

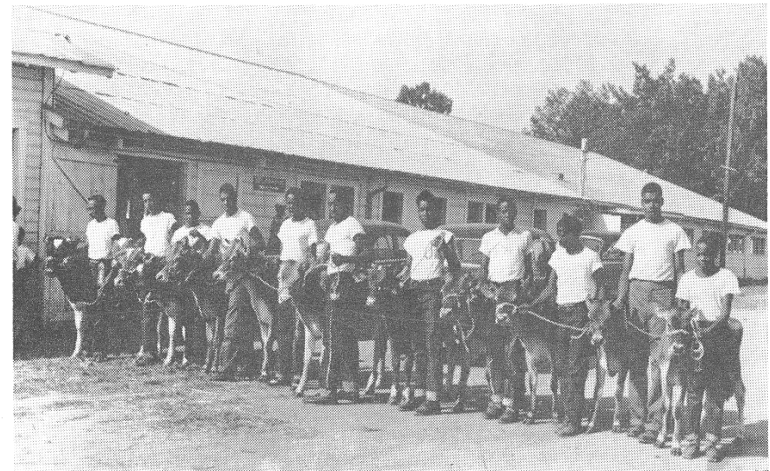
Vocational Agricultural Education Program

proves an asset to

The Catawba-Rosenwald School Community

Catawba, North Carolina

1939-1956



Prepared By

S. B. SIMMONS, *Assistant Supervisor*
Agricultural Education in Negro Schools

A. & T. COLLEGE

GREENSBORO, N. C.

When Vocational Agriculture Education was begun in the public high schools (1917-18), major emphasis was placed on the training of the in-school pupils for farming. In fact, for several years no effort was made to provide training for the adult farmers. Teachers and State Vocational Education leaders soon recognized an urgent need to help the adult and young farmers.

Mr. R. K. Wright is one who has done a splendid job of serving both the in-school and adult farmers. This department is one of 140 departments in the State which serves well the farmers of its county.

In twenty counties of the State where there are Vocational Agriculture teachers, these teachers are the only paid professional workers serving the Negro farming group.

One of the factors which makes R. K. Wright's work so outstanding is his ability to get the co-operation of all paid agricultural workers in the county to help him bring the latest improved farm practices to his classes. The investments made in recent years by the county officials in the department of Vocational Agriculture at the school is an assurance of local interest in Vocational Agriculture Education—and particularly the type which has proven so helpful to the farmers of this county.

J. WARREN SMITH, *State Director*
Division of Vocational Education
State Department Public Instruction

The Department of Vocational Agriculture at the Catawba-Rosenwald School is one of five such departments in the county. It is the only rural Negro high school in Catawba County.

The county is quite proud of the manner in which the Rosenwald-Catawba department has efficiently served the patrons of that school district for eighteen years. Funds spent in this program have been more than justified by the results that have been obtained with the high school boys and the out-of-school groups who have taken advantage of the educational possibilities provided at this institution. The program has been a great help to the small farmers and part-time farmers of the county.

I want to congratulate Principal Herbert M. Thompson on having as head of that department a young, progressive, energetic teacher.

H. M. ARNDT, *Superintendent*
Catawba County Schools
State of North Carolina

The Agricultural and Technical College is interested in the educational program as provided in ALL our schools of the state. We have a particular interest in the work being done at the Catawba-Rosenwald School. First, because of the fact that both the Principal and the Agricultural teacher are products of our institution. Naturally, there is much satisfaction when we hear of the fine work our products are doing.

Second, we have had the co-operation of this school and the department of vocational agriculture for a number of years in serving as one of our outstanding Critic Teacher Centers, where so many of our seniors prepare to teach Vocational Agriculture by spending a quarter most profitably observing and co-operating with Mr. Wright and his associates in the fine program carried on there.

We take pleasure in commending them on a job well done.

