

NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA

NFA



Proceedings

23rd

NATIONAL

CONVENTION

NFA

1957

September 30—October 4, 1957

Municipal Auditorium

Atlanta, Georgia

National Officers

NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA

1956-57

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DIRECTOR NATIONAL NFA CHORUS

I. S. Glover.....Teacher Vocational Agriculture, Comer, Ga.

The National Officers for 1957-58 are listed inside the back cover.

National Officers

NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA

1957-58

STUDENT OFFICERS

President.....John Knox, Jr., Box 7, Eutaw, Ala.
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Administrative Executive Secretary.....W. N. Elam, Office of Education,
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NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

W. T. Spanton.....Chairman, Office of Education, Washington 25, D. C.
W. N. Elam.....Office of Education, Washington 25, D. C.
R. E. Naugher.....Office of Education, Washington 25, D. C.
G. W. Conoly.....Florida A. & M. University, Tallahassee, Fla.
E. M. Norris.....Prairie View A. & M. College, Prairie View, Tex.
W. T. Johnson.....A. & T. College, Greensboro, N. C.
D. C. Jones.....Almnot Sectional Advisor, Langston University, Langston, Okla.
W. A. Flowers.....Sargent Sectional Advisor, A. & I. College, Nashville, Tenn.
M. A. Fields.....Washington Sectional Advisor, Virginia State College,
Petersburg, Va.

DIRECTOR NATIONAL NFA CHORUS

I. S. Glover.....Teacher Vocational Agriculture, Comer, Ga.

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PROCEEDINGS
of the
Twenty-Third
National Convention
of the
NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA

MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

SEPTEMBER 30-October 4, 1957

**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE**

**Office of Education
Division of Vocational Education
Washington 25, D. C.**

In Memoriam

PRESENTED AT THE
23RD NATIONAL NFA CONVENTION
ATLANTA, GEORGIA, OCTOBER 2, 1957

Sidney B. Simmons, Assistant State Supervisor of Agricultural Education for Negro Schools in North Carolina died July 30, 1957 at Greensboro, North Carolina. He was born in North Carolina and received his B.S. degrees in Agriculture from both A. & T. College, Greensboro, North Carolina, and the University of Illinois. He did advanced study at the University of California, Kansas State College, Hampton Institute, and Colorado State College.

Mr. Simmons had the longest record of service of any Negro in the Nation's program of Agricultural Education. He was one of the early enthusiastic founders of the New Farmers of America, and participated actively in planning the first meeting. He organized the North Carolina Association of New Farmers and rendered outstanding service as National Executive Secretary-Treasurer from 1935-55.

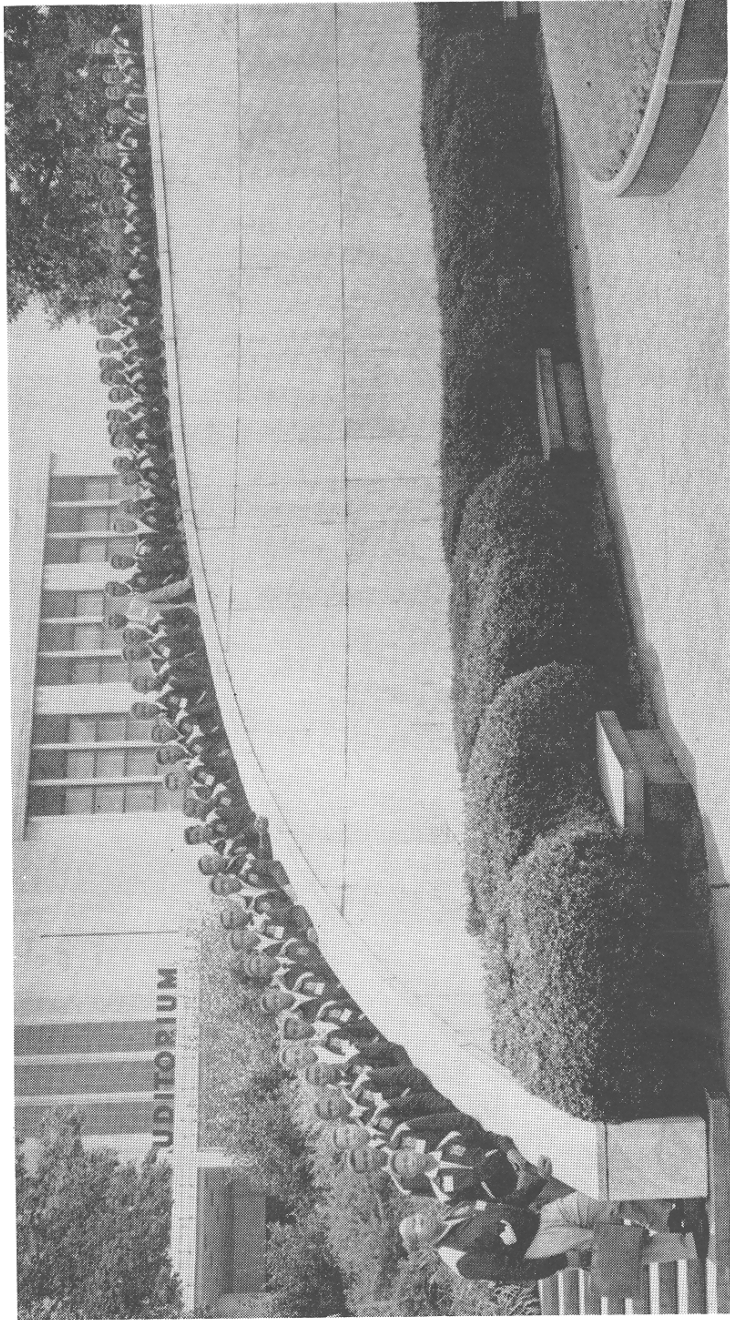
Mr. Simmons has been one of the motivating forces responsible for the development and growth of the National NFA organization. Among his contributions on the National level to agricultural education was his appearance with two teachers of vocational agriculture in 1946 before the Committee on Education of the United States Congress. This appearance before the Educational Committee greatly influenced Congress to pass the George-Barden Act. His public relations program on local, State and National levels was always of the highest type.

Under his supervision, the program of vocational agriculture in the Negro schools of North Carolina rated as one of the best in the Nation. The NFA Summer Camp at Hammock Beach, North Carolina, was one of his latest accomplishments and is valued at more than \$80,000.00.

Mr. Simmons received Citations from President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman for his assistance to the United States Selective Service during World War II.

He will long be remembered for his accomplishments and for his sincere friendliness to people in all walks of life. He was a most excellent representative for his people.

We have lost an esteemed friend and a sound thinking co-worker. We extend our sympathies to the members of his family and we sincerely express our deep appreciation for the valuable services which he has rendered his profession.



NFA National Convention Headquarters—Municipal Auditorium, Atlanta, Ga.
National NFA Chorus in foreground.

CITATION

FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA

Awarded by

THE NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA

to

J. R. THOMAS

Head, Department of Agricultural Education
Virginia State College, Petersburg, Virginia

and

Former National Advisor and National Executive Secretary
New Farmers of America

Mr. J. R. Thomas rendered long and distinguished service through agricultural education to the New Farmers of America. He personally assisted Dr. George W. Owens, one of the early founders of the NFA, in the early development of the organization and in writing the first National NFA Constitution and By-Laws in 1935. Through his long service as National NFA Executive Secretary he has devoted possibly more time to the NFA than any other individual. The National NFA Organization has reached its present status of high development largely through the untiring efforts of men like Mr. Thomas.

Mr. Thomas is a native of Nebraska and is holder of the B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Nebraska, and an M.S. degree from Cornell University. He has devoted 31 years of service to the field of vocational agriculture, 26 years of this time as teacher trainer of agricultural education at Virginia State College. From 1955 to 1957, Mr. Thomas as an employee of the United States Government served as a consultant in agricultural education to Jamaica, British West Indies. His sincere faithful service to the New Farmers of America has endeared him to his fellow co-workers and thousands of NFA members.

As an expression of esteem and appreciation for his valuable service to the New Farmers of America, we present this citation.

Given this the 2nd day of October 1957 at the National Convention of New Farmers of America, Atlanta, Georgia.

INTRODUCTION

The New Farmers of America is the national organization of boys studying vocational agriculture in public secondary schools under the provisions of the National Vocational Education Acts. Launched at Tuskegee, Alabama, in August 1935, the organization has continued to develop rapidly. On June 30, 1957, the active membership totaled 46,596 in 1047 chapters in 16 States.

The primary aim of the New Farmers of America organization is the development of agricultural leadership, cooperation, citizenship and patriotism. Other purposes include: strengthening the confidence of farm boys and young men in themselves and their work; more intelligent choice of farming occupations; creating and nurturing a love of country life; improving the rural home and its surroundings; encouraging cooperative effort; encouraging thrift; improving scholarship; providing organized recreational activities for rural people; and supplementing, by means of boy-initiated and boy-directed activities, the systematic instruction offered to prospective young farmers regularly enrolled in day-school vocational agricultural courses. Its members learn through participating experiences how to conduct and take part in public meetings, to speak in public, and to assume civic responsibility. The NFA is an intracurricular part of vocational education in agriculture in the public school system of America. It constitutes one of the most effective devices for teaching through participating experiences.

The New Farmers of America organization of voluntary membership has taken its place with other agencies interested in the up-building of agriculture and the improvement of country life. National headquarters of the New Farmers of America is located in the Office of Education, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington 25, D. C. National conventions are held annually in the Municipal Auditorium, Atlanta, Georgia.

The 23d National Convention of the New Farmers of America was held at the Municipal Auditorium in Atlanta, Georgia, September 30-October 4, 1957. Delegates were present from 16 chartered associations and approximately 1,200 individuals attended the convention.

These proceedings constitute a yearbook on organization activities. The complete minutes of the Convention sessions are included along with certain other important material supplementary or explanatory to the convention activities. Press releases, as well as certain newspaper accounts, were used in compiling this publication.

W. N. ELAM

National Administrative Executive Secretary

OFFICIAL STATE DELEGATES

September 30-October 4, 1957

ALABAMA

Johnny Knox
Charles Rowell

ARKANSAS

Leroy Black, Jr.
Ollie Johnson
James Ladd
Ralph E. White

DELAWARE

Leon Brown
Marvin Williams

FLORIDA

Wilford H. Griffin
Jimmie B. Keel
Bobbie Ray Smith
Earl Williams

GEORGIA

Carl Britton
Bobby Burgess
Earl Freeman
Wilson Gosier
Earnest Jackson
Clifford Jay, Jr.
Claudell Johnson
Stanley Ward

KENTUCKY

Frank Herring
Benjamin Parrish

LOUISIANA

J. B. Bechum
Eugene T. Martin
M. L. Mazett
Frederick Peters
Walter P. Waller

MARYLAND

James Dobson
James Tolson

MISSISSIPPI

Rodell Carter
James McLaughlin
Nolen Strafford
Jessie Vinison

MISSOURI

Willie C. Blanchard
Alvin Burt Pulley

NORTH CAROLINA

Raeford Barnes
J. H. Brooks
Lewis Brooks
Theodore Coggins
John J. Jones
Ronald Williams
James Wray
William Wright

OKLAHOMA

Wendell Brewer
Carl James

SOUTH CAROLINA

Levern Conyers
Henry Mackey
William Myers
Vernell White (Alternate)
John Whittenbury

TENNESSEE

Rufus Crawford
Eugene Talley
James Tatum

TEXAS

Jimmie Bates
Dewey Christe
Elijah Jackson
Frank Pines
Obie Lee Phillips
Herbert Purvey
Albert Murry (Flag Bearer)
Peter Thorpe
James White

VIRGINIA

Edward Beverly
James Johnson
Waverly Jones
Richard Stackhouse

CITATION

FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA

Awarded by

THE NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA

to

D. C. JONES

Head, Department of Agricultural Education
Langston University, Langston, Oklahoma

and

Former National Advisor, New Farmers of America

Mr. D. C. Jones has rendered noble and distinguished service to the farm youth of America through vocational agriculture to the NFA. He has served as State NFA Advisor in Oklahoma for the past 23 years, and rendered valuable service for 10 years as National Advisor for the New Farmers of America. For 32 years he has been Head of the Agricultural Education Department at Langston University, where he not only trains but supervises the work of all local NFA advisors in Oklahoma. His life has been devoted to serving the farm people of his State and Nation.

Mr. Jones was graduated from Hampton Institute with a B.S. degree in agriculture and from Cornell University with an M.S. degree in agricultural education. His greatest satisfaction comes from helping farm people and assisting deserving young men to become established in farming.

"D. C.", as he is affectionately called, has endeared himself to his co-workers in the New Farmers of America throughout the entire Southland. He will continue as Head Teacher Trainer and State NFA advisor at Langston University, Langston, Oklahoma.

As an expression of esteem and appreciation for his valuable service to the New Farmers of America, we present this citation.

Given this the 2nd day of October 1957 at the National Convention of New Farmers of America, Atlanta, Georgia.



Winner of the H. O. Sargent Award—Almmot Section

WILL SMITH, JR.
Franklinton, La.

Will Smith, Jr., completed 4 years of vocational agriculture at Franklinton, La. While in school he qualified for 3 NFA Degrees.

Will left high school 7 years ago. He spent 2 years in the U. S. Army, and during the last 5 years he has made steady progress in farming. Today he owns 26 acres of land and rents 41 on an adjoining farm. During the last 2 years he realized a net income of \$4,085 from cotton, corn, garden truck, cattle, swine, and poultry.

Young Will Smith, Jr., never has an idle moment. In addition to farming he runs a school bus and operates a syrup mill in the summer. In order to save time and energy and to speed his farming operations, Will has his farm mechanized with \$10,309 invested in a tractor, truck, tractor disc, feed grinder, and other equipment. He has a growing herd of cattle and a number of swine.

In regard to crops, Will made the following statement: "Truck crops are my best cash crops. I am a member of the Washington Parish Colored Farmers Cooperative. Consequently, I sell my truck crops to this farmers cooperative. I sold \$281.88 of okra from one acre of land. I realized this through the use of high analysis fertilizer and the use of the best farming practices that I learned from the adult farmer class. My beef cattle have won prizes in both the Parish and State livestock shows."

Will Smith, Jr., is a good example of a farmer with the know-how and not afraid of hard work. What he has done, other NFA members can do also.

National NFA Budget

1957-58

Anticipated Revenue:

National Dues	\$6,975.00
FFA Foundation	1,230.00
Dividends on Bonds.....	115.50
Royalties	250.00
Interest	130.00
Total Anticipated Revenue.....	\$8,700.00

Estimated Disbursements:

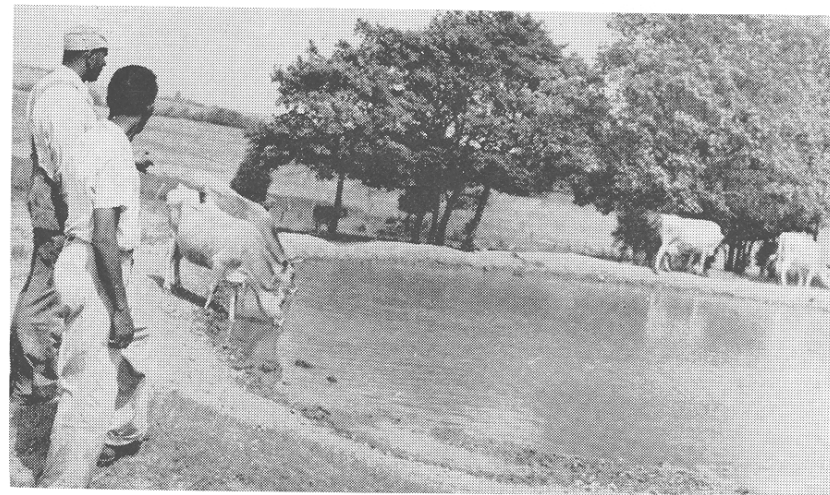
Leadership Training School.....	\$ 775.00
State Convention Travel—National Officers.....	975.00
National Board of Trustees Meeting.....	1,100.00
National NFA Convention	
General Expenses	\$ 750.00
National Chorus	750.00
Chorus Jackets	330.00
Programs	185.00
Badges	100.00
Talent Awards	175.00
Rentals and Decorations.....	125.00
Photography	75.00
Superior Degree Keys.....	300.00
	\$2,790.00
Stationery and Supplies.....	\$ 75.00
Auditing	65.00
Printing	1,250.00
Surety Bond	5.00
Travel of 2 adult National Officers to FFA Convention	350.00
Contingent Fund	1,365.00
Total Estimated Disbursements.....	\$8,700.50

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Arthur, Jr., began the study of vocational agriculture in the 9th grade of the Alabama A. & M. High School. He had such an outstanding farming program that his instructor, on several occasions, took his classes in Agriculture to the Jacobs farm in order for them to see a good farming program.

