

A. O. Bell
Vocational Agriculture

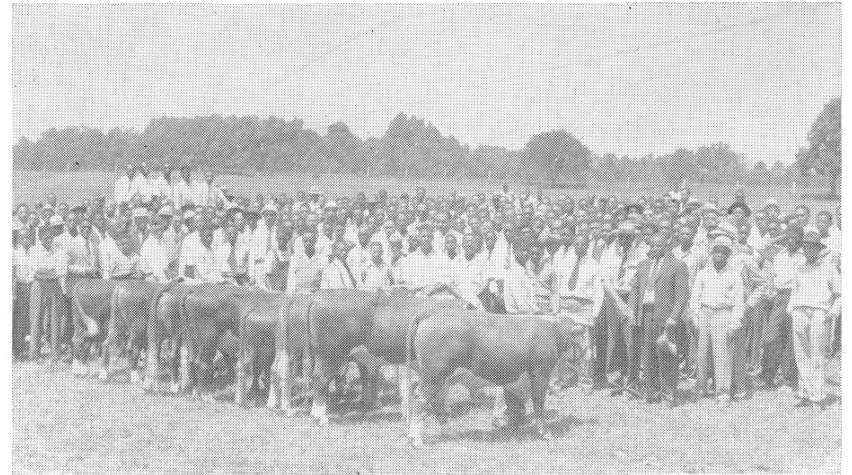
in

Negro Public Schools

of

North Carolina

1917-18 to 1946-47

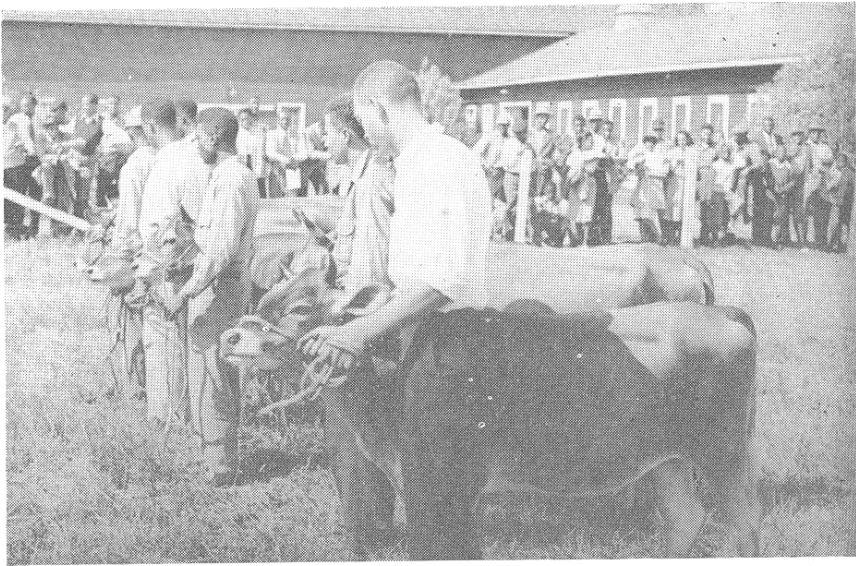


North Carolina Association of New Farmers of America

The Agricultural and Technical College

Greensboro, North Carolina

July 1, 1947



A. and T. College students preparing to become prospective teachers of vocational agriculture. In the above exhibit they demonstrate their ability in fitting dairy cattle for showing.



S. B. Simmons, State Advisor of the North Carolina Association of New Farmers of America and Executive Treasurer of the National Organization, A. & T. College graduate.

FOREWORD

THE North Carolina Association of New Farmers of America is affiliated with a national organization of, by, and for, farm boys studying vocational agriculture in the public secondary schools which operates under the provision of the National Vocational Educational Acts. The vocational agriculture program had its beginning in the Negro Public Schools of the state during the school year 1917-18. There were six departments. The N. F. A. was organized here at A. & T. College in 1926-27 with twenty-six chapters and 741 members. For the school year 1946-47 there are ninety-five chapters and 9,788 active and associate members.

The purposes of the New Farmers of America are to encourage and guide boys in the selection of the occupation of farming and becoming established in farming, to develop rural leadership, to encourage thrift, scholarship, cooperation and citizenship. There are four units of the organization, namely: (1) local chapters, (2) federations, (3) state associations and (4) national organization. The major functions are performed in the local chapters which work under the direction of a local adviser or teacher of vocational agriculture.

The National Organization was formed at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, August 1935. It has about 1,000 chapters and more than 125,000 active and associate members. That number includes all boys who have at one time held active membership. Annual national conventions are conducted at one of the leading Negro schools of higher learning. This year the convention meets at A. & T. College, Greensboro, North Carolina with the state association serving as host.

This publication has been prepared as a means of rendering an account to other members and giving to the public an idea of how N. F. A. and Vocational Agriculture have achieved. The success enjoyed in this state has been due to the cooperation received from individuals and business concerns high and low and to many other public and private agencies.

S. B. SIMMONS,
State N. F. A. Adviser.

New Farmers of America



IN 95 chapters nearly 5,000 young high school students work to become established in farming, to develop leadership training, citizenship, thrift, cooperative and recreational activities. This varied program appeals to the adolescent. The manner in which the members and their advisers go about the programs commands the approval and support of parents and public. The following are some of the major achievements for the year:

1. Number of members who increased the scope of the farming program	917
2. Number of members who used improved livestock practices	866
3. Number of members who used improved crop production practices	1147
4. Number of former members now farming	6382
5. Total actually invested in farming by actual members as of January 1, 1947	\$123,479.65
6. Number of chapters cooperating with other groups	95
7. Most outstanding cooperative program; funds raised for the Negro Orphanage at Oxford	\$ 10,607.11
8. Number of chapters engaging in organized Home Improvement work	95
9. Number of members winning F. F. A. Foundation Awards	11
10. Number of members who reconditioned farm machinery	928
11. Number of members who repaired or rebuilt farm structures	1415
12. Number of members taking part in state leadership training school	325
13. Number of members carrying out definite thrift practices	628
14. Number of members who participated in supervised recreation	1890



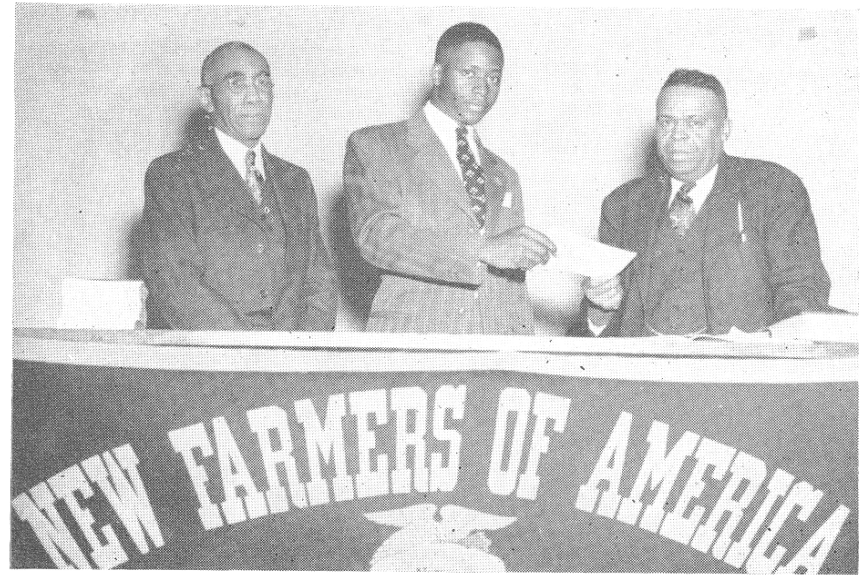
The North Carolina Association of N.F.A. had its beginning at A. and T. College. Most of the local and state advisers have been trained at A. and T. College or employed under President F. D. Bluford. Under his administration the college has grown from a student body of 751 to 3,863. The value of the property has increased from \$1,000,000.00 to \$2,250,000.00. So impressed were the members of the 1947 General Assembly with his expanded program at A. and T. College and the work of its graduates that \$2,538,875.00 were appropriated for additional buildings and teachers in order that needs might be more adequately met. In view of his achievements this State Association takes pleasure in paying highest tribute to Dr. F. D. Bluford, President of The Agricultural and Technical College of Greensboro, North Carolina.

