

From Local Ag Teachers:



# Thoughts in Passing



**Reflections of FFA Week**  
Dr. William M. Fredd  
In the summer of 1931, 45 years ago, I attended my first FFA week at Penn State as a sophomore in Oxford High School. Since, I have participated two times as a student, and as near as I can figure, 25 times as a teacher of agriculture.

FFA week has had a great influence on my life. That first year I judged livestock and was fortunate enough to place in the top three. This made it possible for me to be on the Pennsylvania team and to judge in the national contest at Kansas City in the fall. I had a feeling I lucked out in the FFA week contest, so I asked my ag. teacher, Seth Burt, for something to brush up on. He gave me a text written by Dr. Charles Plumb; this being the current college text on livestock judging.

Here is where I learned to read, never before did I have a purpose for reading. I briefed the book, first studying the pictures and captions, and then I completely read, reread and studied the book continuously until our trip to Kansas City in October. I placed second in the national contest, just three-tenths of a point behind first place. This second place had a scholarship sponsored by Kansas City Star for attendance for any agricultural college in the United States. So it was this \$300 scholarship that was the encouragement that got me started at Penn State.

I worked on a farm one

year after high school, and with the encouragement of my parents and ag. teacher, I entered Penn State in the fall of 1935. So briefly, this is how FFA week influenced my life and affected my philosophy of FFA week, and perhaps has an effect on Solanco's outstanding accomplishments over the years at FFA week.

This year, Solanco members have won seven gold, seven silver, and an honorable mention awards. Eight of these awards have trips attached, so eight Solanco students will participate in additional and advanced regional or national competition later in the year.

My philosophy of FFA week for Solanco students is that this trip is for those students that have had a good year in our chapter and course work, who have cooperated, are not a discipline problem and have developed proficiency in the contest that he entered. It is said, and I hear grumbling, about Fredd being contest-minded and teaches for contests. There is truth to this, but at the same time isn't this teaching training and developing people. I am simply using these various contests as a motivating device.

Recently, an article in the Pa. Interscholastic Athletic Journal stated, "The best and most proficient teaching in the comprehensive high school today takes place on the athletic field after school hours." If this is true, it is not because of a contest. The

student needs to know the necessary skills and perfect himself if he and the school is going to win. Here the student has a purpose for learning. And this is why I feel that teachers of agriculture have a useful and a powerful motivating device in the use and the incorporation of various FFA contests in his teaching of agriculture.

I attended the 1976 FFA week at Penn State with 27 Solanco members and over 1800 members, teachers, and supervisors from all over Pa. It was a real joy to be a part of this group. The some 1800 future farmers really conducted themselves in an outstanding manner. They were more quiet, smoked less, and the general conduct was definitely improved.

I am proud of Pennsylvania FFA week and thankful for the influence it has had on my life and for the incentive it has given



The third-place dairy cattle judging team in the state is this one from the Cloister FFA Chapter, Ephrata. High man on the team, and second among

220 competitors, was John Weiler, right. Teammates were Sheryl Bollinger and Curtis Martin.

Solanco students. I hope Pennsylvania FFA week can continue to provide motivation and growth for young people in future years.

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## Grange to hear Weber

**WAKEFIELD** - Approximately 80 people attended Fulton Grange's Strawberry and Ice Cream Night on June 14. During the business meeting, it was announced that State and National Grange cookbooks can still be obtained from Mrs. Ruthanne Wood, secretary. Charles McSparren reported that the bus for the July 17 tour of the Gettysburg area is almost filled. People can still sign up for the weekend tour on October 9-10. Glenn Hough and Mrs. Anna Armstrong will be attending Leadership School on June 29 - July 1. Clifford Holloway said anyone interested in going on Wednesday is welcome to go with him.

Harry Baker reported on the Region H Youth Conference held on Sunday, June 13 at Virginville Grange.

Four from Fulton Grange attended and Peggy Galbreath had been selected Region H Youth Princess.

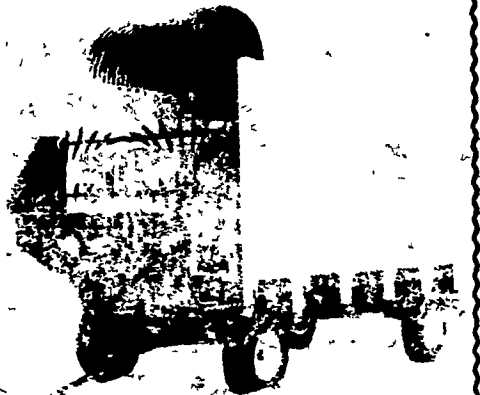
The next meeting, June 28, will be under the direction of the agriculture committee. A hay and haylage contest will be held (rules for this contest are the same as for the Solanco Fair hay contest). The guest speaker will be Raymond Weber, director of public relations at Dairy Council, Inc. in Philadelphia. He will speak on the nutritional aspects of milk products. The public is invited to attend.

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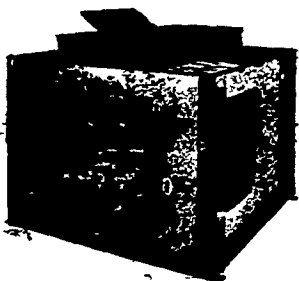
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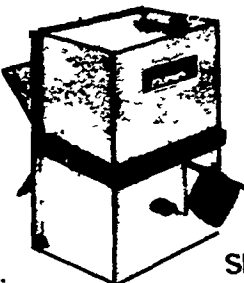


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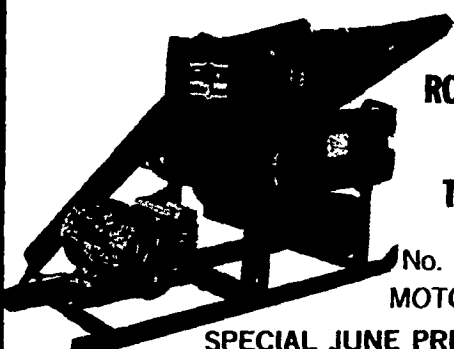
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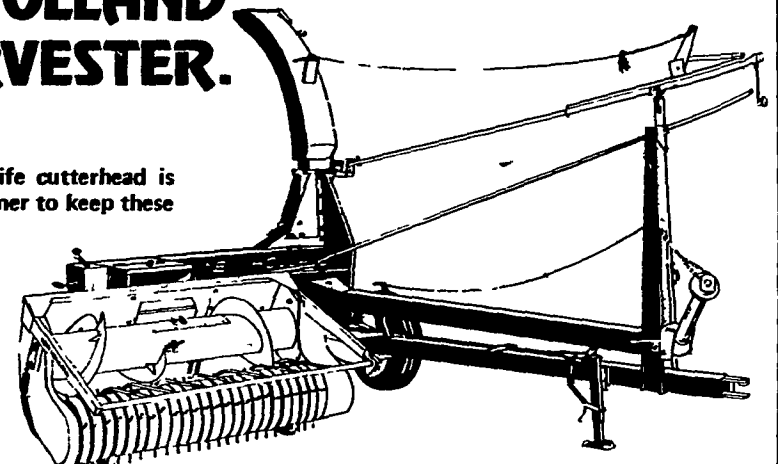
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