Arthur, Jr., served 4 years in the Army, came home, finished high school, and then completed 4 years of college in Agriculture. He



was very successful in farming and in 1953 he realized his life's ambition by purchasing a 121-acre farm of his own. His home is modern and well supplied with home conveniences. Young Jacobs owns two tractors with full equipment, a 1-ton truck, a feed mill and power harvesting machinery.

While in school he was in the band, the NFA quartet, and a member of the judging team. Today he is director of the local gin cooperative, secretary of the adult farmer class, and last year was Vice-Commander of the American Legion. His leadership ability, good judgment, and use of sound farming practices make him a valuable asset to his community.

and his father operate 80 acres of tillable land that produces 15 acres of corn, 5.7 acres of tobacco, 15 acres of wheat, and 25 acres of hay. They also grow soybeans, barley, and oats. Their livestock includes 27 head of cattle, 41 head of hogs, and 250 laying hens. For the past two years this young man has realized an annual labor income of over \$5,000 per year.

Franklin and his father have their farm mechanized with a truck, tractor, and equipment such as a breaking plow, cultivator, planter, and disc harrow. They also own a combine, mower, side delivery rake, baler, and grain drill. The total value of all farm machinery is \$10,942 of which Franklin's share is \$5,471.

Franklin and his wife live with his parents in a neat, well painted home that has all modern conveniences. They plan to have a home of their own next year on 25 acres they purchased adjoining their farm.

Franklin likes to work with livestock and he finds his 16 head of dairy cows and his swine herd very profitable undertakings. He stated: "In the past 6 years I have increased wheat yields on my farm by 10 bushels per acre, the yield of corn has been increased from 40 to 85 bushels per acre, and the yield of tobacco has increased. The improved pasture program has resulted in a 25 percent increase in milk production and a 35 percent decrease in feed costs. I can see that the production of the land increase is due to the soil and water conservation practices that I am now using. I learned these practices through courses in vocational agriculture and the Veteran Farm Training Program."

Franklin was an active NFA member and served as secretary, treasurer, and president of the local chapter during the 4 years he was in high school. He also took an active interest in the judging contests and other chapter activities. The leadership training he received as an NFA member is now functioning in his adult life. Today he is Superintendent of the Sunday School and President of the Young Farmer group in the local community.

Winner H. O. Sargent Award 1957, Sargent Section

ARTHUR JACOBS, JR.

Rt. 1, Teney, Ala.

Arthur Jacobs, Jr., 1957 winner of the H. O. Sargent Award for the NFA Sargent Section, was born near Huntsville, Ala. At an early age he developed a keen interest in farming.

About the time young Jacobs finished junior high school, his father's farm was purchased by the U. S. Government and converted into the Redstone Arsenal at Huntsville, Ala. His father purchased 308 acres of land in another desirable community and continued to farm.

PROGRAM

National NFA 23rd Annual Convention

September 30—October 1-4, 1957

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

- 9:00 A. M. Meeting of National Board of Trustees
Room 4, Butler Street YMCA
- 1:30 P. M. Meeting of National Board of Trustees
Room 4, Butler Street YMCA
- 4:00 P. M. and
6:00 P. M. Rehearsal of National Chorus
Room 7, Butler Street YMCA
- 4:00 P. M. to
6:00 P. M. Registration—Lobby, Butler Street YMCA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1

- 9:00 A. M. Registration—Lobby, Butler Street YMCA
Rehearsal of National Chorus
Exhibit Hall, Municipal Auditorium
Rehearsal of Star Superior Farmer Ceremony,
National Officers
Room 7, YMCA
Meeting of State Advisors, Directors of NFA Contests
and Events
Room 4, Butler Street YMCA
- 11:00 A. M. State Advisors and Board of Trustees Meeting
Room 4, Butler Street YMCA
- 1:30 P. M. Registration—Lobby, Butler Street YMCA
Tour—College Hill and Grant Park—McKinley
Wilson, Director. (All who have no assigned duties,
assemble in front of YMCA.)
- 7:30 P. M. Opening Session—Exhibit Hall, Municipal Auditorium
Opening Ceremony—National NFA Officers, Roll Call
of States and Seating of Delegates
National NFA Chorus—Ira S. Glover, Teacher, Vocational
Agriculture, Comer, Georgia, conducting
Invocation—J. A. Donaldson, National NFA Vice
President

In Memoriam For S. B. Simmons D. C. Jones

Welcome—Honorable William B. Hartsfield, Mayor of
Atlanta, Georgia
Greetings from FFA—James Quincey, National FFA
Vice President, Southern Region, Trenton, Florida

National NFA Chorus
 Address — Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, President, More-
 house College, Atlanta, Georgia
 National Quartet Contest—C. H. Chapman, Teacher
 Trainer, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, conducting
 Minutes of 22nd National NFA Convention
 Appointment of Constitutional Committees:
 a. Nominating
 b. Program of Work
 c. Auditing
 Results of National NFA Quartet Contest
 National NFA Chorus
 Closing Ceremony

9:30 P. M. Rehearsal of Star Superior Farmer Ceremony
 Exhibit Hall, Municipal Auditorium

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2

SECOND SESSION—Exhibit Hall, Municipal Auditorium

9:00 A. M. Opening Ceremony
 Group Singing—Convention
 Address—Robert D. McMillen, Assistant to the Secre-
 tary, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington,
 D. C.
 National NFA Chorus
 Report of National NFA Board of Trustees
 Awarding Honorary Superior Farmer Degrees
 Response — Dr. George W. Gore, President, Florida
 A. & M. University, Tallahassee, Florida
 Awarding Superior Farmer Degrees
 Reports of National NFA Officers
Executive Treasurer—W. T. Johnson
Executive Secretary—J. R. Powell
National Student Secretary—Robert Hillard, La.
National Reporter—William Johnson, S. C.
 Spiritual—Winner of National NFA Quartet Contest
 Closing Ceremony

11:00 A. M. Committee Work—Place to be announced
 Rehearsal of Star Superior Farmer Ceremony
 Exhibit Hall, Municipal Auditorium
 Audition for Talent Contest, Room 7, YMCA

1:30 P. M. Committee Work—Continued

2:30 P. M. Third Session—Exhibit Hall, Municipal Auditorium
 Opening Ceremony
 National NFA Chorus
 Preliminary Report of Nominating Committee
 Reports of National Officers
President—Marvin Rountree, North Carolina
First Vice President—Lewis Gibson, Arkansas

Winner Star Superior Farmer—Almnot Section

DAVID L. SLACK, JR.

Winnsboro, La.

David Lee Slack, Jr. completed 4 years of vocational agriculture and NFA work. He rents 40 acres of land from his father, on which he produces corn, cotton, soybeans, and sweet potatoes.

David is the first young man in the community to grow broilers in a big way. Last year he grew 27,500 broilers which brought him a net income of \$1,945. His ambition is to soon become a farm owner, as he plans to remain on the farm all the rest of his life.

Since graduating from high school in 1954, young Slack Jr. has earned a total profit of \$6,099.40 from his farming operations.

In the NFA Chapter, David served as vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. He also took part in the NFA Contests and represented his Chapter on several occasions. At present, he is a leader in his Church and Sunday School and he is a respected citizen of his community.



National Winner, H. O. Sargent Award

FRANKLIN SCOTT

Amelia, Va.

Franklin Scott was graduated from high school in 1949 and entered into a 50-50 partnership with his father on their 175-acre farm. While in high school he completed 4 years of vocational agriculture and was awarded the Improved Farmer Degree. Young Scott

part in livestock judging, public speaking, NFA Fair exhibits and attended the National NFA Convention as an official delegate. He was Superintendent of the NFA Fair exhibit for 4 years and his purebred Hereford bull won 1st place at the 4-County Fair in 1954. He was a member of the high school Honor Society during his 4 years in school.

The leadership training that Eugene received in the NFA is now being used to good advantage in community activities. He is president of the Young Farmers Club, Secretary of his Sunday School and Vice President of the Young Men's Church Club. At present he is a member of the adult class in Farm Mechanics.

For the past 2 years Eugene has had full managerial responsibility on the family farm. He supports his grandparents, a sister and a younger brother. He helped to send his older brother through college.

Star Superior Farmer—Sargent Section

WASHINGTON CARTER

Newbern, Ala.

As a young lad, Washington Carter had a growing interest in livestock. His father noticed his son's interest and gave him 5 dairy animals. Young Carter accepted the gift with pride and dignity and began selling Grade "B" milk.

Each fall after his crops were sold, Washington would buy 3 or 4 dairy heifer calves from the profits he made in producing cotton, calves, milk, and broilers. He kept all the heifers and soon had increased his dairy herd to 20 cows.

In 1955, Carter constructed a Grade "A" dairy barn for \$6,000 and began to market Grade "A" milk. The building was made of concrete blocks and the family did most of the work which made a great saving in the cost of the building.

During the fall of 1956, young Carter purchased 20 additional dairy cows from a local banker for \$6,000. He plans to pay off the mortgage in 4 or 5 years from the sale of Grade "A" milk.

Young Carter shares the 350-acre family farm, of which 300 acres are in pasture, seeded to Dallis Grass, White Dutch and Crimson Clover, with Bermuda and Johnson Grass. He rents an additional 100-acre pasture to provide enough pasture for his herd of 60 cows and 30 heifers.

In leadership activities, Washington served as president of his NFA Chapter and for the NFA Federation he served as treasurer 1954, vice-president 1955, and reporter in 1956.

He entered 3 animals in the district show and won 2 blue ribbons, 1 red ribbon and then won the Reserve Champion of the show.

Young Carter takes an interest in community activities. He is now serving as president of the Junior Usher Board, secretary of his Sunday School, and president of the community baseball team.

Washington Carter has demonstrated what can be accomplished by thrift, hard work, and the cooperation of parents.

Second Vice President—Paul Hull, Maryland
Third Vice President—James Donaldson, Florida
Student Treasurer—Calvin McCarroll, Alabama

Round Table Discussion by Delegates

Topics:

- a. Financing a Local Chapter
- b. Use of the FFA Foundation Award Medals by Local Chapters
- c. Successful Local NFA Chapter Activities

Report of Nominating Committee

3:45 P. M. Recess for Committee Work

4:00 P. M. Meeting of Coaches of Livestock Judging

Room 4, Butler Street YMCA

Election of National Officers

Committee Work

5:45 P. M. Banquet: Get-together Dinner — Courtesy of Sears, Roebuck Foundation, Sky Room, Municipal Auditorium—National NFA Officers, Delegates, Chorus, State Advisors, and Teacher Trainers

7:30 P. M. Fourth Session, Exhibit Hall, Municipal Auditorium
 FFA Foundation Donors Night

Opening Ceremony

National NFA Chorus

Presentation of Establishment in Farming Awards

- a. H. O. Sargent
- b. Farm Mechanics
- c. Farm Electrification
- d. Farm and Home Improvement
- e. Soil and Water Management
- f. Dairy Farming

Massing of State Flags

Presentation of Star Superior Farmer Awards

Recessional—Flag Bearers

Music—Winning Quartet, Sargent Section

Calling to the Stage all FFA Foundation Donor Representatives

Introduction of Platform Guests by W. T. Schnathorst,

Supervisor of Educational Services, International

Harvester Company, who is representing Mr. John

L. McCaffrey, Chairman of Sponsoring Committee

of FFA Foundation and Chairman of the Board of

International Harvester Company, Chicago, Illinois

Address—T. M. Alexander, Sr., President, Alexander

Company General Insurance, Atlanta, Georgia

National NFA Chorus

Closing Ceremony

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

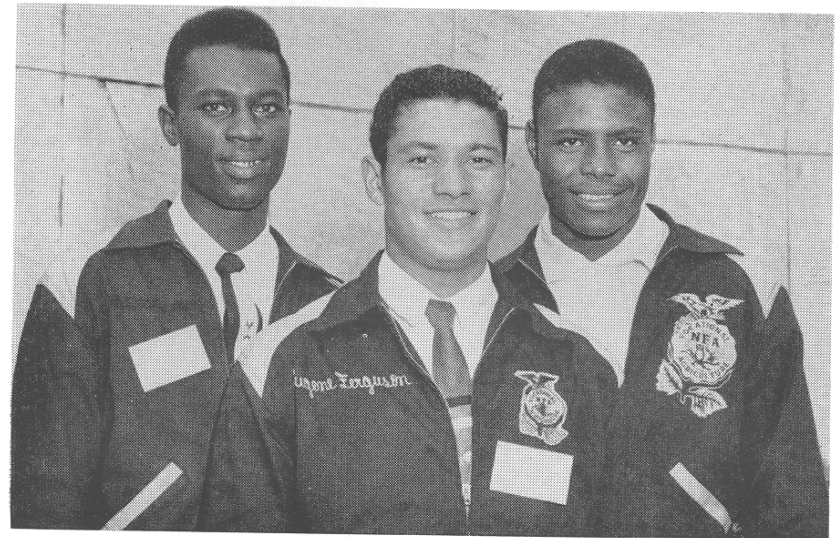
FIFTH SESSION, Exhibit Hall, Municipal Auditorium

- 9:00 A. M. Opening Ceremony
National NFA Chorus
National NFA Public Speaking Contest—M. J. Clark,
Teacher Trainer, Southern University, Baton Rouge,
Louisiana, conducting
Music—Winning Quartet, Almmot Section
National Quiz Contest — C. C. Marion, Teacher
Trainer, Princess Anne, Maryland, conducting
Report of Constitutional Committees
1. Auditing
2. Program of Work
3. Nominating—Election Returns
Announcement of Winners of:
1. Public Speaking Contest
2. Quiz Contest
Closing Ceremony
- 11:30 A. M. Meeting of Newly Elected Officers with National Adult
Officers
- 12:00 Noon National NFA Chorus and Judging Teams Leave for
Fair Grounds
- 12:15 P. M. Delegate Groups and Advisors Leave for Fair Grounds
(Free transportation provided from auditorium to
Fair Grounds through courtesy of International
Harvester Company of Chicago, Illinois)
Fair Grounds Program:
1. 1:00 P. M. National NFA Chorus — Fair
Grounds
2. 1:30 P. M. National NFA Livestock Judging
Contest
3. Observing the Fair Exhibits
- 5:45 P. M. Banquet: Courtesy of Ford Motor Company, Sky
Room, Municipal Auditorium; National NFA and
State Leaders, Teachers of Vocational Agriculture,
Judging Teams, and National Officers
- 7:00 P. M. Observe Southeastern Fair—Parade on Peachtree St.
8:30 P. M. Atlanta Night — McKinley Wilson, Ft. Valley, Ga.,
to conducting
Amateur Program and NFA Social — Exhibit Hall,
10:30 P. M. Municipal Auditorium

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

- 8:30 A. M. SIXTH (Closing) SESSION, Exhibit Hall, Municipal
Auditorium
Opening Ceremony

x



STAR SUPERIOR FARMERS OF AMERICA—1957

Left to right—David L. Slack, Jr., Winnsboro, La., 3rd Place; Eugene Ferguson,
Rixeyville, Va., 1st Place; Washington Carter, Newbern, Ala., 2nd Place Winner.