A Basic Foundation



IN North Carolina The Agricultural and Technical College is regarded as the foundation upon which the Vocational Agricultural program among Negroes had its beginning and has been a major contributing factor to its growth. From 1891 to 1947, a period of 56 years, A. and T. College has been forging ahead along three major lines: (1) Building a physical plant from nothing, (2) building a course of study which would fit its pupils to meet successfully the varied demands of a changing world, (3) building the hopes, aspirations and ideals of citizenship in the Negroes of the state to qualify them to play their part well in peace or war. In this period of time the college has increased the value of its physical plant from nothing to \$2,250,000.00. Its year round enrollment has grown to the number of 3,863 pupils or the largest enrollment of any Negro Land-grant college in the world.

The college takes pride in the manner in which its agricultural graduates and students have performed and are performing for the betterment of rural people and especially those who are farming. A. and T. graduates are serving as: State Supervisors of Agricultural Education in Negro Schools of the State, State Agents for U. S. Agricultural Extension Services in North Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee. Seventy-three per cent of vocational agriculture teachers and seventy-five per cent of the county agents are graduates of the college. The extent to which the college's farm program is functioning directly or indirectly through its graduates is reflected in these facts taken from the 1945 U. S. census. From 1940 to 1945 there was an increase of 14,005 Negro farm operators; for the same period there was an increase of 2,416 farm owners, thus increasing the farm acreage controlled by Negroes by 82,752. The increased value of farm lands and buildings for this period is \$17,725,937.00. It is a source of satisfaction to the college that Negroes in North Carolina are increasing their number and holdings on the farm.



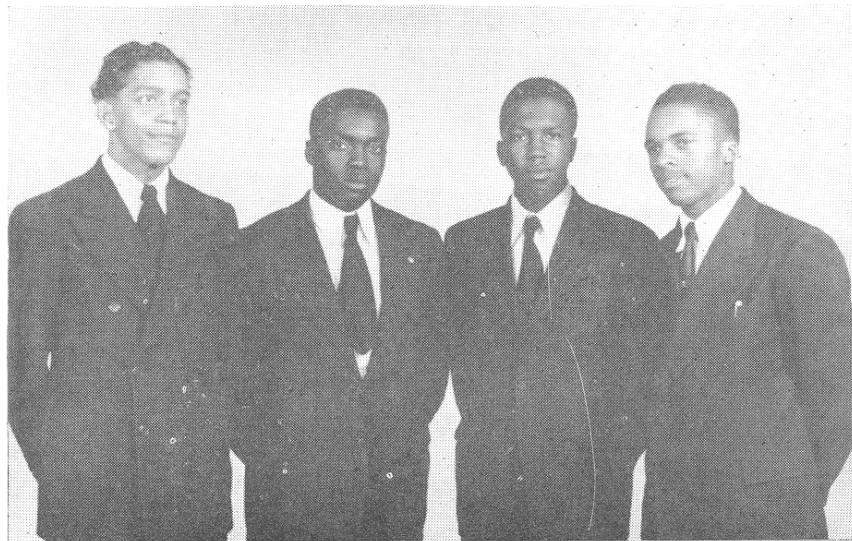
L. J. Shipman, former State N.F.A. President, presents Superintendent T. A. Hamme of the Negro Orphanage at Oxford, with U. S. Bonds. To date the association has turned over to the Orphanage \$30,000 in U. S. Bonds and \$10,000.00 in cash. The plan is to build on the Orphanage campus a Vocational Education Building in memory of the late George Washington Carver. For the past six years the boys have lead all other groups in securing funds for the institution, an outstanding lesson in practical team work and cooperation.



Throughout the South N.F.A. chapters present special programs on April 5 in honor of the birthday of the late Dr. Booker T. Washington. The purpose of these programs are to keep alive Dr. Washington's ideas on vocational education and the achievements of N.F.A. For the past 10 years the Little River Chapter of Durham under Professor J. L. Moffitt has given a radio program over station WDNC. Dr. C. C. Spaulding, President of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company was one of the guest speakers.



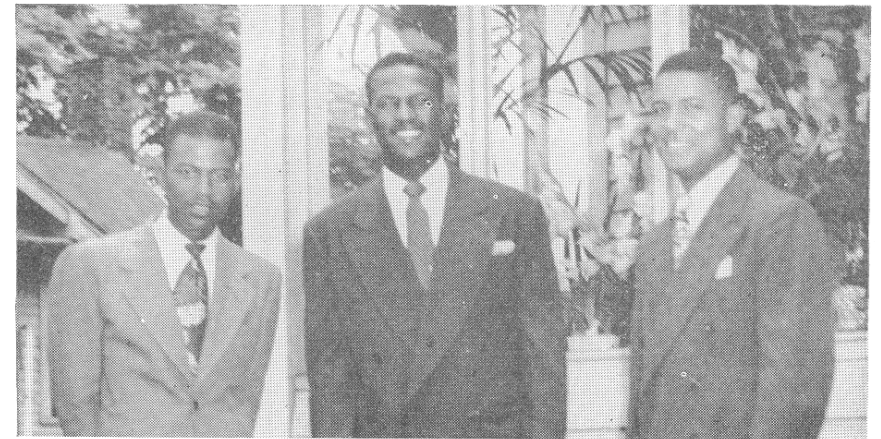
Music has played an important part in N.F.A. for years. Pictured above is the first North Carolina 100 per cent all N.F.A. Band. The 35 members in the band are from eight different chapters in the state. They are directed by Professor W. F. Carsen who was a member of the Laurinburg Chapter band that furnished music at the Savannah, Georgia, national meeting in 1938 and now director of the A. and T. College band.



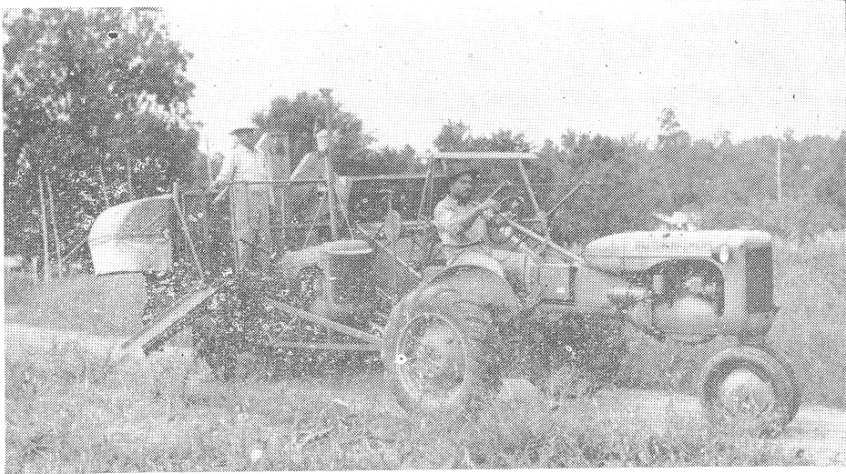
Quartet singing is always tops with chapter members. The singers from Unity Chapter at Statesville under D. O. Ivey will go down in history as one of the best developed throughout the national organization.



