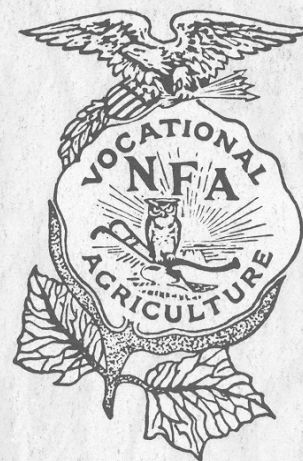




# NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA



*25 Years  
of Accomplishment*

**CREED**  
**OF**  
**THE NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA**

---

*I believe in the dignity of farm work and that I shall prosper in proportion as I learn to put knowledge and skill into the occupations of farming.*

*I believe that the farm boy who learns to produce better crops and better livestock; who learns to improve and beautify his home surroundings will find joy and success in meeting the challenging situations as they arise in his daily living.*

*I believe that rural organizations should develop their leaders from within; that the boys in the rural communities should look forward to positions of leadership in the civic, social and public life surrounding them.*

*I believe that the life of service is the life that counts; that happiness endures to mankind when it comes from having helped lift the burdens of others.*

*I believe in the practice of cooperation in agriculture; that it will aid in bringing to the man lowest down a wealth of giving as well as receiving.*

*I believe that each farm boy bears the responsibility for finding and developing his talents to the end that the life of his people may thereby be enriched so that happiness and contentment will come to all.*



National NFA Board of Trustees August, 1959

Left to right, standing: Clarence Wray, Jr., North Carolina; Martin L. Goodson, Alabama, President; John Knox, Jr., Alabama, 1958 President; Earl C. Freeman, Georgia; George W. Charles, Louisiana; Wilbert Campbell, South Carolina; Eugene Martin, Oklahoma, and Dass Prewitt, Texas. Seated: A. Floyd, Alabama; E. M. Norris, Texas; W. R. Wynder, Delaware; W. N. Elam, Washington, D. C.; R. C. Haynie, Arkansas; G. W. Conoly, Florida, and W. T. Johnson, North Carolina. Two members, W. T. Spanton and R. E. Naughton of Washington, D. C., were not present at the time the picture was made.

# NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA

## *25 Years of Accomplishment*

By  
 Dr. M. A. Fields  
 Teacher Trainer  
 Agricultural Education  
 Virginia State College  
 Petersburg, Va.

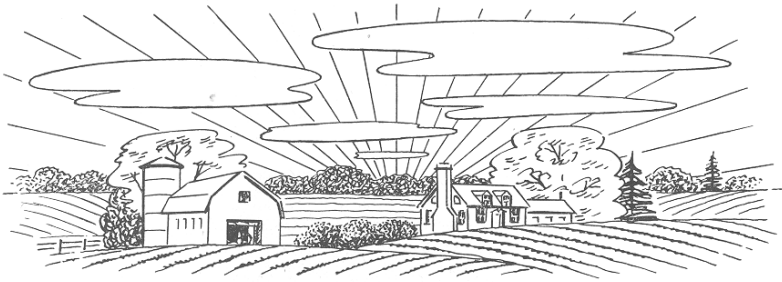
### *To The Instructors*

The New Farmers of America Organization is an integral part of the program of vocational education in agriculture. This publication, emblematic of the efforts put forth, and the accomplishments realized, is dedicated to men of distinction, namely, teachers, teacher-trainers, and supervisors of vocational agriculture. To these men tribute is due for their ability to advance the cause of the New Farmers of America without losing sight of the basic objectives in vocational agriculture. The home, the school, the community and the general welfare of the nation have profited immeasurably because of a devotion and faith which have meant sacrifice and dedication to task, frequently without man-envisioned rewards. The spirit exhibited is probably best depicted in the Creed of the teacher of vocational agriculture:

- 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 endeavor to develop professionally through study, travel, and exploration.*
- I will not knowingly wrong my fellow teacher. I will defend him as far as honesty will permit.*
- I will work for the advancement of vocational agriculture and I will defend it in my community, state and nation.*
- I realize that I am a part of the public school system. I will work in harmony with school authorities and other teachers of the school.*
- 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.*



## NFA TODAY



### Farm Youth in High Achievement

Many stories have been written of the exploits and achievements of youth. In each of these stories frequent references are made to dates, to men, to programs, and to growth and development. As the organization of New Farmers of America pauses in celebration of its 25th birthday it is only natural that consideration be given to those who have made this great organization possible. This pause, however, is not a period of rest, but rather a time for regrouping energies for more concentrated work in the future. It is significant that the organization has farsighted and energetic youth and youth leaders to carry the ball in this great game of life where opportunities are unlimited. The closed doors of the past have been opened, the solid walls of yester-years have been torn down, and the nation has finally agreed that man's worth can be evaluated only in terms of his services to society.

