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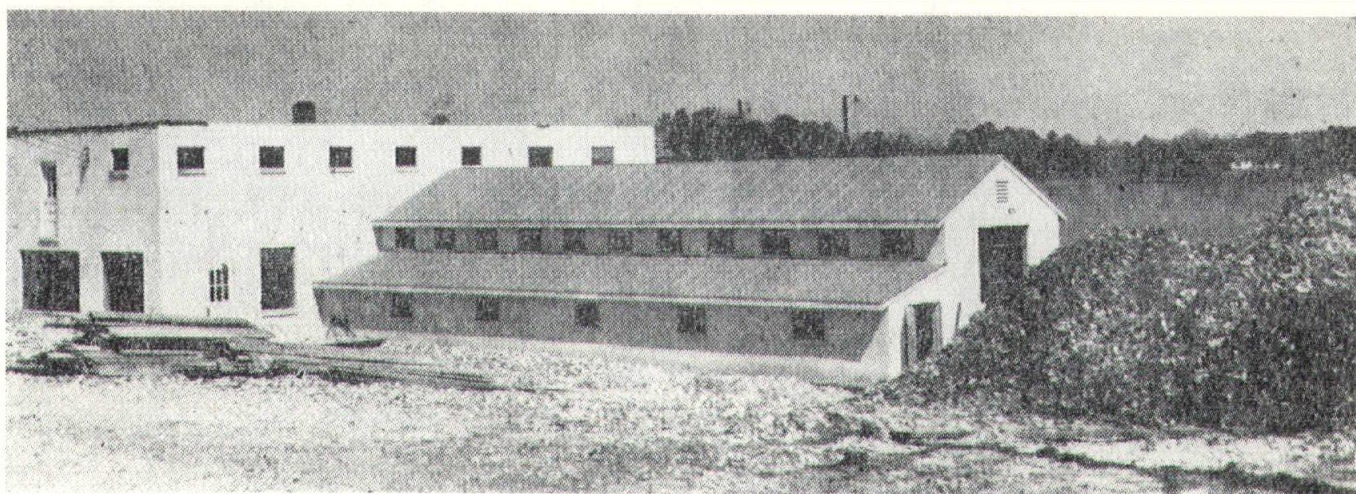
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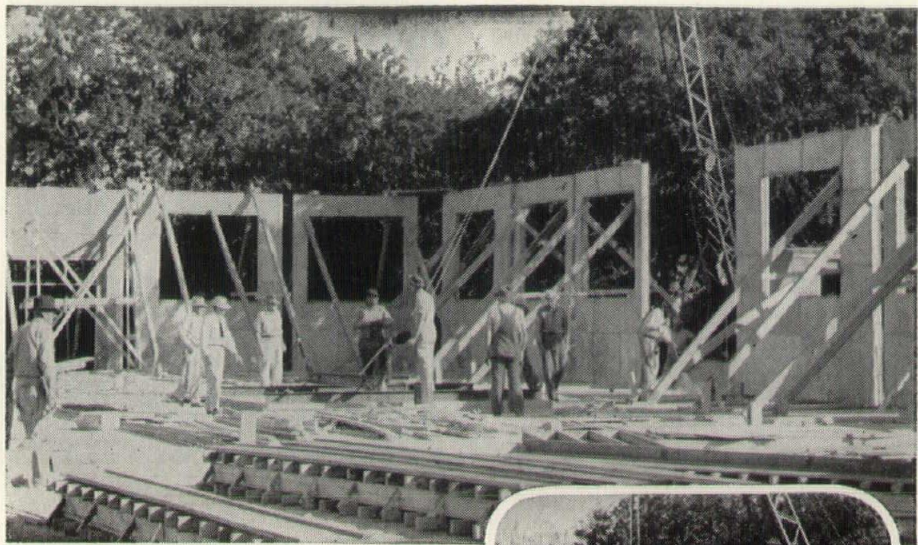


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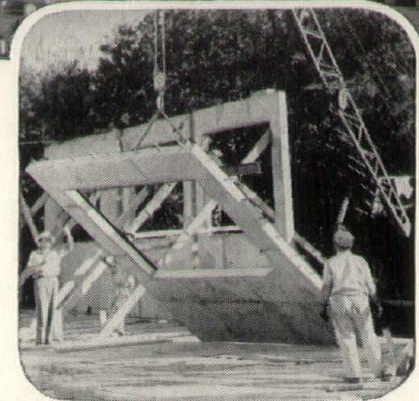
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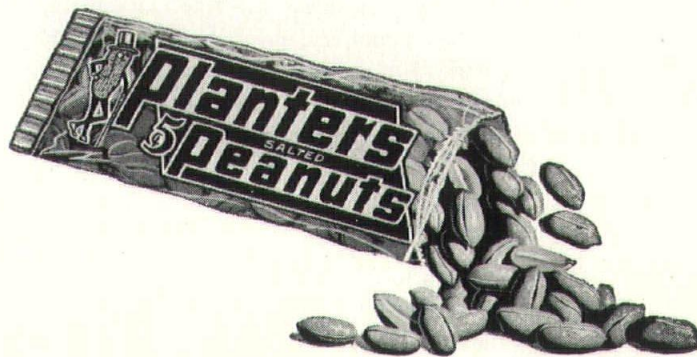
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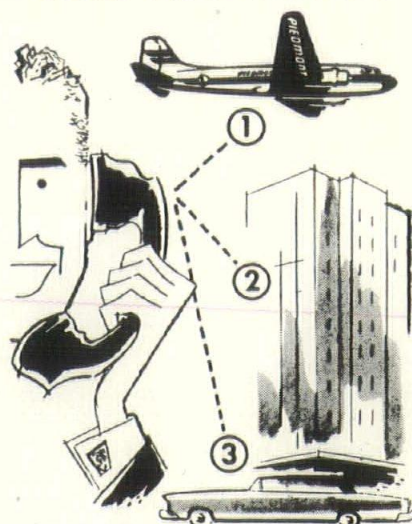
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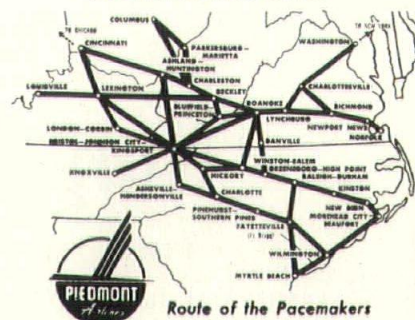


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NUMBER FOUR

## The Virginia Farmer— From Jamestown to Tomorrow

THE EXTREMELY informative article by Mr. Wessells in this issue makes the heartening point of Virginia's modernization of its agriculture, with special emphasis on the adaptation to new trends, new conditions, new demands.

The Virginia farmer (as with all Southern farmers) suffered more disruption through the Civil War and its aftermath than any other national economic group experienced from any single cause, and for generations primary survival required a concentration that caused our farmers to appear somewhat backward—or, at the least, non-progressive—in comparison with other fields and other sections.

Yet, during the appearance of comparative backwardness, the farmer was making his own sizable contribution to the perpetuation of the Virginia character and economic pattern.

Back in the early parts of this century, when country cousins were called "green," and were supposedly naive bumpkins in contrast to urban sophisticates, their homes on farms provided one of the deepest and most poignant impressions on visitors from the cities; and the lasting memories from these visits contributed incalculably to a sense of perpetuation of a pattern of life then entering its fourth century.

There are few Virginians born before World War I who were so unfortunate

as not to have experienced these summer visits. You went in a surry or buggy from a wooden depot over a rutted dirt road, with the sound of wheels crunching in the gravelly earth and the hot fragrance of vines and fields and shadowed woods. As Cervantes said, "The road is more important than the inn"—or, the journey more important than the destination—the ride behind a sturdily trotting horse was in itself an event to be savored, and it never entered anyone's mind that he should look at a watch to discover if sufficient speed was being made so as to reach the destination, in oblivion to the trip, on a pre-arranged schedule evolved from x miles in x hours.

Railroads ran on schedules (more or less), not people.

Then, the final approach to the white farmhouse sprawling in a shady grove represented not an achievement in the conquest of space, at which you would slowly evolve relaxation from the tensions of the drive, but a climax to the mounting, almost unbearable, anticipation. No strangers ushered you toward the reviving balm of a hot bath, cold shower, and long drink. Warm-faced intimates greeted you in the expectation that you had reached the climactic hour where the hosts and guests could scarcely wait to begin the enjoyment of the reunion.



Then, as the journey had been savored, the visitor began what seemed an endless period of experiencing new wonders. Of course, viewed from perspective, the wonders were very simple.

There was the well from which to draw up the icy water, and there was the buttermilk cooled in the well; there was the limitless feast of fried chicken for mid-day dinner and six o'clock supper, and at breakfast came the country sausage—preceded by half an orange, a bowl of oatmeal, and accompanied by eggs, fried tomatoes, home-fried potatoes, and batter-bread or cornpones.

There was the tangy smell of the barn and the privilege of being allowed to help harness Dobbin, or even to essay some bareback riding. A turn at milking Bossy came at the end of the day, after

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The cover shows contour plowing—a path to agriculture's future. (Photo by Soil Conservation Service—USDA) All agriculture photographs supplied by the Virginia Department of Agriculture.

This issue is dedicated to the farmers of Virginia



# For Farmers—

## A Vital New Tool

by PARKE C. BRINKLEY, *Virginia's Commissioner of Agriculture*

WHEN MY FATHER and his grandfather before him began digging a living from Virginia's farm soils, all a man needed was a strong back, a strong wife, a strong mule, and a strong reliance on tradition. Farming was an avocation handed down from father to son.

When I started to farm things changed. The strong back was still a necessary asset, but no mule was as strong as a tractor and a wife was not expected to pitch hay alongside of her husband.



THIS, I SUPPOSE, was the beginning of the Virginia farmer's reliance on the most important tool he has today—that tool is not a piece of his farm machinery or a curiously shaped piece of metal from his farm shop. That tool is something that is free to him if he will only take advantage of it. That tool is information.

The farmer today needs information even before he starts to farm. A test of his soil to see what plant nutrients it lacks may be the difference between profit and loss in his entire year's operation. The identification of some minute mineral missing may mean that the crop is not worth getting in.

EXPERT ADVICE on a bug or a weed or a pestilence may save him from ruin. The latest information on what other farmers are doing elsewhere and the impact of their activities on the market may mean the difference between selling his crop at a time when prices are high enough to give him a profit or selling

it when prices have plummeted and the market is glutted and he hardly makes the cost of shipping.

In today's scientific farming, information may be a matter of life and death in the scientific raising of poultry. It may be the difference between staying in and getting out of the business of feeding beef cattle. The information on the aids that various state and federal agencies can give him may mean the difference between the youngster finding a successful way of life on the farm or deciding the city office offers more security.

YET SOMETIMES this vitally important tool—information—is hard to come by or hard to understand. There is so much information about so many facets of farming, the farmer cannot hope to unravel it all in the few hours that he has for reading and assimilation on the farm.

So it is vital I think that someone every now and then sit back and take a look and ask the question: where have we been and where are we going in the great business of agriculture?