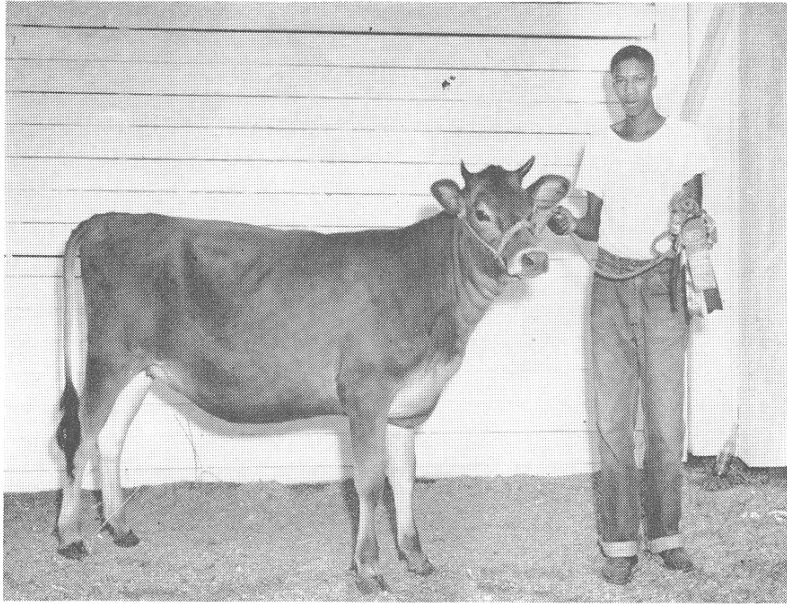
WARMOTH T. GIBBS, *President*
A. and T. College
Greensboro, N. C.



Superintendent of school and board members check over Lafayette Hill's farm program which was sent to Washington for consideration for the H. O. Sargent Award, given only to former NFA members who have fine records on the farm.



One of the highlights of the Catawba Chapter came when their members were chosen to take part in NFA Day Radio Program April 5, 1948. The program was recorded in the Governor's Office, Raleigh. At extreme left is Dr. J. Warren Smith, State Director of Vocational Education; at extreme right, former Governor Gregg Cherry; in center Cleophus Williams, NFA member, who was master of ceremonies.



Bobby Flowers and his prize winning Jersey

District Junior Cattle Show Held At Cleveland Negro Fair

N.F.A and 4H club boys of Cleveland, Catawba, Gaston, Iredell, Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, and Alexander counties were participants Thursday morning in the Western District Junior Cattle Show, sponsored by the Cleveland County Negro Fair Association at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds.

Bobby Flowers of Catawba County was first prize winner for his "Grand Champion" animal in the Jersey division. Flowers also won the "Showmanship Award" according to the decision of the judges.

School; and William Womble, Washington High School.

Gaston: E. W. Draughn, Lincoln Academy; and W. M. Edwards, John Chavis High School, Cherryville.

Mecklenburg: R. A. Gaddy, farm agent, Charlotte; and L. R. Wynn, Huntersville High School.

Catawba: R. K. Wright, Catawba High School.

Iredell: J.A. Howell, Unity High School; and D. O. Ivey, farm agent, Statesville.

Rowan: Gilbert Winborne, farm agent.

way last evening, as all kiddie rides, roller coasters and ferris wheels were filled to capacity.

Larger crowds were assembled at the motordrome where sirens on motorcycles thrilled those watching the acts performed by daring riders.

Tomorrow marks the close of the four-day run of the largest and best fair in the history of the organization.

Spectacular car racing events are included on Saturday's schedule beginning at 2 p.m.

INTRODUCTION

This brochure has been prepared as a means of giving the reader a practical point of view of the work of a vocational agricultural teacher.

On the following pages one will find out when the program was started and some of the major objectives accomplished. Emphasis is placed on the fact that accomplishments are the result of good leadership, co-operation, providing materials and time to carry on the varied and useful program.

This department, like all other vocational departments, is maintained and supported, primarily, through the co-operation of the County Board of Education and the State Board of Education, which receive funds from the Federal Government under the Federal Vocational Acts.

Inasmuch as the school has served so effectively as a Critic Teachers' Center, the Agricultural and Technical College of Greensboro, N. C. has had a hand in the work of the department.

ESTABLISHING THE DEPARTMENT OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE

The department of vocational agriculture at the Catawba-Rosenwald School was established in July, 1939. Like most Negro programs of that day, the first step in getting the department was to employ the teacher. A special vocational agriculture classroom, shop, and equipment were provided after the program had been sold to the school officials and the public.