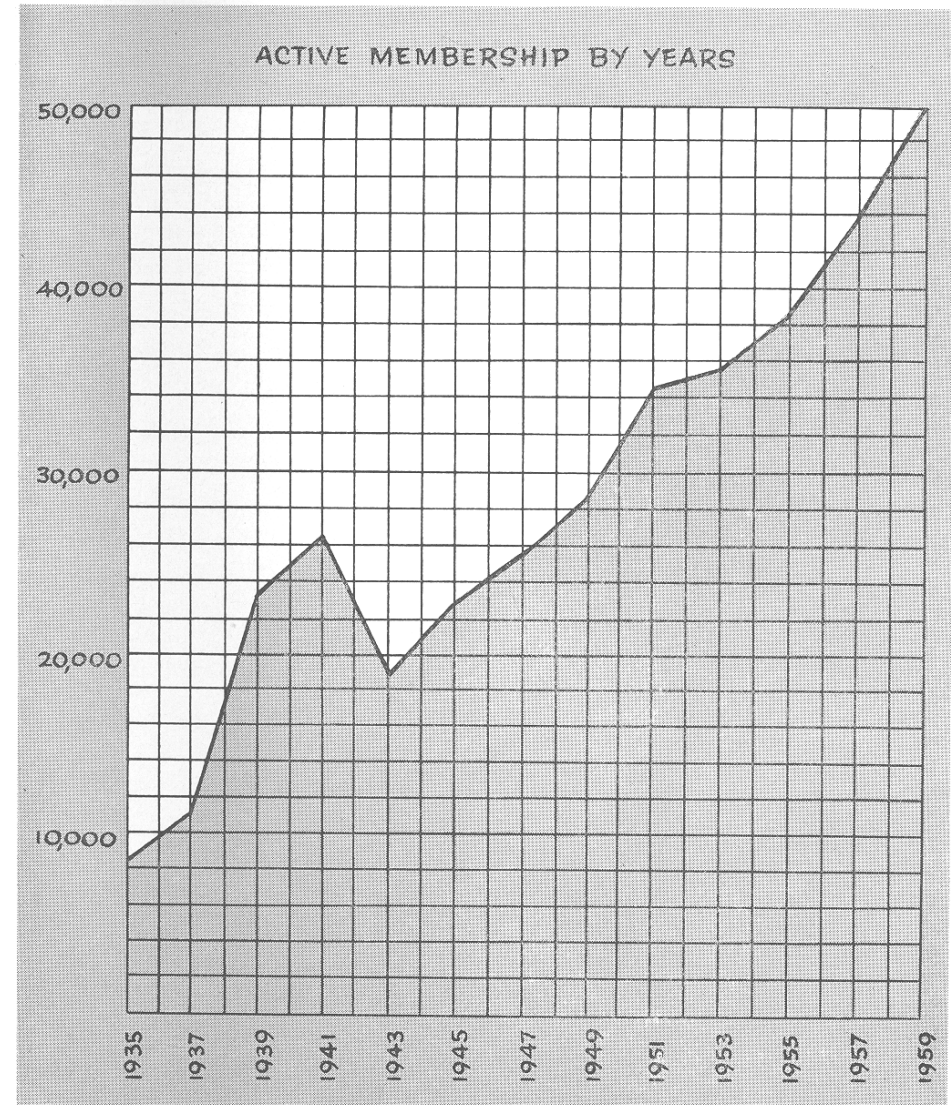
In 1944 a group of members and friends assembled at Virginia State College to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the National Organization of New Farmers of America. This celebration was characterized by much pomp and splendor as the organization had now become 10 years old, with 956 chapters and 22,304 active members. Today after 25 years at the Silver Anniversary 1,052 chapters and 47,866 active members are listed on the roster in the national office.

The United States Congress made provision in 1917, by the passage of the National Vocational Education Act, for the establishment of vocational agriculture programs in the public secondary schools. In addition to the class instruction a farm boys organization called the New Farmers of America was organized to develop agricultural leadership, character, thrift, scholarship, cooperation, and citizenship. Membership in the NFA is on a voluntary basis. However, to be eligible, a student must be enrolled in vocational agriculture.

Because Congress deemed it wise to provide Federal funds for programs of vocational education in agriculture, it is only natural to find the national headquarters of the New Farmers of America in Washington, D. C., under the Agricultural Education Branch of the Office of Education, United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The national office works in cooperation with the several State Boards of Vocational Education in administering and further developing all phases of vocational education.

## GROWTH OF THE N.F.A.

THE FIRST  
**25**  
YEARS





## NFA Student Officers (Con't.)

1947-48

James Bryant, North Carolina  
Robert Brown, Jr., Louisiana  
Lincoln Bobo, South Carolina  
Russell Adams, Georgia  
Melvin Burleson, Texas  
Walter Caldwell, Tennessee  
Glenwood Roane, Virginia

1948-49

Rupert Seals, Kentucky  
Charles C. Jackson, Maryland  
Robert Jackson, Alabama  
Lloyd Milburn, Louisiana  
Thomas Bittle, South Carolina  
Willard Dallas, Oklahoma  
Frank M. Harris, Tennessee

1949-50

Dudley DeRouen, Texas  
Unice Lasseter, Georgia  
Vernon Breckenridge, Oklahoma  
James Williams, Virginia  
Harold Hagins, Florida  
L. V. Leak, South Carolina  
John D. Rodgers, Louisiana

1950-51

Calvin Ijames, North Carolina  
K. H. Malone, Jr., Texas  
Beverly Taylor, Virginia  
Richard Jackson, Georgia  
John D. Rogers, Louisiana  
William Flakes, Florida  
Raymond D. Harris, West Virginia

1951-52

Curtis Cooper, Georgia  
Columbia J. Giles, South Carolina  
Theodus Kelley, Florida  
Charles E. Bryant, Louisiana  
Thomas A. Smith, Virginia  
Franklin D. Hill, Oklahoma  
Marion C. Webb, Alabama  
Rudolph E. DePass, Virginia

1952-53

John W. Johnson, Kentucky  
Albert L. Ballard, Jr., Louisiana  
Frank D. Bullock, Jr., North Carolina  
Hurley Fontenot, Texas  
Henry Slaughter, Georgia  
Charles W. Brunswick, West Virginia  
Robert Smith, Mississippi

1953-54

Francis N. Thompson, Maryland  
Gaston Gagne, Jr., Texas  
Victor Dunbar, North Carolina  
Robert L. Simmons, Alabama  
Bobby Crain, Louisiana  
Robert Rice, Georgia  
Richard Hatchel, South Carolina

1954-55

William O. Jones, South Carolina  
Phillip W. Brown, Alabama  
Ebby Kay, Louisiana  
Essex E. Finney, Virginia  
William McCray, North Carolina  
Robert R. Herbin, North Carolina  
Raymond Milier, Arkansas  
Edward Hansberry, Florida

1955-56

Cecil Strickland, Texas  
James H. Wright, Georgia  
Billy Ballard, Louisiana  
Arthur L. Jones, Virginia  
John L. Gordon, Alabama  
Roosevelt Lawrence, North Carolina  
Leman Strong, Arkansas

1956-57

Marvin Roundtree, North Carolina  
Lewis Gibson, Arkansas  
Paul Hull, Maryland  
James Donaldson, Florida  
Robert Hillard, Louisiana  
Calvin McCarroll, Alabama  
William Johnson, South Carolina

1957-58

John Knox, Jr., Alabama  
Waverly T. Jones, Jr., Virginia  
Clifford Jay, Jr., Georgia  
Eugene T. Martin, Louisiana  
Vernell White, South Carolina  
Obie L. Phillips, Texas  
James Tatum, Tennessee

1958-59

Martin Luther Goodson, Alabama  
Doss Harrell Pruitt, Texas  
Wilbert Campbell, South Carolina  
George W. Charles, Louisiana  
Earl Carlton Freeman, Georgia  
Clarence Wray, Jr., North Carolina  
Eugene O. Martin, Oklahoma

In the New Farmers of America, seven student officers are elected each year by the delegates present at the National Convention. They are president, student secretary, student treasurer, reporter, and one vice president from each of the organization's three administrative sections.