And then it is vitally important that the farmer take a new set of bearings and make sure that he is going with the tide of farming today and not attempting a hazardous swim across the current or attempting to buck as strong a flow as today's stream of agriculture is generating.

BECAUSE AS HARD AS THE last few years have been in terms of adjustments to new and different things, one thing and one thing only is sure in my mind: not in my time will a man again be able to turn over to his son a strong back, a strong mule, and a set of rules for farming. Change is the order of the day. The farmer who changes with the times will remain in farming; the farmer who does not or cannot will fall by the wayside. The difference between the two will be the degree to which they use the most important tool in farming today—information.



# For Agriculture— Guideposts For The Future

by JOHN H. WESSELLS, JR.

PATRICK HENRY said that his only guide to the future was the past. His time for Virginia farmers to take leaf from Patrick Henry's book.

For just as surely as some of Patrick Henry's better known words heralded the revolution almost 200 years ago, the signs of another revolution with roots as deep and effects as wide are to be found in the immediate past of Virginia's agriculture.

An historian might call it a five point revolution—all the points are known to many but few have put them in proper perspective.

The first is well enough known, fewer farms and farmers, a big shift away from the soil and into town for steady wages, shorter hours, and escape from the violent ups and downs of weather and price back in the country. Yet with farms cut from 200,000 to 135,000 in 20 years and farmers cut by a third in numbers, those who remained still were able to turn out almost 20% more food and fiber, five and a half millions tons a year.

One big reason for this is the second trend in agriculture in Virginia, a big shift away from row crops with their big labor requirements and large investments in machinery, and toward cattle, where grass and a little purchased feed will do the job. The trend has been even more heavily to poultry, where the application of industry's mass production techniques have created broiler and turkey factories, with minute attention to production costs and production techniques. Industrial engineering has brought glistening stainless steel overhead traveling lines to the poultry processing plant.

But first to beef. In 20 years the number of brood cows in Virginia has increased almost ten-fold from 37,000 to over 350,000.

The shift has not only been dramatic in numbers but in type of operation. Farms that used to raise big heavy steers for market now produce feeder calves that are sold to mid-west feed lots. In more recent years the trend is to feed these calves in our own eastern Virginia commercial corn areas, to keep those beef dollars here at home and to feed Virginians with Virginia's own top quality beef and beef products.

The other side of the cattle cycle is milk and dairy products. Here the signs of the times are taking a different bent. Milk cow numbers have only increased slightly since 1930, about 12%, but milk production has grown by leaps and bounds. Bossy has become a scientific study in milk production, where feeds, blood lines, size and weight, and any number of other characteristics are carefully weighed before she goes into the milking herd.

Hogs, the mortgage raisers, have had their ups and downs, following the

historic hog cycle and the price of corn which more often than not determines the price of hogs. In 25 years hog numbers have gone to a peak of nearly a million head and then dropped off to about 600,000 head, just a little above the 1930 level.

For sheep, it has been a more gradual down and a more recent up as Virginia sheepmen got the jump on the national trend in sheep numbers, steadily declining since the 1930's. In Virginia the up-turn came just before the 1950's and has moved slowly upwards, particularly in areas not usually noted for sheep production, in northern Virginia and central Virginia.

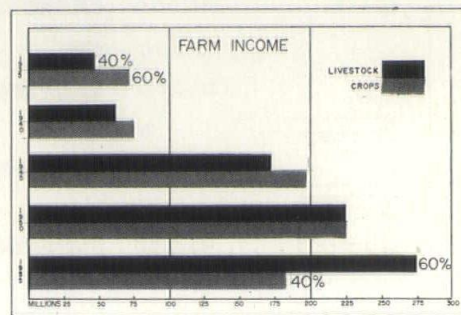
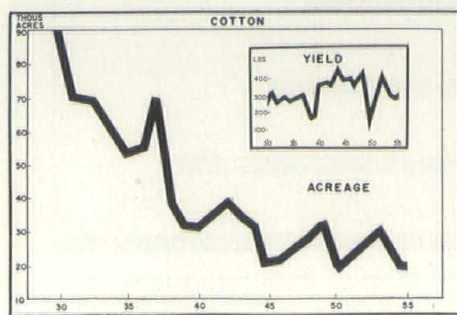
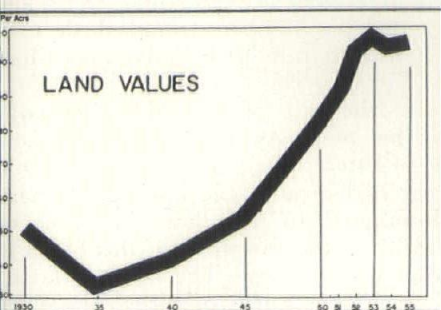
Always, an economic revolution is a conglomeration of new devices, methods, ideas, and machines and so it is with the trends in Virginia's agriculture. Along with more cattle and less labor have come improved pastures. Virginia's open pasture acres now are slightly smaller than they were in 1930 in the aggregate, and yet today they support nearly a million and a half head of cattle where they supported only 800,000 head 20 years ago.

From the crop side of the sign posts of the past, most notable has been the decline of King Cotton in Virginia. Once vying with tobacco for acres in the Southland, cotton has become a very minor crop, produced in quantity only in two Virginia counties and overshadowed even in those by other crops and livestock.

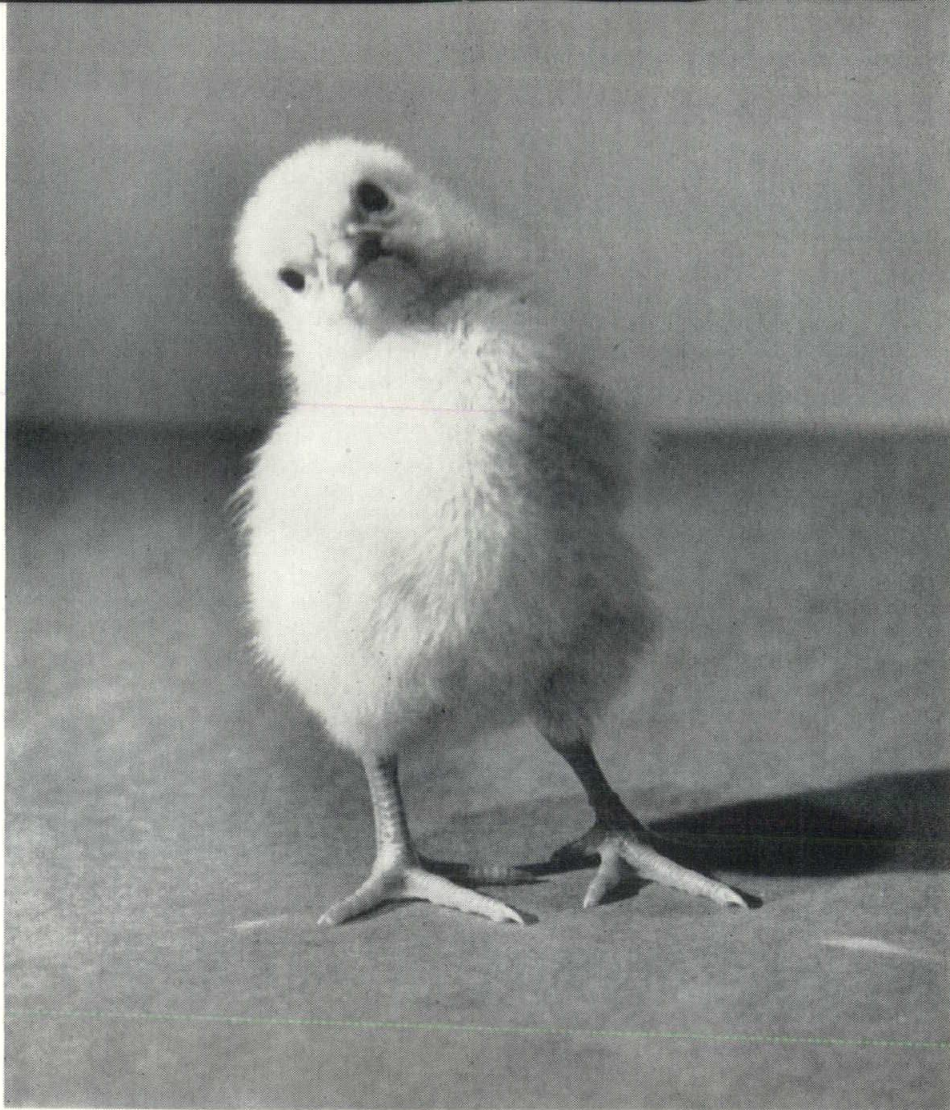
Cotton in 25 years has dropped from over 100,000 acres to less than 20,000, whipped down by that old Boll Weevil and a shortage of hands to do the picking. Another old time staple, potatoes, has dropped to a fourth of its acreage in the 30's. Replaced by greens and truck crops here and buffeted by stiff competition from other states and the



Once a king on the land, cotton is now a minor Virginia crop.

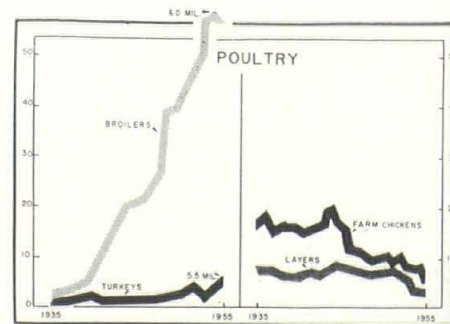






(Jack McManigal photo)

*This youngster questions his own increase in numbers, 60 times as many as 25 years ago.*



areas there, potatoes have steadily dropped in stature as a Virginia crop.

But field crops do have an historic champion in recent years. An upstart from the Orient with a new found bonanza in industrial uses, soybeans. Eaten as a staple food in the Orient, the soybean in America has found 100 uses as a source of oil, feed for livestock and even as a basic ingredient in margarine, substitute for another farm crop.

Close around Virginia's port of Hampton Roads has sprung up this prolific plant, adapting itself to Virginia's climate and to the farm machinery already on hand to harvest the grains. With minor adjustments the combine can switch from wheat or oats or barley over to soybeans.

With a port close by and big export demand, Virginia soybeans find an advantage over the bigger acreages in the mid-west, and soybean acreages in Virginia have jumped from 15,000 to over 200,000 in the space of 25 years.

