

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.

Twin Valley FFA

Twin Valley High School
Do you remember seeing President Ford address the Nation from the national Future Farmers of America Convention in Kansas City, Missouri? Well, nine members of the Twin Valley Future Farmers of America will never forget that speech - they were there to witness it in person. Because the Twin Valley FFA Chapter received an award in the national FFA chapter rating contest, all of our officers and our advisor were given permission to attend the national convention and receive the award in person. When we received permission to attend the convention little did we suspect that we would have the opportunity to see and hear the President of the United States deliver a major address to the nation. The nine Twin Valley representatives were: Robert Stoltzfus, President; Douglas Yoder, Vice-President; Ronald Smoker, Secretary; Harold Steve, Treasurer; Lloyd Simmers, Reporter; Melvin Houck, Sentinel; David Hammons, Chaplain; Geoffrey Fultz, Historian; and Ronald Frederick, Advisor.

Each year, chapters are given the opportunity to apply for an award in the national chapter rating contest. This contest is based upon the activities of the chapter and the involvement of chapter members in these activities. The Twin Valley Chapter received a bronze emblem award based upon

their activities. While this is not the top award earned by FFA chapters in Pennsylvania - only five chapters in Pennsylvania received awards in this contest, making it one of the most prestigious awards in the FFA organization.

The Twin Valley contingent departed Twin Valley High School on Friday evening October 11. At the Pennsylvania Turnpike entrance, we were joined by a student from Blue Mountain High School in Schuylkill County, Robert Kreager. Proceeding west in the school van by way of the turnpike and Interstate 70, the contingent stayed at Washington, Pennsylvania that night. On Saturday October 12, we stopped at the Ohio State Fairgrounds at Columbus, Ohio and the Air Force Museum at Dayton, Ohio. The Air Force Museum includes displays on aviation from the drawings of Leonardo da Vinci to the present, a history of aviation and aircraft. Many of the famous aircraft are on display - such as the British Spitfire, X-15, Sparcfortresses, etc. Several of our current inter-continental ballistic missiles are also on display. On Saturday evening we stayed at Richmond, Indiana.

Sunday October 13, we visited the War Memorial in Downtown Indianapolis, Indiana. The memorial included a Civil War Museum in the basement including a complete pictorial history of the war with duplicates of many of the famous Brady photographs of the Civil War. We also visited the famous Indianapolis 500 racetrack and toured the museum. Needless to say, the students greatly enjoyed the drive

around the track and seeing all of the old race cars. That night we stayed near Springfield, Illinois.

On Monday October 14, we toured Lincoln's home in Springfield along with the various museums associated with it. This stop was a living history lesson specially with the wax museum and all of the Lincoln memorabilia. While in Springfield, we also visited Lincoln's Tomb. From there we proceeded to Hannibal, Missouri where we crossed the Mississippi River. We also toured the Mark Twain house and museum, the Becky Thatcher house and all of the related facilities. It was an experience to see homes such as Mark Twain's and Lincoln's furnished in the decor of their day. At Hannibal we saw our first stern-wheel steamer. From Hannibal, we proceeded west, and spent the night at Chillicothe, Missouri.

Friday morning we toured the Harry Truman Library and Museum in Independence, Missouri. The museum includes the cars owned by Truman while he was a congressman and while President, as well as numerous mementos of his years as President. Of special interest was a multimedia display of his campaign for the Presidency against Thomas Dewey. The display featured movies of the campaign and recordings of many of Truman's speeches. That afternoon we spent at the American Royal Livestock Exposition in Kansas City - seeing and hearing country music stars and viewing many exhibits of beef cattle, horses, and sheep. Friday evening we attended the closing session of the convention, hearing the most inspiring retiring speech of Mark Mayfield. At this session, the new national FFA officers were introduced. Following the closing session, members enjoyed the Firestone Variety Show, sponsored by the Firestone Tire Company.