The agricultural department was started a few years after high school courses had been added to the school's curriculum. At that time the school was housed in a six room Rosenwald elementary building. This meant the teacher of vocational agriculture had no classroom or shop. He taught wherever he could find space. Most of his classes were held in the halls. His shop was on the campus, and it was equipped with a few tools brought from home by the pupils. For several years, shop work was conducted in the early fall and spring because the work had to be done on the campus. Much of the most effective shop work was done on the pupils' home farms.

PRODUCTIVE WORK BRINGS NEW BUILDINGS

The teacher of Agriculture, with the aid of the principal and the people, developed an effective program in the community. The old elementary school building was soon over-run with pupils. That situation made it necessary to provide a new high school building. A classroom for vocational agriculture and another room were set aside for a shop in this building. Some power equipment was provided, also. The shop work proved to be a very popular part of the program. However, because of the noise that goes with shop work, most of this type of instruction had to be given after school and at night.



View of the old elementary school building being landscaped under the supervision of the teacher of vocational agriculture, 1939.

Leadership positions held by former chapter members in the state and national organization:

1. Willie Dockery National Treasurer
2. Charlie Flowers State Treasurer
3. Cleophus Williams State Vice-President
4. Cleophus Williams State President
5. J. W. Turner State Vice-President
6. Weddie Gabriel State Treasurer
7. Weddie Gabriel Federation Treasurer
8. Willie Rhinehardt Federation Reporter
9. Willie Rhinehardt State Reporter
10. Cleophus Williams Federation President

Members receiving Future Farmers of America* Awards:

- Sank Mundy, Sectional winner Star Dairy Farmer, 1948
 Joe Odum, Sectional winner .. Soil & Water Management, 1951
 Oscar Odum, Farm Home Improvement, 2nd place winner, 1952
 Weddie Gabriel, Soil & Water Managem't, sectional winner, 1953

Members who have received the Modern Farmer's Degree: (This is the highest award conferred by the state association. This award is given to the most outstanding member in the chapter at the end of his third year.)

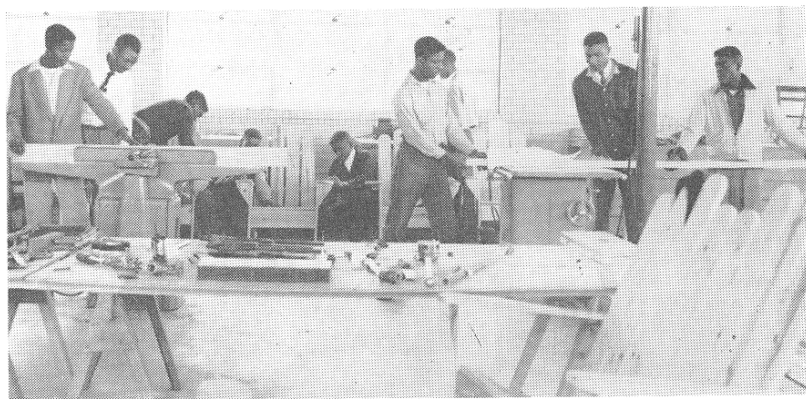
Dennis Hill	James Rhinehardt	Chalmus Hull
Willie Dockery	Lafayette Hill	Sank Mundy
Joe Tyson	Oscar Odum	Joe Odum
Richard Hill	Charlie Flowers	Cleophus Williams
Willie Rhinehardt	J. W. Turner	Weddie Gabriel
Lucius McCullough	Rayvon Anthony	W. D. Lyrley
Earnest McCullough	Walter Lyrley	Kenneth Fish

PUBLIC RELATIONS PROGRAM

A good public relations program has meant much to the growth and development of the department under consideration. The main factor in this regard is the department has carried out a purposeful program from the beginning. Thus we find pupils, teacher, principal and other school officials telling of this good work. As a result, all the papers in the county carry articles regularly on this department. Reporters often come to the community and get news stories. Feature articles have appeared in leading dailies of the state. Radio and TV programs form an important link in the annual program of this department.

*"The Future Farmers of America Foundation, Inc., provides on a nationwide basis prize and financial awards to deserving members of NFA who have achieved distinction in their Supervised Farming Program, scholarship, citizenship and rural leadership."