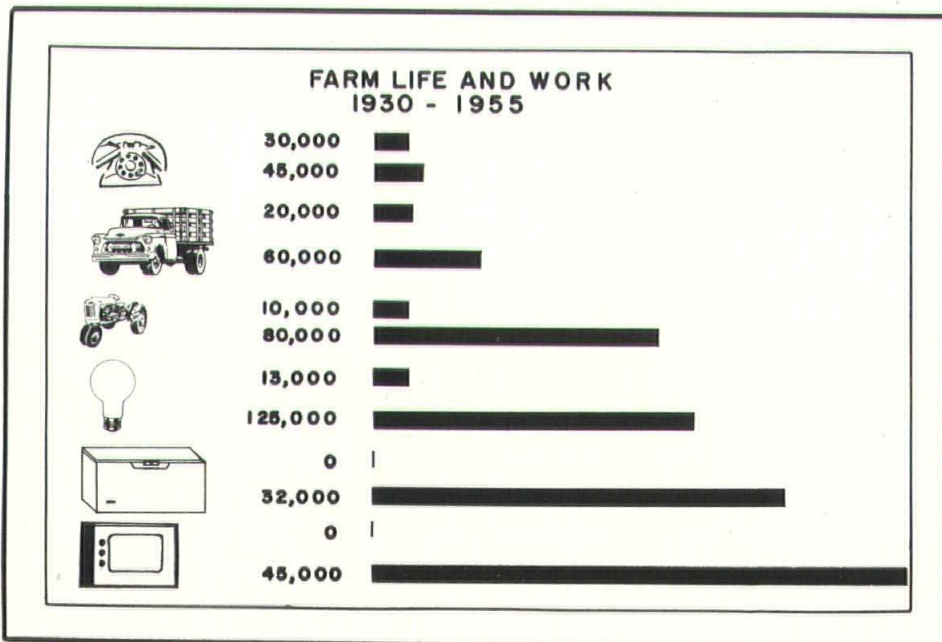
But the most fantastic trend of all has made a new income king out of the lowly chicken. From small flocks of hens and gobblers scratching around the back yards of Virginia's farm land, broilers and turkeys, together with eggs, have made themselves the number one source of farm income. Twenty years ago, less than a million commercial broilers were raised in the Commonwealth. Today, nearly 60 million are turned out from production line plants, many of them financed, managed, and staffed by the feed industry.

#### TURKEY ALL YEAR ROUND

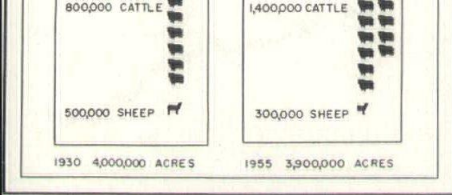
The same techniques have made the turkey a year-round bird instead of a Thanksgiving or Christmas treat and jumped his numbers from a little over a half million in 1930 to five and a half million in 1955.

It's the case of the old giving away to the new. As broilers and turkey skyrocketed, the farm chickens that scratched around the back doors have plummeted to new lows in numbers.

Still on the threshold of this boom in poultry is the egg. The oldtime laying flock of a handful of birds—the farm







homemaker's egg money — is giving place to caged layers and scientifically designed houses, carefully bred flocks and industry-financed egg establishments which promise to make the tasty oval the third member of Virginia's poultry triumvirate.

A revolution once started knows no bounds, and Virginia's trends in agriculture generate more trends. More livestock and more poultry inevitably mean more feed of one sort or another. Here again the trends of recent years point the way to the farmer for tomorrow's operations.

Among the feed grains, acreage of corn has drastically dropped, and so has acreage of wheat, but increasing yields per acre have kept production up. Corn hybrids have jumped from only a small percentage to over 90% of Virginia's corn plantings. Today the farmer can find a corn with a short stalk or a long stalk or a big ear or a small ear, early maturing or late maturing, or anything in between that he needs to operate his crop rotation in his own best interest and each will give him far more silage or grain per acre than the old open pollinated varieties that his father and grandfather grew. In wheat, the drop in acreage and rising yield have not quite balanced out and production has declined, but to replace this grain, oats and barley both have jumped in acreage, yield, and production.

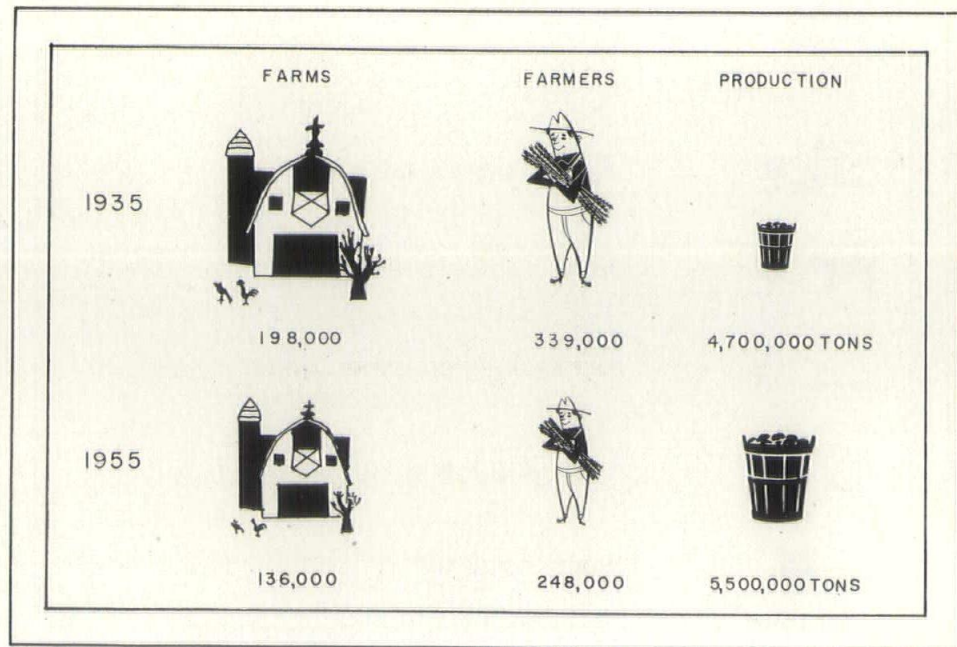
#### HAY PRODUCTION JUMPS

But feed can be divided other ways, and so it has been on the sign posts of Virginia's past. To accommodate more livestock, hay production has jumped from less than a million to almost two million tons a year and even this, in the trends of the past, needs further breaking down. The traditional native clover timothy mixtures have been declining as hay source. In their place has come phenomenal rise of alfalfa as a spring hay crop with its three and sometimes four cuttings. In the fall, lespedeza has come to round out the hay picture and

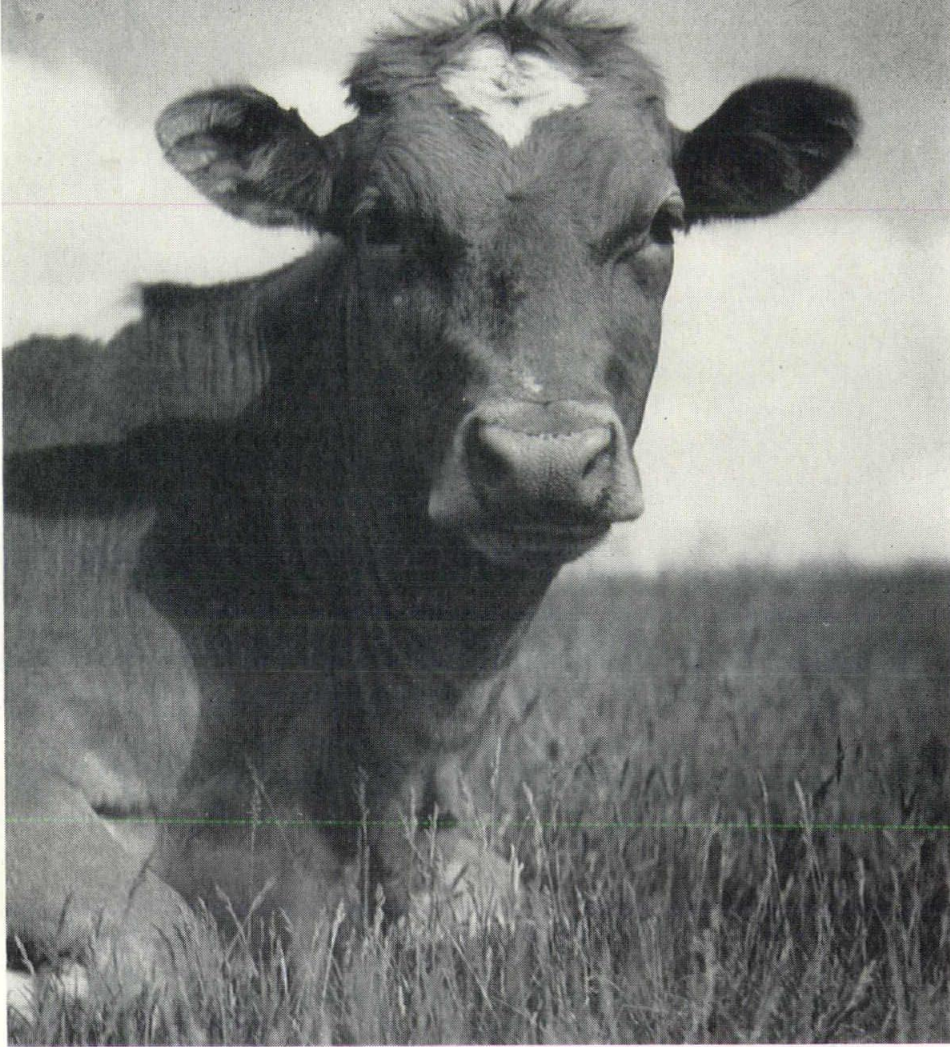


(A. M. Wettach photo)

*Sheep numbers have turned upwards in Virginia while the nation's are still declining.*

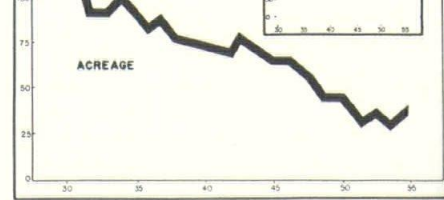






(J. W. McManigal photo)

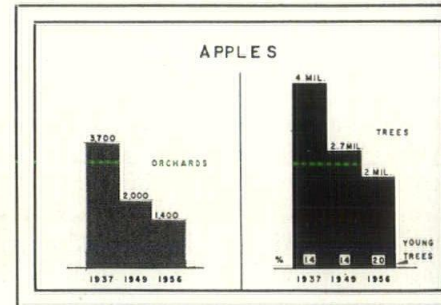
*The trend is toward a few more cows but much more milk per cow.*



insure against weather losses early in the season.






The dairymen's staple feed, ensilage corn, has held relatively steady to accommodate the relatively steady number of Virginia milk cows. But reflecting scientific feeding of larger animals and tremendous expansions of poultry, commercial feeds have filled in all the gaps their use jumping from 200,000 tons to almost a million and a quarter tons in a quarter of a century.