The North Carolina Association of N.F.A. presented gold N.F.A. pins to three former members who are now leaders in the farm program. W. T. Johnson, Teacher Education A. and T. College, and R. E. Jones, North Carolina Agent for Negro Extension Work and R. W. Newson, Virginia Agent for Negro Extension Work. The pins were presented by J. R. Thomas of Virginia State College, National Executive Secretary of N.F.A.



The Carolina Florist of Greensboro is owned and operated by Former pupils. Emmett T. George, Leonard C. Cooper, and J. W. R. Grandy,



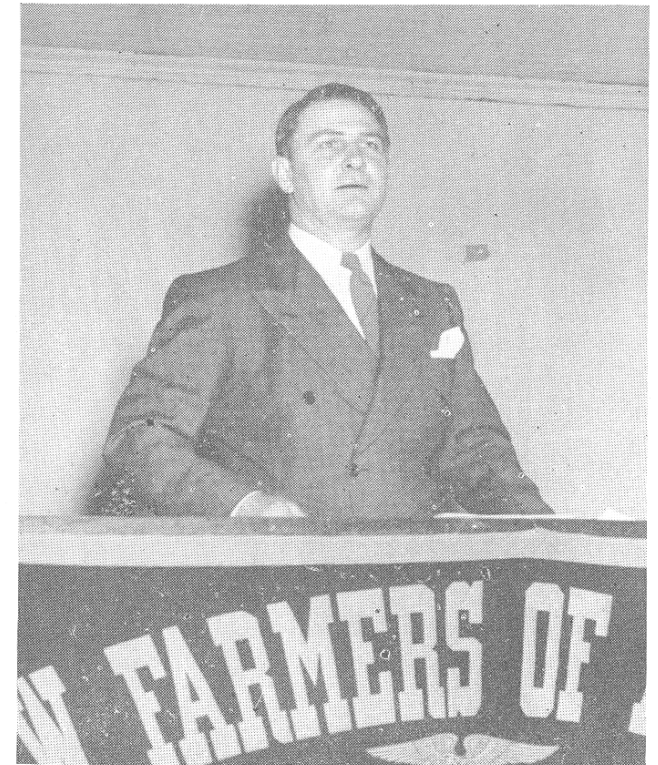
This picture shows Albert Mills of Spring Hope headed to his wheat field to harvest wheat. Mills stopped school after completing three years of vocational agriculture to take over his father's large farm. One of Mills' first improvements was to buy a tractor with the necessary attachments. He has put in electric lights and many other pieces of modern equipment that will aid in improving rural life. This tractor is kept busy on his farms and the farms of his two brothers who live nearby. Mills states he can do in a day with his tractor what it took his father a week to do when he was a boy.



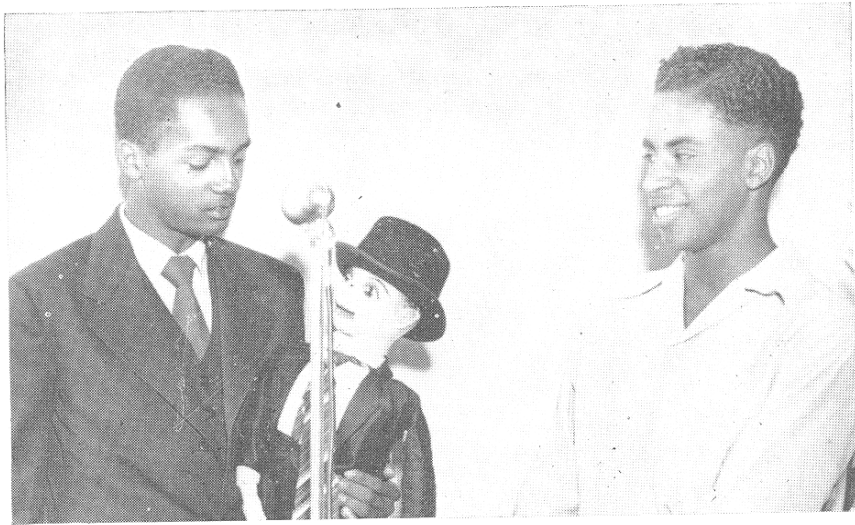
The vocational agricultural program is so planned that qualified students are guided to continue their education in specialized technical fields. Daniel Smith, Gilbert Winborne and Herbert H. Roberson are young men of high quality who are preparing themselves to become agriculture leaders. While taking their college training at A. and T. College they conduct a farm for radio station WBIG. Shown in the above picture, the boys, Smith and Winborne have collected some of their produce to bring to town. Smith was the National Future Farmer of America Foundation winner in the Farm Mechanics Program for 1946. Roberson is not shown in picture.



Thrift has a high rank with the New Home Makers and New Farmers of America of the McIver School of Littleton. These groups have their own school banking institution combining in one project—thrift and cooperation. The members have perfected a plan whereby each class in the school has its own banking officer and a special hour for banking. At the end of each day the thrift club funds are deposited in the McIver School Credit Union.



New Farmers learn by doing, however they like to be told they are doing well by men who have made good — Lieutenant Governor Thomas Pearsal praises their successful program at one of their annual meetings at Oxford Orphanage.



Appropriate rural entertainment is encouraged in the N. F. A. program of work. The N. F. A. "Charlie McCarthy" of the Warren Chapter provides entertainment for many church and school groups in his home and nearby counties.



Frank Battle of the Bricks-Tri-County Training School. Battle took over his father's farm with a debt of some several thousand dollars on it. The debt has been paid, the home renovated and all his outer buildings have been improved. He has a small orchard. Battle is an officer in the Bricks Credit Union. He is a leader in his church and other community activities. He and his teacher, Professor I. C. Rogers are looking over part of his fine tobacco crop.



"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" is always solved in the chapter program of work. The state championship horse shoe game as seen here has the attention of the contestants as well as the rooters on the side line. N. F. A. sponsors other inexpensive but helpful games like checkers and darts which have proven popular with the boys.



Carter Jones of Wise has completed 4 years of vocational agriculture and 4 years of college agriculture. All of his training and experience are employed in running the home farm and his personal farm of more than 100 acres. Jones has just completed a modern dairy barn, built to comply with county and state rules. Dr. Perry Jones of Warrenton, also a former vocational agriculture student, plans to go into the dairy business with his brother. Professor J. L. Bolden, Teacher of Agriculture in the Wise School is talking here with Carter Jones and his wife.

Former Pupils



AFTER 30 years of this program one might ask what about the products of vocational agricultural education. Go into any community where there has been a department or a teacher for 10 years and you will find a number of former students established in farming. For the state as a whole there are 6,382 now engaged in farming. The Warren County Training School at Wise has a record of which they are justly proud. More than 185 former pupils have remained on the farm. Some are owners, some tenants and others are with their parents running the home farms. Three are doctors in rural areas of the state. Others may be found teaching rural people. Included among the former pupils of this school is the North Carolina Agent for the Negro Extension Program. Forty-five of the vocational agriculture teachers and seventeen of the agricultural extension workers are former students. This program has had a share in training leaders in the field of agriculture who are now employed in Virginia, Tennessee, Maryland, Florida, Alabama and Texas. Greater economic production of farm crops and livestock are essential factors in rural areas. Important as that factor is, it is not enough; farmers must become civic minded. Rural areas must produce their leaders. The program of Vocational Agricultural Education is designed and executed to the end that its products are meeting that challenging need. Former pupils are very active as leaders in the North Carolina rural credit unions. Some of these credit unions have assets of \$50,000 to \$100,000. Through the cooperative union individual farmers and groups are able to purchase service and commodities needed on the farm. One of the major purchases made is that of modern farm machinery including tractors, peanut pickers, thrashers and saw mills. Next to farming as a vocation a number of the pupils are going into some line of business and serving rural areas.