Star Superior Farmers of America

First Place Winner

EUGENE FERGUSON

Rixeyville, Va.

As Star Superior Farmer, Eugene Ferguson is winner of the highest award provided for New Farmers of America. Eugene has lived with his grandparents since he was 3 years old. In 1954 his grandfather became disabled and gave him 40 acres of his 125-acre farm. In addition to these 40 acres, he rents the remaining 85 acres in the home farm, since his grandfather is unable to work.

Young Ferguson's farming program covers 29 head of Hereford cattle and 5 hogs. His field crops include 12 acres of corn, 18 acres of hay and 8 acres of barley. In 1956 Eugene realized a net labor income of \$2,422.30 from his farm business. He plans to develop a high quality beef herd from his foundation registered stock.

Another asset on his farm is the pine timber. He estimates there is \$4,500 worth of timber that could be harvested immediately.

Eugene proved to be a good leader while he was in high school. He served as a reporter, secretary, vice-president and president of the local chapter of New Farmers of America. He also took an active

American farmer helped to alleviate that distress. I should like to think that I was a part of the vast army of American farmers who, through their help in feeding Europe, will be the world's most powerful agents in maintaining peace.

Herbert Casson, in his book, "The Sheep and Goat Raiser," describes the kind of farmer I would like to be, one with:

*"The power to choose the work I do
To grow and have the larger view,
To know and feel that I am free,
To stand erect, not bow the knee,
To be no chattel of the state,
To be the master of my fate,
To dare to risk, to lose, to win,
To make my own career begin;
To serve the world in my own way,
To gain in wisdom, day by day.
With hope and zest and free from harm,
My faith is anchored to my farm."*

National NFA Chorus

Talent Contest — L. A. Marshall, Teacher Trainer,
Florida A. & M. University, conducting

Installation of New National NFA Officers

Presentation of National FFA Foundation Awards
by National NFA Officers

1. Quiz
2. Quartet
3. Public Speaking
4. Talent
5. Livestock Judging
6. Showmanship for Holders of Livestock

Unfinished Business

12:00 Noon Closing Ceremony and Final Convention
Adjournment

my living. Though, I may have to work hard and long, I shall be my own boss, free to play and work as I please.

Perhaps my returns will be moderate, compared to those in many other vocations; but I shall be able to count upon them with a greater certainty than I could in the average business. The farmer's enterprise is slow and sure, promising an honest livelihood in early life, competence in middle life, and independence in the evening of life. It may never make me rich, but I can make expenses on the farm and live the best kind of living there is. And if I can have all of that and a farm, heaven can't be far away.

I want to be a farmer because I feel that the farmer lives close to nature and God. Life in the country involves many deep religious experiences which are often lost in the hustle and bustle of city life. The farmer on his broad acres can watch the sun rise in the morning or the stars come out at night. He knows the meaning of that admonition: "Be still and know that I am God." The farmer watches things grow and ripen, and understands the spiritual as well as the literal meaning of "fields ripe with harvest". His daily contact with the forces of nature keeps before him the thought that God works in all things. He, more than anyone else, feels the deep spiritual insight of the Psalmist when he said: "I shall lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help." Farm life promises me that kind of faith. I shall meet my neighbors at the country church on Sunday and renew my faith through fellowship with them, because in the country men learn really to practice that greatest commandment: "Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart . . . and thy neighbor as thy self."

I know that there have been many failures on the farm, primarily because of lack of native ability and proper preparation for farm work. But for the prepared farmer there are splendid opportunities. Because I know now what I want, I shall try to be properly prepared for my work through adequate scientific study as well as through keeping as practical as possible. I shall strive to know my soil, my stock, and my markets; I shall try to use common sense in buying and selling, and scientific information in crop rotation and such fundamental matters. I shall expect to work hard, but I shall be outdoors in the fresh air; and farm work tends to make the farmer vigorous in body and mind. Good health will, I trust, be one of the tremendous advantages I shall gain from living and working on the farm.

These are the personal and material benefits I expect from casting my lot with the farmers. But no life is well lived if it counts only for personal and material gain and does not enrich life around it and the life of generations to come. I want to be a farmer because I want my life to count for service to my community, to my country, and to mankind in general in the post-war world. A few years ago after the end of World War II, there were still hunger and need in many parts of the world. I should like to think that my work as an

farm and produce my crops. Now there are some who would ask, "Why do you want to farm? What is the attraction, anyway?"

My answer is, first, that I feel that what farmers do is worthwhile, necessary. Isn't agriculture of fundamental importance to the welfare of the Nation? Is it not this Nation's basic industry? It furnishes most of the food and most of the raw materials for the clothes we wear. It provides the raw materials for many of our gigantic manufacturing industries. Indeed, without farming we would be without the very necessities of life. James J. Hill, a great empire builder and a man of keen analytical mind and a statesman-like vision once said: "Sooner or later, every great nation finds itself reduced to its one inexhaustible resource . . . the land."

World War II brought us to that time sooner than we expected. Perhaps, America today finds herself feeding not only our Nation, but a large portion of the world besides. I realize this and I say I want to be a farmer because I shall be doing work of fundamental importance to our Nation.

I want to be a farmer because I believe that there is no home like the farm home. Members of the farm family usually spend much time together and thus develop a hearth-side unity and companionship which the city family frequently lacks. That living on a farm is lonely is a mistaken idea. There is probably far more true companionship in the farm community than in the largest city; where two families may live for years in adjoining apartments and never become intimately enough acquainted with each other to say "Good morning" or "Good evening." That is, if they should happen to meet in the halls, on the stairs, or in the elevator. In the country, a man is an individual in the neighborhood. He knows everyone and everyone knows him. When he is in distress, the neighbors from miles around come to aid and comfort him. I want to be a member of such a community.

The modern farm family lives in close touch with the march of progress. If a farmer is prosperous, he can equip his home to be as comfortable in the interior as that of any city home. It is not unusual for farm homes to be supplied with electricity, automobile, telephone, radio, television, and other such conveniences and comforts. Traveling library associations circulate books to keep rural reading up to date. Rural delivery of mail is made on even the most remote roads. I shall not willingly give up these comforts because I know that they are necessary to the best family unity. I realize that family unity is the basis of national unity and I want to be a part of that great unity.

I want to be a farmer because I have learned that agriculture is an inviting vocational field. It stimulates initiative and independence of thought and action. It permits a large degree of freedom in planning and managing one's work. Since farming is not a routine occupation, conditions are constantly changing; and new problems requiring individual thought will keep me alert. I shall be comparatively independent, for I shall rely on few others for any part of

Minutes of Twenty-Third National Convention NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA

FIRST SESSION

(October 1, 1957)

The first session of the Twenty-third Annual National Convention of New Farmers of America was called to order by the President, Marvin Rountree. Following the opening ceremony, rollcall and seating of delegates were conducted by the Secretary, Robert Hillard. Introductory remarks were made by the President, who then presented Mr. I. S. Glover, Director of the National NFA Chorus. The chorus rendered the selection, "NFA Boys Are We".

The invocation was conducted by James A. Johnson, Third National Vice President and Acting National Treasurer.

Appreciation Service for Retiring Adult Officers

Mr. A. Floyd was introduced and he in turn announced the Memorial Services for S. B. Simmons and the program honoring J. R. Thomas and D. C. Jones. Mr. Floyd indicated that the culture of a people is determined by the respect and consideration that it gives its heroes. These people have worked hard and wrought well.

Mr. Floyd also indicated that the hand of Fate had wielded its uncontrollable power. Mr. S. B. Simmons, who passed away July 30, 1957, could not be present, but Mrs. S. B. Simmons was there. The National NFA President unveiled a portrait of the deceased and the memorial statement on his accomplishments was read by Dr. G. F. Rankins. He then pinned a corsage on Mrs. Simmons and presented her with a beautiful wrist watch as a gift from the New Farmers of America.

Messrs. M. A. Fields and J. R. Johnson, on behalf of the National Organization, read citations concerning the outstanding accomplishments of Mr. J. R. Thomas, former National Executive Secretary, and Mr. D. C. Jones, former National Advisor. Each of the two men also received citations and gifts of beautifully engraved wrist watches from the New Farmers of America. (See copy of citations in Citation Section.)

Welcome to Atlanta

On behalf of Mayor William B. Hartsfield, who was ill, the manager of the Municipal Auditorium, Mr. H. H. Neibruegge, officially welcomed the New Farmers of America to Atlanta.

Greetings from the FFA

James Johnson, Acting Treasurer, presented James Quincey, National FFA Vice President, Southern Region, who brought greetings from 380,000 FFA members. This young man commended the NFA for its splendid work and fine job, both as an organization and as individuals. He stated that he was impressed by the manner in which the officers went about their duty of preparing for the Convention sessions. He further admonished the group to avoid unwarranted back patting since the future is still before us. He pointed out the fact that rapid advancement and changes make it mandatory that young people possess improved and increased knowledge. Young Quincey said that he cannot hope to cope with the future if we continue to live in the past. The call for leaders is greater today than ever. The NFA, then, must train for rural leadership.

After greetings from the National FFA Vice President, the National Chorus sang the NFA Creed Song.

Dr. Benjamin Mays' Address

The speaker of the night, Dr. Benjamin Mays, President of Morehouse College, Atlanta, was presented by Marvin Rountree, the National NFA President. At the outset, Dr. Mays expressed appreciation to the NFA organization for the invitation and immediately captured attention by referring to his farming experiences in South Carolina.

Dr. Mays said he was somewhat uncertain as to just what to talk about, since youth represents the commonly referred to "unknown quantity". However, he wanted to believe that he was addressing outstanding, upright, intelligent citizens. He cited the need for being proud of your work. Man dignifies the profession but the profession cannot dignify the man. All work is honorable if it is honest. There are no superior jobs and there are no inferior jobs. Enter a profession only because you want to render a service inspired by a burning drive from within.

The speaker sought to stress four things that you must put into your job: (1) *Character*. Do not cheat. Be honest, dependable, on time and true. You cannot do the job without preparation. He who fails to prepare is just as dishonest as he who steals. Look the world in the face because you have nothing to hide and nothing to fear. (2) *Intellect*. You will be respected in proportion as you can use your mind. If you cannot think, there is not much to you. Use your mind to think through complex situations rather than seek answers through emotional influences. (3) *Dissatisfaction*. You cannot do the job better if you are satisfied with your efforts. He who becomes satisfied ceases to be. Satisfaction destroys life and one ceases to think. Satisfaction is dangerous because one is subject to regress if he stands still. A man's reach must, of a necessity, exceed his grasp. (4) *Ideals*. These are evasive and elusive. You cannot grasp them. They challenge you but you never overtake them. Ideals invite you to come on but you never catch them. They give you something to ever strive for.

The first soil conservation district was organized in 1937. By 1951, farmers and ranchers of the United States had organized more than 2,300 districts. These districts cover more than a billion and a quarter acres and include more than three-fourths of all the farmers and ranchers of the country. These farmers and ranchers are practicing all kinds of land use and conservation measures.

Among these are terracing, contour cultivation, strip-cropping, range management, pasture improvement, stubble mulching, cover cropping, woodland management and improvement, farm and ranch ponds, drainage, irrigation, and wildlife conservation.

Yes, by using soil conservation practices our descendants may be assured an abundance for our Nation and for generations unborn. From the studies of land use through the ages, we have recognized the fact that to use the land to produce the most without waste and to protect and increase the productivity of the soil at the same time is the only way to maintain the abundance to which we proudly refer, as we sing:

"O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain;
For purple mountains majesties above the fruited plain".

If we use each acre of our land within its capabilities and treat each according to its needs, we can and will have a profitable and permanent agriculture.

We may approach the future, not with the fear of the Malthusian theory but with the optimism of an editorial in *Time Magazine*—"People and Plenty" from which I quote, "Gone, for the first time in history, is the worry whether a society can produce enough to care for its people. The lingering worry is whether it will have enough to consume the goods".

Agronomists estimate that if current knowledge were applied to all the world's tillable and potentially tillable land, it could feed a population two to four times greater than its present population of 2.5 billions.³

We as Americans are proud of our country's high position among the society of nations and our high standard of living made possible by our soils. Yes, New Farmers of America, through the reclamation and improvement of the soil, we have emerged into a new era.

Third Place Speech

I Want To Be A Farmer

FREDERICK PETERS

Angie, La.

Honorable Judges, NFA advisers, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen . . . I have chosen for my subject, "I WANT TO BE A FARMER". I look forward to the day when I can own my

³ *Life Magazine*, Special Issue—Food, A Triumph And An Obligation, Vol. 38, Jan. 3, 1955, p. 3.

There were no known means by which the food problem could be solved except through starvation and related population controls.

The main idea of the Malthusian theory was the population increases more rapidly than food supplies. So he claimed there will always be more people in the world than can be fed and wars and diseases will be necessary to kill off the extra population.

The record of food production in this country refutes the Malthus hypothesis. In 1800, just after the Reverend Mr. Malthus wrote this famous prediction, the United States had 5.3 million people, most of whom were farmers. Each of them could produce enough food to feed himself plus one-third of the needs of a third person. By 1955, with 163.5 million population, the United States had been able to take 88 percent of its people out of agricultural production. The remaining 12 percent were producing enough to feed 17 other persons in addition to each farmer.¹ Successive revolutions in transportation, refrigeration, and packaging have created a phenomenon enabling a Maine family of potato growers to get California lettuce as easily as Californians can get Maine lobsters. America has justly earned the title, the "Bread Basket of the World".

America is proud of her record of abundance. We realize that the base of this abundance is productive lands. The soil from which all of us live, city and rural people alike, is our Nation's most important resource.

Dr. Walter C. Lowdermilk, formerly Assistant Chief of the Soil Conservation Service, gave in a radio broadcast in Jerusalem, in 1939, what has been called the Eleventh Commandment.

"Thou shalt inherit the Holy Earth as a faithful steward, conserving thy fields from soil erosion, thy living waters from drying up, thy forest from desolation and protect thy hills from over-grazing by thy herds, that thy descendants may have an abundance forever. If any shall fail in this stewardship of the land, thy fruitful fields shall become sterile stony ground and wasting gullies, and thy descendants shall decrease and live in poverty or perish from off the face of the earth".²

Soil is not permanent. At the beginning of the period of agriculture in this country, our topsoil had an average depth of 9 inches. Today, the relatively thin layer of topsoil has an average plow depth of 7 inches. Industry and labor, professional people, and farmers alike have a large stake in our country's land. Land is not an economic commodity to be exploited. It is as integral a part of the Nation's resources as its people and requires the protection by the individual owner and the Nation as well.

Twenty years ago, we embarked on a nationwide program of soil conservation and today we find ourselves in a New Era—The Era of Soil Conservation.

¹ *Life Magazine*, Jan. 3, 1955, pp. 2-3.

² "Conquest of the Land," U. S. Bulletin 99, U. S. Department of Agriculture, p. 30.

National NFA Quartet Contest

The President announced the National Quartet Contest with Mr. C. H. Chapman, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, as conductor. The following quartets (the NFA Sectional Winners) won awards: 1st place, Texas; 2nd place, North Carolina; 3rd place, Tennessee. Judges were: Dr. W. M. James, Mrs. Grace B. Boggs, and Miss Joyce Fitch, all of Spelman College.