The adult board of directors, designated as the advisory council, is made up of the administrative adviser, adviser, administrative executive secretary, executive secretary, executive treasurer, and one adviser from each of the organization's three administrative sections.

A leadership training school is held for the student officers in January of each year in Atlanta, Georgia. Then in August, both student and adult officers assemble in Washington, D. C., for the annual meeting of the board of trustees and the advisory council. Two days prior to the National Convention which convenes in Atlanta during the Fall, the student officers and the adult officers meet, as plans are reviewed and finalized for the National Convention.

The NFA constitution and by-laws provides that the administrative adviser shall be the Chief of the Agricultural Branch of the Office of Education and that the office of administrative executive secretary shall be held by a member of his staff. The State Supervisor of Agricultural Education shall be the administrative adviser of the State Association and he shall designate a member of the State professional staff in agricultural education to serve as adviser. In all cases, the high school teacher of vocational agriculture shall serve as local adviser. State and National Conventions are held annually.

In order to meet the organization's basic objectives, many participating experiences are provided in leadership training such as conducting meetings, public speaking, cooperative endeavor and community betterment. Each NFA chapter plans a program of activities that includes parent-son banquets, recreational activities, safety campaigns, and establishment in farming. These programs and participations serve as meaningful outlets for the energies and ambitions of rural youth and develop strong rural leaders.

Recognition and reward for excellent performance serve to inspire and to challenge the boys. Progress is measured only in terms of achievement. For example, growth in the business of farming enables the boy to advance from the Farm Hand Degree through Improved Farmer, Modern Farmer to the Superior Farmer Degree.

Boys are encouraged to master the art of identifying qualities which characterize outstanding production in animals. To this end, livestock judging contests and exhibitions are held. Quite often membership in animal improvement associations is obtained by the members because of their interest in better livestock.

Probably the greatest motive for NFA members is the recognition and awards program, established by the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Inc. This organization consists of more than 300 business and industrial concerns, organizations, and individuals. They contributed over \$184,000 in 1959 for use in this program.

The net worth of the National Organization of New Farmers of America, at the end of the 1957-58 fiscal year, was \$20,453.21, which is invested largely in U. S. Savings Bonds.

## STORY OF DEVELOPMENT

As early as 1929 the advisers of the Washington and Sargent Sections expressed the desire to formulate a National Organization of New Farmers of America. This idea was warmly welcomed by the Washington Office with the late Dr. H. O. Sargent, Federal Agent for Agricultural Education, making many of the contacts and arrangements that resulted in the National NFA Organization. Progress toward this National Organization was characterized by much deliberation since the early workers wanted to be sure that a firm foundation was laid.

### State Associations First

Many States, sensing the need for organized effort with rural in-school boys, established organizations prior to the inception of the national idea. It was only natural to find a wide variety of interests expressed by the respective States in their suggestions regarding the



*H. O. Sargent*

framework and organization. The policies and plans of these many State agricultural clubs varied according to the particular situations and the initiative of the leaders. For example, Arkansas stressed fairs and exhibits; Kentucky emphasized judging; Texas was organ-

## NFA STUDENT OFFICERS

### 1935-36

David Simmons, Alabama  
Elbert Pettiford, North Carolina  
Wardell Thompson, Texas  
Joseph Johnson, Virginia  
Howard Brazil, Mississippi

### 1936-37

Elbert Pettiford, North Carolina  
E. Porter, Tennessee  
H. Whooton, Louisiana  
E. A. Ragland, Virginia  
C. S. Carter, Georgia  
N. Coleman, New Jersey  
Paul Counter, Oklahoma  
W. Stokes, South Carolina

### 1937-38

E. Porter, Tennessee  
McCoy Hunger, Virginia  
Lester Albert, Florida  
Vernon Clark, Texas  
Jethro Hill, Arkansas  
E. Livingston, New Jersey

### 1938-39

Lester Albert, Florida  
Jethro Hill, Arkansas  
P. D. Vann, Virginia  
Wilson Bonner, Georgia  
James Warren, Jr., North Carolina  
Johnson Maner, South Carolina  
Ferdinand Holmes, Tennessee

### 1939-40

Jethro Hill, Arkansas  
J. W. Smith, Texas  
Ferdinand Holmes, Tennessee  
Johnson Maner, South Carolina  
Clinton E. Woodard, Louisiana  
Isaac Coggs, Oklahoma  
Clinton Cunningham, Alabama

### 1940-41

James N. Warren, Jr., North Carolina  
Isaac Coggs, Oklahoma  
Dempsey Dixon, New Jersey  
Bert Simpson, Georgia  
Lawrence L. Reddick, Jr., Florida  
P. D. Vann, Virginia  
Hollis Stearn, Oklahoma

### 1941-42

Henry J. Revels, Louisiana  
Lawrence L. Reddick, Florida  
Reginald Holland, Virginia  
Ralph King, Mississippi  
M. W. Lawson, Texas  
Houston Stallworth, Alabama  
Rufus McGhee, North Carolina

### 1942-43

Lawrence L. Reddick, Florida  
M. W. Lawson, Texas  
Forrest Nalley, West Virginia  
Rufus McGhee, North Carolina  
Chester Waller, Delaware  
Amos Henry, Arkansas  
Otis Hicks, Louisiana

### 1943-44

Amos Henry, Arkansas  
E. L. Mullins, Tennessee  
Acy McGraw, Louisiana  
Forrest Nalley, West Virginia  
E. L. Johnson, Florida  
Herbert Love, North Carolina  
Timothy Armstrong, Oklahoma

### 1944-45

Ollie C. Hines, Virginia  
James R. Johnson, Oklahoma  
Robert Carolina, South Carolina  
John W. Holmes, Jr., West Virginia  
Archie Dorsey, Texas  
Eddie M. Jenkins, Virginia  
Cordell Wynn, Georgia

### 1945-46

Sam J. Horton, Florida  
Carlton Bailey, Maryland  
Kary C. Williams, Georgia  
Henry Ponder, Oklahoma  
Luther Shipman, North Carolina  
Lucius J. Barker, Louisiana  
James Hudson, Tennessee

### 1946-47

Lawrence D. Price, Texas  
Charles C. Flippin, Tennessee  
Lucius Vickers, Oklahoma  
Clarence L. Woods, Virginia  
Rupert G. Seals, Kentucky  
Willie R. Dockery, North Carolina  
Charlie Wexler, Jr., Louisiana

## President—Farmer



DAVID SIMMONS, (First National President of NFA, 1935-36) Route 3, Box 75, Eatonton, Georgia (birthplace and present address)

Mr. Simmons studied Vocational Agriculture in High school at Tuskegee, Alabama, where he paid all his school expenses for three years from his supervised farming program, consisting of 500 broilers, 125 laying hens, an acre of sweet potatoes, a brood sow with nine pigs, and a third interest in five acres of hay—a big farming operation for a high school boy 25 years ago.

