

Cloister FFA Chapter

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personal interviews. Final selection is made by the students.

Ayers observed, "We get good support from the school. We are fortunate to have high school administrators who support us. We also have good parental support. In ninth grade we talk with the parents and explain project requirements and what's involved in joining FFA. This year we had 40 ninth graders."

The FFA members themselves are enthusiastic about their chapters and the many achievements they have accomplished. Marvin Fox, Latitz R1, says, "A lot of credit goes to the teachers. We have a teaching base that makes us able to go to contests."

Fox, 17, is in his third year in FFA and is vice-president of the Chapter. "The decision to join FFA wasn't hard for me. I lived on a dairy farm all my life and I'm interested in agriculture. My brother was in FFA." His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fox, milk 42 Holsteins, but Fox says

one advantage of FFA is that "you have all areas of study. You can branch out and learn about many things."

As vice-president, Fox says, "Being an officer gives you an opportunity to see how it is to be in a leadership position. It adds to your responsibility. There is no question that it is helpful to you later on."

Fox sees FFA contests as a "bonus." "When you study, your fulfillment is knowledge. But there is a bonus in the contest." Fox went to the national dairy products contests in his freshman year.

True to FFA tradition, Fox said, "When I went to Kansas City it was the first time I flew, and I make it my goal to try to get out again; to see if I could do as good to go again. County officers are always speaking about setting a goal and working toward it. You may not always make the goal, but you are working toward it and not wandering."

He said FFA Week is a good time to tell about FFA. "A lot of people don't know FFA exists. FFA Week gives people an idea of what goes

on in FFA; what it's all about."

Dave Smith, 14, is in his first year of vocational agriculture and FFA. He comes from a small farm at Denver R2, where his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Smith raise bull calves, hogs and capons.

He said he chose vo-ag because, "I think it will help me in the future. In the 12th grade there is the work experience program, which helps you get you started on a job. I like to be with animals, and I think I will learn a lot of helpful things. Smith has two brothers in FFA, and added, "They kind of helped me along and helped me make the decision."

Smith said, "The vo-ag course helps you get wider knowledge and each year we do something different. It is a lot more than just being a farmer. There are milk products, carpentry, plants and others."

He is planning to participate in the public speaking contest and is looking forward to the leadership opportunities offered through FFA. "FFA

Week is a good way to inform other students," Smith said, "It helps younger students decide if they want to join, and gives them an idea of what goes on."

Mike Pfautz, 15, is also following in his two older brother's footsteps by joining FFA. He said, "They kind of influenced me." Mike lives at Stevens R1 with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Pfautz, where they raise purebred Duroc breeding stock. He said, "I want to be a hog farmer, and I think this is a good place to learn things."

Pfautz is also one of Ephrata's many winners in the national dairy foods contest, having received a bronze emblem in Kansas City. He said, "It was the first time I flew, and it was really interesting. It's nice to go to Kansas City and to get as many chances to go as you can. The convention is interesting and there were good speeches."

He said he feels the public speaking aspect of being a member will be helpful to him, adding, "I like politics and I like to be involved with what's going on in local government."

Pfautz enjoys showing, too, saying, "It's a lot of fun to show, but the animals don't always cooperate with you." Last year he showed reserve champion at the Ephrata Fair. At the Farm Show he had the first and second place pig and earned

first place in his class as showman.

Pfautz is definite, "I wanted to come into FFA ever since I was in the third grade. I want to be a farmer, and FFA helps you to know about so many different things. FFA is a good program, and it is good to tell everybody about it."

Senior Ron Good, 17, is in his fourth year as an FFA member and is currently on the work experience program, employed five hours daily by Shotzberger's in Elm. Good works mostly on small garden tractors, doing almost anything to get them in good working condition, as well as setting up new equipment.

Good said, "FFA is the main reason I have the job. I was in a lot of contests and fairly active. They called and offered me the job." He won the small engine contest at the state, and was first individual at the national contest at Eastern States. "I was also in the ag mechanics

contest and was ninth in the nation in Kansas City."

Work experience is valuable, Good said, "Because it gives students a job and they are learning a trade, doing something useful."

Traveling to Kansas City for the ag mechanics contest was not Good's first trip there. He also went as a freshman on the dairy products team.

Good is now chapter president, after serving one year as vice-president. "You learn to take responsibility, and you learn that if you don't take the initiative, no one else will."

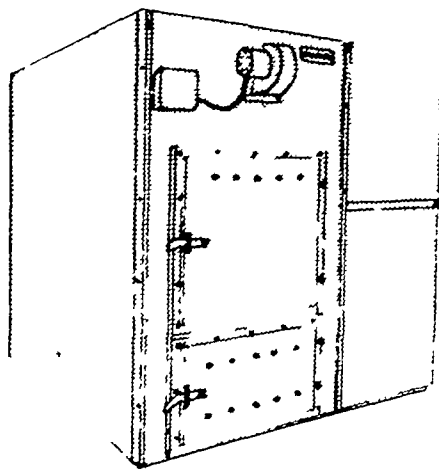
He feels the outside activities are a big plus for the FFA program. "I have been to Penn State for three years and to Kansas City twice. Where else can you get that opportunity?" he asks.

For the Cloister Chapter, FFA week will offer one more opportunity to get involved and tell the community what they're doing.



Ron Good goes to work on a tractor as part of his work experience program. Good is president of Cloister FFA Chapter.

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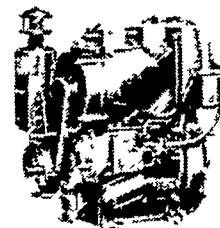
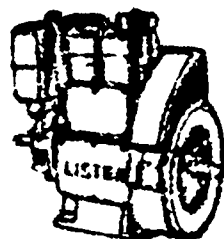
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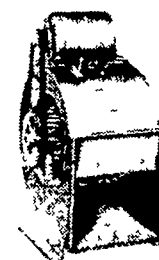
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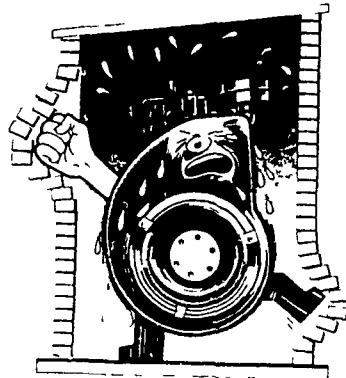


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