Reading of the Minutes of the Twenty-second National NFA Convention was postponed until a later date.

The Secretary appointed the Auditing, Nominating, and Program of Work Committees.

Announcements were made by the Secretary.

After the closing ceremony, the first session adjourned.

SECOND SESSION

(October 2, 9:00 a.m.)

The second session of the Twenty-third Annual National NFA Convention was called to order by the President at 9:00 a.m. on October 2, 1957. It began officially with the opening ceremony, and rollcall of officers was conducted by the Vice President. A moment of meditation was conducted by the reporter, William Johnson. Mr. I. S. Glover led the delegation and audience in singing "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder".

Address by Mr. Robert D. McMillen

The President presented the speaker of the morning, Mr. Robert D. McMillen, Assistant to the Secretary, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Mr. McMillen thanked the organization for their most kind invitation. He expressed interest in young people because they will be our leaders of tomorrow, and for this reason he centered his talk around the future for agriculture. Poorly informed people speak gloomily of agriculture but practical farmers view it optimistically. The speaker pointed out that as long as people need food and clothing, there will be a future for agriculture. However, unless a farmer operates efficiently, he had better seek another way of life.

Mr. McMillen also cited governmental regulations, setting quotas and reducing allotments, which, of a necessity, must be offset by more efficient production. Possible loss of foreign markets might be a major concern, but there is no need for alarm if the farmer gears his production to consumers' demands. In spite of what is heard, prices received by farmers were 4% higher than last year and only one out of every three farms was mortgaged. The family type farm still prevails.

As you train for the future, become aware, said the speaker, of opportunities in related and allied farming occupations.

The minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees and the Advisory Council were read and this was followed by a selection from the chorus, "O Mary, Don't You Weep".

Honorary Superior Farmer Degrees

The officers awarded Honorary Superior Farmer Degrees to the following:

W. A. Goldsborough, Teacher, Vocational Agriculture, Greensboro, N. C.
 G. W. Gore, President, Florida A & M University, Tallahassee, Fla.
 Fisher Hillard, Parent National Officer, Hardwood, La.
 James Hudson, Manager, Winthrop Farms, Morrilton, Ark.
 W. P. Johnson, Sr., Parent National Officer, Conway, S. C.
 W. L. Kissam, Teacher, Vocational Agriculture, Tyler, Tex.
 George I. Martin, State Director, Agricultural Education, Atlanta, Ga.
 F. T. McQueen, Teacher Trainer, Agricultural Education, Tuskegee, Ala.
 S. E. Palmer, Area Supervisor, Agricultural Education, Tyler, Tex.
 J. B. Patterson, Teacher, Vocational Agriculture, Winnsboro, La.
 G. F. Rankin, Teacher Trainer, Agricultural Education, Greensboro, N. C.
 Herbert Rountree, Parent National Officer, Elm City, N. C.

Address by Dr. G. W. Gore

The response on behalf of the honorees was given by Dr. G. W. Gore, President of Florida A. & M. University. He accepted the degree as a challenge to go out and do something in the interest of the New Farmers of America.

He congratulated the young men on being able to put theory into practice, thereby making agriculture both vocational and practical. The need for "know how" and keeping abreast of the times are greater now than ever before. The agriculture of the future will be an agriculture of change. Hence, we must be intelligent and thorough.

Seeds must be sown and cultivated regardless of whether these seeds are found in the heart, in the mind, or in the soil. Tolerance, industry, and faith must characterize one's efforts. After the seed is sown, the product must be cultivated. Dr. Gore pointed out that harvesting is the final phase of growing. New Farmers of the future must learn to reap in the most effective manner so that the fruits of their labor will be conserved and enjoyed.

In closing, the speaker stated that in his opinion the New Farmers of America will never fail the United States of America.

Parents of National Officers Honored

At this time the parents of the National Officers were escorted to the stage by the National Officers. Present were:

Mrs. Donaldson, Route 2, Madison, Fla.
 Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Rountree, Route 3, Elm City, N. C.
 Mr. Fisher Hillard, Hardwood, La.
 Mr. and Mrs. William Johnson, Conway, S. C.

These parents were introduced, an orchid was pinned on each of the mothers, and the fathers were awarded the Superior Farmer Degree.

3. Farmers must be endowed with vision and faith in the future.
4. Farmers must affiliate themselves with farm organizations.
5. Farmers must work with others to improve marketing.
6. Farmers must work to beautify their home and surroundings.

And finally, Mr. Farmer, talk over in the family what the real financial situation of the family is, agree to do something about it in the years ahead, and agree on the part each member is to play. In spending money, use your pencil and figure just how it is going to pay out. If it is an investment, it must show good prospects of returning an income. If it is a luxury, frankly label it as such.

Help to create an opportunity for participation in an active community development program. It will pay big dividends in better farm living and in increasing your property value in years to come.

The only way that you can have a community that you can be proud of is to enroll everyone in a campaign for better things and better living.

Second Place Speech

The Emergence of a New Era in Agriculture Through Soil Conservation

SIDNEY A. RUSSELL

Carnesville, Ga.

From the archives of civilization, we find that man has always had to rely upon the soil for his existence. History depicts him struggling to make adjustments to the land—wars of aggression, battles with pests, diseases and famine have occupied a great part of his thinking. People realize that in proportion to the fertility and capabilities of their soil to produce the food, clothing and shelter necessary for its population, so do they take their rightful place in the Society of Great Nations.

History also bears evidence of the prosperity and the decline of great empires that perished because their resources were dissipated. According to archaeology, agriculture had its beginning at least 7,000 years ago on the fertile plains of Mesopotamia and the Valley of the Nile. Man's desperate struggle with the land from this ancient period up to the present time can be traced by the records written on the land. Its language is simple and can be read as we move along the amazing trail over the face of the earth and observe or study the ruins of Kish, the famous stables of Nebuchadnezzar, the Hundred Dead Cities of Syria, the de-populated city of Jericho, the huge gullies, records of famine and floods of China, and the almost equally devastating floods and dust storms in these United States.

In 1798, the Reverend Thomas Robert Malthus, an English economist, published his world famous essay, the "Principle of Population". This was during a period of wide-spread famine in the older, over populated parts of the world.

Vision and faith in the future, wise planning, wise use of agricultural agencies and farm organizations are basic proposals for success in 1957.

Greater emphasis on live-at-home farming is called for in these perilous days ahead. "Live-at-home." Don't buy anything that you can economically produce yourself. This applies particularly to home-grown feed for your animals as well as food for your family. Why should farmers buy at retail prices many of the same products they must sell at wholesale? A normal person consumes about 1,800 pounds of food per year. Why not grow most of it on your farm? With land, labor, and know-how available, a little capital applied to the home production of vegetables, fruits, milk, and meat will yield enormous returns. Live at home is one sure way for low income families to increase their net incomes. In addition to cash savings, higher quality and better nutrition are possible through the use of fresh products. Know-how for the preservation, conservation, and better use of these products is readily available.

Six other timely recommendations are as follows:

1. Improve quality by using every practice that will improve the quality of your product, such as choosing the best varieties for your condition; using the best cultural practices, and careful handling, grading, and packing.
2. Lower production cost by adopting every practical method of lowering the production cost of the commodities. (You are now producing by increasing labor efficiency through the use of machinery, chemical weed control and similar practices.)
3. Remember that increased yields per acre or per animal usually result in lowered unit cost.
4. Reduce replacement cost of equipment, buildings and fences by a carefully planned system of repair and preventive maintenance. (You can make most machines give two to five times the services that you are now getting by careful handling, adjustment, storage, cleanliness, and lubrication.)
5. Buy wisely, plan ahead for needed purchases, know what you need and what you are buying. (This applies to farm equipment and surplus as well as supplies, household appliances, and family needs.)
6. Work to improve marketing. Join with others in your community, your county, and your state to improve marketing. (Farmers as individuals can do relatively little to improve marketing, but they can contribute much, as members of an organization.) Join a farm organization and keep yourself well informed by (1) reading farm magazines and bulletins, (2) attending meetings, (3) making tours, (4) listening to radios and (5) watching good television.

Take pride in your work. Make personal advancement. Without exception, every person in these United States can make progress. Keep a good set of farm records. Keep, analyze, and study your farm accounts as a means of locating the strong and weak points in your farming business. Study the policies of agriculture and be ready to stand up and be counted for the measures that will determine your state's farm future.

Allow me to briefly summarize pertinent points necessary for successful farming in 1957.

1. Farmers must prepare themselves.
2. Farmers must use good cultural practices.

Superior Farmer Degrees

The following persons were raised to the degree of Superior Farmer by the National NFA Officers:

<i>State</i>	<i>Degree Candidate</i>	<i>Address</i>
1. Ala.	James B. Bolar	Daphne, Ala.
2. "	Washington Carter	Rt. 1, Box 104A, Newbern, Ala.
3. "	David Williams	Rt. 1, Box 174, Shorter, Ala.
4. Ark.	Sheldon Williams	Rt. 2, Box 71, Holly Grove, Ark.
5. Fla.	Napoleon Honeywell	Rt. 3, Box 197, Madison, Fla.
6. "	Leslie Wardlow	Rt. 1, Pinetta, Fla.
7. Ga.	Edward Chaney	Rt. 1, Unadilla, Ga.
8. "	Curtis Copeland	Rt. 1, Box 68, Ray City, Ga.
9. "	Willie Mobley	Rt. 1, Box 187, Ocilla, Ga.
10. "	Jack L. Rainey	Rt. 4, Box 68, Colquitt, Ga.
11. La.	Lionell Rush	Boxco, La.
12. "	David Lee Slack, Jr.	Rt. 4, Winnsboro, La.
13. "	Elvin Smith	Rt. 5, Box 34B, St. Francisville, La.
14. "	Clarence Stephens	Rt. 2, Gonzales, La.
15. N. C.	John A. Jones	Rt. 5, Henderson, N. C.
16. " "	Marvin Rountree	Rt. 3, Box 51, Elm City, N. C.
17. S. C.	Jasper M. Cureton	Rt. 1, Townville, S. C.
18. Tenn.	John W. Hayes, Jr.	Rt. 1, Box 89, Hermitage, Tenn.
19. "	Smithy McClain	Rt. 2, Box 17, Antioch, Tenn.
20. Tex.	P. R. Jason Gradney	Box 14, Raymond, Tex.
21. "	Billy Joe McCullough	Rt. 3, Marlin, Tex.
22. Va.	Eugene Ferguson	Rt. 1, Rixeyville, Va.

Mr. W. T. Johnson, Executive Treasurer, gave the report of his office. The report was received by the delegation for final approval by the Auditing Committee. For details, see National Officers' Reports.

The report of the Executive Secretary was given by Mr. J. R. Powell. This report was received and adopted. For details, see National Officers' Reports.

THIRD SESSION

(October 2, 2:35 p.m.)

The President, Marvin Rountree, called the third session to order with the opening ceremony. The NFA Chorus sang "Give Me That Old NFA Spirit". At this point, the preliminary report of the Nominating Committee was given.

The reports of the following student National Officers were received and adopted: Marvin Rountree, President, Lewis Gibson, First Vice President, and James Donaldson, Third Vice President. See the section "National Officer Reports" for detailed reports of these officers.

Marvin Rountree, the president, gave a report of the summary of the Polio Vaccine Conference that he attended in New York City.

The minutes of the 22nd National Convention were read by the secretary and adopted. The following decisions were made:

**SUMMARY OF DECISIONS APPROVED BY THE NFA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES OCTOBER 2, 1957**

1. The annual audit of the National Executive Treasurer's accounts will cover the period from July 1 to June 30.
2. The granting of 22 Superior Farmer Degrees and 13 Honorary Superior Farmer Degrees was approved.
3. The Honorary Superior Farmer Degrees for Teachers of Vocational Agriculture are to be limited to 2 a year for each NFA Section.
4. In the future applications for the Honorary Superior Farmer Degree must be in the National Office before the August meeting of the National NFA Advisory Council.
5. The National NFA Organization will pay one-half the cost of one State flag and one NFA flag purchased by a State NFA Association.
6. M. J. Clark and W. R. Wynder are to assist the National Officers in all details of equipment for every session of the National NFA Convention.
7. Travel funds are to be made available each year to the 3 National NFA Adult Officers for (1) the Leadership Training School for National NFA Officers in January and (2) the National NFA Board of Trustees meeting in August.
8. The 1958 National NFA Convention Proceedings will be printed by the National NFA Organization.
9. In no case shall a candidate receive the H. O. Sargent Award after he has passed his 30th birthday.
10. A program should be provided at the National Convention to give greater recognition to the H. O. Sargent Award winners.
11. At the National Convention all award winners will be required to wear the official NFA jackets, except for acrobatic acts in the Talent Contest.
12. Special Certificates shall be provided by the National Office for the Superior Farmer Degree and the Honorary Superior Farmer Degree.
13. The National Executive Treasurer is authorized to deposit \$2,000.00 in a savings account with the Mutual Savings and Loan Company, Atlanta, Ga., and \$2,000.00 in a savings account with the Federal Savings and Loan Company, Durham, N. C.
14. The official figure for the total 1957 NFA membership is 46,596, a gain of 1,469 over last year.

Mr. J. R. Powell, Executive Secretary, gave instructions and assignments for the various committees.

Mr. G. W. Conoly stressed the importance of attending to the business of the day. He informed the group of the need to be on time for the 5:45 p.m. Ford Motor Company Banquet in the Sky Room and for the trip to the Southeastern Fair, Thursday, October 3d.

Thanks were expressed to the boys for remaining through the meetings.

The third session adjourned with the official ceremony.

limited, by the rules of the contest, to facilities of the school from which the contestant came. Each boy was at liberty to choose his own subject:

The contest was judged by the following persons:

Mrs. Maynell Dempsey, Department of Education, Atlanta University, Atlanta, Ga.

Mr. B. F. Bulloch, Rural Education Department, Atlanta University, Atlanta, Ga.

Mr. James E. Hudson, General Superintendent, Winrock Farms, Morrilton, Ark.

Questions were asked by the judges to test each contestant on his ability to think on his feet and on his general knowledge of his subject.

First Place Speech

How Can We Farm Successfully In 1957?

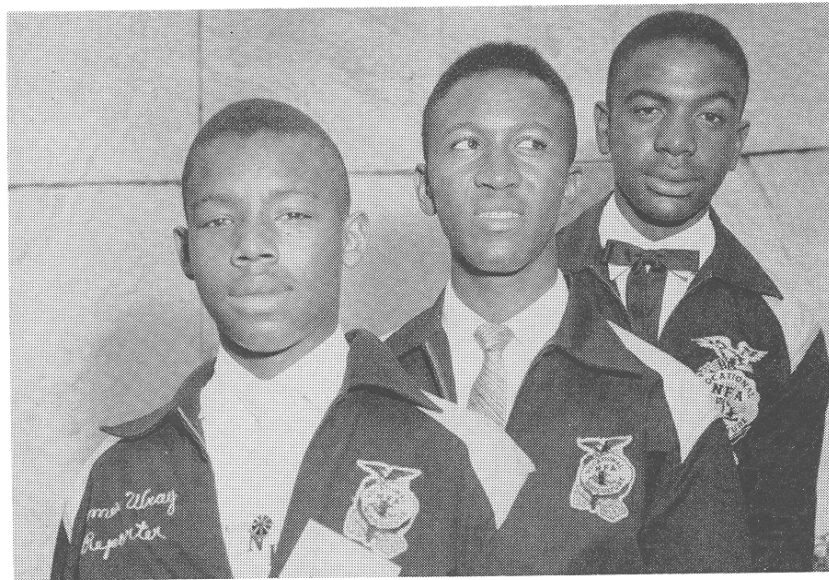
JAMES WRAY

Neuse, N. C.