Processing Food For The Rural Family

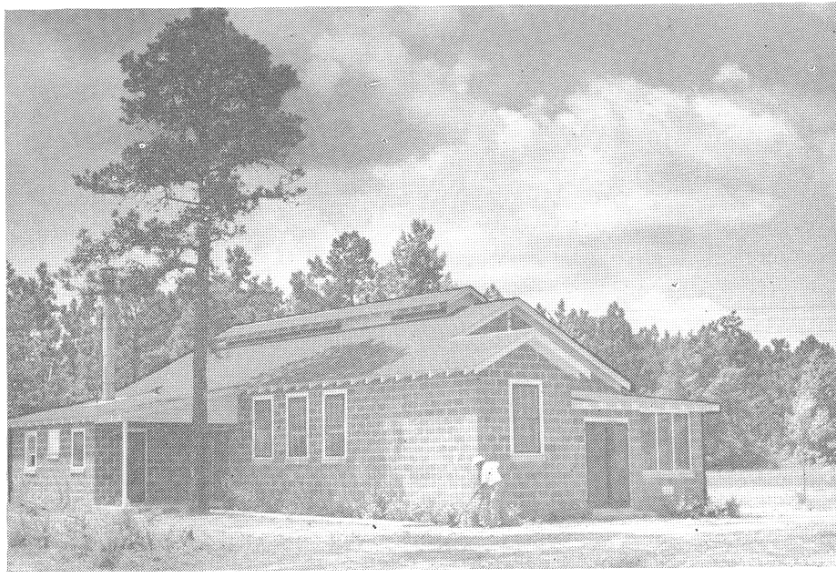
WORLD WAR II brought on many problems. One of the most acute was that of an adequate food supply on the home farm. The Federal government called upon the vocational agricultural departments to provide the answer to the problem. In 1942 each teacher was supplied with equipment that would enable him to go from farm to farm and do a little home canning. The teachers were not long in realizing that this method would not answer the problem. Modern canneries were then built by the farmers and the county governments with equipment supplied by the Federal government. Today we have 43 steam operated canneries. For the year 1945-46 these canneries served an average of 56 families per cannery and the highest number of families served by one cannery was 183. The number of cans processed throughout the state averaged 15,673. The total number of cans processed was 875,688.

Operating the cannery is just one of the many educational services rendered by the Vocational, Home Economics and Agricultural teachers. In most communities the teacher provides classes in which the members are given instruction as to how to operate all the equipment in the cannery. Students do much of the canning for the school lunch rooms. Quite often the most skillful students are employed to can for families who are not able to spend time from their daily work. In this way the pupils serve the community and make cash for themselves. These canneries have been most helpful in preserving food grown for home use and most of all commercial crops produced in excess of market demands. This practice has prevented the farmer from financial loss and has supplied the school lunch rooms of the state with great quantities of food for undernourished children.

This program has been a great factor in providing a better balanced diet for the family the year round, thus playing its part in helping to bring better health to the people of North Carolina.



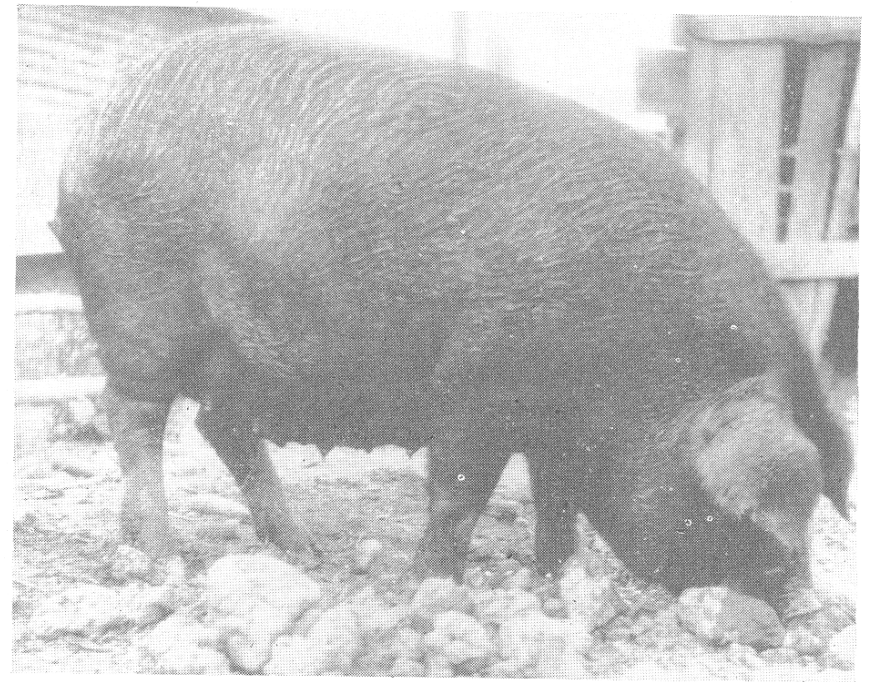
Frank Pullen, Teacher of Vocational Agriculture, Lawndale, Cleveland County, was the first Negro teacher in the state to introduce the portable cannery which has given way to the steam operated cannery.



The Pender Porter Cannery at Rocky Mount was constructed and is operated under the supervision of Professor S. C. Anderson. The cannery was made possible by funds left the department by the late Dr. Pender Porter. It is regarded as one of the best buildings and best equipped canneries in the state. More than 50,000 cans of vegetables, fruits and meats are processed each year at this cannery.



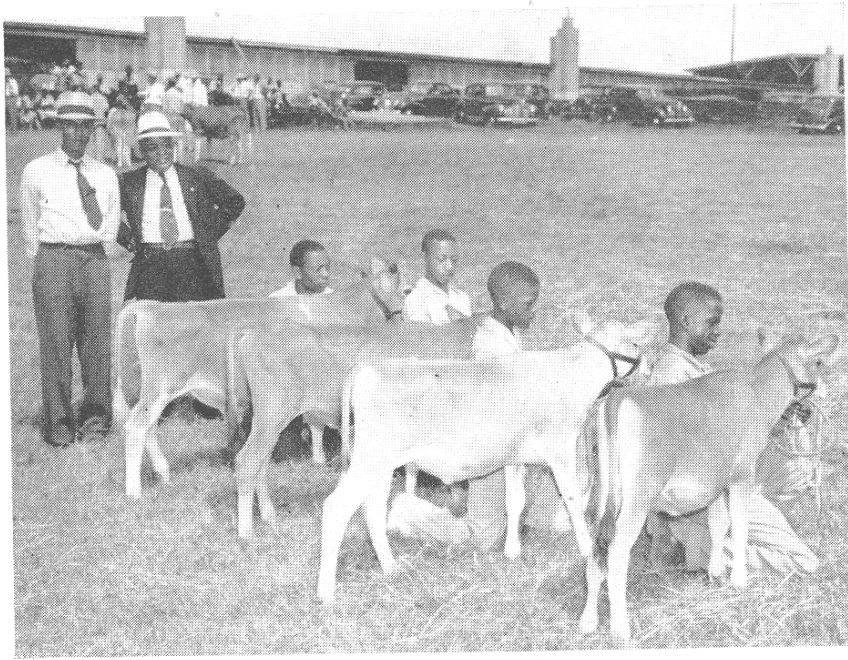
Robert M. Miller, Cabarrus, tenant farmer for more than 30 years, now the owner of 156 acres free of debt gives M. M. Woodson local teacher of vocational agriculture credit for his getting out of tenant class to that of farm owner. He would also tell you that his fine herd of dairy cattle helped to pay for the farm. The Millers have six sons all of whom know how to produce and work the year round. The timber on this farm is well managed. The faulty trees are sold for stove wood in Concord during the winter.



