V State VP, Beal City

Front Row, L to R: Charles Snyder, State Advisor; Brian Kiesling, Region IV State VP, Perry; Marty Smego, Region I State VP, Cassopolis; Brian Preston, President, BACC; Mary Beth Kline, Region VI State VP, Alpena; Amanda Moore, Region III State VP, Alma; Kandi Kuchar, Reporter, Corunna



STATE OFFICERS - 1998-1999



Back Row: Dennis Peterson, VP, Cassopolis; Katie Shaull, Region III State VP, Ithaca; Jenny Daniels, Sentinel, Whittemore-
Prescott; Nick Wendling, Region IV State VP, New Lothrop; Walt Iciek, Region VI State VP, Gladwin

Front Row: Nathan Clark, President, Sanilac Career Center; Lori Preston, Region I State VP, Branch Area Career Center;
Jamie Gasper, Region V State VP, Saranac; Jennifer Leininger, Secretary, Waldron; Jackie Swihart, Reporter, Vicksburg; Lisa
Posthumus, Treasurer, Lowell

STATE OFFICERS - 1999-2000



Back Row: Ryan Sweeney, President, Mason; Brandon Lupp, Region III State VP, Unionville-Sebewaing; Emily Green, Region IV State VP, Ovid-Elsie; Mark Daniels, VP, Standish-Sterling; Liz Confer, Reporter, Perry
Front Row: Elizabeth Smego, Treasurer, Cassopolis; Katie Dingerson, Region V State VP, Ionia; Amanda Klinger, Region II State VP, Waldron; Katie McCune, Secretary, St. Louis; Sarah Martz, Region I State VP, Marshall

STATE OFFICERS - 2000-2001



L to R: Attalee Hardy, Treasurer, North Adams-Jerome; Matt Stawowy, Sentinel, Standish-Sterling; Glenn Sterner, Region IV State VP, Pewamo-Westphalia; Meghan Schwedler, Reporter, North Huron; Kara Butters, Region I State VP, Homer; Kurt Purtee, Region VI State VP, Alcona; Noelle Dunkel, Secretary, Laingsburg; Andrew Gust, Region II State VP, Lenawee Vo-Tech; Pam Swihart, VP, Vicksburg; Ryan Robinson, Region III State VP, USA; Dan Kiesling, President, Perry; Rebel Smith, Region V State VP, Fremont

STATE OFFICERS - 2001-2002



Back Row: Kyle Wyrick, Region IV State VP, Byron; Jon LaPorte, Reporter, Cassopolis; Mark Shetler, Region III State VP, Laker; Nikki Beattie, Secretary, St. Louis; Dene' Elliot, Region V State VP, Saranac; Loretta Towne, VP, Fremont; Todd Wolfe, Region I State VP, Bronson; Jennifer Schmidt, Region VI State VP, Standish-Sterling

Front Row: Kate Brackney, Region II State VP, Sand Creek; Kendra Butters, President, Homer; Jeremy Glaspie, Treasurer, Springport; Mallory Koglin, Sentinel, Port Hope

STATE OFFICERS - 2002-2003



Standing: Brandon Strong, Region II State VP, Waldron; Matt Lindsey, Region I State VP, BACC; Scott Smalley, Reporter, Uby; Bill Darke, Sentinel, Montague; Royce Humm, President, Breckenridge; Chris Creguer, Region III State VP, Laker; Luke Gentz, VP, Centreville

Seated: Alysa Isley, Secretary, Gladwin; Laura Hamlin, Region IV State VP, Webberville; Sam Scarborough, Treasurer, Stephenson; Miranda Smith, Region V State VP, Fremont; Sofia Iciek, Region VI State VP, Gladwin

STATE OFFICERS - 2003-2004



Standing: Michael Sheridan, Treasurer, Mason; Jason Jaekel, Secretary, Montague; Ryan Peterson, President, Cassopolis; Bryan Posthumus, Region V State VP, Lowell; Seth Earl, Sentinel, Camden-Frontier; Ryan McBride, Region III State VP, Laker

Seated: Nicole Campbell, Region IV State VP, Durand; Amanda Lee, Reporter, Laingsburg; Katy Reber, Region I State VP, Centreville; Katie Marchal, Region II State VP, Blissfield; Julia Hilliker, Region VI State VP, Standish-Sterling

