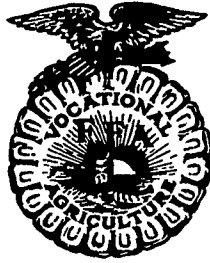


From Local Ag Teachers:



Thoughts in Passing



This week begins a series of articles introducing Lancaster County's newest ag-ed teachers. Robert S. Woods

"I've only been on the job for a month, but I think ag-ed is just about the best teaching job there is," says Robert S. Woods, the newest ag-ed teacher at Garden Spot High School.

Bob started on the job soon after graduating from Penn State in June of this year. At Penn State, he earned a degree in agricultural education and minored in dairy science.

This fall, Bob will be teaching a senior agribusiness class, a ninth grade introductory agriculture class and an adult welding course. He'll also be assisting the other Garden Spot ag teachers in the shop and with FFA activities.

Fannettsburg, Pa., in Franklin County, is Bob's hometown. He graduated from Chambersburg High School in 1968.

Bob is no stranger either to farming or to agricultural education activities. He was raised on his father's 530-acre

dairy farm, and was very active in his high school FFA chapter.

His FFA projects in high school included dairy animals, small grain and corn, and he was president of his chapter in his senior year.

At Penn State, Bob was a member of ATA, the professional ag-ed fraternity, he was in the collegiate FFA and he was a stalwart of the Ping Pong Club.

Summers he worked on farms, and in his senior year he was employed part-time at the Penn State dairy farm.

Bob's wife, Faye Louise, is from Chambersburg, and they've been married since last August.

Almost Extinct

The vicuna, an animal that lives high in the Andes, has become almost extinct because its fine, soft wool is valued in making expensive coats. A U.S. law prohibits the import of products made from the vicuna and other endangered animals.

ED ESHLEMAN'S WASHINGTON REPORT

You would think that an issue like busing would be pretty clear cut — either you're for or against it. But, as is often the case, once the issue gets before the Congress, what should be clear cut becomes very fuzzy.

As you know, I have opposed strongly the forced busing concept. There is enough evidence to convince me that the job of providing a quality education for all students, regardless of race, is not something you accomplish with a school bus. Busing suburban children to the inner city or inner city kids to the suburb may be some social planners' idea of good schools, but I can't see that the children involved will end up getting a better education.

Therefore, as the Education and Labor Committee considered busing legislation recently, I stood firmly for a reasonable anti-busing bill. The only way to prevent busing from becoming an accepted pattern in American education is to pass strong legislation banning the courts or federal agencies from recommending or ordering students bused out of their neighborhoods

and miles down the road.

But taking that stand became more difficult than you might suppose. There was a compromise busing bill offered before the committee that would permit some limited busing of students above seventh grade. But, the same bill prohibited busing children in sixth grade and below to any school that was not either the one closest to their home or the one second closest. In other words, it was a bill combining some stiff anti-busing provisions with some other provisions permitting busing on a limited scale.

To further complicate the situation, the bill was opposed by both liberals and conservatives for different reasons. Some conservatives claimed it did not go far enough toward preventing busing completely. But, the liberal position was that its anti-busing language was far too harsh.

One of the liberal groups testifying against the bill was the NAACP. This particular testimony provided an interesting sidelight in the consideration of the busing issue. Clarence Mitchell of the NAACP asked permission to testify before a committee session where witnesses are not ordinarily heard. I voted to allow him to speak, even though I felt certain I would not agree with some of his viewpoints. During that vote I was fascinated to see some of the liberals, who always seem to be talking about too much secrecy in government, voting to prevent Mr. Mitchell from testifying. But the majority voted to hear him, and thus we were able to listen to a very articulate spokesman on the busing controversy.

That's not to say that Mitchell's testimony did anything to unravel the issue. In fact, it probably helped to make even less clear just what the effects of the busing bill would be.

I finally decided to support the compromise because it appeared to be the best hope of curbing busing during this session of Congress.

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