Rice R. DeLoathe Asisstant County Agent, North Carolina
 Seabrooks Taylor Vocational Agriculture Teacher, South Carolina
 Norman R. Hayes U. S. Army
 Cleophus Williams U. S. Army
 George Manning Government Worker
 E. S. McCaskill Veteran Teacher, North Carolina
 Aldon Carson First Lieutenant, U. S. Army
 Jule Banks Vocational Agriculture Teacher, Texas
 Joshua W. Kearney A. and T. College—Teacher
 W. E. Foster Vocational Agriculture Teacher, North Carolina
 W. A. Dillard Vocational Agriculture Teacher
 John M. Jenkins Captain in the U. S. Army
 Fred Tatum Assistant County Agent, North Carolina
 W. H. Harrell Veteran Teacher, North Carolina



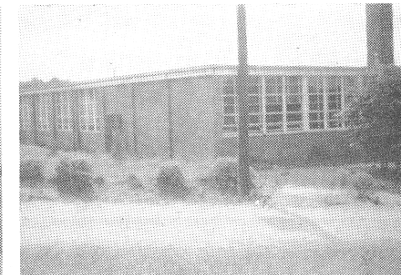
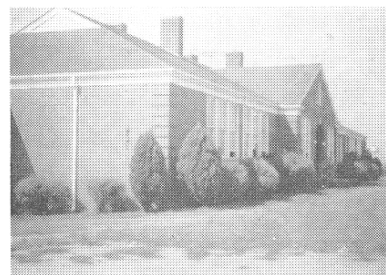
Two of the trainees work with vocational agriculture boys in making community lawn chairs as they prepare themselves to become successful vocational agriculture teachers.

NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA

The local chapter of New Farmers of America has proven to be a great asset to the school, state and national organization of more than 40,000 farm boys.

The NFA program in this department is varied. It gives each member a part to play in one or more of the following areas of training: Leadership, Co-operation, Recreation, Scholarships, Supervised Farming Program, Earning and Saving, Public Relations, and Community Service. These make up the program of work. The activities are carried out by chapter committee members of three or more. The chairman of each committee has had two years of experience on the committee before being named. This method provides at least one well trained member for the committee each year.

The part the boys play in carrying out the above activities means much in advancing the work in local, state and national units of NFA and in preparing the high school boy for the things he will do in adult life.



High School Building, 1949. (Note the shrubbery planted by students of Vocational Agriculture.) View of the New Vocational Agriculture Building, 1954.

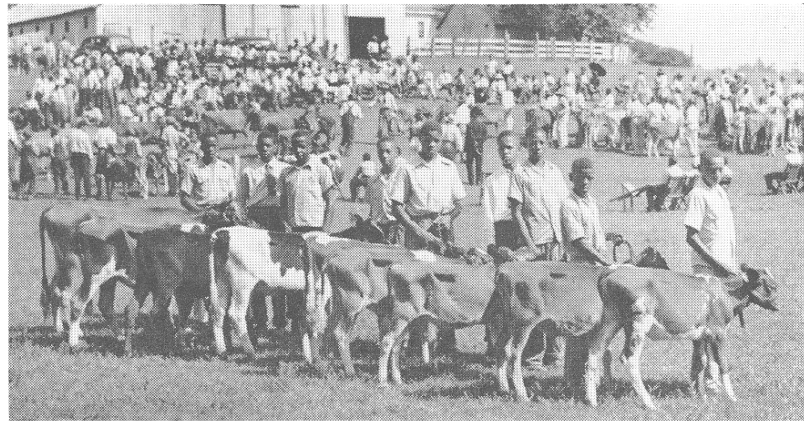
Today, one will find at the Catawba-Rosenwald School one of the best physical plants for vocational agriculture in the state. A separate building has been provided with a well equipped classroom, shop, office, store room, room for small equipment, laboratory, and an individual heating plant. The local people take great pride in this building. Because of this outstanding program and others like it, new departments are now provided with buildings before the teachers are employed—in many parts of the state.



Shown here is Dr. W. L. Kennedy of A. & T. College presenting Mr. R. K. Wrgiht and his NFA boys a plaque for having won highest honor in the Statesville Dairy School.

ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANCE

Progress with the buildings and equipment program at Catawba-Rosenwald School is due, in a large measure, to the fine support the school officials have given the program. The Superintendent of Schools, the principal and Board members have always taken time to visit different phases of the program in the community, as well as at the school. The principal has given special attention to arranging the schedule of all-day classes in the forenoon. This arrangement leaves the afternoon open for field supervision, shop work and individual services that the agricultural teacher is called upon to give the farm and community people daily, and sometimes at night.



Catawba boys as they appear in their first dairy cattle show in Greensboro, 1945
Note: Picture of 1955 group on cover page

School In Catawba Applies Theory Advanced By Booker T. Washington

By S. B. SIMMONS, Supervisor, Agricultural Education in Negro Schools

Vocational agriculture as taught in the 93 negro departments of this state is based on the theory of the late Dr. Booker T. Washington, namely, "Doing the common jobs in an uncommon way."

One of the best examples of applying the Washington theory of vocational education is provided in the Rosenwald-Catawba high school of Catawba, under the leadership of Prof. R. K. Wright, teacher of vocational agriculture.

Students Do "Common Jobs In An Uncommon Way" And Live At Home

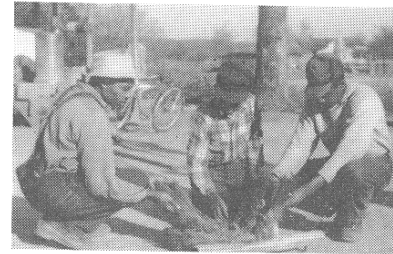
set a fine example for the people by maintaining clean and beautiful surroundings the year round.

Negro farmers of the Catawba school district no longer depend on cotton for their main source of cash. Under the leadership of the agriculture teacher, the community as a whole is leading all other communities in the state in producing a better diet, plus more cash for the farmer the year round. Nine farmers received \$5,794.48 for their milk. There were nine boys from the Catawba school taking part in the first junior negro dairy cattle show last September at A. and T. college, the largest number exhibiting from any one community. Several of these

OUT-OF-SCHOOL CLASSES

Vocational Agriculture is provided to help two groups of farm people: those farming, and those planning to farm. The out-of-school classes are made up of adult farmers and young farmers who have finished school, or those who had to drop out of school and are still farming. These groups meet, generally, one evening per week. In the winter they have day meetings. In the day classes they spend much time in the school shop repairing farm equipment and doing other mechanical jobs.

The class work for both groups places emphasis on improved farm practices needed on the home farm. This instructional program enables the farmers to know how they might best be helped through the various Federal farm programs and practices. The local teacher has been very successful in calling upon other State and Federal Farm Agencies working in the county to help supply his groups with the latest information and improved farm practices. The Soil Bank Program has been explained in these evening class meetings.



A father and his two sons getting ready to put out 500 pine seedlings.



R. D. Connor, adult class member, makes good with cash made from the sale of dewberries.

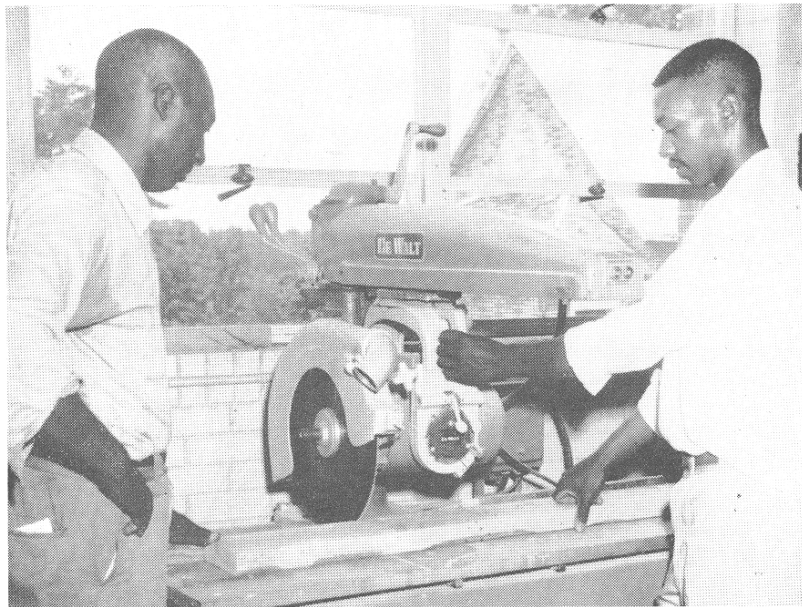
PRACTICE TEACHING CENTERS

Annually, one or two Senior students are sent from the Agricultural and Technical College at Greensboro to spend a quarter in the department to gain experience in teaching and carrying out the functions of a local department of vocational agriculture. A large number of young men who did their practice teaching in this school have succeeded in securing good jobs. Perhaps that accounts for the fact that Seniors apply to get their practice teaching experience at The Catawba-Rosenwald School each year. Listed below are the young men who have completed work as student teachers, and their present positions:

Name	Occupation
H. F. Palmer	Assistant County Agent, North Carolina
Haywood Rogers	Vocational Agriculture Teacher, Maryland
Benjamin Currence	Vocational Agriculture Teacher, North Carolina
Cornelius Jordan	Vocational Agriculture Teacher, North Carolina
Thomas H. Hudgins	Factory Worker, New Jersey
Fletcher Lassiter	Carpenter and Farmer



R. K. Wright, local agriculture teacher, checks to see that the person canning understands correctly how to seal the cans. Standing behind Wright is his former College Instructor, W. T. Johnson, making sure the job is well done.



Father and son (former pupil) work together in the well equipped shop on a much needed repair job for their home.

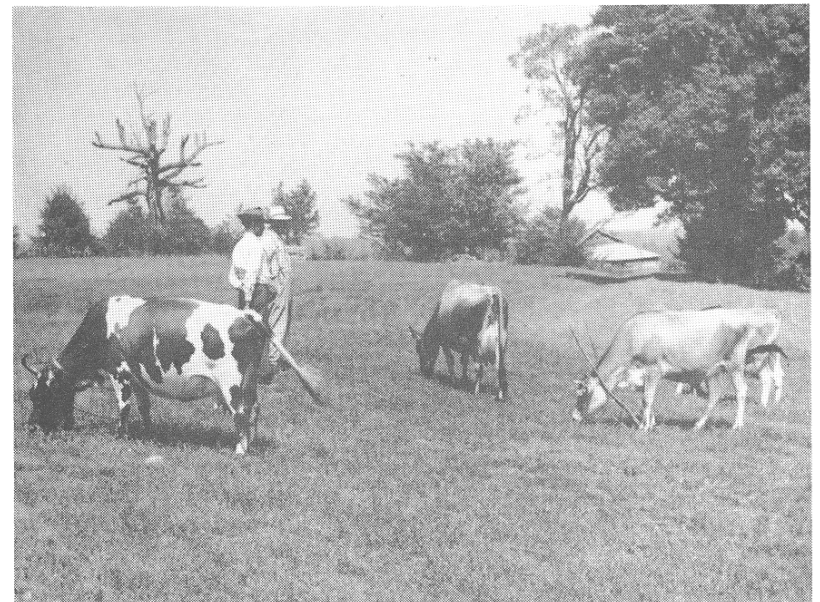
DAIRY SHOWS FOR THE YOUTH

Having students of vocational agriculture take part in cattle shows is a matter of much concern in the Catawba School community. From 1945 through 1955 a total of 183 cattle have been exhibited by the department in shows in other counties. The pupils have won 102 blue ribbons, 50 red ribbons, and 30 white ribbons. Included in that number have been two Grand Champions and two Junior Champions. The teacher and pupils start training and fitting their animals during the summer months. Over the years, parents and dairy owners have helped boys to purchase calves in order that they may take part in the cattle shows. Thus, on some of the farms today one will see a number of well cared for cows instead of one, as in the old days.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

One of the factors that has proven so helpful to this phase of the program is the fact that the school officials selected a good man for the job. They have had only one teacher throughout the life of the program.

Soon after Mr. R. K. Wright, the agricultural teacher, went on the job he studied the needs of the community and set to work to improve these conditions through an instructional program, with both in-school and out-of-school groups. The instructional program dealt with improvement in the family milk cow to the point that a number of the farmers not only have milk for home use, but are now enjoying a year-



Adult Farmer, Andy Brown, and R. K. Wright looking over a few of his good cows on one of the best pastures in the county.

round cash income from their cows. This was accomplished through improved feeding, better breeding practices, better housing and care, and perhaps most important—establishing good, year-round pastures. The objective now is to get more of the farmers producing A-grade milk and to increase the number of animals.