Today he owns a 316-acre dairy farm and manages the 300-acre family estate. He produces Grade-A milk from a herd of 30 cows that brings a monthly income of \$550.00.

His leadership activities are legion—in the church, Masonic Lodge, school and civic affairs, and general community welfare.

ized around the progressive farmer idea; leadership training and establishment in farming characterized the work in Alabama; judging and program planning were evident during the early meetings in Oklahoma; Louisiana provided experiences in demonstrations, contests, and recreation; Florida gave recognition to outstanding chapters; increased extra-class activities highlighted the programs in New Jersey; exchange of ideas, improved social contacts and broadened vocational experiences highlighted the program in Virginia.

Dr. Sargent continued to work unceasingly in the interest of a national grouping of members. His contacts with the several States enabled him to be well informed regarding the prevailing programs and policies. The background history also includes the work of G. W. Owens, teacher-trainer of Virginia State College, who wrote the first constitution and by-laws of the New Farmers of Virginia. Virginia held its first State Rally in 1927. In the meantime, other States, stimulated by Dr. Sargent's advocacy of an organization for agricultural students in areas where separate schools were maintained, expressed the desire to become organized; therefore, copies of the constitution and by-laws of the Virginia Association were sent to each State.

## Then the Sections

With the establishment of the State Associations came added impetus to the desire to have a National organization for all members. This resulted in the formation of the Washington Section in 1928, comprised of Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. Later New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland were added. The Almmot Section, including Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas, was formed a year or two later. The original States were Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas and Oklahoma, designated as the A-L-Tex-O Section. A little later the Gulf Section, including Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and Kentucky, organized. The Gulf Section later became known as the Sargent Section, with Mississippi shifting to the Almmot Section.

Sectional meetings characterized the growth of the Washington chapters during the "1928-plus period" with South Carolina, North Carolina, Maryland and the Nation's Capital serving as host to the group. The other two sections also met during these years with the respective States serving as host.

## And Now, National

Early in 1935, Dr. Sargent made arrangements to hold the first National meeting of New Farmers of America at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama. The delegates and representatives assembled August 4, 1935, to form the National Organization with a tentative constitution and by-laws. This initial meeting was presided over at the beginning by David Simmons, president of the Alabama Association. Represented were the following States: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida,



# FARMING PROGRAMS

Georgia, Mississippi, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, Louisiana and Maryland. Each State was permitted two delegates as the first National House of Delegates assembled. In order to facilitate the business of the convention, David Simmons, as the acting president, appointed the following committees:

- Constitution and by-laws
- Program of Work
- Manual
- Nominating
- Publicity and NFA Day
- National Medals and Reports
- Contests
- Alumni NFA Organization
- Uniforms
- Budget
- Resolution

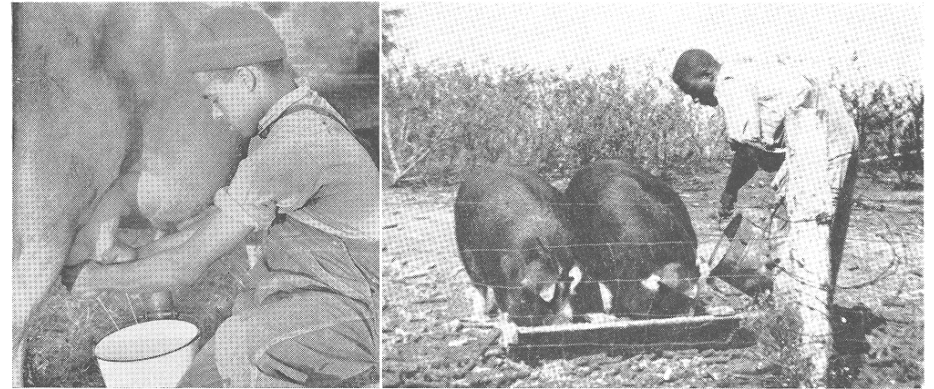
The first National NFA officers elected were as follows:

- President ..... David Simmons, Alabama
- 1st Vice-President ..... Elbert Pettiford, North Carolina
- 2nd Vice-President ..... Wardell Thompson, Texas
- 3rd Vice-President ..... Joseph Johnson, Virginia
- Secretary ..... Howard Brazil, Mississippi
- Adviser ..... C. H. Banks, Texas
- Executive Secretary-Treasurer ..... S. B. Simmons, North Carolina

## A Modest Budget

The first National Convention had an income of \$115.80 and an expenditure of \$113.35, leaving a balance of \$2.45. The contests held in connection with the convention were livestock judging, essay and public speaking. The following budget was recommended for 1935-36:

32 Superior Degree Keys .....	\$224.00
Medals for Judging Contest .....	30.00
Stationery for National Organization .....	30.00
Stenographic help, stamps, etc. ....	50.00
Printing Manuals (1000 copies) .....	50.00
Annual Conference Expense .....	50.00
Miscellaneous Expense .....	91.00
	\$525.00



The NFA treasurer reported a cash balance of \$16,930.86 in 1957, an amount that ably attests to the soundness of the financial structure of the organization. In order to improve the atmosphere of convention sessions during annual meetings, the National Organization purchased nylon flags for each of the several States for the flag ceremony. Memorial services were conducted for the late S. B. Simmons. J. R. Thomas and D. C. Jones were honored during the meeting in Atlanta. For the first time, all recipients of awards were required to wear the official NFA jacket. Parents of the National Officers attended the convention for the first time. The fathers were awarded the Honorary Superior Farmer degree and the Mothers were presented with an orchid.

James Wray, North Carolina, won the national public speaking contest. Eugene Ferguson, Virginia, became the recipient of the first place H. O. Sargent Award, and Franklin Scott, Virginia, headed a list of twenty-two Superior Farmers.