There have been other sign posts



guide the farmer of the future. The crop that made the Old Dominion tobacco, points up a few lessons. In the long pull, the leaf that went into cigarettes has shown the most consistent returns. Flue cured acreage, dipping down in the 1920's and 30's, has moved back up to accommodate the boom in cigarette consumption brought on by World War II and subsequent prosperity. Even larger proportionately, although the total acreage is smaller, has been the advance of burley. Suflue cured, now a small slice of the tobacco

TRENDS - 1930 - 1955

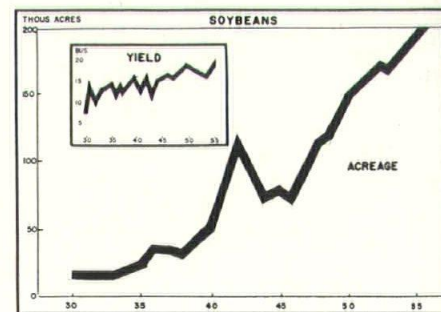
FEWER FARMS & FARMERS

MORE CATTLE & POULTRY

SHIFTS IN PRODUCTION AREAS

LESS COTTON & POTATOES

MORE SOYBEANS

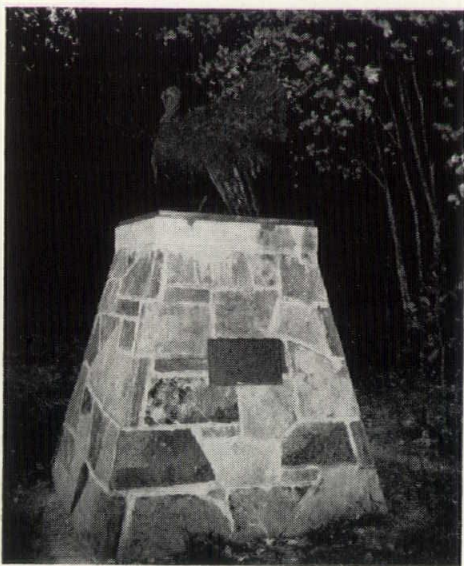




dollar, remains small as chewing remains a small portion of tobacco consumption. Fire cured, a dark and heavy leaf, shows a trend steadily down in acreage.

Even more recently, individual types and grades of tobacco have shown signs of the future. The filter cigarette has brought a demand for heavier, stronger medium grades of tobacco and strangely left high quality bright leaf in storage.

Virginia's giant apple industry, once counted out by the rest of agriculture, shows in recent years the signs of a come-back. Orchards have dropped in number from 3,700 to 1,400 since 1937, apple trees have been cut in half from four to two million in the same period, yet the percentage of young trees of new, more marketable varieties has increased from 14 to 20% of total trees,



(Va. Dept. of Agriculture photo)

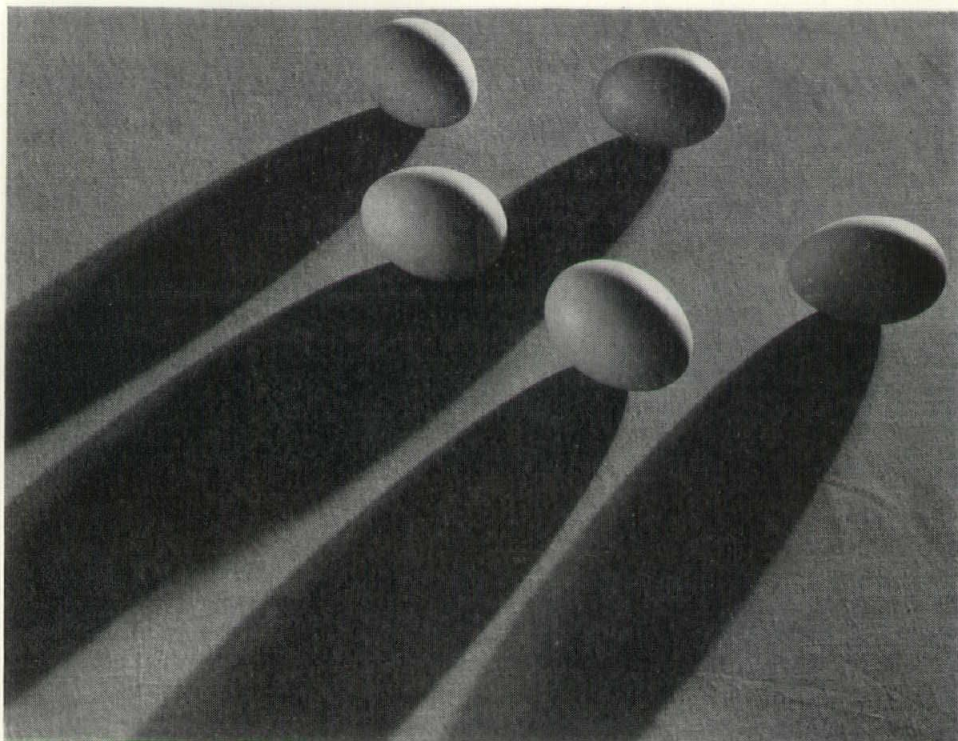
*Rockingham County, leading turkey producer among all U. S. counties, has erected this monument to its famous product.*

showing that the larger more efficient orchard still has confidence in the future of fruit as a farming enterprise.

Peanuts, a 15 million dollar crop, has suffered from acreage cuts for the past few years, but the trend in more recent ones is up again as the demand increases for Virginia's big, eating type nut. Yields in the last few years have dropped, not for lack of science or of farming know-how, but for lack of moisture and a spate of hurricanes.

Perhaps the greatest ups and downs have come in the field of greatest gamble in agriculture, truck crops. Vegetables, booming in the late 30's and through the war years, have tried to find a level but without success. Total acreage of all vegetables stands now at its 1935 level with drastic recent

*to tell the Virginia Story*



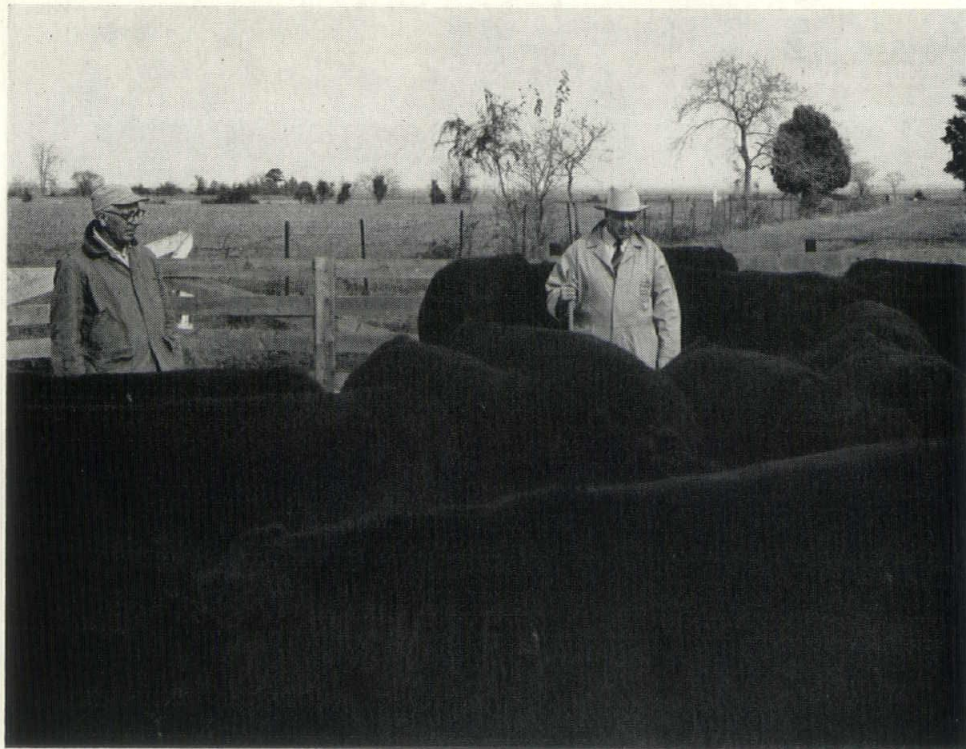
(J. W. McManigal photo)

*Eggs cast a long income shadow into Virginia's poultry future.*

drops in tomato acreage, lesser downward adjustments in snapbeans, continued drop in strawberries, but a rise in cucumbers. There are also upward trends in sweet corn, lettuce, and other attempts by the truck farmer to spread his luck over a larger number of gambles.

Still another evidence of revolution, another sign of the times, has been the shift of crops not only in ups and downs of local acreage but in areas in the state, a trend towards producing crops and livestock where they can be brought to market most efficiently.

*(Continued on page 33)*



(Va. Dept. of Agriculture photo)

*Cattle are still increasing on Virginia's green pastures.*

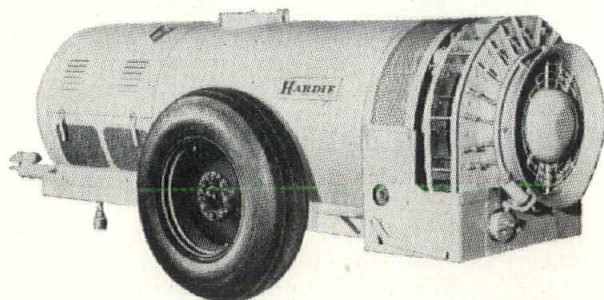


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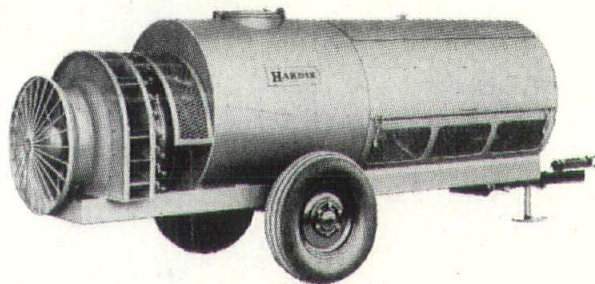
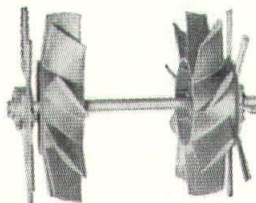
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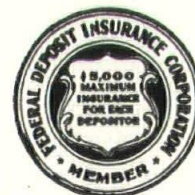
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# VIRGINIA BUSINESS REVIEW

By WILLIAM BIEN

Business Editor, *The Richmond News Leader*

THE ECONOMIC FORECASTERS had predicted a decline in new plant construction. Tight money, uncertain sales, things like that.

But forecasters, like weathermen, have been wrong before—and it appears they've misread the economic barometer for Virginia.

The evidence: a \$100,000,000 industrial building program underway throughout the state, according to figures compiled by the State Division of Planning and Economic Development.

New projects planned for completion this year or later range from a comparatively few thousand to the \$20,000,000 expansion program at Union Bag-Camp Paper Corporation in Southampton County at Franklin.

Included among the largest are the \$15,000,000 plant going up near Williamsburg for Dow Chemical Company, a \$10,000,000 office building for Reynolds Metals Co. in Henrico county near Richmond; a \$10,000,000 research and development center for Thompson

Products, Inc., in Franklin county; and a \$7,000,000 distribution center for Western Electric Company in Arlington county.

## NAMES IN THE NEWS . . .

*James H. Price, Jr.*, son of the late Virginia Governor, has resigned his post as associate alumni secretary of Washington & Lee University to become assistant sales manager of the Hopper Paper Company in Richmond. . . .

*A. Churchill Young, Jr.*, has been appointed treasurer of the Virginia Institute for Scientific Research in Richmond, succeeding *Dr. Robert H. Kean*, who has moved to Charlottesville. Young is president of E. M. Todd Company, packers and curers of ham and bacon. . . .

*Edward James McCarty*, a graduate of Washington & Lee University and formerly on the staff of the State Bureau of Banking, has been elected assistant cashier of Southern Bank and Trust Company in Richmond. . . .