STATE OFFICERS - 2004-2005



L to R: Matt Jakubik, VP, Whittemore-Prescott; Ryan Kramer, President, Harbor Beach, Aaron Preston, Treasurer, BACC; Nicole Welchner, Region III State VP, USA; Melissa Smith, Region V State VP, Lakewood; Nathan Baker, Secretary, Waldron, Doug Albright, Reporter, BACC; Dustin Petty, Region VI State VP, Standish-Sterling; Jake Riske, Region II State VP, Springport; Jeff Peterson, Region I State VP, Cassopolis

STATE OFFICERS - 2005-2006



Back Row: Sarah McCurley, Region I State VP, BACC; Erin Koglin, Sentinel, Port Hope; Zac Ruthenberg, Region III State VP, Laker; Jason Smith, President, Laker; Julie Thelen, VP, Saline

Front Row: Ashley Stickler, Region V State VP, Chippewa Hills; Tony McCaul, Treasurer, Lakewood; Andrea Kerbuski, Reporter, Ravenna; Alan Gust, Region II State VP, Lenawee Vo-Tech; Caitlin Lorenc, Region VI State VP, Benzie Central; Kylee Zdunic, Secretary, Corunna

STATE OFFICERS - 2006-2007



Back Row: Gabriel Holdwick, Secretary, Harbor Beach; Henry Reinart, Sentinel, Hopkins; Kirk Yackle, Region III State VP; Anna Timmerman, Treasurer, Coopersville; Nicole Schaendorf, Region I State VP, Hopkins; Emily Ries, Reporter, Sand Creek

Front Row: Danielle Martinez, Region II State VP, Springport; Ashley Orlowski, Region V State VP, Saranac; Hannah Carruthers, Region VI State VP, Standish-Sterling; Katie Eldred, VP, Maple Valley; Brooke Rockentine, Region IV State VP; Alyn Kiel, President, Montague

STATE ADVISORS



Edward E. Gallup
1929-1938



Harry E. Nesman
1938-1966



Edwin St. John
1966-1970



Clifford Haslick
1970-1971



Duane W. Dagleish
1971-1972



C. Richard Karelse
1972-1997



Charles Snyder
1997-1999



Jeffry Hawes
1999-2002



Randy Showerman
2002-Present

STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES



Edward E. Gallup
1938-1939



Luke H. Kelly
1939-1952



Elmer Lightfoot
1952-1970



John A. Depping
1970-1974



Charles K. Arensmeier
1974-1997

STATE PROJECTS CONSULTANT



Charles K. Arensmeier
1972-1974



Gerald Centers
1975-1988



Charles Snyder
1988-1999



Jeffry Hawes
1999-2005



David Wyrick
2005-Present

NATIONAL OFFICERS



Carl Shopbell
1933-1934 Secretary
Dansville



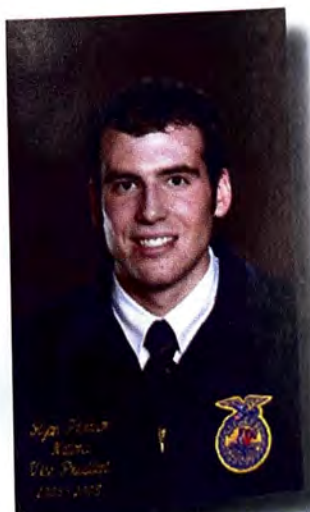
David Boyne
1953-1954 President
Marlette



Norman Brown
1958-1959 Secretary
Temperance



Ronald Cook
1960-1961 Secretary
Marshall



Ryan Peterson
2005-2006 Eastern Region VP
Cassopolis



SPECIAL THANKS



Without this amazing group of people, it would have frankly been impossible to put together this history, treatise or what have you. Whether they filled out incredibly long questionnaires that demanded they remember minute details from decades ago or offered research, pictures or friendly words of encouragement, we offer them and those we may have missed, our sincere thanks.