John Knox, Jr., of Alabama, led the organization as national president during 1958. The highest national awards for Superior Farmer and H. O. Sargent applicants were presented to Willie Atkins of Alabama and Glynn Abrams of Georgia, respectively. Willie owns a 60-acre farm, and Glynn has farming investments totalling \$37,547.00.

E. M. Norris became executive secretary as the organization approached its Silver Anniversary. Plans for the celebration included a pageant, invitations to former national officers, and invitations to former contests and awards winners. Membership continued to increase and greater interest was shown in the FFA Foundation Awards. On to '59 became the watchword as more than 51,000 young men braced for the celebration.



### NATIONAL NFA ADULT OFFICERS

*Advisors*

- Church H. Banks, Tex. 1935-37
- J. R. Thomas, Va., 1937-45
- J. C. McAdams, Tex., (Acting) 1945-46
- D. C. Jones, Okla., 1946-54
- G. W. Conoly, 1954-

*Administrative Advisor*

- W. T. Spanton, Wash., D. C., 1941-

*Executive Treasurer*

- S. B. Simmons, N. C., 1935-55
- W. T. Johnson, N. C., 1955-

*Executive Secretaries*

- S. B. Simmons, N. C., 1935-41
- W. S. Davis, Tenn., 1941-44
- E. M. Norris, Tex., 1944-45
- J. R. Thomas, Va., 1945-54
- J. R. Powell, Tex., 1954-57
- E. M. Norris, Tex., 1957-

*Administrative Executive Secretary*

- A. W. Tenney, Wash., D. C., 1944-47
- W. N. Elam, Wash., D. C., 1948-

The sub-committee made up of teachers of vocational agriculture recommend the following practice with respect to dues:

- 1. Minimum fee per state ..... \$ 5.00
- 2. State with from 6 to 50 chapters will pay National fee per chapter ..... 1.00
- 3. State with 51 to 75 chapters shall pay a flat rate of ..... 50.00
- 4. State with 76 to 125 chapters will pay ..... 75.00
- 5. State with 125 to 150 chapters will pay ..... 100.00

Among the highlights of the convention were the formal adoption of the tentative constitution and by-laws; awarding of the Honorary Superior Farmer Degree to Dr. H. O. Sargent and S. B. Simmons, and the first effort to standardize State and National awards.

The second National Convention was held at Hampton Institute in Virginia, August 30 through September 2, 1936, with David Simmons presiding. Speakers for this occasion were H. B. Swanson, W. A. Ross, and J. A. Linke, all from the Washington office, G. W. Owens, and S. B. Simmons. Four hundred seventy-one dollars were paid in fees, and the assembly adopted a budget of \$500.00. Recipients of the Superior Farmer Degree were J. C. King of Georgia, Charles Goins of Virginia, James Hall of Virginia, Freeman Gause of South Carolina and Albert Mann of North Carolina.

Upon Dr. Sargent's death in February, 1936, W. N. Elam of Texas was employed in the Washington office to continue his work.

*Five adult leaders who contributed much to the development of the NFA—Left to right, D. C. Jones of Oklahoma, J. R. Thomas of Virginia, J. N. Freeman of Missouri, S. B. Simmons of North Carolina, and A. Ficyd of Alabama.*



## First Radio Program

Highlights of the 1936-37 year were as follows: a visit by the National President, Elbert Pettiford, to the Washington Office for a two-day conference and schooling in NFA matters, and through this conference, plans were initiated by W. A. Ross for the first National NFA radio broadcast; framed pictures of Dr. H. O. Sargent and Booker T. Washington were made available by Swift and Company to every local NFA chapter. The Reporter was added to the required National officers, and J. R. Thomas was instructed to proceed with assembling and editing the materials for the NFA Manual. The national budget for 1937-38 was set at \$1,324.25.

From an humble beginning, the National Organization numbered approximately 20,000 paid-up members in 1938. Among the accomplishments for the year were the printing and release of 5,000 NFA Guides, the National NFA radio program in cooperation with "Wings Over Jordan," with D. C. Jones as speaker, the use of State Charters, and the providing of miniature NFA plows to local chapters and State Associations by John Deere Company of Moline, Illinois. The provisions regarding the use of paid-up membership as the basis for determining the number of delegates that a state may have at a National Convention were adopted.

The ranking Superior Farmer in 1938 was John Chisman of Virginia who reported net holdings in farming and savings of over \$2,000.00. Other recipients were Virgil Johnson, Alabama; Dan Dunning, Alabama; Robert Thomas, North Carolina; George Robinson, New Jersey; and Franklin Banks, Virginia.

## A Tradition Established

History continued to be made as the activities of the New Farmers of America grew in scope and quality. In memory of the late Dr. Sargent, his daughter, Mrs. Charles H. Milner, made a plaque available for "H. O. Sargent Awards" to be presented each year to the outstanding young farmer who was a former member of NFA. This award was supplemented by \$100.00 from the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company. A gavel carved out of the stump of a tree from the birthplace of Booker T. Washington, was presented to the National Organization by J. R. Thomas. With Bordentown, New Jersey, as host, the delegates to the 1939 National Convention were able to attend the World's Fair in New York where a radio broadcast over the National Farm and Home Hour was given. Significant, also, was the second appearance on the Wings Over Jordan program. The NFA exhibited an educational booth at the Seventh World's Poultry Congress in Cleveland, Ohio. The convention also was highlighted by the appearance of Elmer Johnson, national Future Farmers of America vice president, who brought greetings from the FFA. J. W. Smith of Texas was judged to be the most outstanding Superior Farmer.

The rapid growth of the organization was indicated by 950 chapters and 25,339 active members in 1940. The Country Boy's Creed



*A historic occasion as President Dwight D. Eisenhower greets 1953-54 national officers in the White House. With the group is Oveta Culp Hobby, then Secretary of the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.*

of more than 60 years to the National Organization of New Farmers of America. This year 1955 also saw the awards for FFA Foundation Award winners increased materially; the most significant being the ranking H. O. Sargent applicant and the Star Superior Farmer from \$250.00 to \$500.00 each. Ed Williams, Alabama, received the top H. O. Sargent Award and Henry Watson, Texas, earned the distinction of becoming the ranking Superior Farmer.

The organization, under the able guidance of three new adult officers, continued to grow in 1956 as active membership reached a record high of 45,127. The revised edition of the NFA Guide was dedicated to men of distinction, namely, D. C. Jones, S. B. Simmons and J. R. Thomas. Attendance at the White House Conference on Education in the Nation's Capital, the meeting of the National Association of Infantile Paralysis in California and the National Civil Defense Conference also in the Nation's Capital characterized the work of the members.