Good breeding stock is a basic factor with vocational agricultural students throughout the state. The animal shown above is owned by a N.F.A. member of the Logan High School chapter, Concord.

Illustrious Lady No. 668 was bred by C. R. Rowe & Son, Scranton, Kansas. She was 9 months old when pictured and weighed 350 pounds. She was sired by Illustrious, a brother of Clark Hubeis \$1000.00 Progenitor. She is also a great grand daughter of Miss Belgian, 2nd Kansas grand champion sow.

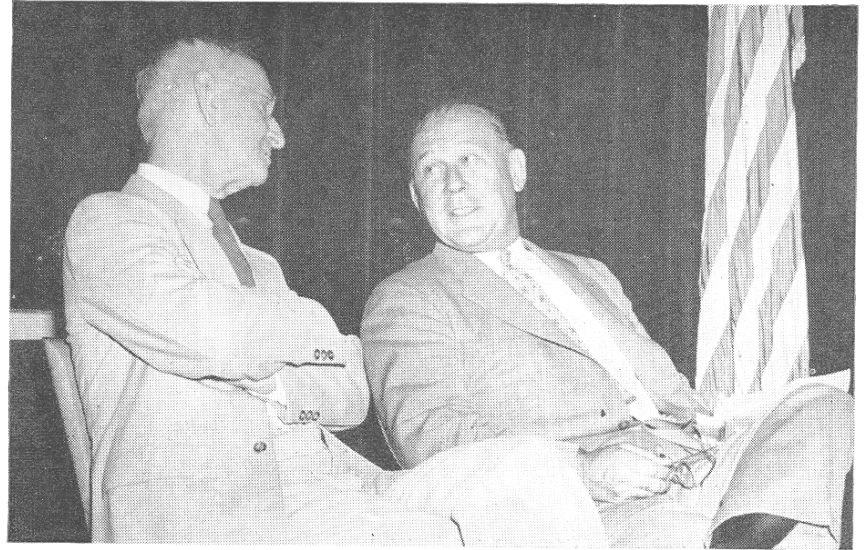
This sow has produced 7 and 10 pig litters and bred to a grandson of \$1000.00 Reconversion for her third litter. The aim is to make this the first N.F.A. Merit Registry Litter.



Catawba County N.F.A. boys exhibit four pure bred calves at the Junior Dairy Cattle Show in September, 1946. Note George Cox, Vice-President of the North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company, Durham, sponsor of the second Annual Show smiling as Professor R. K. Wright tells him that his boys got three first and one second place this year.



Farmer Andy Brown and Professor R. K. Wright discuss the value of good pastures as related to milk production. Brown is one of the 26 Negro pasture demonstrators. There are only 15 Negro farm families out of a total of 228 who do not have a milk cow in Catawba County, the best record for the state in this regard. Some of them have as many as ten cows. Mr. Brown takes pride in the fact that each month he receives a premium for his high quality milk.



U. S. Congressman from the 3rd North Carolina District, Honorable Graham A. Barden, as he appears at the Pender County Training School on the stage talking with T. E. Browne, just before he was introduced to dedicate the Pender Porter Cannery. So impressed was the congressman with the fine vocational program carried out by the local teacher, Professor S. C. Anderson, that he requested Anderson to come to Washington for the purpose of telling the House Educational Committee of the 79th Congress about his many services to the people of Pender County.



Canning day is always a busy and enjoyable one at McIver School cannery in Littleton. This cooperative activity serves 183 families with annual output of 78,921 cans per year. Professor W. B. Jamieson predicts a much greater production this year, due to veterans class of 64 farm men.

Veterans



THERE is no phase of our total vocational agriculture program which is more deserving of our best efforts than the instruction of some 3,000 Negro Veterans enrolled in Vocational departments of the public schools taking "On the Job Farmer Training" under Public Law 346 and Public Law 16.

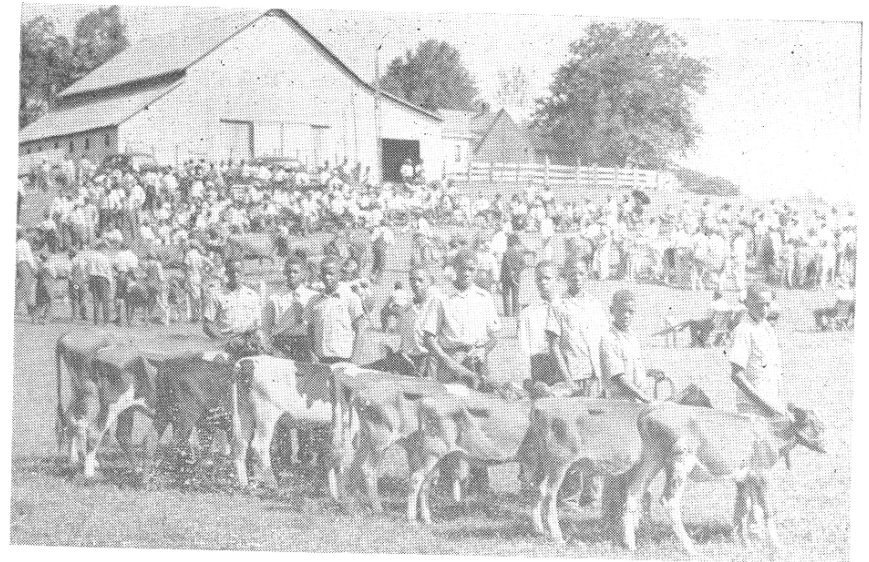
This educational program, not yet two years old, has added much to the farm and economic life of the various communities. Many of these young farmers are former vocational agricultural pupils. Through this G. I. training the pupil is able to finance the type of farm program which will increase his income to the point where he will become successfully established in farming. In this first year the veterans have purchased farms, built homes, and made desirable changes on the farms of their parents. The purchase of cattle and needed farm equipment with which to make the farm a success has been given first choice over buying of an automobile, as in the past.

The veteran students spend at least 200 hours per year in organized instruction. The other part of their time is spent on the farm. The veterans farm program is supervised at least twice per month by a competent instructor. Many of the students are for the first time operating their farms on the basis of well made annual farm plans, that have been prepared from suggestions given by the State's outstanding Farm Management Specialists.