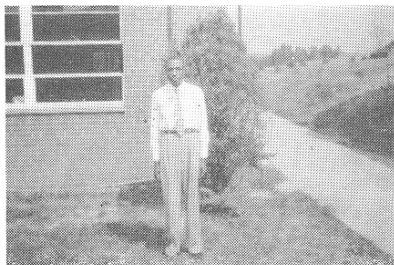


John Hall and his son, Chalmus Hall, former dairy cattle showman, now established farmer, milks 12 cows.

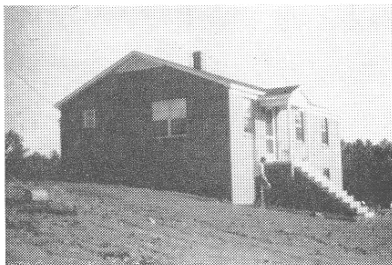


A view of a few of the crops and flowers exhibited at the Catawba-Rosenwald Community Fair.

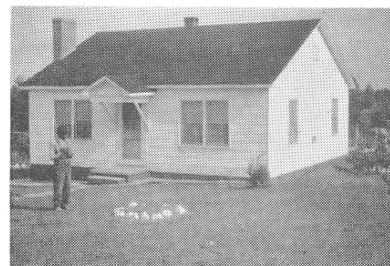
Several community activities are provided throughout the year as a means of keeping the interest alive, like the following: (1) The School Community Fall Fair. More than 200 awards were made to persons who had high quality exhibits on display this year. (2) The New Homemakers and the New Farmers of America sponsor a banquet and exhibit which are held at the school in the spring. Interest is so keen in this activity that it is difficult to find space for all who would want to attend the annual event. (3) The out-of-school groups, made up of members of the young farmer, adult classes and the garden club, look forward to their annual picnic which comes off around the Fourth of July. This event features a ball game, picnic dinner, and an outstanding speaker on a subject connected with the local program, which might be on canning, dairy cattle production, community improvement at the home, church, and school.



Principal Herbert M. Thompson of the Catawba-Rosenwald School, who has had a large hand in making possible a successful vocational program at the Catawba-Rosenwald school.



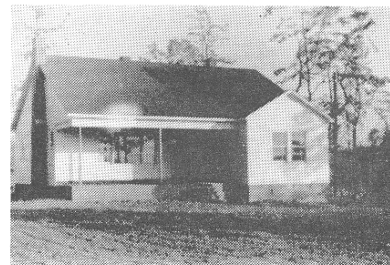
Home of Sam Williams, tenant farmer in 1939, now home owner.



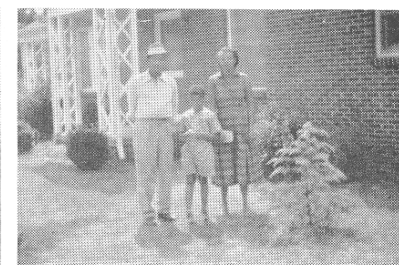
Mr. John Linebarger and family are proud of their new well planned attractive home.



Winfield Cornelius, former student, has one of the better farm homes in the community.



New home of Waddie Gabriel, chairman of the local advisory committee.



Home of Vocational Teacher R. K. Wright

COMMUNITY CANNERY

In 1944, the canning program was started. The County Board of Education gave \$1,000 to purchase material, and the local people and students supplied the additional materials and built the cannery. The Federal Government furnished the funds with which to equip the plant. This plant has canned 37,000 cans of vegetables, fruits and meats annually for the community families. The output has not been below 20,000 cans a season. The people do their own canning under the guidance and with the aid of the vocational agriculture teacher, or someone whom he has trained to carry on the program. Many times the teacher's wife has to take over the job.

This phase of the program has meant much in helping the local people to provide and maintain food for an adequate diet the year around. The school community cannery had its beginning with World War II. Most of the other 40 canneries have long since stopped functioning. Not so with the Catawba cannery. Even with freezing units placed in a large number of homes, the cannery still serves the community well. To this work the teacher gives much of his time throughout the year. For this program to succeed he has to see to it that the people follow a planting schedule, produce quality products, and aid in keeping down pests of all kinds the year around. Some might think that a canning program is only a summer activity. That is far from being true.