The 1956 Convention was presided over by Cecil Strickland of Texas. Nineteen young men received the Superior Farmer degree with Elbert Lane of Georgia judged to be the ranking individual. Robert Bickham, Louisiana, received the first place H. O. Sargent Award.



also saw the adoption of the official NFA Flag. A summary of applications for FFA Foundation Awards for the five-year period revealed the following:

	<i>Applications</i>
Louisiana .....	44
North Carolina .....	41
Georgia .....	36
Virginia .....	31
Oklahoma .....	28
Texas .....	25

These were the only States that submitted applications.

Because of much controversy over decisions rendered, plans were initiated to develop a Talent Contest Score Card, and also, the three high contestants from each Section became eligible for the National Contest. J. R. Thomas prepared a National Convention Directory.

Definite steps were taken at the 18th National Convention to standardize the official NFA jacket since certain States were using "hybrid" jackets. The active membership reached 39,125 and more than 13,000 individuals participated in the FFA Foundation Awards Program.

Five former National Officers, C. C. Cunningham, Harold Hagins, Elbert Pettiford, Richard Jackson and K. H. Malone participated in the Annual Convention.

In 1953 efforts were made to strengthen the NFA through improved records of members and the adoption of additional regulations to determine when a State Association is in good standing with the National Organization. Also, in order to more nearly assume uniformity, all FFA Foundation Award Forms and all NFA Contest Forms were printed and bound in a booklet for each chapter. Only \$1,700.00 of the \$8,000.00 FFA Foundation Budget was used by the several States.

### Received at White House

"President Dwight D. Eisenhower greets National Officers at the White House" should be the caption of the NFA's news story for 1954. This year marked one "score" of progress. Active membership increased to 38,000, a jump of 2,373 and, also 422 more persons participated in FFA Foundation Awards Program than in the previous year. The net assets of the organization reached \$11,958.70.

Nineteen fifty-five will go down in history as the year in which three adult National officers resigned their positions. D. C. Jones because of poor health, was replaced as national adviser by G. W. Conoly. S. B. Simmons because of ill health was replaced as executive treasurer by W. T. Johnson. J. R. Thomas resigned to accept an assignment with the International Cooperation Administration. He was replaced by J. R. Powell as executive secretary. Jones, Simmons and Thomas were the pillars upon which much of what we observe in the NFA was built. These stalwart men devoted a total

was changed to the NFA Creed. Royalties from the L. G. Balfour Company, the Staunton Novelty Company and the French Bray Company totaled \$84.40. Sears Roebuck Company made a gift of \$380.00. The second edition of the NFA Guide was dedicated to G. W. Owens. Alabama produced the top H. O. Sargent Award winner for 1940 in the person of Robert Howard.

### Administrative Changes

In 1941 the office of executive secretary-treasurer was dissolved and S. B. Simmons became National Treasurer and W. S. Davis became Deputy Executive Secretary. The money for the H. O. Sargent Award and the Ranking Superior Farmer was made available through the courtesy of the Sears Roebuck Foundation. James W. Warren, Jr., of North Carolina presided over the National Convention in Tallahassee, Florida. Spurgeon Talley of Arkansas received the ranking Superior Farmer Award and Haley Smith of Virginia became the recipient of the H. O. Sargent Trophy. James Stone, Louisiana, delivered the winning speech in the public speaking contest on the topic "The Improvement of Agriculture." Many of the delegates took advantage of the nearness of the Gulf of Mexico for a hurried visit to that scenic coast.

The effect of the war became evident in 1942. At the Orangeburg Convention tentative plans were made to conduct the business of the Organization in keeping with travel limitations. This action was in direct support of the statement by Dr. W. T. Spanton, administrative National adviser, quote: "It is significant that the entire National NFA Program is centered around the war effort."

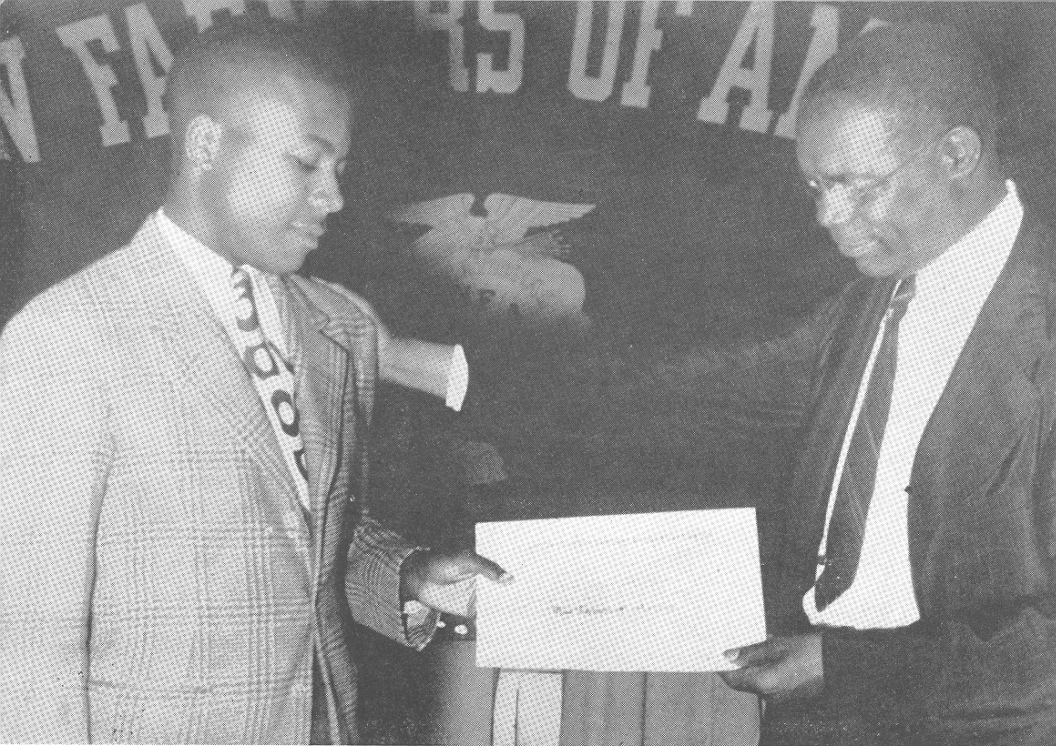
The delegates adopted the following pledge:

1. To keep physically and mentally fit.
2. To serve in the Armed Forces if and when called.
3. To produce our quota of food for victory.
4. To collect and sell scrap materials.
5. To purchase Defense Stamps and Bonds.
6. To repair farm machinery.
7. To conserve human and natural resources.
8. To develop morale.