On Saturday morning we packed our suitcases and departed Kansas City for Pennsylvania. Before departing, however, we bid a fond farewell to Lt. and Mrs. Ernest Kistler and family, with whom we stayed while in Kansas City. Lt. Kistler is the uncle of our advisor's wife. That afternoon we stopped at the Jefferson Memorial Arch in St. Louis, Missouri. We were unable to travel to the top of the 630 foot structure, however we were able to tour the facilities associated with it and to again see many sternwheel steamers on the Mississippi River. We traveled

to Richmond, Indiana that evening. On Sunday, we completed our trip back to Pennsylvania, encountering snow in Ohio, and arriving back at Twin Valley High School about 7:00 p.m.

Summing up the entire trip, it could be said that not only did we enjoy ourselves, but we also had many educational experiences. We were thrilled by being able to witness a major speech of the President of the United States and delighted by the performance of our national FFA officers. We enjoyed the music of our national Band and Chorus and of the groups participating in the national FFA Talent Contest. But we were also glad to be back in Pennsylvania.

All chapter members would like to thank everyone who helped to make this trip and the bronze emblem award possible. We are indeed indebted to our school board, administrators, faculty, parents, and other chapter members who have supported and participated in our activities.

Grassland FFA

Garden Spot High School
Twelve members of the Grassland Chapter of the Future Farmers of America, from New Holland attended the 1974 National FFA Convention at Kansas City, Missouri.

The twelve members had earned their way by scoring points on a scorecard that had been started when they were freshmen. Points were awarded for each activity that was participated in or honor won.

This year's members, besides having an enjoyable trip had a job to do. They were to pick up two national awards on behalf of the chapter. One, being a Gold medal for its BOAC activities and the other, a Silver Emblem for chapter activities. The chapter has put many hours of work to earn this recognition.

At six o'clock Saturday morning on October 12th, the twelve members plus the capable driver, Mr. Donald Robinson, left the High School in their home-made camper and pickup truck

heading for Kansas City and spots along the way. The trip included sight seeing at the Air Force Museum, Indy 500, Litton Charlois, Lincoln's Tomb, and the Gateway to the West at St. Louis, Mo. Areas of interest were also visited that were not on the original schedule. The group arrived at the Convention on Tuesday.

The Convention held many surprises for the group. In addition to receiving the Gold BOAC Award, and a Silver emblem award, former members were also recognized for their achievements. Lynn Groff received the National Proficiency in Agricultural Processing, the first

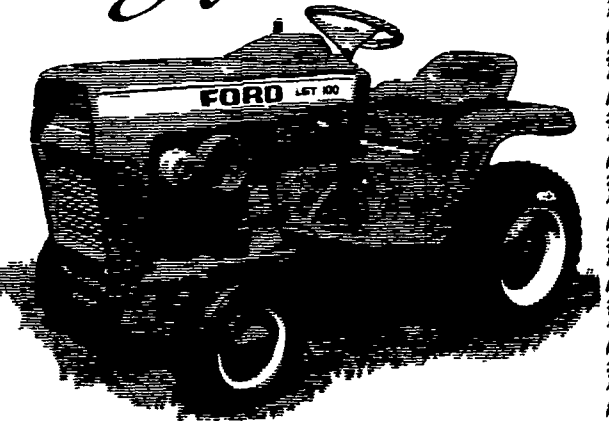
member of the chapter to receive a National Proficiency award. Michael L. Martin also was presented a runner up award for being North Atlantic Region Poultry Proficiency Winner. The highest level of achievement for a Grassland member went to Jacob Musser as he was awarded the American Farmer Degree and also took part in the Stars Over America Pageant representing the North Atlantic Region as Star Agribusinessman. The members were also pleased to see President Ford's nationally televised speech. Leaving Kansas City on Friday morning, the members lost little time, arriving home Saturday night. They were glad to go and as glad to be back.

Dale Burkhardt
News Reporter

Come in and join our

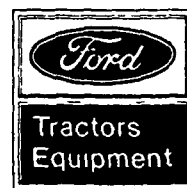
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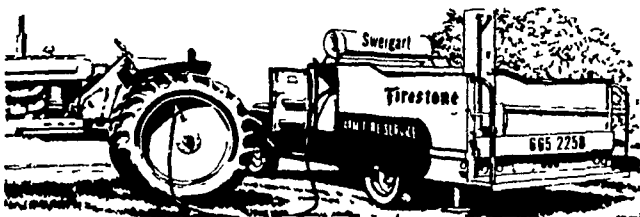
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