Teresa Acre	Jennifer Decker	Tony McCaul	Charles Scovill
Alan Alaga	Roberta Kelly Delamarter	Mary McDowell	Eldona Seeger
Charles Arensmeier	John A. Deppong	O. Donald Meaders	Randy Showerman
Joy Arthur	Al Ealy	Paul Metzger	Michelle Sidel
Donald J. Atkins	Dennis Engelhard	MSU Archives	Genevieve Smalley
Bill Bailey	Grant Fettig	Bruce Mitchell	Jason Smith
Douglas Barlund	Charlie Fisher	David Mitchell	Rebel Smith
Patty Bartley	Corey Flournoy	Eleanore Miller	Patrice Snow
Thomas Beatty	George Fogle	Deb Mohre	Charles Snyder
Caroline Benedict	Mark Forbush	Montague FFA Chapter	George W. Spencer
Earl Benedict	Duane S. Girbach	Clare Monroe	Jill Spiekerman-Carrothers
Floyd Beneker	Roger Haslick	Carroll H. Moon	Springport FFA Chapter
Max E. Benne	Burt Henry	Cheryl Moubay	Duane Spyker
Benzie Central FFA Chapter	Keith Hesche	Robert L. Nemcik	State of Michigan Archives
Darron Birchmeier	Winton Hice	John P. Norton	Donald Steeby
Samuel A. Bishop	David Hildenbrand	Lawrence Pancost	Robert Stein
Jerry Block	Megan Hirschman	Bradley J. Parish	Glenn E. Sterner, III
Robert Braden	Ronald Hisler	Duane Patrick	Brandon Strong
Jeff Brazo	Gabriel Holdwick	Karen Petty	Bruce Studer
Gordon A. Briggs	Johann Ingold	Mary Pierce	Beth Ann Stuever
Norman Brown	John P. Jackson	Edward A. Poole	Sue Ann Stuever Battel
Jennie Bowman	Priscilla Ruesink Jackson	James Potier	Kim Sumerix
Megan Burgess	Lance Jepson	Raymond Powell	Pam Swihart
Bill Butcher	Amanda Johnson	Kate Powers	Julie Thelen
Kara Butters	Vern Jones	Michael Prelesnik	Gerald F. Thorp
Kendra Butters	Richard Karelse	Aaron Preston	John Trott
Byron FFA Chapter	William Kasefang	Carrie Preston	U of M Archives
Nicole Campbell	Alyn Kiel	Donald Prine	U.S. Congressional Archives
Phil Carter	Virginia King	Sharon Prine	Elyse Ver Berkmoes
Lori Chamberlain	Robert C. Kleinschmidt	Purdue University Archives	Jennifer Vincent
Anna Childs	David Klink	Henry Reinart	Mrs. Loron Walker
Nathan Clark	Erin Koglin	Ronald K. Richmond	Jake Wamhoff
James Connors	David Krueger	Emily Ries	Duane Weaver
Ronald J. Cook	Lakewood FFA Chapter	Sarah Roberts	Jim Webster
John Craig	Charlie Langdon	Glen Ruder	Bill Wheeler
Leo Mac Cropsey	Rusty Laurenz	Richard Sandbrook	Jennifer Wheeler
Stephen C. Dailey	Veal Loss	Judy Saurer	Robert Whitford
Raymond Daniels	Max Loudenberg	Daniel Schulz	Robert Wiles
Dale Darling	Brian Martindale	John Schut	Marlene Williamson
Clarence Davis	Irene McAllister	Michael Schwab	David Wyrick
	Pat McBride	John Schwandt	

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History Of F.F.A. Is Outlined

Federally chartered in 1928, the organization's growth in membership, as well as in certain national agricultural matters, has been rapid. Its purpose is to provide the goal of a national organization of students of vocational agriculture was gleaming in the minds of various leaders. The call came clear and strong from various sections of the country was ready; the time was ripe. From the states in the Central and Pacific Regions came definite proposals to build upon the good work of the Future Farmers of America and similar organizations, formulate a constitution for and launch it as the national organization for boys studying vocational agriculture.

On Aug. 30, 1928 the 81st Congress of the United States passed Public Law 740. This law granted a Federal Charter to the Future Farmers of America Organization.

Some splendid work along vocational agriculture was done in Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Utah, California and other states. In many states, actually formed vocational agricultural student organizations. Some of these were often merged into one organization.

Master Officers

Purpose Of FFA