Perhaps Dean L. R. Dietrick of Virginia struck the keynote when he said: "If I were to stress the one most important trait which farm families will need to face in both the short-time and long-time outlook, it would be vision and faith in the future. The golden age of agriculture is not past but lies ahead, and our farmers will share in it."

Although at present the farmer is caught in a financial squeeze, the future holds great promises for those who will prepare themselves. With 7,500 new mouths to be fed every day and fewer farmers to feed them, those who remain and qualify themselves will prosper. With more customers, fewer competitors, and more know-how, farming faces a great future. Many factors affect profits which are largely outside of the farmer's control. Hence, where he can exercise control, the utmost work, study, and planning should be used to pilot the farm family successfully through 1957. Much information helpful to the farm family in making decisions may be secured from Land-Grant colleges, agricultural teachers, and other agriculture agencies. So much for individual effort. Farm families must realize that not all can be accomplished through their own efforts alone. Cooperation with others will be needed, particularly on state and national policies. Farm folks will want to study such problems and join with others in making their decisions felt.

Broad policies such as foreign trade, taxation, Government aid and control, and transportation are issues about which the decisions should be made for the good of all. The best interests of both rural and urban groups conflict only when one group seeks advantages to the injury of the other. Rural people should discuss these issues and reach decisions. Farm organizations can give voice to these decisions.



NATIONAL NFA PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST WINNERS

Left to right—1st Place, James Wray, Neuse, N. C.; 2nd Place, Sidney A. Russell, Carnesville, Ga.; 3rd Place, Frederick Peters, Angie, La.

National Public Speaking Contest

The annual National NFA Public Speaking Contest has been a part of the National Convention since the New Farmers of America were organized in 1935. During the past 13 years the Future Farmers of America Foundation has sponsored the awards for this contest. The 23d National NFA Public Speaking Contest took place in the Exhibit Hall, Municipal Auditorium, Atlanta, Ga., on Thursday, October 3. The three finalists in order were:

James Wray, Neuse, N. C.

"How Can We Farm Successfully in 1957?"

Sidney A. Russell, Carnesville, Ga.

"The Emergence of a New Era in Agriculture Through Soil Conservation"

Frederick Peters, Angie, La.

"I Want to be a Farmer"

Each contestant was the author of his own speech, having studied his subject, prepared the draft, and practiced the delivery. Each speech represented original thought and original work on the part of the contestants, with coaching on composition and delivery

FOURTH SESSION

(October 2, 7:30 p.m.)

The fourth session of the 23d National Convention of New Farmers of America was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the President. Following the opening ceremony, the NFA Chorus rendered a selection. The President welcomed the FFA Donor Representatives and expressed sincere gratitude for their contributions to, and participation in, our organization.

After the introductory remarks the president announced that the night's program would include the presentations to the National winners of the FFA Foundation Farming Awards. For the list of winners of the awards, the types of awards, and the amounts received, see Section on National FFA Foundation Awards and Contests for award winners.

Mr. W. T. Schnathorst, of International Harvester Company, representing Mr. J. L. McCaffrey, Chairman of the Sponsoring Committee of the FFA Foundation, introduced the FFA Foundation Donor Representatives as follows:

Harry V. Ackerman	E. I. duPont Company	Atlanta, Ga.
J. R. Banks	International Minerals & Chem. Corp.	East Point, Ga.
V. C. Barrett, Sales Mgr.	Allis-Chalmers Mfg. Co.	Chamblee, Ga.
J. N. Bayley, Branch Mgr.	J. I. Case Co.	" "
R. L. Blalock, Farm Rep.	Standard Oil Co.	Atlanta, Ga.
A. R. Bray, Farm Serv. Dept.	Carnation Co.	Dadeville, Ala.
George L. Brinkworth	Aluminum Co. of America	Atlanta, Ga.
W. R. Butler, Field Rep.	L. O. F. Glass Co.	" "
R. M. Cornell, Sales Mgr.	H. D. Lee Co.	Chamblee, Ga.
Paul R. Curlee, Salesman	Republic Steel Corp.	Atlanta, Ga.
Don B. Davis, Adv. Dept.	Firestone Tire & Rubber Co.	Akron, Ohio
Ben Denton, Regional Supv.	Armour & Company	Atlanta, Ga.
N. H. Dye, District Manager	Lincoln Electric Co.	" "
W. C. Greenway, Public Rel.	Sears, Roebuck & Co.	" "
B. E. Hoover, Regional Mgr.	Armour & Company	" "
George W. Hulme, Sales	Allied Chemical & Dye Corp.	" "
R. O. Humphrey, Jr.	The Progressive Farmer	Birmingham, Ala.
J. A. Ingram, Jr.	International Harvester Co.	Atlanta, Ga.
Wesley M. Keppel	Esso Standard Oil Co.	New York, N. Y.
R. S. Maddox, Regional Mgr.	General Motors Corp.	Atlanta, Ga.
G. T. McGuire, Jr., Sales Rep.	Reynolds Metals Co.	" "
C. A. Pink, Public Relations	Ford Motor Company	Dearborn, Mich.
W. M. Reddig, Branch Mgr.	Minneapolis-Moline Co.	Chamblee, Ga.
R. C. Rhodes, Asst. Gen. Mgr.	U. S. Steel Corp.	Atlanta, Ga.
C. A. Richards, Edu. Dir.	The d-Con Co.	New York, N. Y.
C. W. Schuster,	Allis-Chalmers Mfg. Co.	Milwaukee, Wis.
Sales Promotion		
A. H. Settle, Director Soil	Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.	Akron, Ohio
R. W. Sinko, Engineer	Chrysler Corp., Dodge Div.	Detroit, Mich.
H. C. Tuttle, Public Relations	Ford Motor Company	Birmingham, Mich.
J. W. Suhr, Jr., Supv.	Massey-Harris-Ferguson, Inc.	Atlanta, Ga.
G. E. Taylor, Area Director	United States Rubber Co.	Chicago, Ill.
Cary C. White, Ga. Mgr.	Olin Mathieson Chem. Corp.	Sylvania, Ga.
W. T. Schnathorst	International Harvester Co.	Chicago, Ill.

Mr. Schnathorst said that Mr. McCaffrey was sorry that he could not be present at the Convention. However, he was satisfied

with the progress of the financial program and for at least one more year there would be no curtailment of funds. The work and record of the FFA and NFA are responsible for this fine support and these results are definitely the work of many individuals. Seventy-one new donors have been secured since March 1957.

Mr. Schnathorst further pointed out the unselfish attitude that our chairman has and his concern in aiding you to reach your rightful place in the American economy.

The president thanked Mr. Schnathorst and his fellow donor representatives and the audience loudly applauded as the FFA Donor Representatives left the stage.

The speaker of the evening, Mr. T. M. Alexander, Sr., President of Alexander General Insurance Company, Atlanta, Ga., spoke briefly to the assembly concerning the work the FFA Donors are doing.

Mr. Alexander asked that we pause to pay tribute to the Foundation Donors who are largely responsible for the program witnessed tonight. It is with these individuals and agencies in mind that we gain hope for the future and faith in eternal goodness of the country that we love so dearly.

We stand on the threshold of the greatest era of mankind. Never before have the opportunities been so plentiful nor the risk so great. We are standing in the midst of abundance but never before have we been so perplexed and confounded.

We can appreciate where we are when we consider the depths from which we have come. We must run faster than other people just in order to keep up.

The speaker expressed dissatisfaction over those who would have life given to them on a silver platter. We must put on our working shoes. The responsibility is on you and on me. We ought not to ask for special consideration and sympathy if given an opportunity.

We must shape the pattern of the community. We must be responsible for the tide of life-determining whether it goes backward, remains static, or goes forward. The man of today should want to be a part of the creative minority, willing to take a chance in order that the world will be a better place in which to live.

We have got to build the Ark before the flood comes. The insignificant and seemingly unimportant things will fit us for the storm of life if we found our lives on a sure and safe foundation. Then and only then will we be able to sleep while the storm is raging.

Following Mr. Alexander's address the chorus sang "Give Me That Old NFA Spirit" and "Peace in the Valley". The first selection was dedicated to the Donor Representatives.

The secretary introduced at this point the guests and visitors who were not Donors. He also made several announcements.

The meeting adjourned with the closing ceremony.

Second—William Fields, Clinton, N. C.....	25.
Fulton Fryer, " " ".....	25.
Alfred Smith, " " ".....	25.
Robert Underwood, " " ".....	25.
Third —Manning Cole, Millington, Tenn.....	25.
Joel Jackson, " " ".....	25.
Otis Tolbert, " " ".....	25.
Floyd Wenkley, " " ".....	25.
D. Quiz Awards	
First —Jimmie Bates, Ennis, Tex.....	\$150.
Second—Tommie Downer, Elberton, Ga.....	75.
Third —Howard Warren, Sutherlin, Va.....	75.
E. Talent Awards (Paid from National NFA Treasury)	
First —Bobby Smith, Lakeland, Fla.....	\$40.
Second—Ronald Williams, Wake Forest, N. C.....	30.
Third —Dewey Christian, Huntsville, Tex.....	30.

III. HONORARY SUPERIOR FARMER AWARDS

- Wm. A. Goldsborough, Vocational Agriculture Teacher, Dudley High School, Greensboro, N. C.
- G. W. Gore, President, Florida A. & M. College, Tallahassee, Fla.
- Fisher Hillard, Parent National Officer, Hardwood, La.
- James Hudson, Manager, Winthrop Farms, Morrilton, Ark.
- W. P. Johnson, Sr., Parent National Officer, Conway, S. C.
- W. L. Kissam, Vocational Agriculture Teacher, Jackson High School, Tyler, Tex.
- G. I. Martin, State Director, State Department of Education, Atlanta, Ga.
- F. T. McQueen, Resident Teacher Trainer, Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.
- S. E. Palmer, Area Supervisor, Texas College, Tyler, Tex.
- Johnny B. Patterson, Vocational Agriculture Teacher, Parish Training High School, Winnsboro, La.
- G. F. Rankin, Assistant Professor, A. & T. College, Greensboro, N. C.
- Herbert Rountree, Parent National Officer, Elm City, N. C.

C. Dairy Farming Awards	
First —Elvin West, Hermon, La.....	\$200.
Second—Audry Atkins, Newbern, Ala.....	100.
Third —Arthur W. Ferguson, Jeffersonton, Va.....	100.
D. Farm Mechanics	
First —Johnny W. Jones, Jr., Angie, La.....	\$200.
Second—Robert L. Turner, Achsah, Va.....	100.
Third —Earl Williams, Havana, Fla.....	100.
E. Farm Electrification	
First —James M. Tucker, Pleasant Hill, N. C.....	\$200.
Second—Walter Reid, Roba, Ala.....	100.
Third —David Veasey, Marvell, Ark.....	100.
F. Farm and Home Improvement	
First —Willie Smith, Ashburn, Ga.....	\$200.
Second—Marvin L. Marzett, Baskin, La.....	100.
Third —Lawrence Wilhoite, Rapidan, Va.....	100.
G. Soil and Water Management	
First —Clarence E. Brandon, Lexa, Ark.....	\$200.
Second—Odester Carter, Quincy, Fla.....	100.
Third —William L. Carter, Rochelle, Va.....	100.

II. CONTESTS

A. Public Speaking	
First —James Wray, Neuse, N. C.....	\$200.
Second—Sidney A. Russell, Carnesville, Ga.....	100.
Third —Frederick Peters, Angie, La.....	100.
B. Livestock and Poultry Judging	
1. High Teams—All Classes	
First —James Tatum, Cordova, Tenn.....	\$70.
Rufus Crawford, Cordova, Tenn.....	70.
Eugene Talley, Tiptonville, Tenn.....	70.
Second—Mack L. Walker, Carthage, Ark.....	50.
Charles Stovall, Cotton Plant, Ark.....	50.
Dexter Adams, Fordyce, Ark.....	50.
Third —Robert Draper, Haskell, Okla.....	35.
Joe G. Harrison, “ “	35.
Marcus Williams, “ “	35.
Fourth—Lazarous Johnson, Shores, Va.....	25.
Eugene O. Payne, “ “	25.
Marvin A. Shelton, “ “	25.
Fifth —Daniel Cavalier, Bains, La.....	20.
Grady Citizen, Opelousas, La.....	20.
Nevers Pittman, Angie, La.....	20.
2. High Individuals—All Classes	
Rufus Crawford, Cordova, Tenn.....	\$60.
Joe G. Harrison, Haskell, Okla.....	55.
Terry Bynum, Leighton, Ala.....	50.
Frank Herring, Hopkinsville, Ky.....	45.
Eugene O. Payne, Shores, Va.....	40.
Alvin Pulley, New Madrid, Mo.....	35.
Benjamin Parrish, Elkton, Ky.....	32.50
Nevers Pittman, Angie, La.....	30.
Charles Stovall, Cotton Plant, Ark.....	27.50
Mack L. Walker, Carthage, Ark.....	25.
C. Quartet Awards	
First —John Glaze, Huntsville, Tex.....	\$50.
George McGowan, “ “	50.
Bobby Merchant, “ “	50.
Thomas Oliver, “ “	50.

FIFTH SESSION

(October 3, 9:00 a.m.)

The fifth session of the 1957 National Convention was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by the president, with the opening ceremony. The spiritual, “Look Away to Heaven”, was sung by the National Chorus.

National Public Speaking Contest

The president presented Mr. M. J. Clark, who explained the rules of the National Public Speaking Contest.

The judges for the contest were:

1. Mrs. M. D. Dempsey	State Department of Education, Atlanta University, Atlanta, Ga.
2. B. F. Bulloch	Rural Education, Atlanta University, Atlanta, Ga.
3. James E. Hudson	General Superintendent, Wenrock Farms, Morrilton, Ark.

The decisions of the judges were as follows:

First Place	James Wray	Neuse, N. C.
Second Place	Sidney Russell	Carnesville, Ga.
Third Place	Frederick Peters	Angie, La.

National Quiz Contest

Following the Public Speaking Contest, the president introduced Dr. C. C. Marion, who announced the Rules of the National Quiz Contest.

The judges for the contest were:

1. J. C. Jackson	Supervisor of Ordinary Department, Atlanta District, Pilgrim Health and Life Insurance Company, Atlanta, Ga.
2. W. C. Peden	Atlanta District, Pilgrim Health and Life Insurance Company, Atlanta, Ga.
3. M. T. Puryear	Industrial Field Secretary, Southern Field Division, National Urban League, Atlanta, Ga.

The winners of the contest were as follows:

First Place	Jimmie Bates	Ennis, Tex.
Second Place	Tommie Downer	Elberton, Ga.
Third Place	Howard Warren	Southerlin, Va.

At this point the reports of the Auditing, Program of Work and Nominating Committees were received and adopted.

The ballots were distributed and the polls were opened for voting.

The fifth session adjourned with the closing ceremony.

SIXTH SESSION

(October 4, 8:30 a.m.)

The final session of the 23d Annual National Convention of New Farmers of America was called to order at 8:45 a.m. by President Marvin Rountree. Following the opening ceremony, the chorus

sang the NFA Creed Song. Mr. J. R. Powell, Executive Secretary, offered prayer.

National Talent Contest

Mr. L. A. Marshall was introduced by the president and he explained the Rules of the National Talent Contest.

Judges for the contest were:

1. W. I. Wilder Assistant Administrator, Carver Vocational School, Atlanta, Ga.
2. H. T. Ruffin Graduate Student in Music, Morehouse College, Atlanta, Ga.
3. Mrs. Helen Graves Retired Music Teacher, Atlanta, Ga.