*James E. Cornett*, formerly manager of Southern States Bristol Cooperative,



(Dementi Studio)

*George W. Jones, Jr.*

has been named manager of Southern States Richmond Cooperative. A native of Grayson County, he attended the National Business College in Roanoke. . . .

*George Wesley Jones, Jr.*, a native of Norfolk and former administrative assistant to the director of tuberculosis control in the State Health Department, has been named Solite representative for the western halves of Virginia and North Carolina by the Southern Lightweight Aggregate Corporation. . . .

The *Powers Regulator Company* of Skokie, Ill., has opened a branch office in Richmond to serve southern Virginia and has appointed *Jack B. Porter*, formerly with the company in Washington, as branch manager. . . .

*Z. B. Harrell* has been named assistant general freight agent for the Seaboard Air Line Railroad. . . .

*Grayson F. Holt* of Galax, formerly cashier and executive vice-president of the Merchants and Farmers Bank in Galax, has been elected vice-president and chief administrative officer for the new Bank of Henrico which will have headquarters in Sandston and a branch in Highland Springs. . . .

*Rutherford H. Spessard, Jr.*, a timber broker with West Virginia Pulp and Paper Co. the past 10 years, has been named executive vice-president and a



"The Fourth Quarter Touchdown" Retail Ford Tractor Sales Campaign was recently conducted among the 73 Ford Tractor and Implement Dealers in the Distributor territory of Universal Tractor-Equipment Corporation, Richmond, Virginia. The dealers are located throughout the states of Virginia and Eastern North Carolina.

Upon conclusion of the Sales Campaign, Mr. Ralph L. Goldston, Vice President and General Manager, Universal Tractor-Equipment Corporation, announced the following winners and their respective awards:

Mr. Howard L. Anglin, Jr., Farmville, Virginia, who is a District Manager for Universal, was awarded a 1957 Ford Tudor Sedan automobile. Mr. Anglin won the new automobile as a result of his particular dealers' selling accomplishments. Mr. Anglin's district finished in first place in the competition among six other districts in Universal's Distributorship area.

Three Ford Tractor and Implement Dealers each received a 21" Color Television Set. The dealerships, which won the Color Television Sets, are: MacGregor Tractor Company, Inc., Charlottesville, Virginia; Bedford Motors Corporation, Bedford, Virginia, and Town and Country Equipment Company, Brookneal, Virginia.

"The Fourth Quarter Touchdown" Retail Tractor Sales Campaign was conducted between October 1, and December 10, 1956. Universal Tractor-Equipment Corporation's dealer organization set new tractor sales records which resulted in the Distributorship finishing in first place in the Atlanta Region of the Tractor and Implement Division, Ford Motor Company, and also in first place nationally.



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of the Old Dominion  
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*and*

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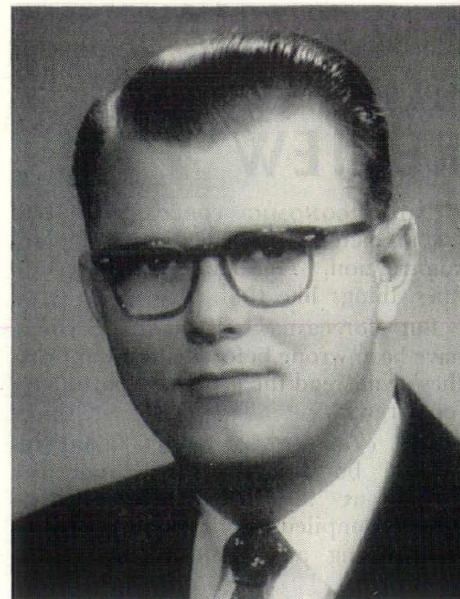
director of the Allied Equipment Co. Inc., of Richmond. . .

*H. R. Humphreys, Jr.*, of White Stone, has been elected president of the Virginia Fishermen's Association. Other new officers are *R. L. Haynie, Jr.*, of Reedville, vice-president; *W. A. Mercer*, of White Stone, secretary-treasurer, and *Ammion G. Dunton* of White Stone, general counsel. . .

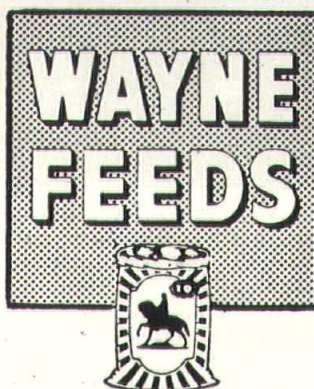
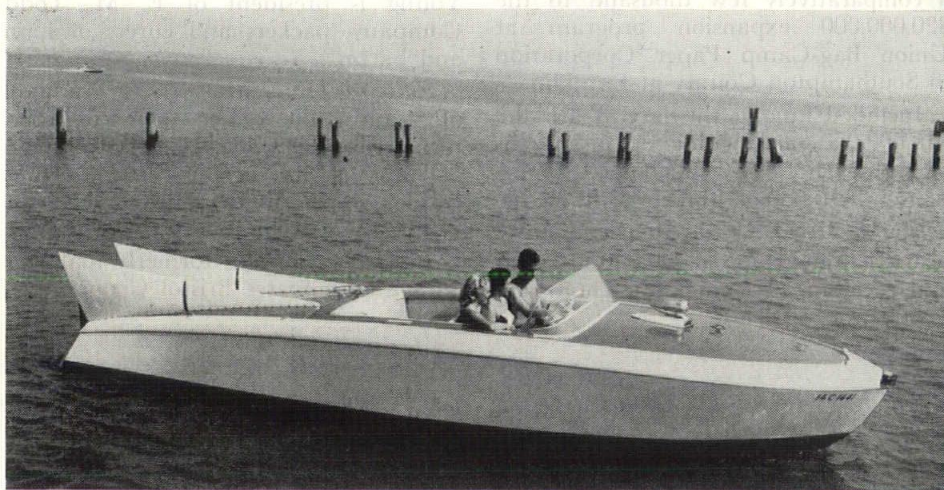
THIS AND THAT . . .

A Virginian—Newton Ancarrow of Richmond—has designed and built a boat that is winning nationwide attention.

His craft, shown below, the result of extensive experiments and tests in the Rappahannock river near Tappahannock, is called the Ancarrow "Aquilifer." It's a 24-foot luxury runabout that has attained the "impossible"—speeds of up to 65 miles per hour in perfect safety.



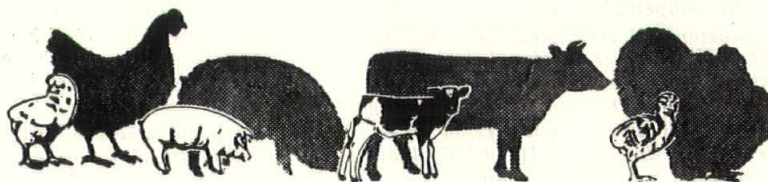
*James E. Cornett, manager of  
Southern States Richmond Cooperative*



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**JOHN SMITH SPEAKS FOR HIMSELF**—Chesapeake and Ohio Railway is helping promotion on the "Jamestown Festival," 350th anniversary of the first permanent English settlement in the New World. To impress its passenger representatives with the importance of this event, C&O invited "Captain John Smith" to attend the passenger traffic department's staff meeting recently at The Greenbrier Hotel, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va. Captain Smith, it turned out, was Christian Munt, sales manager for Richmond Hotels, Inc. Mr. Munt tells about his 350 years as an historic character to John G. Metz, assistant passenger traffic manager of the C&O. The Jamestown Festival will run from April 1 to November 30. Highlights include a re-enactment of the arrival of the colonists on May 13, 1607 in the tiny ships, Susan Constant, Godspeed and Discovery; the International Naval Review in Hampton Roads of warships from a score of foreign navies, June 8-17 and re-enactment of the Battle of Yorktown, October 18-19.

The Virginia Electric and Power Co., which spent \$44,500,000 last year for construction to meet present and anticipated demands, will spend \$70,000,000 more this year for the same purpose, according to E. H. Will, president. . .

\* \* \*

The Virginia Hospital Service Association has awarded a \$484,236 contract for construction of a new office in west end Richmond to serve as headquarters for the Blue Cross and Blue Shield health plans. The general contractor will be the J. Kennon Perrin Co. of Richmond. . .

\* \* \*

Virginia nonfarm employment now exceeds a million for the first time in history, according to Edmond M. Boggs, state commissioner of labor and industry. He credits "exuberance" in both wholesale and retail establishments. . .

\* \* \*

A Virginia firm—Southern Printing Ink—announced formation of a subsidiary to build a new plant in Middletown, Ohio, to manufacture inks for the midwest area. The firm headed by F. Gresham Wall was formed in 1952.

\* \* \*

A fellowship for study of color removal from waste in paper-mill streams has been established at Virginia Polytechnic Institute by West Virginia Pulp and Paper Co.

\* \* \*

The Pacific Mills division of Burlington Industries transferred its headquarters last month from Greensboro, N.C., to Halifax. The division has three Virginia plants — at Brookneal, Drakes Branch and Clarksville.

*Best Wishes to the Virginia*

*Department of Agriculture*

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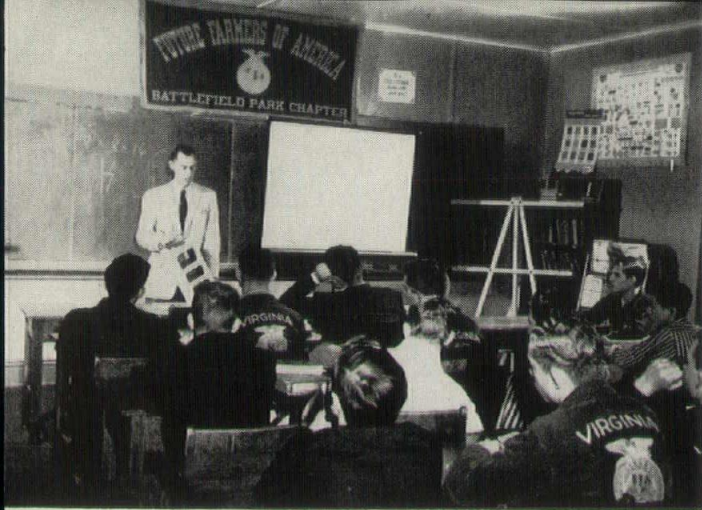
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John Mitchell, Executive-Secretary of the Virginia Concrete Masonry Association is shown here displaying a concrete block to some Future Farmers of America.

Authorized by the State Board of Education to lecture to the vocational agriculture classes in the schools of Virginia, Mr. Mitchell lectures on farm construction of concrete masonry. He demonstrates this durable and versatile material by showing slides of actual production in farm building. The students have commented on the invaluable aid this instruction will mean to them in their future farming years.