B. S. Luter

The budget passed the \$2,000.00 mark. This year also saw the introduction and use of the NFA Creed Song written by B. S. Luter of Texas. This convention was presided over by Henry Revels of Louisiana, and fifteen young men received the Superior Farmer Degree. Ruffin McGhee, North Carolina and Reginald Holland, Virginia represented the NFA in the Freedom's Peoples Broadcast and the Civilian Defense Conference, respectively, during the year.



*Dr. William Pickens of the U. S. Treasury Department presents to Ollie C. Hines, 1944-45 national NFA president, a Treasury Citation for war bonds and stamps purchased by New Farmers of America members.*

### Support War Effort

The NFA support of the War Effort continued as more than \$150,000 were invested in Stamps and Bonds by Associations, chapters, and members in 1943. W. T. Spanton, W. A. Ross, D. M. Clements, W. N. Elam, W. S. Davis, S. B. Simmons, and J. R. Thomas collaborated in revising the National Constitution. The action resulted in the U. S. Office of Education administering the NFA organization as a part of the Agricultural Education Program. The establishment of the Office of the Administrative Executive Secretary and the Administrative National Adviser with individuals being appointed by the Chief of Agricultural Education Service of the U. S. Office of Education was accomplished. The appointee was A. W. Tenney. J. R. Thomas spoke on National NFA Day in cooperation with the Wings Over Jordan Program which originated in Columbus, Georgia.

In the absence of the elected president, Lawrence Riddick, the convention at Pine Bluff, Ark. was presided over by Edward Mullins, Tennessee. In fact, only two regular student officers were in attendance.

Thirteen might be considered unlucky for some; however this year proved very fruitful for the NFA. The title, acting adviser was changed to adviser for D. C. Jones at the 13th National Convention. One teacher trainer from each Section and two non-agricultural persons became eligible to receive the Honorary Superior Farmer Degree each year. The regulations for the NFA Quiz were revised to read, "60 percent of the questions must come from the NFA Guide and 40 percent from Stewart's 'Helps in Mastering Parliamentary Procedure'." In the quartette contest the word "semi-classical" was deleted in favor of non-spiritual. The treasurer reported over \$5,600.00 invested in U. S. Bonds and Savings accounts. The Veterans Hospital, the Carver Museum, the Infantile Paralysis Center and the Art Museum were visited by the National Officers during their leadership training school at Tuskegee Institute.

The memorandum of understanding between the New Farmers of America and the Future Farmers Supply Service was drawn up in 1948 for the purpose of centralizing and standardizing NFA wearing apparel, especially jackets and shirts. The Homecoming Convention was held at Tuskegee Institute.

### A Convention Home

The dream of establishing permanent convention headquarters was realized in 1949. This achievement, in all probability, overshadows any other accomplishment. Atlanta, Georgia, with the facilities of the First Congregational Church and the YMCA Gymnasium, as places for meetings, was selected. The present executive secretary of the American Vocational Association, then State Director of Vocational Education for Georgia, M. D. Mobley, was among the convention speakers.

During the year Missouri was granted an association charter.

The H. O. Sargent winner and the Star Superior Farmer Awards were increased to \$250.00 each.

The first National NFA chorus was organized in 1950 under the direction of I. S. Glover. The Atlanta Committee assumed a very important role in assisting with planning and conducting the National Convention and the related activities.

In 1950 the convention was held in Taft Hall Municipal Auditorium with the Honorable William Hartsfield, Mayor of Atlanta, welcoming the delegation.

James Williams, Third National Vice-President, participated in the Mid-century White House Conference on Children and Youth.

The second increase in membership dues to 15 cents was adopted in 1951. A. W. Tenney resigned as administrative executive secretary and W. N. Elam was appointed to fill the vacancy. This year

Carolina of South Carolina was judged the winning public speaker, using the topic, "New Farmers and the Present War Emergency." Reginald Holland of Virginia received the H. O. Sargent Award and seven members became Superior Farmers.

J. R. Thomas resigned as National Adviser and became executive secretary in 1945, a position that he held until he retired in favor of an over-seas assignment in 1956. The end of the war marked a decline in participation in stamp and bond purchases, and the sales of scrap materials. Dr. Spanton presented the first allotment from the FFA Foundation of \$1,000.00 to the New Farmers of America for establishment in farming awards.

### Victory Convention

In 1946 NFA members invested more than \$500,000 in war stamps and bonds. D. C. Jones was elected National adviser. The Victory Convention was held at Southern University with S. J. Horton presiding. In keeping with the rapid development of the organization, rules, regulations and score cards were adopted for all National Conventions. The FFA Foundation reported almost 100 percent participation in the awards program by the NFA in the 16 States. Missouri had initiated steps toward becoming affiliated as a State Association. The year also witnessed another revision of the Guide.



The author of this history, Dr. M. A. Fields, presenting an FFA Foundation award to a national winner.