Final results of the contest were as follows:

<i>First Place</i>	Bobby Smith	Lakeland, Fla.	Solo, The Lord's Prayer
<i>Second Place</i>	Ronald Williams	Wake Forest, N. C.	Piano Selection
<i>Third Place</i>	Dewey Christian	Huntsville, Tex.	Instrumental Solo

Mr. R. E. Naugher and Dr. J. N. Freeman presented the Livestock Showmanship Awards and the award winners of the Livestock Judging Contest. For final results see the section on National FFA Foundation Awards and Contests.

The following new National NFA Officers were installed by the retiring officers:

- President*, John Knox, Jr., Box 7, Eutaw, Ala.
First Vice-President, Waverly T. Jones, Jr., Rt. 2, Box 177, Waverly, Va.
Second Vice-President, Clifford Jay, Jr., Rt. 1, Box 291, Osierfield, Ga.
Third Vice-President, Eugene T. Martin, Box 100, Calhoun, La.
Student Secretary, Vernell White, Rt. 3, Box 169, Lancaster, S. C.
Student Treasurer, Obie L. Phillips, Box 6, Neches, Tex.
Reporter, James Tatum, Cordova, Tenn.

Final remarks and announcements were made and the 23rd National NFA Convention adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

New Farmers of America

Greensboro, N. C.

Schedule of Dues

For the 10 Months Ended June 30, 1957

<i>State</i>	<i>Dues</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Dues</i>
Alabama	\$ 453.75	Missouri	\$ 15.60
Arkansas	456.15	North Carolina	1,079.85
Delaware	20.25	Oklahoma	113.10
Florida	408.00	South Carolina	526.65
Georgia	1,083.30	Tennessee	260.55
Kentucky	30.90	Texas	985.20
Louisiana	542.25	Virginia	384.00
Maryland	93.30		
Mississippi	536.55	TOTAL (To Exhibit "B")	<u>\$6,989.40</u>

National FFA Foundation Awards and Contests

1957

The fourth session on Wednesday evening, Donors' Night, was highlighted by the presentation of FFA Foundation Awards for the New Farmers of America as follows:

I. ESTABLISHMENT IN FARMING AWARDS

- A. H. O. Sargent—Young Farmer Awards
 - First —Franklin Scott, Amelia, Va..... \$500.
 - Second—Arthur Jacobs, Jr., Toney, Ala..... 250.
 - Third —Will Smith, Jr., Franklinton, La..... 250.
- B. Superior Farmer Awards
 1. Star Superior Farmers
 - First —Eugene Ferguson, Rixeyville, Va..... \$500.
 - Second—Washington Carter, Newbern, Ala..... 250.
 - Third —David Lee Slack, Jr., Winnsboro, La..... 250.
 2. Superior Farmers
 - James B. Bolar, Daphne, Ala..... \$100.
 - Washington Carter, Newbern, Ala..... 100.
 - David Williams, Shorter, Ala..... 100.
 - Sheldon Williams, Holly Grove, Ark..... 100.
 - Napoleon Honeywell, Madison, Fla..... 100.
 - Leslie Wardlow, Pinetta, Fla..... 100.
 - Edward Chaney, Unadilla, Ga..... 100.
 - Curtis Copeland, Ray City, Ga..... 100.
 - Willie Mobley, Ocilla, Ga..... 100.
 - Jack L. Rainey, Colquitt, Ga..... 100.
 - Lionell Rush, Bosco, La..... 100.
 - David Lee Slack, Jr., Winnsboro, La..... 100.
 - Elvin Smith, St. Francisville, La..... 100.
 - Clarence Stephens, Gonzales, La..... 100.
 - John A. Jones, Henderson, N. C..... 100.
 - Marvin Rountree, Elm City, N. C..... 100.
 - Jasper M. Cureton, Townville, S. C..... 100.
 - John W. Hayes, Jr., Hermitage, Tenn..... 100.
 - Smithy McClain, Antioch, Tenn..... 100.
 - P. R. Jason Gradney, Raywood, Tex..... 100.
 - Billy Joe McCullough, Marlin, Tex..... 100.
 - Eugene Ferguson, Rixeyville, Va..... 100.

Balance Sheet

June 30, 1957

EXHIBIT "A"

ASSETS

CASH			
In Bank—Checking Account.....		\$10,985.10	
In Bank—On Savings.....	\$1,827.72		
In Savings and Loan.....	4,117.50	5,945.22	\$16,970.32

INVESTMENTS

U. S. Savings Bond.....	\$ 500.00		
Fully Paid Building and Loan Shares.....	3,300.00	3,800.00	

TOTAL ASSETS.....			<u>\$20,730.32</u>
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SURPLUS

SURPLUS			
Balance, September 1, 1956.....	\$18,019.46		
Add:			
Receipts in Excess of Disbursements (Exhibit "B")	2,710.86		
TOTAL SURPLUS			<u>\$20,730.32</u>

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements

For the 10 Months Ended June 30, 1957

EXHIBIT "B"

CASH BALANCE, September 1, 1956			
In Bank—Checking Account.....	\$ 8,411.82		
In Bank—Savings Account and Savings and Loan....	5,807.64	\$14,219.46	

RECEIPTS

Dividends	\$115.50		
Royalties	137.63		
Interest	151.38	\$ 404.51	

Contributions:

Future Farmers of America Foundation, Inc.	1,108.00		
Dues (Schedule 1).....	6,989.40		
Sales of Supplies.....	4.50		

TOTAL RECEIPTS			\$ 8,506.41
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DISBURSEMENTS

Convention Expense:			
Travel	\$1,911.07		
Board and Lodging.....	1,022.57		
Printing	1,502.41		
Awards	447.50		
NFA Officers	47.95		
Audit	52.70		
Fidelity Bond on Treasurer.....	5.00		
Supplies	692.16		
Miscellaneous	114.19		

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	5,795.55		
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RECEIPTS IN EXCESS OF DISBURSEMENTS.....		2,710.86	
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CASH BALANCE, June 30, 1957 (Exhibit "A").....			<u>\$16,930.32</u>
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Committee Reports**Auditing Committee**

We, the members of the Auditing Committee, checked the reports submitted by Mr. W. T. Johnson, the National Executive Treasurer, and found the reports to be correct.

Respectfully submitted,

W. R. WYNDER, *Consultant*ELIJAH JACKSON, Texas, *Secretary*JAMES A. DONALDSON, Florida, *Chairman***Report of the Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee met at the Butler Street YMCA to select a slate of candidates for national officers of the New Farmers of America for 1957-58.

Each candidate for a national office was called in to appear before the committee for questioning. After questioning the candidates carefully, the committee selected the following to appear on the ballot:

For President—John Knox, Jr., of Alabama

For First Vice President—1. Waverly T. Jones of Virginia
2. Theodore Coggins of North Carolina

For Second Vice President—Clifford Jay, Jr., of Georgia

For Third Vice President—1. Eugene T. Martin of Louisiana
2. Ollie Johnson of Arkansas

For Student Secretary—Vernell White of South Carolina

For Student Treasurer—1. James McLaughlin of Mississippi
2. O. L. Phillips of Texas

For Reporter—James Tatum of Tennessee

Co-Chairmen: Dr. E. M. Norris, Texas

Mr. M. N. Sullivan, South Carolina

Names of NFA Committee members were not available.

Report of the Program of Work Committee

National NFA Program of Work

1957-58

We, the members of the National NFA Program of Work Committee, wish to submit the following Program of Work for the school year 1957-58:

Item	Goals	Ways and Means
I. SUPERVISED FARMING		
1. Awards	Provide awards to encourage establishment in farming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Administer and give appropriate awards to NFA members (Farmer, Star Farmers, Farm Mechanics, Farm Electrification, Dairy Farming and Soil and Water Management). b. Distribute to local chapters appropriate Foundation Medals. c. Present awards at appropriate ceremonies. d. Require accurate records.
2. Publicity	Give public recognition for outstanding achievements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Prepare and distribute news releases about National Award Winners. b. Publicize achievements of award winners. c. Publicize outstanding services of individuals. d. Publicize NFA activities.
II. COOPERATION		
1. National Farm	Cooperate on appropriate activities with all national farm organizations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Invite officials of the American Institute of Cooperation, National Grange, American Farm Bureau to NFA meetings. b. Cooperate with the program of national farm organizations.
2. Southeastern Fair	Participate in Judging Activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Conduct National NFA livestock judging contests held at the Southeastern Fair, Atlanta, Georgia. b. Have National NFA Chorus appear on program of Southeastern Fair in Atlanta.
3. Business, Industry and Organizations	Encourage service to NFA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Assist in the development of the history of the NFA. b. Assist in the development of a motion picture, filmstrips, and pamphlets for use of NFA members.

9. State associations that hold conventions.....	16
a. Delegate attendance	2,261
b. Total attendance	5,700
c. Number using standard meeting equipment and paraphernalia	16
d. Percentage of chapters represented at this convention	—
e. State association officers using official ceremonies at State convention	16
f. Percent of State officers attired in official uniform jackets or official NFA shirt.....	—
g. Percent of delegates attired in official uniform jackets or official NFA shirt.....	—

H. Scholarship	
Number of chapters that stimulated members to improve their scholarship through awards, honor rolls, etc.....	807

IV. COLLEGIATE CHAPTER

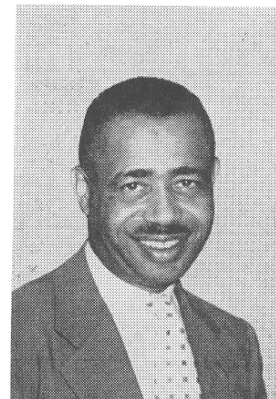
A. Number of recognized teacher training departments operating a collegiate NFA chapter.....	12
B. Number of members in collegiate chapters.....	476

National Executive Treasurer

W. T. Johnson

Greensboro, N. C.

Annual Report, New Farmers of America, as of June 30, 1957



W. T. JOHNSON
Agricultural and Technical College
Greensboro, N. C.

Mr. President, Members of the New Farmers of America, Adult Officers, Advisors and Friends. It is always a pleasure and a privilege to greet members of the New Farmers of America.

I have enjoyed being your Treasurer, and I am very grateful to each of you for the faith you have had in me.

You will note that this report covers only 10 months. This is because the Advisory Council advised me to bring the audit into line with our NFA year. The August date in last year's report was brought about when Mr. Simmons resigned.

As a result of this being a 10-month audit period, the balance will not reflect the total amount of money spent from July 1, 1956, to September 1, 1956.

i. Number of chapters having definite continuing written program of work.....	979
2. Public Relations	
a. State associations issuing a publication regularly.....	11
(1) a. Printed	4
b. Mimeographed	9
(2) Total issues in 12-month period.....	44
(3) Number of chapters issuing news sheets or news letters	332
(4) Number of chapters preparing publicity material	485
b. State associations sponsoring radio programs.....	10
(1) How many programs given.....	24
(2) On what basis: (semi-annually—2, annually—2, monthly—1, special—1, quarterly—1)	
(3) Length of each broadcast in minutes.....	15 to 30
(4) Number of radio stations used.....	13
c. Number of chapters that have prepared and given one or more radio programs.....	255
d. Television programs	61
3. Leadership Training	
a. State associations providing leadership training schools and conferences for local chapter officers and members	13
(1) Basis (State—8, federation—5, district—6)	
(2) Total leadership schools.....	87
(3) Length of each in days.....	20
b. Total number of chapters participating.....	541
c. Total number of members participating.....	4,528
d. State associations that held a public speaking contest..	16
e. Number of chapters that held a public speaking contest	833
f. Number of chapters that used accepted form of parliamentary procedure in conducting chapter meetings	912
g. Number of chapters that conducted organized instructions of the NFA Guide.....	1,014
h. Number of chapters that conducted a quiz contest.....	930
i. Number of members participating in quiz contest.....	7,995
F. Earnings and Savings	
1. Number of members who purchased government bonds and stamps	969
2. Number of chapters that purchased government bonds and stamps	149
3. State associations purchasing government bonds and stamps	0
4. Number of members having a definite thrift program.....	7,690
5. Number of chapters operating on a well-planned budget....	734
G. Conduct of Meetings	
1. Number of members who own the official NFA Guide.....	35,132
2. Number of chapters that used official chapter secretary's book	987
3. Number of chapters that used official chapter treasurer's book	977
4. Number of chapters that own full meeting equipment as listed in the NFA Guide.....	181
5. State associations that own full meeting equipment as listed in the NFA Guide.....	15
6. Number of chapters using official opening and closing ceremonies	1,027
7. Number of initiation ceremonies used in awarding degrees	16
8. Number of chapters that held regular meetings.....	1,018

Item	Goals	Ways and Means
		c. Encourage business firms to cooperate with NFA, State associations and local chapters.
4. National Safety Council	Participate in Safety Program.	a. Encourage Farm Safety. b. Provide safety programs for local chapters. c. Assist in development of materials to promote farm safety.
III. SERVICES TO STATE ASSOCIATIONS AND LOCAL CHAPTERS		
1. Future Farmers Supply Service	Make available official NFA supplies from one source.	a. Encourage all local, State and National NFA officers to wear the official NFA jacket. b. Secure all NFA high quality merchandise from the FFA Supply Service, Box 1180, Alexandria, Va.
2. National Officer	Make maximum use of National NFA officers.	a. Have one officer attend each State NFA convention, and where possible other important State activities. b. All national duties and responsibilities should supersede any and all State obligations. c. Encourage all former national NFA officers to attend the national NFA conventions. d. List the names and States of all past national NFA presidents on the 24th National Convention Program. e. Invite all national officers for the past 5 years to the 25th Silver Anniversary and ask 2 former national officers to be speakers on the convention program.
3. Future Farmers of America Foundation	Make maximum use of FFA Foundation awards.	a. Acquaint State associations and local chapters with Foundation. b. Prepare and distribute appropriate information about awards available from Foundation. c. Administer the selection of sectional and national Foundation award winners. d. Cooperate with the Board of Trustees of the Foundation.
4. National Awards and Contests	Encourage wide participation in National contests.	a. Acquaint State associations and chapters with contests. b. Prepare and distribute forms.

Item	Goals	Ways and Means
		c. Supervise Public Speaking Contests, Judging Contests. d. Increase the FFA Foundation funds to the travel expenses of the public speaking contestant to sectional NFA contests.
5. Publications	Provide State Associations and chapters with needed publications.	a. Prepare and distribute Proceedings of National Convention (NFA). b. Keep a revised edition of the NFA Guide available. c. Revise and keep up to date the local NFA Constitution and By-Laws.
6. Correspondence	Provide information on NFA.	a. Acquaint State associations and chapters with new developments pertaining to NFA. b. Acquaint others with important activities of the organization. c. Handle correspondence in relation to NFA problems by chapters, State associations and others.
IV. LEADERSHIP		
1. Leadership Schools	Develop NFA leadership.	a. Conduct Leadership Training School for National NFA officers. b. Assist States where possible with Leadership Training Schools. c. Provide leadership training to local NFA officers.
V. CONDUCT OF MEETINGS		
1. National Meetings	Administer NFA affairs.	a. Hold two meetings annually of National Board of Trustees and National Advisory Council. b. Conduct in cooperation with State associations the National NFA Convention.
VI. EARNINGS AND SAVINGS		
1. Finance	Adequately finance NFA.	a. Receive national NFA dues. b. Collect royalties from companies that are authorized to sell official NFA items. c. Strive for 100 per cent membership in each NFA chapter.
2. Budget	Carry out authorization of convention delegates and boards.	a. Prepare budget. b. Expend funds as authorized. c. Invest surplus funds in Government bonds or in savings banks.