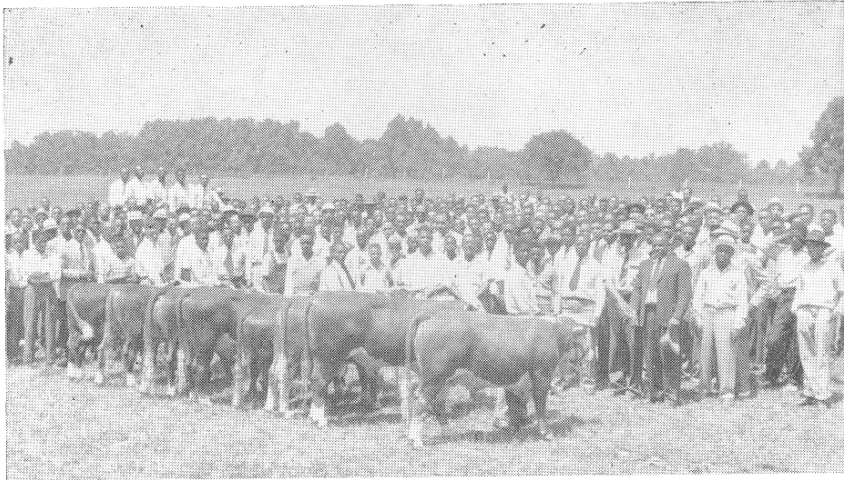
Credit Unions have proven quite essential in aiding the veterans to develop the habit of saving a part of his income regularly. Some save as much and more than \$10.00 per month for the "rainy day". There has never been so large a group of students regardless of age, who seemed more determined to make good as farmers and rural community leaders.



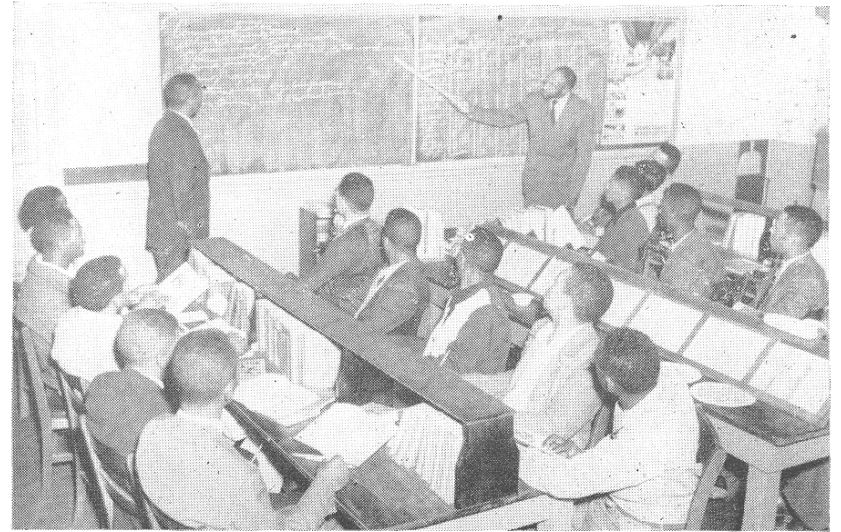
This picture gives a view of the first dairy cattle show put on by N.F.A. members and adult farmers in October, 1944.



An exhibit of N.F.A. Cattle shown by 9 members from the Catawba High School September 1945, all grades. None of the cattle was able to get higher than third place or a white ribbon.



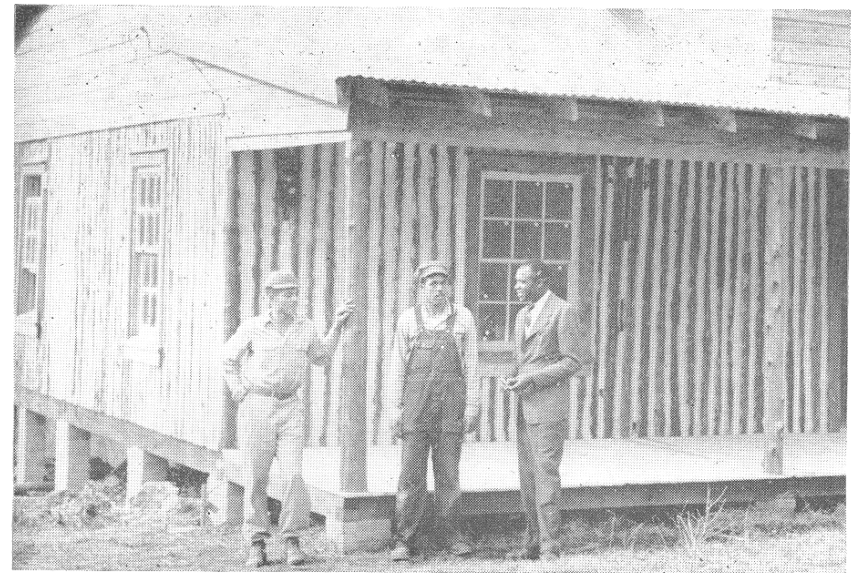
New Farmers venture with their first Beef Cattle Show on the Dr. C. W. McPherson's farm in Alamance. The bulls were given to the North Carolina Association by Sears, Roebuck & Company of Atlanta, Georgia. Chapters given one of the bulls will pass on to another chapter a pure bred Hereford bull or heifer of equal breeding quality as a means of getting the beef cattle going on Negro farms. James Shepard High School Chapter bull (first on the right) of Zebulon, has the honor of being the first State Champion.



This picture shows a group of veterans of World War II being led in a discussion at the Little River School of Durham by Mr. J. L. Moffitt, Vocational Agricultural Teacher. There are 28 veterans enrolled at the Little River School.



Theron Perry, N.F.A. member from Zebulon, looking on as father and teacher J. T. Locke try to get the Sears bull home on November 16, 1946, is trying to decide what he can make out of him. On June 18 this bull was selected as State Champion. Perry kept this bull on one of the best pastures in the state. Next year he plans to show his bull, his registered cow and the first offspring.

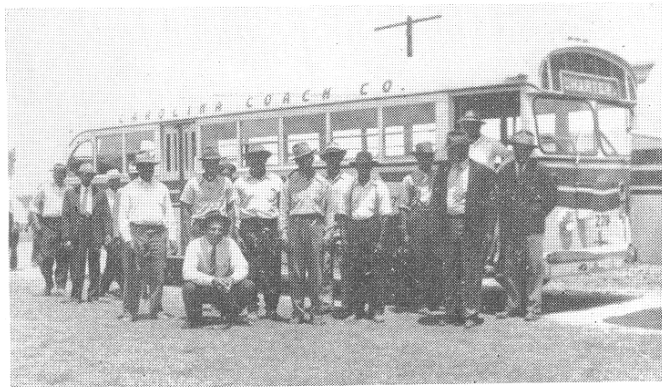
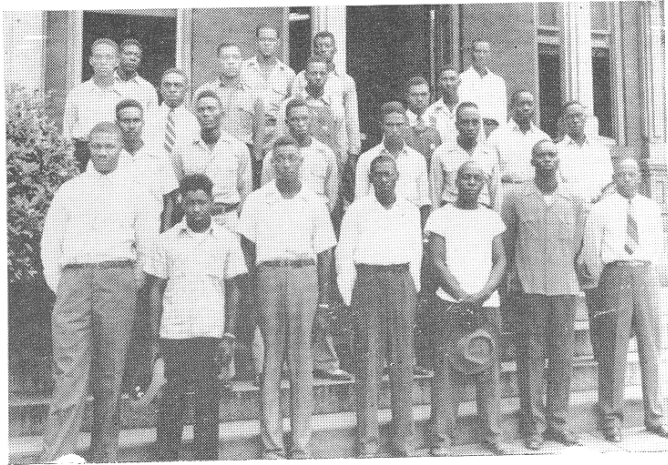


Veterans in the Mill Grove School, Durham, under Professor J. D. Lennon solve their housing problem by building their own homes. Note the neatly constructed log house built mostly from material taken from the farm. Other veterans in the class received training in house construction by helping to build this one.