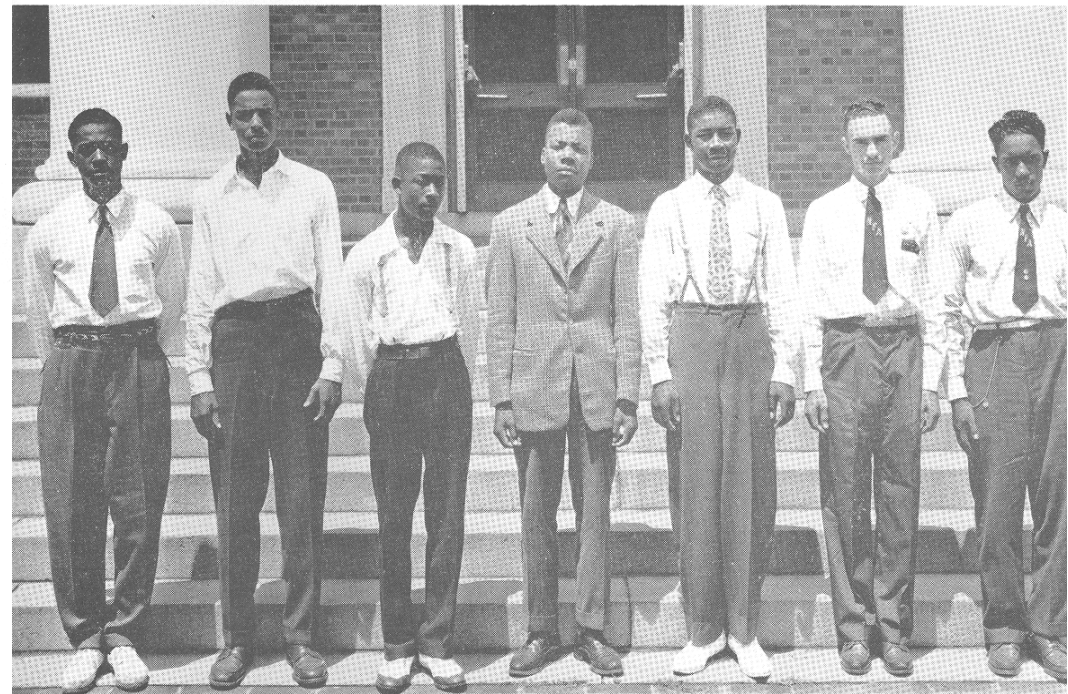
The first decade of the National Organization of New Farmers of America marked the introduction of meaningful activities which stimulated young men to become community leaders as well as skillful farmers. In 1944 more than 17,800 former NFA members had donned the colors of our country. Supporting these young men on the home front were boys who invested more than \$280,000.00 in stamps and bonds, and collected 2,000,000 pounds of scrap metal for use in the war industries.

### Return to Virginia

The tenth year saw the return of the organization to Virginia, where its birth is generally reputed to have taken place in 1927, for the Annual Convention. G. W. Owens, the founder, and S. B. Simmons traced the development of the NFA, paying tribute to Mr. Ross, Mr. Linke, Dr. Sargent, Mr. Woodard, Mr. Banks, and others. The financial statement showed receipts totalling \$4,437.68. Individual membership dues were raised from five cents to ten cents per year.

It was fitting that a native son should be in the president's seat during the 10th anniversary as the convention was held in the Old Dominion State and presided over by Ollie Hines of Virginia. Robert

The 1944-45 National Officers, elected at the Tenth Anniversary Convention. Left to right, Archie Dorsey, John W. Holmes, Robert Carolina, Ollie Hines, James Johnson, Cordell Winn, and Eddie Jenkins.

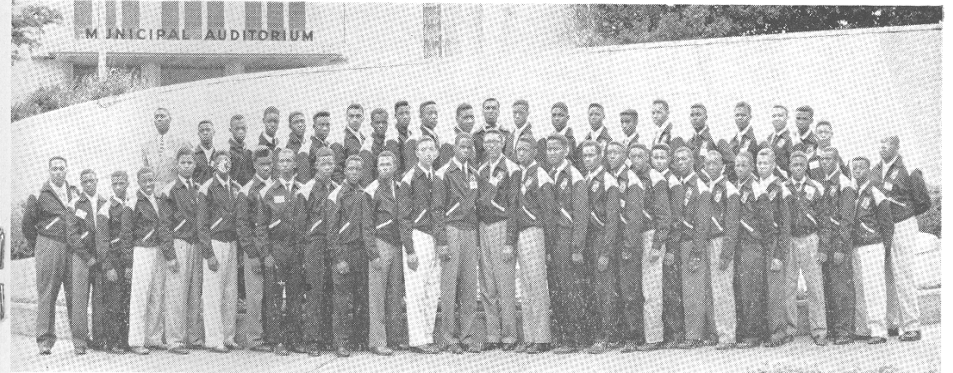




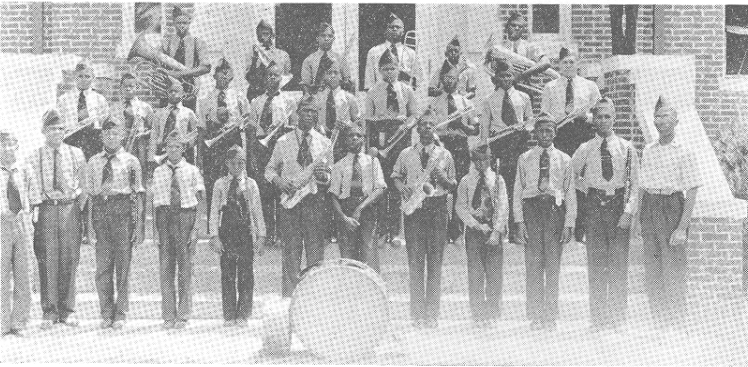
# THE NATIONAL CONVENTIONS



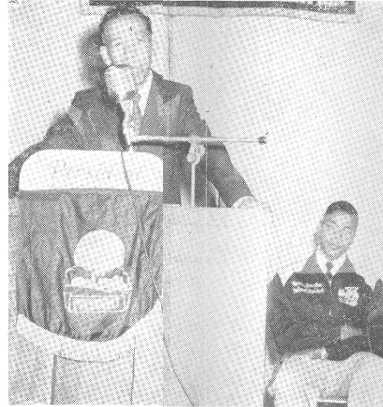
*Tenth Anniversary Delegates*



*1957 National Chorus*



*First National Band—1938*



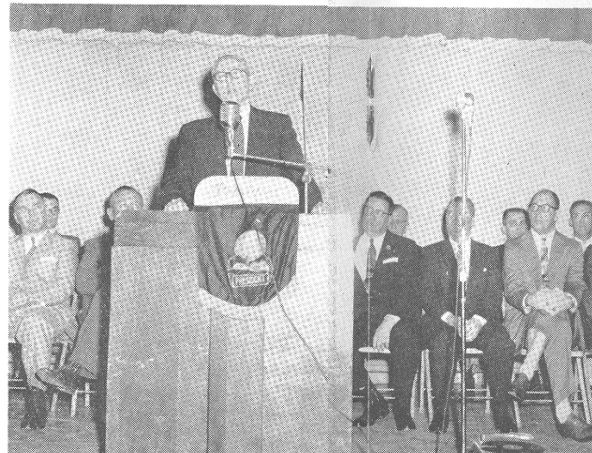
*Guest Speaker*



*Adult Advisers—1951*



*In Session—1950*



*Foundatia Donors*



*Honorary Superior Farmers*