	Number	
	Members	Chapters
1. Financing farming programs.....	10,095	510
2. Financing chapter projects.....	18,609	622
3. Purchasing chapter equipment.....	20,261	566
4. Buying and Selling activities.....	16,735	610
5. Organized conservation (soils, forestry, wildlife).....	12,791	513
6. Trips to Agricultural Experiment Station.....	10,186	473
7. Agricultural tours outside local community.....	10,961	532
8. Prevention of livestock losses (dipping, spraying, etc.)	12,775	556
9. Prevention of crop losses (treating seed, spraying, etc.)	18,397	650
C. Community Service Activities		
Number of members and chapters who:		
1. Repaired or reconditioned farm machinery.....	15,345	700
2. Repaired farm buildings.....	14,008	714
3. Organized improved sire circles for:		
a. Swine	4,053	389
b. Dairy	2,090	211
c. Beef	2,472	306
4. Organized Pig Chains.....	8,221	469
5. Culled poultry flocks.....	16,204	673
6. Pruned orchards	8,971	521
7. Sprayed orchards	6,397	448
8. Terraced or contoured land.....	10,416	532
9. Participated in farm safety program.....	26,129	764
10. Produced and conserved food.....	24,760	741
11. Participated in agricultural NFA fairs and exhibits	21,825	755
D. Recreation		
1. Number of chapters that provided supervised recreation..		767
2. Number of members who participated in supervised recreation		38,579
3. Number of chapters conducting parent-son banquets.....		676
4. Number of members attending parent-son banquets.....		36,758
5. Number of chapters represented at local NFA summer camps		423
6. Number of members attending local NFA summer camps		7,433
7. Number of chapters represented at a State NFA summer camp		446
8. Number of members attending a State NFA summer camp		5,966
E. Leadership		
1. General Activities		
a. State associations nominating its full quota of Superior Farmers		3
b. Total number of chapters within the State visited by State boy officers during the past year.....		306
c. Provisions by State associations for boy officers travel to chapters (State pays).....		6
d. Number of members participating in sectional NFA contests		131
e. Number of State association members attending last National NFA Convention.....		1,963
f. Number of chapters conducting a National NFA Day Program		698
g. State associations participating in National NFA Day Program		7
h. State associations having written continuing program of work		15

The statistical part of this report which follows will point up details of our shortcomings in:

1. Participation in Supervised Farming Programs.
2. Advancement in degrees. (We fill only about one-half of our maximum quota of Superior Farmers each year.)
3. Participation in FFA Foundation Awards program. (Last year the average participation was less than 10 percent of the total membership.)

Following is a summary of the accomplishments of the New Farmers of America for the year 1956-57:

Summary of Accomplishments

New Farmers of America

1956-57

I. ORGANIZATION

Size and Scope:

A. Number of chartered active local chapters.....	1,044
B. Number of Negro departments of vocational agriculture without NFA chapters.....	3
C. Active membership in chartered chapters.....	46,596
D. Amount of national dues paid by June 30, 1957.....	\$6,989.40

II. MEMBERSHIP, DISTRIBUTION, AND STATUS

A. Farm Hand Degree.....	26,790	
B. Improved Farmer Degree.....	15,162	
C. Modern Farmer Degree.....	2,108	
D. Superior Farmer Degree.....	19	
E. Total Active Members Receiving Degrees.....		44,079
F. Number of Associate members (local).....	8,472	
G. Number of Honorary Farmers (local).....	4,160	
H. Number of Honorary Farmers (State).....	886	
I. Total number of inactive members.....		13,518
J. Number of Honorary Superior Farmers.....		37
K. Grand Total Membership.....		57,634

III. PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL PROGRAM OF WORK

A. Supervised Farming:

1. Number of members who participated in the awards:

a. Farm Mechanics	2,570
b. Dairy Farmer	1,908
c. Soil and Water Management.....	2,238
d. Farm and Home Improvement.....	5,187
e. Farm Electrification	3,240

2. Number of former members who are farming in the patronage area of the schools as:

a. Farm Laborers	6,938
b. Partners	4,921
c. Tenants	4,948
d. Owners	5,816

Total former NFA members now farming.... 22,623

B. Cooperation:

Number of members and chapters participating in chapter cooperatives such as:

Item	Goals	Ways and Means
VII. PUBLIC RELATIONS		
1. Good-Will Tour	Plan and conduct.	a. Visit companies, organizations and individuals who should know about NFA during National Leadership Training School.
2. The National Future Farmer Magazine	Distribute magazine to those who should be kept informed about the organization.	a. Encourage friends and members to subscribe to magazine. b. Make subscriptions available to influential individuals and organizations. c. Encourage local NFA chapters to have former members and friends subscribe. d. Encourage chapters and State associations to provide complimentary copies for appropriate offices and individuals.
3. NFA Speakers	Make speakers available.	a. Schedule officers to speak before National and State groups, such as farm organizations and service clubs. b. Encourage national organizations to sponsor programs featuring NFA.
4. Conferences	Use officers and staff members effectively.	a. Schedule conferences with organizations, commercial concerns, radio and TV specialists and others. b. Tell about the NFA and how others can be of service.
5. Radio and TV	Participate in radio and TV programs.	a. Schedule radio and TV programs in connection with the National NFA Convention. b. Schedule radio and TV programs at other appropriate times during National NFA Day. c. Encourage networks to present State and local programs featuring the NFA. d. Prepare suggested radio scripts and other material for use by stations.
6. Newspapers and Magazines	Provide information on NFA.	a. Make available information on NFA to writers for magazines and press.

Item	Goals	Ways and Means
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Prepare appropriate news releases and stories for use of magazines and the agricultural press. c. Make appropriate stories and pictures available to State Associations. d. Maintain NFA photographic file in National Office.
7. Informational Materials	Keep and distribute information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Maintain a supply of materials about the NFA. b. Provide such materials to give to people desiring information about the organization. c. Keep up-to-date mailing list of people who should receive information about the organization. d. Secure all FFA materials available.
8. Exhibits	Make available exhibit materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide pictures, charts and other materials and information on the NFA. b. Arrange for exhibits to be used at National meetings, educational conferences, agricultural fairs and other occasions.
9. National NFA Week	Emphasize NFA nationally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Prepare materials for use of State associations and chapters. b. Prepare radio and television scripts. c. Schedule radio and TV programs. d. Prepare releases for press on NFA Week. e. Schedule speakers and motion picture films during NFA Week. f. Encourage use of exhibits in appropriate places during NFA Week.
10. Honorary Degree	Make awards to persons whose contributions to NFA have been outstanding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Confer Honorary Modern and Superior Farmer Degrees on individuals who have rendered outstanding service to the NFA on State or National levels.
VIII. RECREATION		
1. National Convention	Provide recreation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Conduct talent contest hour. b. Organize musical units—band, chorus, string bands, others. c. Make tours to points of interest.

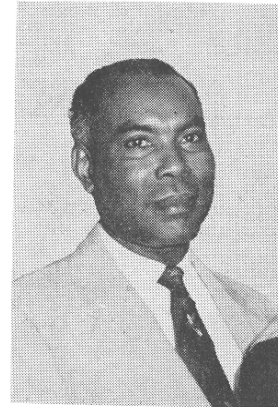
Days spent in interest of NFA.....	125
State Conventions attended.....	3
Speeches made	9
Radio appearances	2
Letters received	89
Letters sent	125
Miles traveled	8,440

In closing I would like to say that through the experiences in the National NFA, I have learned a new meaning in the NFA Creed. The memories that I shared with my fellow NFAers I will never forget as long as I live. The NFA has meant more to me than I can say.

Report of the National Executive Secretary

J. R. Powell

Prairie View, Texas



J. R. POWELL
National Executive Secretary
Prairie View, Texas

The 23rd Annual Convention of the New Farmers of America represents another milestone reached in our search for a point of perfection in leadership training and activities for the 46,596 members of 1,044 local chapters comprising our National Organization.

We recognize the futility of our efforts to reach a point of perfection but we realize that if we keep such a frontier ahead of us we will always grow and glow with enthusiasm as we march forward toward our goal.

Your three adult officers now have the advantage of a full convention year of experience as a foundation upon which to stand as we cast our lures in quest of the prized trophy to adorn our halls of service. We have in addition to our own experiences, the fellowship of two pioneers who blazed the paths for us to follow. Mr. J. R. Thomas and Mr. D. C. Jones (our former National Adult Officers). For men like these we are eternally grateful. Mr. S. B. Simmons can be with us only as a memory, but he built a monument of service to this organization that shall remain forever visible; he built a bridge over which many young men may pass unscarred and unharmed. To the memory of this great soul we pause to pay tribute and to give thanks to our Maker for having permitted us to know a man like S. B. Simmons.

To the grand total NFA membership of over 46,000 who will read this report I beg to remind you that we are far from achieving our potential. We have not taken full advantage of our opportunities to participate fully in our National Program of work.

Another similar meeting was held during August in the Health, Education, and Welfare Building, Washington, D. C.

In enjoyed working with fellows and adult officers. I think that they possess the kind of leadership that our NFA organization needs.

Good luck, and may all of our future conventions be successful.

Reporter

William P. Johnson

Conway, S. C.

I began my experiences as the National NFA Reporter in January 1957, when I came to Atlanta to attend the National Leadership Training School. This meeting was very educational and enjoyable.

February 10, I presided over the Horry-Dillion Federation Elimination Contest. March 8, I delivered an address at the District NFA Elimination Contest.

April 10-13, 1957, I attended the Missouri NFA Convention. It was a big success.

May 1-3, I attended the South Carolina State NFA Convention. Mr. Hull, our Vice-President from Maryland, attended this convention also.

June 4-7, found me attending the North Carolina NFA State Convention. This was the largest convention I attended. Everything went off smoothly.

August 12-16, I attended the National Board of Trustees Meeting at the Health, Education, and Welfare Building, Washington, D. C. I will never forget this meeting as long as I live. While in Washington, the other delegates and I visited the Washington Monument, Bureau of Engraving, Smithsonian Institution, and the United States Department of Agriculture.

August 20, I appeared on a panel discussion at the AME Youth Conference in Columbia, S. C.

September 29, I arrived here in Atlanta to attend the National NFA Convention.

As my time as a National Officer draws to a close, I would like to say thanks to the many people who have helped me to become what I am today.

To my parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Johnson, Sr., I would like to say there aren't words in the English language to say how much I appreciate what they have done for me.

My local advisor, Mr. J. F. Taylor, my principal, Mr. E. A. Finney, and my State advisor, Mr. W. F. Hickson, are the people who were interested in me as a boy and encouraged me to become a success.

Then thanks to Messrs. Powell, Conoly, Elam, Naugher, and to Dr. Spanton, as they are the ones who worked with me after I became a National Officer.

Item	Goals	Ways and Means
IX. SCHOLARSHIP		
1. Scholarship	Promote scholarship among members.	a. Initiate good study habits. b. Award suitable prizes to outstanding members. c. Post honor roll regularly. d. Give suitable recognition to students with good scholastic averages. e. Keep accurate records of supervised farming programs.

Respectfully submitted,

STANLEY A. WARD, Georgia
 JOHN A. JONES, North Carolina
 FRANK J. PINES, Texas
 NOLEN STAFFORD, Mississippi
 MARION WILLIAMS, Delaware
 FREDERICK PETERS, Louisiana
 JAMES LADD, Arkansas
 CHARLES ROWELL, Alabama
 EARNEST JACKSON, Georgia
 J. VAN BROOKS, North Carolina
 CARL JAMES, Oklahoma
 WILLIE C. BLANCHARD, Missouri
 HENRY MACKEY, South Carolina
 JIMMIE BATES, Texas
 JAMES JOHNSON, Virginia
 JAMES TOLSON, Maryland
 R. C. HAYNIE, Arkansas, *Consultant*



NATIONAL OFFICERS NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA—1957

Seated, left to right:—Robert Hillard, Louisiana, National Secretary; Marvin Rountree, North Carolina, National President; J. R. Powell, Texas, National Executive Secretary.

Standing, left to right:—G. W. Conoly, Florida, National Advisor; James Donaldson, Florida, National Vice President; William Johnson, South Carolina, National Reporter; Lewis Gibson, Arkansas, National Vice President; Paul Hull, Maryland, National Vice President; Calvin McCarroll, Alabama, National Treasurer; W. T. Johnson, North Carolina, National Executive Treasurer.

National Officers Reports

Report of the National President

Marvin Rountree
Elm City, N. C.

I remember distinctly back to September 28, 1956, when I was installed and assumed the duties and responsibility as National President of the New Farmers of America. This was really one of the greatest moments of my life and I remember making this statement to the audience: "With your support and encouragement I will be able to do an outstanding job in developing and carrying out a program that will be a credit to this great organization." Then and there, I decided that I would work to the best of my ability in helping to build a strong organization during the year of 1956-1957. I hope to carry out the ideals that the founder of this great organization

From its top you can see the important shrines and buildings in and around the great city.

I have enjoyed working with this organization and I shall always remember and cherish the wonderful experiences I had with the NFA. This organization has given me courage and above all it has helped me to develop a high scholastic standing. Through this scholastic standing I was able to win a scholarship to Lincoln University in Pennsylvania.

Summary of My Work for the Year

Miles traveled	9,950
Letters received	75
Letters answered	65
State conventions attended.....	4
Speeches made	15
District conventions.....	3
Sectional conventions	1
Banquets attended	8

All that I have been, all that I am, and all I shall ever expect to be, I owe to my mother and father. I would like to thank my mother, Mrs. Audrey Donaldson, and my father, the late Mr. Oliver Donaldson, for giving me inspiration. I would like to thank Dr. Spanton, Mr. Elam, Mr. Naugher, Mr. Conoly, Mr. Powell, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Norris, Mr. Wood, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Cunningham, and Mr. Scott for advising me. I would like to thank my principal, Mr. Seabrooks, Mr. E. B. Browning, and Mrs. J. R. Miller and the rest of the staff at Madison County Training School for giving me encouragement and new vision. I thank God for allowing me to carry out my work successfully.

May I say to the officers and fellow members that I am very much indebted to you for the opportunity to serve you as your National Third Vice-President. I wish all of you the best of success and may God be with you.

Report of the National Student Secretary

Robert Hillard
Harwood, La.

At this time allow me to relate some of my experiences while serving as National Secretary.

It all began in October 1956, in Atlanta, while I was attending the 22d National Convention as an official delegate from Louisiana, that this great opportunity to be elected Secretary came to me.

After my election, I returned home to think of ways to improve myself and the National NFA organization.

In January, I was called to the National Leadership Training School in Atlanta, Ga., to plan for the National NFA Convention.

School for national officers. I learned many things at this meeting which will be useful to me for the rest of my life. I had opportunities to meet some of the great friends of the NFA in Atlanta and to participate in various activities. This meeting should always be carried on for it has helped us (the national officers) to be more efficient in our duties.

In February, I attended the Florida State Fair in Tampa. There I gave the accomplishments of the Florida Association of New Farmers of America.

In March, I attended the State convention of the New Homemakers of Florida. The meeting was a very good one and I enjoyed it tremendously. I had the honor of meeting the National President of the New Homemakers of America, Miss Naomi Smith. I also attended my local chapter's banquet where I delivered a short address on my accomplishments.

In April, I went to Alcorn A. & M. College, Lorman, Mississippi, to attend the State Convention of the Mississippi Association. But I was disappointed to learn that the convention had been postponed until May. I went home and unfortunately could not go back the following month. This grieved me very much.

On April 5, National NFA Day, I participated in a program honoring the late Booker T. Washington at Madison County Training School. I attended District I NFA Convention at Greenville Training School, Greenville, Fla. There I brought greetings from the National Organization.