Sonnie B. Miller, G. I., studying under M. M. Woodson of Concord, like a large number of veterans in training has learned that today power equipment is essential for a successful farm. Miller is the son of Robert Miller mentioned in this bulletin. Since returning from army service he has taken over the management of a large farm next to his father's which he hopes to purchase some day.

Veterans of Union County under Professor Lee Baker gather at the courthouse where they are given a lesson in farm planning by the Soil Conservation Agency.



Veterans from Cabarrus and Rowan Counties visit Cokers Pedigreed Seed Company at Hartsville, S. C., as a means of getting first hand information about better seeds.

Live Stock



WORK stock, swine and poultry have been the main livestock found on most Negro farms. Scrub hogs and mongrel chickens have given way to better producing animals. "Two Arm" farming is growing in popularity. The North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company and Sears-Roebuck & Company of Atlanta, Georgia, have provided livestock programs which have stimulated the N. F. A. members to greater heights in this two arm program. During the year many purebred dairy and beef cattle have been purchased. Dairy cattle shows have been conducted on community, district and state bases.

These shows have awakened a keen interest in the youth as to the care, proper feeding and grooming of stock. Once a boy exhibits in one of the shows he is no longer content to come back the second year with a grade animal — their objectives change — they want better blood, better groomed and trained animals and, of course, a Blue Ribbin.

More and more, local banks and civic clubs have expressed their faith in the Negro youth and this "Two Arm" farming program to the extent that loans are made whereby necessary funds are provided to make purchases of calves, swine and poultry.

Not so long ago farmers felt that pastures were provided without any effort. That idea has changed. The Plant Food Institute of North Carolina and Virginia is helping to change that mistaken notion by conducting 26 pasture demonstrations under the supervision of agriculture teachers. This past year 249 vocational students put in permanent pastures. Negro farmers and especially the G. I. farmers have planted hybrid corn and lespedeza as never before.

An increasing number of farmers are supplying state distributors with milk. In some cases these farmers are supplementing the family cash income with as much as \$1500.00 per year. The teachers of agriculture realize what this additional cash means, not only to the individual family but to the economic life of the total community. It means the purchase of more farms, household commodities, more clothing for the family, improving the home, paying more taxes, and better medical care. In some cases the farmer is able to buy a few luxuries. The standard of living of all the people is improved through Vocational Agricultural Education.

HONORARY MEMBERS

(Continued From Page 18)

vice in safeguarding the economic welfare of the public in a manner that is most commendable. As a direct result of its influence upon the lives and economic welfare of its policyholders, homes have been purchased, children have been educated, and the specter of financial insecurity in old age has been removed.

During the period when the nation was forced to draw upon all of its resources to preserve its security, North Carolina Mutual not only contributed liberally of its manpower, but through investments in Government Bonds, made available a substantial portion of its financial resources as well. Now that peace in a measure has been restored, as a member of the Life Insurance Fraternity, it is contributing its full share in fostering and promoting an era of lasting peace and prosperity.

Organized in 1839 by John Merrick in association with Dr. A. M. Moore, for nearly a half century the institution has maintained an unbroken record of progress. Mr. Merrick was elected the company's first president, and upon his death was succeeded by his associate, Dr. A. M. Moore. During these years, Mr. C. C. Spaulding served the institution in various capacities. Because of his intimate knowledge of the business and as a result of his keen foresight and initiative, upon the death of Dr. Moore, he was elevated to the presidency, in which position he has served for the past 24 years. Under his guidance the institution has soared to new heights of financial stability and achievement.

During the first year's operation, the company's collections amounted to a total of \$393,50. Today, the story is quite a different one. As of December 31, 1946, the date of the company's last official report, insurance in force totaled \$117,130,987.00, assets had risen to \$17,176,603.51, income for the year 1946 amounted to \$7,740,795.72, and surplus and other unassigned funds stood at \$2,200,000.00.

The institution is a great cooperative enterprise, operated for the sole benefit of present and future policyholders who have or will entrust their financial well-being to the safekeeping of the institution. Thus, North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company is fulfilling its mission as a servant of the people. From a standpoint of safety, security, and dependability, the relative standing of the company among the Life Insurance Companies of America is indeed favorable. Today, it is universally recognized as being in a position to render a service that is complete and unsurpassed.

Pleasant Grove Community

WHERE you find a school which provides a practical educational program that serves the adult as well as the adolescent, you find a prosperous community and a group of rural people who maintain a sound economic and healthy society. There are a number of such communities throughout the state. A typical example can be found in the Pleasant Grove Community of Alamance County. The following letter expresses the opinion of an agricultural leader on this progressive group of people:

ALABAMA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

AUBURN, ALABAMA

July 18, 1946

Professor S. B. Simmons
Agricultural and Technical College
Greensboro, North Carolina

Dear Sir:

I wish to express to you, and through you, to the Negro Teachers of Vocational Agriculture in North Carolina my heartfelt appreciation for the sentiments expressed by them in their letter of July 13.

I enjoyed very much the past week spent working with your ninety teachers of vocational agriculture. So far as I am able to judge, they appealed to me as being a conscientious hard working group of teachers.

I was particularly impressed by my visit to the two schools in Alamance County. The school at Graham is meeting a real community need in its canning plant, its woodwork shop and, I am sure, in its work in vocational agriculture. I found evidence that it is an important factor in developing better racial relations among the citizens of the neighborhood.

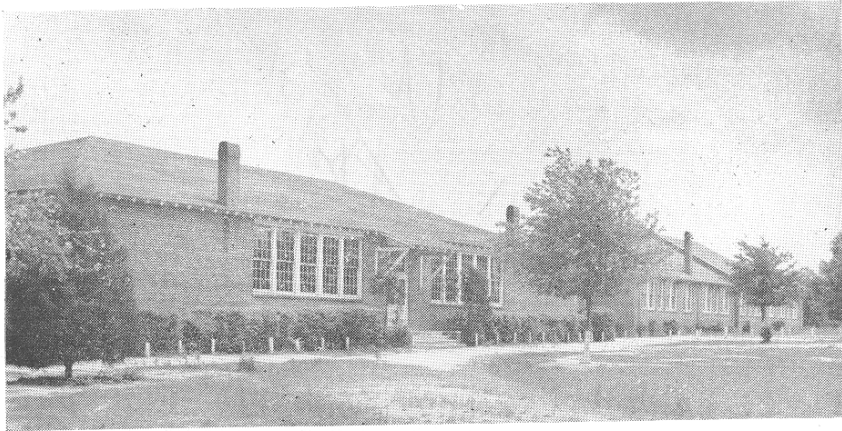
I was amazed at the situation I found at Pleasant Grove; a rural area made up of 75 per cent Negro population, 66 per cent of whom are landowners. The crops were diversified, the land well farmed, the homes neat, substantial, and well landscaped. I went inside some of these homes. They were comfortably furnished, had electric refrigerators, lights, fans and radios. The farms and homes reflect thrift, culture, and prosperity. The people seemed happy and proud of their achievement. This was particularly true of one colored man by the name of Jones, who had me climb into his barn loft where he had over two hundred bushels of wheat just threshed, then into his concrete floored smokehouse where plenty of meat was hanging. I saw a good tractor and other modern farm machinery. Peaches were ripening in his home orchard of some thirty trees. In his corn crib were more than a hundred bushels of old corn (on the 11th of July) and in a nearby field were twenty acres of hybrid corn which looked promising for fifty to sixty bushels per acre.