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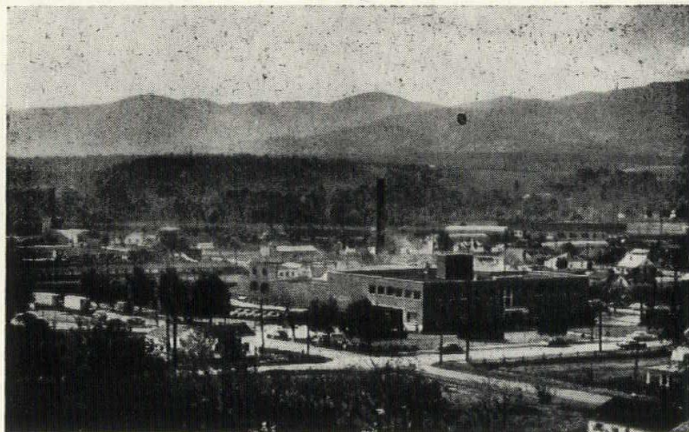
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FARMERS are increasingly turning their thoughts and attention away from Washington as they look for solution to the problems that confront American agriculture. It is indeed a hopeful sign for the future when farm people recognize that many of these problems can be solved by local and state action through their Farm Bureau organization.

One of the principal causes of the decline in farm net income and of the 25 years of recurring surpluses has been an over supply of legislative attempts to solve economic troubles by political action. Now that more and more farmers are recognizing that economic ills can be corrected only by the application of economic remedies, there is good reason to believe that farmers may expect to share equitably in the current level of national prosperity in the years ahead.

The recent national election demonstrated that farmers' votes were not for sale. Candidates who promised government price fixing or large subsidy payments to farmers were not supported on these issues at the polls by rural people. For all practical purposes, the argument over the level of price supports is a dead issue. The way is now clear for farm people to develop a constructive economic approach to the changing conditions in our industry.

Eighty-one percent of the decline in farm net income during recent years was due to increased costs of farm operation. National legislation can do little if anything, to reduce these costs. Rather than seeking legislation to delay the application of needed changes in farming, we should, through our local organization, do everything we can to help farmers make shifts in their production and speed up the application of improved cost-reducing methods to their operations. Working together, farmers can accelerate the application of new technical knowledge and thus eliminate inefficiencies in their business.

There are many ways in which County Farm Bureau groups can attack the major factors that contribute to the rapidly increasing costs of farming. Farm property taxes have increased at a rapid rate and now bear a disproportionate share of the costs of local government. Practically every County Farm Bureau in the United States has need for a program of local tax study and action. The rising cost of marketing farm products is one of the reasons for the everwidening spread between the prices consumers pay and those received by farmers. Many County Farm Bureaus will find that there is need for improved local marketing practices and facilities.

# agriculture

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## what it needs

By CHARLES B. SHUMAN,  
*President, American Farm Bureau  
Federation*

Condensed from an address  
and reprinted from

*Industrial News Review*

Most farmers recognize the need for the undertaking of farm problems by urban people. Our state and national organizations can carry on public relations work but the most effective way to influence consumers' thinking is through organized local action. Never before have we had so many areas of need for action by County Farm Bureau organizations.

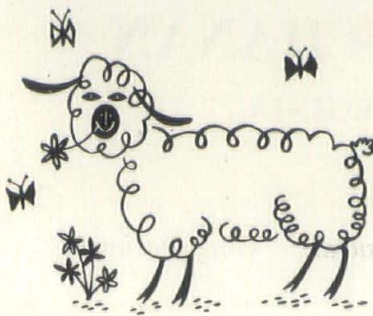
During recent months, many people have expressed concern for the future of the family farm. Many legislative proposals have been made to subsidize or otherwise encourage family farm operators to stay on the farm. The objective of the American Farm Bureau Federation is to constantly improve the opportunities for farm families to earn a satisfactory standard of living and to share equitably in the current high level of economic prosperity. For purposes of this discussion, I am assuming that a family farm is one in which the farm family has management control of the operation, depends on the farm for its main source of income, and actually engages in farm work. I do not agree with the premise that family farms are disappearing. Actually 97 percent of the farms in the United States are family operation units and there has been no

significant decrease in this high proportion of family farms during the last 20 to 30 years. The family farm unit has become larger and more productive and requires fewer hired workers than ever before. American agriculture is predominantly a family business.

Farmers have made great progress during recent years, but there are many opportunities for further improvement. According to the 1954 census of agriculture, there are 2,678,000 families living on farms who have annual gross sales per farm of less than \$2,500. Approximately half of these families are on part-time or residential farms. However, over 1,200,000 of these families gave farming as their major source of income. No government price fixing or support program, no income payment plan, no multiple price plan, in fact no farm program can materially improve the income of these folks who have such a low level of productivity. Theirs is not a farm problem; it is largely a social-educational problem.

In common with all other citizens, farmers are interested in helping these low income families improve their opportunities and ability to earn a satisfactory living through vocational training, relocation assistance, decentralization of industry, or any other sound plan to give them the chance to secure productive work. Many, of course, may choose to continue farming and we should help them to improve their efficiency and increase their productivity. If these 2,678,000 small, part-time, and residential farm families who had less than \$2,500 total sales per farm could increase their production from the \$10.61 per acre gross sales that they experienced to the \$23.06 per acre level of the farmers who had sales from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per farm, they would add 2½ billion dollars to the annual income. This would be an increase in income of approximately \$1,000 per farm family, with no increase in acres farmed.

There is little excuse today for any farmer to remain inefficient or continue at a low level of productivity. We have come to the time when farmers who insist on using outmoded and inefficient methods will be eliminated from farming. We must not permit ourselves or the federal government to encourage the inefficient to remain in agriculture. By so doing, we only hamper the progress that is so essential if we are to have a good future for farm families in American agriculture. For those folks who cannot or do not choose to remain in agriculture, we can do much to facilitate their transfer to other occupations. No new legislation is necessary.





*Best Wishes to Commissioner Brinkley  
and All Our Agricultural Friends*

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The new experimental rural development program is providing a pattern which can help bring about the adjustments needed to improve the opportunities for low income families, either within or outside agriculture. County and State Farm Bureau organizations can do much to speed up this program and to develop similar activities wherever the problem exists.

Soon after the end of World War II, Farm Bureau members recognized the problems of adjustment that lay ahead for farmers. They adopted policies which directed their leadership to work for national agricultural policies that would encourage adjustment in agriculture to meet peacetime needs. Unfortunately, the Congress did not adopt this program for a gradual movement away from the wartime government price fixing programs. The result has been a five-year decline in the net income of American farmers, caused in large part by the accumulation of approximately eight billion dollars worth of surplus agricultural commodities in government warehouses. Only during the last year has this decline in farm prices and farm net income been halted. This was the first year of the application on a modest scale of the flexible price support principle. Government price fixing and production control operations are largely responsible for the failure of farmers to share in the present level of national prosperity. After this serious interference by government in the normal pattern of adjustments that would have been made, it is now even more imperative that we move rapidly to restore balance and economic sanity to American agriculture.

Despite the recent years of declining prices and increasing costs in agriculture, farmers themselves have confidence in the future of their business. This is demonstrated by the fact that last year the largest single group of purchasers of land were farmers who already own and operate farms. This confidence is based on the fact that our national agricultural balance sheet shows 103 billion dollars as the total value of farm real estate against which there is a mortgage indebtedness of only 9.4 billion dollars, or less than 10 percent. The rate of farm foreclosure was only 23/100ths of one percent last year. Apparently this confidence of farmers in the future is based on their conviction that we will soon turn away from dependence on government for price and production decisions and return to the fundamentals that have made possible the remarkable progress that has brought U. S. farm families

*(Continued on page 36)*



Elizabeth Nottingham Day:

## THE GRACIOUS LADY WITH THE BRUSH

By G. WATSON JAMES, JR.

WHEN IN APRIL 1956, The Grey Angel beckoned to Elizabeth Nottingham Day, art in Virginia and in the nation for that matter, was bereft of a gifted artist, and those who cherished her friendship sustained an irreparable loss.

From the day she finished her art studies in New York where she was awarded in 1930 the Tiffany Fellowship and a year later the McDowell Traveling Fellowship, for a year's study abroad, Elizabeth Nottingham, the young Virginia girl, was destined to be the State's Ambassador-at-Large, of the Virginia Scene.

It was her dedication to portray the Virginia Scene that prompted this humble and totally inadequate tribute by one whose first meeting with the artist dates back more than 22 years.

It is the old story that first impressions are the most lasting, and as far as this writer is concerned, that first impression is as vivid today as it was the day he first saw one of the artist's watercolors, entered in the Third Annual Exhibition of Virginia Artists, sponsored by the Richmond Academy of Arts. The show, for which he was exhibition chairman,

included a section devoted to the artists working under the Virginia Division of the Public Works of Art project, and Elizabeth Nottingham had five entries. But of the one that has lingered so long in our memory, and which was continually brought up whenever the paths of artist and writer crossed during the ensuing years? Its title has been forgotten, but never that grass-roots interpretation of a typical rural scene. The foreground was just a red clay Virginia field, which served as a foil for a waving patch of broomstraw, weed clutter, and delapidated rail fence. Your eyes then hopped over this introductory foreground, and came to rest on a puffing little engine pulling "the local" into a street in Culpeper. The busy engine belched smoke against the walls of the buildings on what was apparently a business street; and you felt the people were awaiting the local's arrival. In truth this was a document in paint of grass-roots Virginia to anyone who had experienced such an "event of the day" in many rural communities of the state.

Commenting on its sincerity to the artist, we humbly predicted her future role as the interpreter of the Virginia



Elizabeth Nottingham Day. Photo dated October 1949. (Courtesy of her mother, Mrs. E. J. Nottingham of Culpeper.)

scene, humble or great — and only several days ago, when examining some press notices on Elizabeth's work, the writer found he was not far wrong in his early evaluation of her devotion to the Virginia countryside. For when the 1934 show was in progress, Olin Downs, the noted art critic, wrote this of the Nottingham entries:

"Accuracy as to fact and detail is common enough. Accuracy of mood and feeling is very rare. Miss Nottingham has this quality. She has roots. Her work is so identified with the Virginia landscape in its fine subtle color that it could not possibly have been done anywhere else. Her pictures seem to have grown quite simply. Motoring down from Washington, I felt that each view was a Nottingham."

What Critic Downs wrote was echoed and re-echoed through the remaining years of the artist's life, whenever she exhibited her Virginia in paint; and death has not dimmed the appreciation by public and critics alike, who react to the sincerity of her reactions to the Virginia landscape.