In May, I attended the District II NFA Convention at Lincoln High School, Gainesville, Fla. I delivered a speech on the great opportunities for boys in our organization. In May, I also graduated from Madison County School at the top of my class.

June 4-7, I attended the State Convention of the Florida New Farmers of America. There I met one of my fellow national officers who delivered an inspiring address. I also delivered an address and we enjoyed the convention tremendously.

June 12-14, I attended the State convention of the Louisiana New Farmers at Southern University, Baton Rouge. I enjoyed their convention and admired the way the officers carried out the State's business. I delivered to them an address on the "Eight Steps to the Top Rung of the Ladder of Success". I think that their convention was one of the best I attended.

June 26-27, I presided over the Sargent Sectional NFA Contests held at Florida A. & M. University. The meeting was an overwhelming success. I would like to congratulate the NFA boys from Georgia for they participated in the Sargent Sectional Contests and went away with first place in everything but Quartet Singing and placed second in that.

August 12-16, I attended the meeting of the National Board of Trustees in Washington, D. C. I had the opportunity to see many things, but of all the things, I liked the Washington Monument best.

and our leaders have had throughout the years of operation. At this time I made a pledge to myself, "Do a job well or not at all."

The period I have served the National Organization as President has been a great experience to me. I have had the opportunity to take an active part in many of the NFA activities and witness a number of activities that I would otherwise never have experienced. Observing the type of work carried on in this organization and the type of work carried on in other organizations, I was amazed that Agriculture and Vocational Agriculture mean so much to the economy of our country and that NFA members play such an important roll in the development of agriculture and the economy of our country. I have also learned that NFA and other organizations of this type produce the best leaders of our people.

By being elected to this office, I have had a broader view of life and this has enabled me to see the need for youth leadership. May I relate some of the great experiences that I have had during the past year.

My duties began immediately after I was installed as National President when I called a meeting of the newly elected officers and adult officers to make plans for National Officers leadership school. The result of this meeting was encouraging and successful.

During and after my election I attended several meetings at which time I was recognized as National President of the NFA and asked to extend greetings from the National NFA organization.

January 24, 1957, I attended the National Officers leadership school held in Atlanta, Ga. At this meeting we contacted and entertained a number of our NFA friends at the annual NFA banquet and radio program. The meeting proved to be a great success.

On April 5, NFA Day, I participated in a radio program at one of the leading radio stations in North Carolina, WPTF, in the Capital City of Raleigh. (This program was under the supervision of Mr. S. B. Simmons.) This same date I extended greetings from the National Organization to a group of NHA and NFA members at a Mother-and-Daughter, Father-and-Son banquet, held at Charlotte, N. C.

April 11 to 13, I attended the Maryland State Convention held on the campus of Maryland State College, Princess Anne. The delegates expressed deep interest and the Convention was a great success.

May 29 to 31, I attended the Alabama State NHA and NFA State Convention held on the campus of Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee. This was the first joint convention held in the State and it turned out to be very successful.

June 4 to 7, I attended the North Carolina State Convention. This convention was well planned and successfully carried out. The delegates showed a tremendous interest in all the NFA activities.

April 30, I attended the annual Father-Son banquet at Frederick Douglass High School, Elm City, N. C.

June 12 to 15, I attended the Virginia State Convention held on the campus of Virginia State College, Petersburg. The delegates at this convention demonstrated a great deal of interest and it seems that this State has a growing program. The members as well as the advisors are very much interested.

June 14, I had the pleasure of attending the Virginia NHA and NFA camp. The camp is not very old but it seems that a tremendous effort had been made for its completion.

During June, I had the pleasure of attending the North Carolina NFA camp along with other members of our local Chapter. Real progress has been made at this camp and I am glad to say that this is one of the finest locations and a lovely area where a good NFA camp program can be developed for training youth.

August 2, I represented the National Organization at the funeral of the late Mr. S. B. Simmons, who was one of the founders of the National NFA Organization and worked faithfully with the development of the organization for more than 22 years.

During the period August 12 to 16, I attended National Board of Trustees and Advisory Council Meetings held in the Health, Education, and Welfare Building, Washington, D. C. I had the opportunity to meet a number of people who head the NFA organization as well as members of the Agriculture Department and many other persons who are interested in youth development. These were: Dr. Spanton, Mr. Elam, Dr. J. N. Freeman, and P. J. Manly all of whom have played an important part in our organization's development.

One of the outstanding meetings I participated in during the year was the Polio conference held in New York City August 26 to 28, under the supervision of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Inc.

Serving in the capacity of President for this great Organization has really been wonderful and I appreciate the cooperation of all persons concerned. The many trips that I have had the opportunity to make were most enjoyable and educational. I have learned much during this period as a National NFA Officer. I wish to thank you for electing me to this position as president because I owe this great organization many thanks for the many opportunities and wonderful experiences I have received during the past year.

I have enjoyed serving the organization for a one-year period and I do wish it was possible to serve another term, but I am happy to give up my position in order that someone else may have the same opportunity that I have had. I am sure that the officers elected will have a great opportunity and a broader experience than I have had and that their future will be as successful as mine has been with the members of this great organization. May I thank you and please remember that I am still a faithful servant of this organization.

Brief digest of my activities:

Days spent in interest of NFA.....	270
State Conventions attended.....	4

On August 12, 1957, I attended the Board of Trustees and Advisory Council meetings in Washington, D. C.

This trip I will never forget, for I enjoyed the tremendous sights of the White House, the Nation's Capitol, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, and many other famous landmarks.

While serving as your National Vice-President, I've had many wonderful experiences that would not have come to me from any other source. I am very much indebted to the NFA for this opportunity.

Now I would like to thank Mr. R. C. Haynie, my State Advisor, and Mr. William Smith, my local Advisor, for their constant urging and encouragement.

My deepest thanks go to my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Darden Gibson, my principal, Mr. S. B. Rowland, and the entire staff of Tate High School for their wise advice, which guided me along the way. I'd like to thank my fellow officers, NFA members, and the adults who have contributed so greatly to my success and well being.

It's been wonderful working with you and for you, and I leave with you my best wishes for more prosperous years in the future.

Report of the National Third Vice-President

James A. Donaldson

Madison, Fla.

I often recall the September day in 1956 when I climbed the steps of the platform to assume the duties of the Third National Vice-President. My response to the audience was, "If a job is worth doing, it is worth doing well". I also said that I wanted to be a better Vice-President than my predecessors. That should be the goal of all newly-elected officers, if our great organization is to survive, advance, and prosper.

When you elected me to this office you opened up greater opportunities for me to serve my organization on a higher level. As I tell you of my experiences, I hope that it will inspire some of you to try to serve our organization so that it will remain one of the greatest boy organizations in America.

On November 1, 1956, I attended the North Florida Fair at Tallahassee. I helped our local chapter place an exhibit there. In this month I also attended the Tri-County Hog Show held in Monticello, Fla. Several members of my local chapter had hogs in the show.

In December, I attended the State Farmers' Conference held at Florida A. & M. University, Tallahassee. At this conference, we heard lectures on some of the latest discoveries in farming. I learned many things. I also attended District VI Convention of the New Homemakers of America held at Greenville, Fla. There I delivered Greetings from the National NFA Organization.

In January 1957, I attended the National Leadership Training

shots. However, parents could play an important role in encouraging children to do so.

Information pertaining to the Polio Vaccine or any other information may be obtained by writing to the address below:

The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, 301 East 42d St., New York 17, N. Y.

Report of the National First Vice-President

Lewis V. Gibson

Marvell, Ark.

Mr. President, fellow officers, NFA members, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is indeed a pleasure to come before you at this time and give a report of my activities while serving you as National First Vice-President, NFA.

When I assumed this office in September 1956, I did not foresee the opportunities that I would have as a national officer.

On November 15, 1956, I attended the meeting of the Cotton Belt Federation of New Farmers of America. There I gave a report of the 1956 National Convention. I also attended the meeting of the Peach Blossom Federation for the same purpose.

On November 26, 1956, I was invited to attend the Arkansas Federation of the Farm Bureau to give a summary of the Arkansas New Farmers of State Sectional and National activities. I enjoyed this meeting very much for I became better acquainted with the functions of the Farm Bureau.

On January 21, 1957, I attended the Leadership Training School for National Officers in Atlanta, Ga. Here, we toured some of the city's business firms owned and operated by Negroes, which was indeed an inspiration.

The Leadership Conference was very successful, since the adult officers met with the student officers to train us to be better leaders for today and tomorrow.

In April, I visited the Oklahoma State Association of NFA, held in Langston. There I met our past National Advisor, Mr. D. C. Jones. I enjoyed this meeting very much.

In June of this year, I attended the Arkansas Association of New Farmers of America Convention. There I met the President of the FFA, Johnny Haid, and heard his address to the Convention. In June, I also attended the Texas State Association of New Farmers of America, held in Prairie View. There I delivered a major address and heard one from the Texas FFA President. I enjoyed this convention tremendously.

I also attended the State association of the New Homemakers of America, held in the Robinson Memorial Auditorium in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Speeches made	20
Radio appearances	6
TV appearances	3
Letters received	96
Letters answered	72
Telegrams & Special Letters.....	4
Banquets attended	5
Special conferences	4
Miles traveled	6468

I am grateful to my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Rountree, and my former agriculture teacher, who have played a great part in the success of my work during the time I have served as president.

SUMMARY OF THE POLIO CONFERENCE

New York City, August 26-28, 1957

As National NFA President, I attended the Polio Vaccine Conference held at the headquarters of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis in New York City.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss ways and means to persuade teenagers to take the Salk Polio Vaccine to protect them from the dreaded paralytic polio.

At this conference there were more than 53 teenagers representing more than 40 National Organizations throughout the United States. Ways and means were discussed on how to reach all types of people in all sections of the country. To arrive at this decision the following questions were presented for discussion:

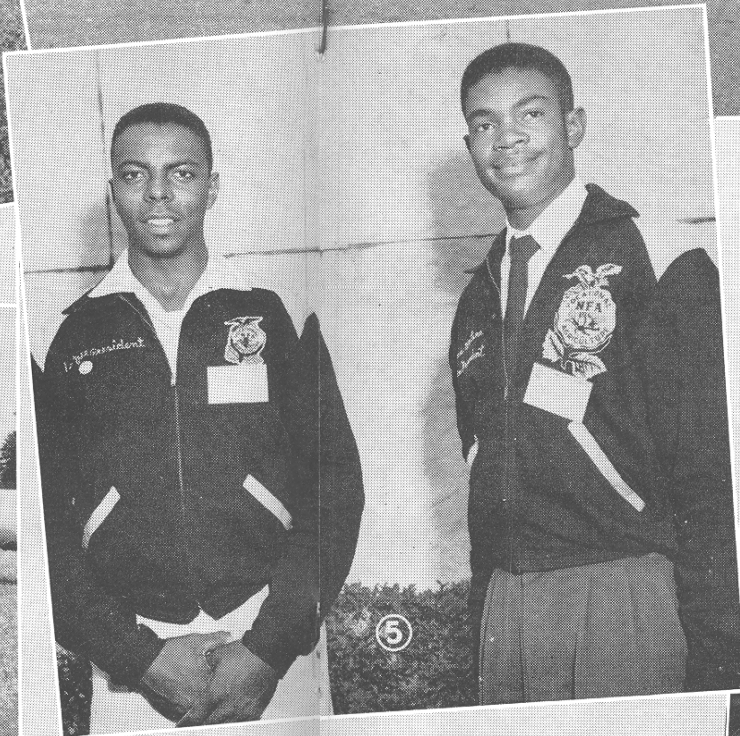
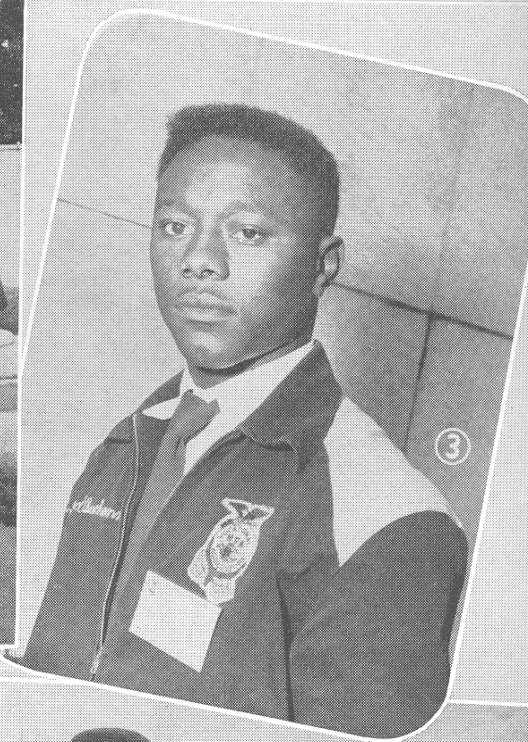
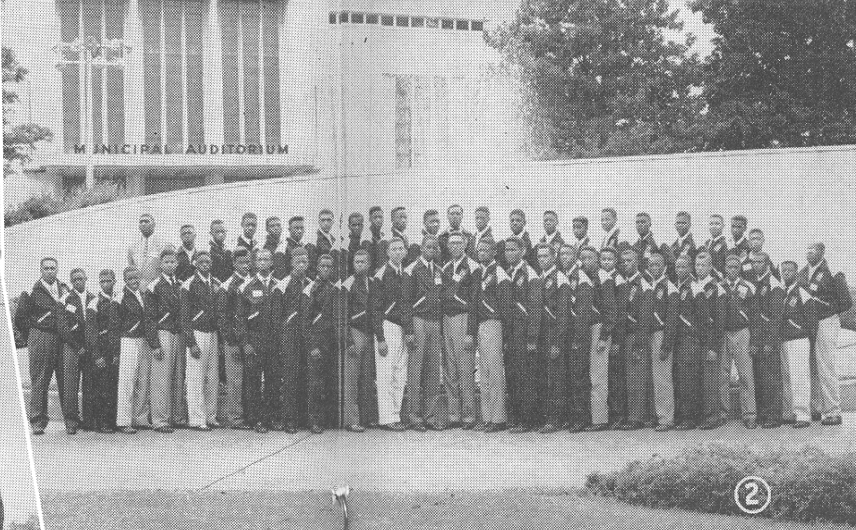
1. Why did those who have had Polio Vaccine, take the vaccine?
2. What played the most important role in the vaccination?
3. What is the best way to appeal to teenagers to get vaccinated?
4. What kinds of aids or materials would be helpful?

Some of the reasons disclosed why teenagers have not received the vaccine were:

1. Fear of the vaccine.
2. Lack of knowledge and understanding.
3. Fear of the needle.
4. Laziness on the part of the teenager.
5. Lack of publicity.

At this conference it was disclosed that teenagers, ages between 14-19, are the second highest in the polio victims and that only 20 percent of American teenagers are fully protected.

The group at the meeting was told that the leaders of the different organizations could play an important role in promoting polio vaccine through programs, publicity and displays at County Fairs, radio, newspaper stories, distribution of booklets on the subject and direct mail contact. It was also stated that many parents are responsible for their children's failure to obtain the polio vaccine



1. National Quartet 1st Place Winners, Bobby Merchant, George McGowan, John Glaze, and Thomas Oliver of Huntsville, Texas.
 2. 1957 National NFA Chorus.
 3. National Winner in Farm Electrification—David Veasey, Marvell, Arkansas.
 4. Star Superior Farmer Washington Section—Washington Carter, Newbern, Alabama.

5. National Soil and Water Winners: First—Clarence E. Brandon, Lexa, Arkansas, and Odester Carter, Quincy, Florida, second.
 6. National Quiz Winners: First Place—Jimmie Bates, Ennis, Texas; Second Place—Tommie Downer, Elberton, Georgia, and Third Place—Howard Warren, Southerlin, Virginia.