I have traveled pretty well over the Southern States and into every county in Alabama. I thought I knew rather well the general status and average condition of the Negro farmer of the South. Since seeing this section of Alamance County, my general notion has been revised upward. I am more hopeful of a better future being realized by the Negro Race. Pleasant Grove is a striking

example of this. Likewise it is an outstanding example of a spirit that will go far in creating a more wholesome relationship between the white and colored people of the South.

I feel that widespread publicity given on the work being done by your people in Alamance County would have a beneficial result on the racial betterment of the South. In addition, it would have a fine news interest since the better element of both races are seeking to improve our inter-relationship.

Yours very truly,
S. L. CHESNUTT, Professor
Agricultural Education.

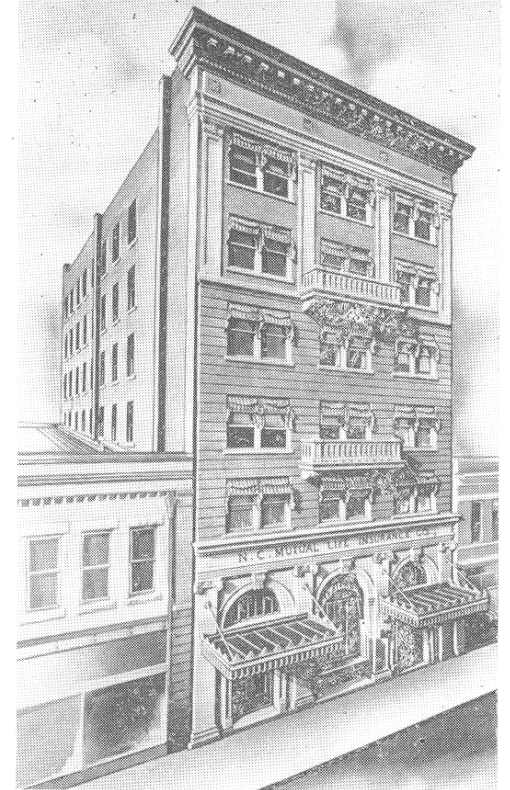


Seen in this picture are the consolidated elementary and high school buildings of the Pleasant Grove School. In the rear is the serviceable vocational building in which the Home Making and Vocational Agriculture students are taught. The students are transported in eight public school busses. The county is soon to build on the campus a much needed gymnasium and cafeteria.



Home of Jasper Haith and it is really "Home Sweet Home".

The picture on the right is the home office of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, in downtown Durham, N. C. Dr. C. C. Spaulding is the president of the company.



The Mechanics and Farmers Bank of Durham, North Carolina, shown as it serves the public. J. H. Wheeler, Vice-President and Cashier is an honorary member of the Mill Grove Chapter, Durham. All national N. F. A. funds clear through this bank. The bank assets as of December 31, 1946, were \$5,018,973.90.



Honorary Members



PERSONS who are helping to advance N.F.A. and who have rendered outstanding services to the organization and society may be elected to honorary membership. Youth looks to successful adults for helpful counsel and guidance, and for these reasons they are made a part of all local, state, and national units. The North Carolina association of N. F. A. and the national body are happy to have among its list of outstanding Honorary Members a great character in the person of Dr. C. C. Spaulding, president of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company and the Mechanic and Farmer Banks of Durham and Raleigh, North Carolina.

Dr. Spaulding was our guest speaker on the N.B.C. nationwide radio Farm and Home Hour program originating from the World's Fair ground at New York City in 1939. Through the Insurance Company and the bank, many of the members have been enabled to purchase cattle. There is a very helpful relationship between the Insurance Company and N. F. A., and for that reason the members are giving a bit of information about this great Institution.

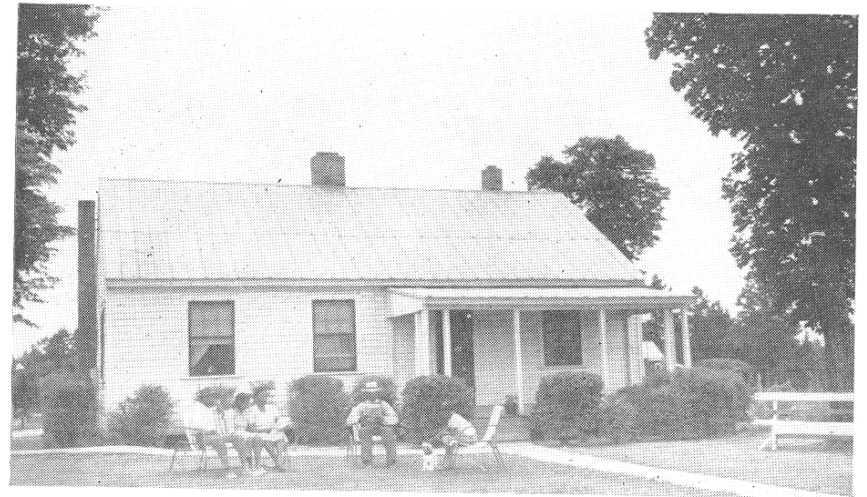
The State of North Carolina abounds in places and institutions of unusual interest, and not the least among them is the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company of Durham, North Carolina, an institution that marks one of the high spots in business achievement among Negroes. Established some forty-eight years ago it has grown from insignificance to one of the most substantial well-managed institutions of its kind to be found anywhere in America.

In evaluating the benefits accruing as the result of the company's activities it is worthy of note that few financial institutions have rendered a greater, more varied service to the public than has North Carolina Mutual. Aside from giving dignified employment to hundreds of men and women of the Race, its strong financial position has enabled the institution to render an outstanding ser-

(Continued On Page 20)



The N. Burnett home is another good example of real home life on the farm.



The H. W. Jones home visited by Mr. Chestnut of Alabama and referred to in his letter.

Rural Homes



THE matter of housing has been and still is a subject of much discussion among all groups. Better housing for rural folks has made great strides in the state under the teachers of vocational agriculture. Experience has taught these leaders that one of the best ways to home improvement in the community is by building for themselves a good modern home which the people may see. Much of the work on these homes is done by the teacher and his students. Thus the teacher's home provides good laboratory work. Where teachers build and own good homes that are properly landscaped the community people come to appreciate the teacher, and the teacher has greater pride in the community, all of which leads to a long and successful tenure in the community. Professor S. C. Anderson of Rocky Point, Pender County, has done more to improve rural homes than any other teacher in the state and perhaps the nation. It all began with the building of his home. He has served that community for 27 years and you would have a hard time taking him away.

The matter of home ownership on the part of the teacher of agriculture is rapidly becoming the rule rather than exception. There is always a desire to build a serviceable, attractive and economical home. The construction includes fixtures and cabinet space, which will make the work for the women less laborious. The reduction of fire hazards receives major attention in planning and building rural homes. Sanitation and home beautification are stressed and provided in the program.

Most farmers own fine North Carolina pine, which the teachers are getting them to take to a local saw mill and have converted into building material. Local Credit Unions, which are community cooperated financial institutions, have been the chief sources from which loans are secured with which to purchase necessary material and labor needed for home construction.

Home of Professor S. C. Anderson, Rocky Point, built and landscaped by himself and his boy. More than 163 people of this section have been guided to improve their homes.



The home of W. J. Fisher, Teacher of Vocational Agriculture in the Graham School, who always works for a position of leadership in Vocational Agricultural Programs.

The Jamieson home at the McIver School, Littleton, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Jamieson are teachers of Vocational Home Making and Agriculture in the local school. Professor Jamieson has charge of the outside program of the home and Mrs. Jamieson has provided an excellent example of arrangement of detail and fixtures in the home.