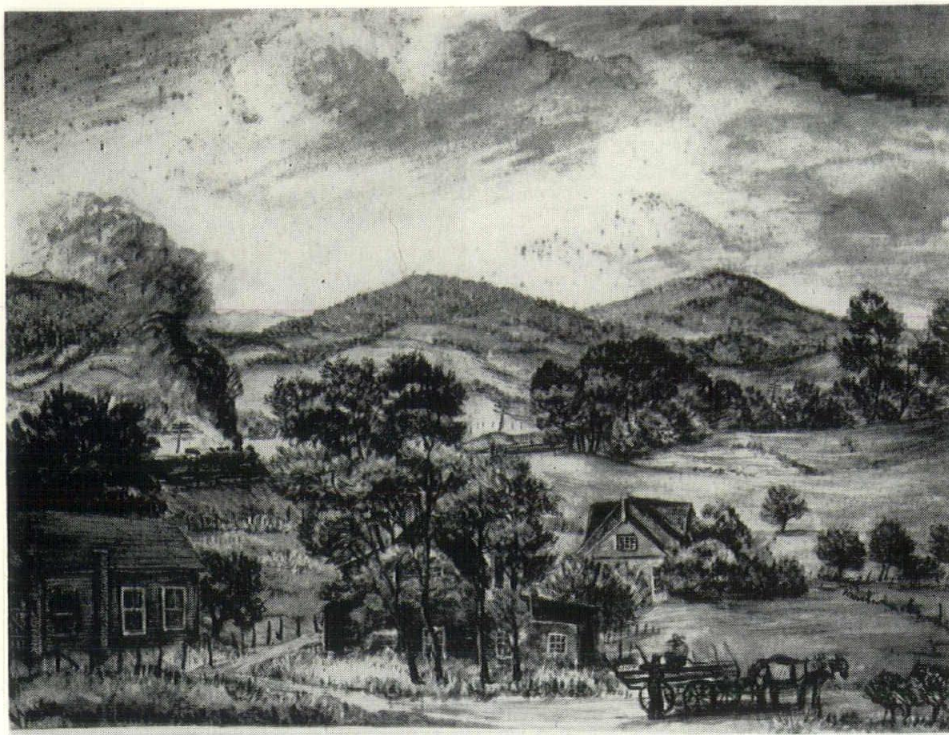
For those who have not had the rare experience of viewing an exhibition of her Virginia scenes, in order to appreciate Elizabeth Nottingham Day, one must know that from her gracious brush flowed not only the conviction that the humblest of nature's offerings had a moving story to tell; but her



(Photo, courtesy Virginia Museum of Fine Arts)

"Back Porch, Culpeper"—signed "Nottingham, '44."





(Colonial Studios)

"Bedford County, Virginia"—dated 1939. Privately owned.

beautiful character, the dignity that marks the patrician woman and the unostentatiousness of a dedicated artist are present in the art she bequeathed to us, as were these characteristics evident in all other activities in life. She graced every occasion, social and artistic.

Technically, she had full command of her chosen medium, the watercolor. She could orchestrate her palette from the subtle greys of the Blue Ridge Mountains in winter under a leaden sky, to the flaming brilliancy of a broom-straw field or a lush green farm land, or to the weathered red of an ancient courthouse wall.

Her palette could "sing" or "moan" in her unceasing quest to portray the moods of Virginia's countryside, her trees, stubble fields, village streets, dirt roads and rail fences.

Because she saw both sorrow and joy in the subject matter before her, no matter how humble it might appear (and which a lesser artist would discard as not worthy of his talent), Elizabeth Nottingham Day could fashion a poem in form and color from an old chestnut tree, which had been sculptured through the years by storm and rain, and had been drenched with sunlight during the march of time. From a sapling to maturity and even now in decay it had fought the good fight, and therefore, it inspired and challenged the artist.

As this is being written, before me are three black-and-white reproductions of the Virginia scene, selected to accom-

pany this article.

Let us examine them. First, "Dirt Road" (circa 1934). It apparently winds from nowhere to nowhere through a sunlit farm with its haystacks, old barn, and grazing cattle. It lures the wanderer on to see what is behind the scraggly woods, and cone-shaped

haystacks — a Virginia dirt road not glorified by artificial composition, but breathing the essence of truth, and creating a longing to walk through its mud puddles or dust as the case might be. And if one was raised on a typical Virginia farm what a nostalgic feeling sweeps over the viewer.

And now to the artist's beloved home town, Culpeper, which constantly lured her brush. It was not stately mansions that attracted her, but such subjects as "Back Porch, Culpeper, Virginia." Here we encounter the story of what a back porch has to tell. Shaded by two writhing monarchs of the woods, that have never felt the tree surgeon's knife, there is the old rocker in which a mother or a grandmother perhaps rocked a baby or comforted a hurt child (who perchance had stumbled when he or she burst through the gate in childish abandon); or perhaps tired from her unending tasks of the day, the mother of the household rested as she sought a breath of air. No, there are no people here, no chicken fighting or stable scraps, yet there are, you will say, through the artist's power of suggestion and her knowledge that epics can be drawn from the humblest settings if they are not cheapened by the obvious and photographic delineation.

We turn now to a landscape "Bedford County, Virginia" which will have to be seen in color to appreciate the varying reaction of the artist to the Virginia



(Colonial Studios)

"Dirt Road" (circa 1934). This watercolor was reproduced on the cover of the "Four Arts Magazine" shortly after it had been seen in the Exhibition of Southern Planters, held at the White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.



subject matter. Another farm under a dramatic sky, the patches of meadow and cultivated fields toned in harmony with the scudding clouds, the black smoke from the engine conveys its message of labor on an upgrade. Trees are swaying. The wind dominates the scene, and only the farmer, his companion, and his house seem to be unmindful of the impending storm.

Now, back to Culpeper from which Elizabeth Nottingham Day went to Randolph-Macon College for her formal education and later to New York for her art studies, and to which she always returned, no matter what demands her art and teaching imposed upon her—returned to do the courthouse, post office, the streets upon which lived the prosperous or the lowly, the farms which surrounded the little town.

Press clippings at the author's disposal reveal that one of her watercolors titled, "Culpeper Street" was selected out of an exhibition in the Corcoran Gallery by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt to be hung in the White House: an elm-lined street dominated by the courthouse which the artist often painted. Incidentally, the artist apparently had a particular love for the "Old Virginia Courthouse." The Courthouse at Little Washington, Virginia, was one of the most stimulating and delightful paintings shown in the recent memorial exhibition of the artist sponsored by the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts last January. Incidentally, all too brief in showing time and selection of subject matter. However, there will be another and more comprehensive exhibition, we learned from the artist's husband, Horace Day, a valued friend of this writer.

**CHERRY STREET, CULPEPER**

And then one of the artist's excursions to portray Cherry Street in Culpeper, not included in this article's illustrations, with its flag-stone sidewalks: an ancient Negro inhabitant slowly making his way east and two Negro women conversing over a rail fence. This glimpse of "the other side of the track" so to speak, in striking contrast to the dignity conveyed by the watercolor selected by Mrs. Roosevelt.

Again thumbing through the press notices, we came across this item:

"Culpeper figures in the Pulitzer prize book of the year, Herbert Agar's, 'Land of the Free,' through the work of our brilliant artist whose picture 'A Virginia Farm' has been selected by the author as one of the 16 illustrations in his book. It is of addition-

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al interest that the farm portrayed is one right here in Culpeper, the Bernard Williams' farm near this place."

An entire article could be written about the artist's reactions to her home town. Suffice to record that Culpeper has never nor never will again have such an inspired historian.

It has not been our desire nor is it possible, within the limits of this article, to write the artist's biography. Let us, however, scan some of the highlights of her career from 1934 onward, which demonstrate not only her gifts and rewards as an artist, but her superior administrative ability, and her selfless devotion in the course of teaching on the highways and hedges of Virginia.

### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

In 1934, with the advent of the Public Works of Art project, she was assigned to paint two historical panels for the Handley High School in Winchester, and 28 watercolors of the Virginia landscape. In 1936, the artist was employed to direct the first W.P.A. Art Project Gallery at Big Stone Gap, and later that year, she opened the Lynchburg W.P.A. Gallery, remaining as its director until May, 1940. Following this she was Assistant State Art Supervisor for the W.P.A. with the objective of developing an extension program throughout the State similar to that which she carried out in the counties near Lynchburg.

During the summer of 1940 for seven weeks, she was assigned as artist to the State Home Economics, Future Farmers of America, Camp at Mogart's Beach, and during residence there not only inculcated the art spirit in those with whom she was associated, but painted some of her most important works—one in particular which was reproduced in Life Magazine, titled "Landscape with Goat Cart." The goat she whimsically named Katherine Hepburn.

In December of 1940 the Virginia Museum gave her a one-man show covering her work from 1929 to 1940 and including 17 exhibits lent by the W.P.A. Project in Virginia.

For Elizabeth Nottingham, the year 1941 was a golden one, for she met and married Horace Day, a brilliant young artist from "Up Vermont way." During the next 15 years, husband and wife taught, exhibited, received honors, and took time out for study at the Kansas City Art Institute. Following their wedding they became art instructors at Mary Baldwin College, Staunton, and in 1942, Mrs. Day was made Head



of the Art Department. When Horace did his stint for Uncle Sam, Elizabeth carried on, and also during the 15 years of their married life, she flung wide the gates of life for two fine sons.

Perhaps no finer insight to Elizabeth Nottingham Day's philosophy as to the role of art teacher can be found than that contained in her essay, "Art is a Language," which appeared in "The Alumnae News Letter," April 1953, Mary Baldwin College.

"Art," she wrote, "can be taught in so many ways, from so many points of view and with so many different aims. So little of the vast field can be comprehended by any individual that the task of teaching necessarily imposes humility. Decisions as to the content of courses are the result of much questioning, and the occasional changes in catalogue listings represent a search for the material and emphasis best suited to the teaching of art in a liberal arts college. Undoubtedly every teacher regrets the ending of a course, wishing that so much more might have been considered than time and conditions permitted. . . . It is true that we believe that all which may be taught in the art courses is comparable to instruction given by a guide as he stands with a group of people within the vestibule of a museum. He can give only an introduction to all that lies beyond the doors and give some directions as to finding those expressions of art which may prove most satisfying to each person. The examination blue books in college are of such trivial importance; it is the messages on post-cards from Italy or Mexico or museums in the United States which send word that former students have really 'passed the course' and gone forward in their enjoyment of the cultural treasures of all history, remembering the introduction to art experience gained in college.

"It is unfortunate that one department of a liberal arts college should be designated as 'art' and ironical that it has been possible under some concepts of the liberal arts curriculum in the United States for a Bachelor of Arts to graduate with so much more knowledge of the sciences than of any of the arts. Art cannot be separated from other studies and set aside from them any more than it is possible in the library to keep all the 'art books' together. So much of the history of mankind has been recorded only in art expressions that many of the best photographic reproductions of art objects are to be found in the section of the library devoted to history. Other 'art books' find their way to the shelves which are

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the special province of the Bible department. Do the works of Audubon and Vesalius belong in the art section or with the works on biology? It is readily seen that the division into departments is only for convenience and that the arts are so intimate a part of human activity that they cannot be isolated."

In spite of all this, the artist never forgot that extra curricular activities, even at the expense of oftentimes much needed rest and recreation, could not be ignored. She served as President of the Virginia Art Alliance and on the State Art Commission, to mention but a few of her selfless contributions to cultural Virginia.

"No," was not in her vocabulary. An instance of this was in 1947, when she was one of the first 12 artists to donate a portrait of a Virginia Trooper who had died in the line of duty. Her canvas was of Trooper Charles Basil Bullock and now has an honored place in the State Police Memorial Gallery.

How will she be best remembered—through her oils and watercolors portraying subject matter far afield from her home state, her teaching or through her down-to-earth interpretations of the Virginia scene?

We venture it will be for her pictorial journeys to the grass-roots of the Old Dominion, for Elizabeth Nottingham Day had Virginia's trees in her eyes, her fields in her heart and God was in her soul.

