

FFA Members Report On Convention Trip

(Editor's Note) The following reports were submitted by the news reporters of various FFA chapters and contains news concerning the Chapters trip to the National FFA Convention in Kansas City.

Last week twelve seniors from the Manor Chapter of the FFA went on a trip to Kansas City to attend the National FFA Convention. On Friday, October 11th, at 8:00 a.m. we left Penn Manor High School.

We spent the night at Pow Wow Campground near Indianapolis. Saturday morning we toured Indianapolis Speedway and Museum. We drove on to St. Louis where we camped over night at Arrowhead Campground. Sunday morning we attended St. Bridget's Catholic Church and then toured the St. Louis Archway. In the afternoon we visited the St. Louis Zoo and Grant's Farm where the famous Budweiser Clydesdales are raised. We returned to Arrowhead Campground to spend the night. Monday morning we

toured the Purina Research Farms. In the afternoon, we went through Meramec Caverns used by Jesse James for a hideout. We arrived in Kansas City at 10:00 p.m. on Monday.

While in Kansas City we stayed at the Quality Court Motel just outside Kansas City. Tuesday morning we registered at the Convention Hall, then we toured the Hereford Association Building. In the evening we attended the first meeting of the National FFA Convention. President Ford spoke to us about the fight against inflation.

On Wednesday we visited the Harry Truman Memorial Library, and in the evening attended the second meeting of the National FFA Convention. On Thursday morning we attended the third meeting of the convention. In the afternoon we toured the Kansas City Stockyards which were at one time the largest in the nation. In the evening we attended another meeting at which the American Farmer Degrees were awarded.

Friday morning we toured the General Motors Assembly Plant near Kansas City. Afterwards we viewed the American Royal Horse Show. That evening we attended the last of the meetings of the National Convention. Saturday morning we left for home. We got as far as Indianapolis where we spent the night at L & K Motel. We arrived at Penn Manor at 8:00 p.m. on Sunday evening. Altogether we traveled 2,643 miles.

C. Randall Hunt
Reporter for
Manor Chapter FFA

Members of the Northern Lebanon Chapter of FFA left the high school on Saturday morning, October 12, 1974 at 7:30 a.m. to attend the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. President Shawn Herley and family, Gary Lentz, Fred Baal, Arthur Sweinhart, Joe Wood, Chester Michael, Daniel Bausher, David Flory, Larry Gross and advisor J. Ray Bickel represented our chapter. While enroute, we stopped at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio where we saw many different types of airplanes first airplane all the way up to the modern B-52 SAC Bomber. That night for entertainment we saw a movie titled Soldier Blue and then stayed overnight in Fairborn, Ohio.

On Sunday morning we journeyed to the world famous Indianapolis Speedway where we saw many of the previous race winning cars on display in the Speedway Museum. We then took a ride around the track and we were informed of some of the important facts about the track. After seeing the Speedway we traveled all day until we reached St. Louis that night. On entering St. Louis we saw the Gateway to the West, the paddle wheel boats on the river, and the old state capital building. We then had something to eat and retired for the night.

On Monday morning we traveled to the Purina Research Farms in Gray Summit, Missouri where we were given a guided tour of their experiments with animals and certain types of feed. While at the Purina Farms we were very delighted to receive a free chicken dinner. Following the dinner the business men and women of the Purina Center put on a wonderful stage show for us and fellow FFA members who were also visiting the farm. After our visit to Purina Farms we journeyed to the Onondaga Cave in Leasburg, Missouri. The Onondaga Cave contains some of the largest and most colorful stalactite and stalagmites in the world. This cave was found by Daniel Boone and is the world's largest living cave. We then drove to Kansas City, Missouri where we had reservations at the Holiday Inn and spent the night there.

Tuesday, after eating breakfast and registering for the convention, we traveled to the Agricultural Hall of Fame where we observed different exhibits which told of the progression in the development of arm

machinery and other automated devices that have made changes in farming methods and family living since the beginning of this nation. Following our visit to the Hall of Fame we toured the TWA Overhaul Base where we saw gigantic jet planes in all stages of repair. We then toured the Crown Center which is a two million dollar shopping center and living complex. The building houses 2700 people and features a five story high waterfall and several glass elevators which we rode 18 stories to the top of the building and looked out over the city. Following that we went to the evening session where the honorable President Gerald Ford gave a very encouraging and inspiring speech. After his speech we attended the vespers program, had supper and then returned to the hotel.

On Wednesday morning we were welcomed by Kansas City Mayor, Charles B. Wheeler. Dwight Seegmiller, our 1972-73 National FFA president then gave remarks along with Mark Mayfield our 1973-74 president and H. N. Hunsicker, our National Advisor. We then had lunch and returned to the afternoon session where Shawn Herley, our chapter president and Mr. Bickel received the National Gold Emblem Chapter Award. We were one of two chapters in Pennsylvania to receive this award. That night, at the

evening session we watched the national public speaking contest and then Chester Michael received a Gold National Chapter Safety Award for outstanding work in this program. Brooks Robinson, all-pro third baseman for the Baltimore Orioles then gave remarks and the session was closed. We then went to the hotel and retired for the evening.

The next morning, Thursday, David Flory received a silver BOAC Award because he was chairman of the BOAC committee which helped beautify our school by planting trees and shrubs around it and by seeding grass on the new football field. Also, at the Thursday morning session, Mr. Delmas Herley received a Legion of Merit Award for being the only man in Pennsylvania to secure at least ten new members in the FFA Alumni Association during the preceding year. Following the morning session we toured the General Motors plant where we saw many of the different makes of cars in all their stages of construction. We then went to the Country Club Plaza where we did some shopping and then the boys went bowling. After ending our bowling expedition we returned to the Convention Hall where we watched the Star Farmer of America Pageant. John Moyer received a check for \$500.00 for being the Star

Farmer of the North Atlantic Region.

Friday morning's session was highlighted by an address from Johnny Rodriguez, star of stage, TV, radio and movies. He also presented an act during the afternoon American Royal Horse Show. Only FFA boys are allowed to attend this opening session of the American Royal which is the outstanding livestock show in the mid-west.

We then toured the Allis Chalmers plant and the Truman Library before returning to the closing session Friday evening which consisted of the FFA talent show, installation of new National Officers and an address by the outgoing President, Mark Mayfield.

Saturday morning we watched the American Royal Parade and then left Kansas City for home. We stopped in Hannibal, Missouri and toured Mark Twain's home before going on to Springfield, Illinois. In Springfield we saw Abraham Lincoln's home and tomb during Sunday morning hours. In the evening we arrived in Chicago and took the elevator to the top of the Sears Observation Tower, 103 stories high. On Monday we headed for home and arrived at approximately 6:00 p.m. after having a wonderful trip. In behalf of all the boys who made this trip, I'd like to express our thanks and appreciation to our Board of Directors, our school administration, our parents and all those who made this trip possible. It was an experience none of us shall ever forget.

Larry Gross
Reporter

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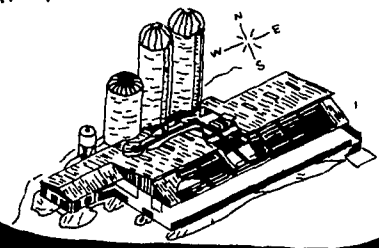
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