(Author's Footnote: Horace and Elizabeth Nottingham Day were represented in the "Special Virginia Issue" of the "Ford Times"; Elizabeth's contribution "The Rotunda" at the University of Virginia, and in the June 1951 issue of the same publication Elizabeth's painting was accorded the place of honor on the cover. The painting was done on the Yorktown beach. Horace contributed generously to the above two issues—G. W. J. Jr.)



## The Virginia Farmer

(Continued from page 7)

at try at sprinkling grain for chickens. Peaches, apples and pears were picked from the trees, grapes from the vine, and watermelons brought in from the fields to be sliced open on a wooden trestle in the back of the house. There was a creek to swim in, with the interlude built into an adventure by the hazards of moccasins, and there was of all things the timelessness of the daylight hours—as a day is to a little child.

Looking back, we know that all these wonders to a child from the city were an everyday affair to the farm families, rather sternly fashioned by economics. Chicken was plenteous and sausage served bounteously because hogs and chickens were cheap to raise; fruit cost nothing from trees on acres worth no more than \$25, and cornbread was abundantly served because it was made from the easily grown corn, and the family was too poor to buy wheat-bread (though the old-timers did regard "bakers' bread" with the most profound disgust).

Yet, allowing for the appearance of bounty in a manner of living that was extremely difficult to sustain—so difficult that each year saw a migration to the cities of defeated families—those people were making, for their times on earth and the knowledge at their disposal, a really noble adaptation in perpetuating what had been the basis of Virginia's economy and culture.

This economy, and its accompanying culture, began before Jamestown and the surrounding holdings were even safe from Indians. It began in 1614 when a gentle-mannered, middle-aged man, who had come to the raw colony as clerk of the council, and lost his daughter on the way over and his wife on arrival, filled in his lonely hours by experimenting with the raw Indian tobacco—much as today a suburbanite, home from work in the city, experiments in his garden. Hanging his black coat on a tree, this gentleman, in fleeing his loneliness, came upon a tobacco-leaf on which the Virginia economy was founded and which still is (with all the mutations of time) the largest earner percentage-wise of Virginia crops.

John Rolfe is known in history primarily as the husband of the Indian maiden, Pocahontas, who lived three years only after her marriage and whose one son became (if all descendants of Pocahontas are to be believed) the Adam of the continent. But it is not from this sad romance of a 50-year-old widower and a teen-age savage that Virginia was formed. It was formed on

to tell the Virginia Story

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what the Council's clerk did with his spare time.

Because Britishers adventured to Jamestown fundamentally to extend the life of the landed gentry at home, the land was always the thing. It is a mighty humble Virginian who will not claim, through some line, descent from a landed family—and most of them are justified in the claim.

From the days when *all* Virginians were descended (in their more or less honest beliefs) from plantations—that "befoh de wah we had plenty of slaves"—to the more cynically eyed view of the past from today, we have witnessed a change from nostalgia to derogation.

Last week, an expatriate Virginian came back for a few days for the purposes of writing for Northern consumption on his homeplace, and he, in

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his modern viewpoint, wished to believe that all plantations and/or farms had been pretty sorry affairs outside the bracket of the 1% of huge establishments.

I reminded him (since he was a contemporary of mine in high school) of his visits to his kinspeople on the farm, and suggested that he imagine that farm with the practical help of no more than five field-hands (to make the money-crop of tobacco) and the added luxury of a few older slaves and children to assist in the house-work. With that vision, my friend exclaimed that the most modest plantation would have indeed maintained its own expansive comfort, sense of privilege, and a true dignity in meeting the terms of life.

So, then, a modern American, adjusting himself to advanced viewpoints, could appreciate his own past *only* through the memory of what the Virginia farmer perpetuated. Now the Virginia farmer, making *his* adjustment to modern techniques, still continues to carry the fundamentals of our land from Jamestown into tomorrow.



*Clifford Dowdery*

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## GUIDEPOSTS FOR THE FUTURE

(Continued from page 13)



(Va. Dept. of Agriculture photo)

*Greens help fill in the gap left by fewer potatoes on Virginia farms.*

Cattle have increased in most of the state's areas but the largest increase has come in northern Virginia, which now surpasses the great Southwest in total cattle numbers, a revolution in itself. In the north are not only commercial herds, but also headquarters for the big purebred Angus business that has burgeoned in the rolling northern Virginia area, and around Richmond has cropped up another big increase in cattle numbers, a close third now to Southwest. Though small in numbers, percentage-wise increase has been large in cattle in eastern Virginia, where cheap corn simulates conditions in the big cattle feeding areas of the mid-west. Milk cows by areas show a decrease through 1955 although there was some evidence of a reversal in the trend in

the last 18 months.

But hidden here in the dairy charts and figures is a new breath of life for the small farmer, object of much concern these days. While the big dairy herds with large investments in buildings and equipment and heavy labor costs have been switching over to beef and selling off their dairy herds in northern and north-central Virginia, small dairymen producing milk for manufacture out of the Southwest have bought up these high producing cattle and taken them home. With low cost tramp sheds and milking parlors and with pipeline milkers and bulk tanks, one man and his family have produced the most efficient dairy farm Virginia has yet seen. Here is proof that in some lines of endeavor at least, a good little

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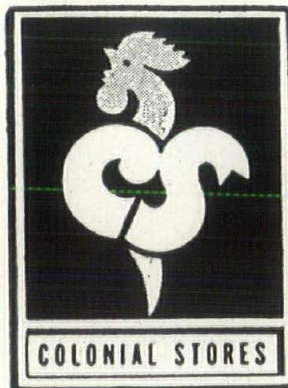


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Always in the milk picture is the anomaly of small increases in cow numbers but big increases in production per cow. In these figures too is hope for dairy's future.

The shift in hog numbers about the state shows best perhaps the trend toward areas of largest efficiency. Numbers have dropped in all areas, particularly in northern Virginia, accentuating the concentration of hogs and peanuts and corn together in our southeastern counties, where the animal and his feed are naturally adapted.

By the same token corn shows big drops in acreage in all areas except this same Southeast which has been commercial corn country for years and gives every evidence of continuing to be even a larger proportionate producer of this staple feed grain.

Among sheep the increase has been general, particularly in the west central and northern Virginia. Oddly, in the Southwest, between 1945 and '50, numbers declined and have not recovered since. In this traditional sheep and cattle country odds are that cattle and dairying are bringing farmers more profit than the woolies.

But again perhaps the biggest story for Virginia farmers is that our own sheep numbers have been increasing while the nation's are still declining. Virginia farmers have been quick again to see the advantage in sheep.

These sign posts of the times, these trends in Virginia agriculture, both in ups and downs of acreage and numbers and in shifts about the state, have brought profound changes in the farmer's way of business and way of life.

Livestock has taken over as the farmer's chief source of income. In 1935 40% of his income came from livestock and 60% from crops. Twenty years later the figures are almost exactly





(Jack McManigal photo)

*More and more fertilizer helps fewer farmers produce more food and fiber.*

reversed, 60% for livestock and 40% for crops, although income from both crops and livestock has increased tremendously.

Percentagewise poultry has made the biggest jump and is now over 20% of the farmer's total take in cash receipts. Milk is next in percentage, almost 15 cents out of every dollar.

Cattle and calves have moved up to 10% of the total farm income and hogs in recent years dropped off to less than five.

Among crops, tobacco still leads percentagewise but now is less than 20% of total cash receipts. Peanuts have increased to a little over five; potatoes have dropped from 10 to about one

per cent and wheat leveled off from four to two per cent.

Even more profound, perhaps, than his way of doing business or the things he produces in doing it, is in the change in the way the farmer lives, the trends in the farm homes and in farm life and work. In the past 25 years farm telephones have increased by 50%. Farm trucks have increased three times over; tractors, seven times over. Today electricity goes to 125,000 farms where it went to only 13,000 farms 25 years ago. Today farm homes have 32,000 freezers, one for every four or five farm homes, and 45,000 television sets, a set in nearly one farm home of three. Twenty five years ago there were no freezers and no television sets.

Neither do these tell the whole story. The farm homemaker has today almost all the conveniences of her city sister, mechanical kitchens, washing machines, vacuum cleaners, the latest magazines, dress styles, hats, clothing.

The trend is the same on the male side of the family. Overalls are still the dress of the day in the field or on the tractor, but at the farm meetings, for the evening in town, for the get-together with neighbors, the only way to tell a farmer is by the work reflected in his hands—and perhaps the peace reflected in his eyes.

All of these trends have made a terrific impact on the farmer, his investment has skyrocketed, his costs have increased from  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{2}{3}$  of his gross income. Shortage of labor has forced him to buy machinery which in turn has forced him to buy more land, because with machinery he can work far more than just his own back and his hired man's would cover.

But perhaps the most reliable trend, the most satisfying indication of the future is in the land values of Virginia. They have jumped in 20 years from \$35 an acre to over \$100 an acre, indicating that the farmer also has faith in his future. There may be fewer farms and farmers, but farm land, the foundation on which all civilization rests, still commands a premium.



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## Agriculture—What It Needs

*(Continued from page 22)*

the highest standard of living of any agricultural people in the world.

Perhaps it would be well to review some of the fundamental characteristics of this successful pattern for progress in agriculture.

The first fundamental requirement for a good future in farming is freedom to change. Rapid and often revolutionary adjustments have characterized American agriculture. Until late years, price changes encouraged farmers to make shifts in their operations in response to variations in supply and demand. Individuals were permitted to make their own decisions as to what and how much to plant. Today, government pricing and acreage control programs have restricted the right of farmers to change their production patterns and have often encouraged uneconomic land use. Unrealistic price supports and the resulting quotas and allotments have caused the production of wheat, cotton, and corn to shift from well-adapted areas to new sections of the nation where the crop may not be so well suited. Government price fixing has priced several farm products out of their normal markets and forced the use of synthetics or substitute crops.

We should re-examine legislation and administrative rulings with the object of eliminating those features which tend to restrict changes in agriculture.

A healthy agricultural economy demands freedom to change in all respects—price, production, and methods. It is also important that it be relatively easy for folks to enter or leave the farming business. Subsidies which entice families to stay on the farm when they could make a better living in other occupations harm, rather than help, those whom they are intended to benefit. We should find ways to help young men who wish to enter agriculture to accumulate the necessary experience and capital to engage in the modern business of farming.

A second fundamental characteristic of our successful agricultural system has been a free market for farm products. By a "free market," I mean that farmers are free to sell their products at any time, at any place, and in any quantity for the best price possible. In a free market, prices move up and down in response to changing supply and demand conditions. Those who attack the free market concentrate on some of its hazards, such as the extreme collapse of price during periods of excessive production. Farm Bureau has recognized that there is a need for



price supports to prevent extreme and wild fluctuations in price, but we have opposed price fixing by government.

One of the features of a free market is that it clears itself. During the past year, we have produced livestock and dairy products at an all-time high rate in a relatively free market, and yet we have little accumulation of surplus in government hands. The milk-feed price ratio continues favorable despite near record production. Consumers have increased their consumption of meat, milk, and poultry products and farmers have marketed the increased volume at prices which have resulted in improved farm income. The government commodity purchase program to support farm prices has tended to restrict and partially destroy the free market. An increasing proportion of our total agricultural production now goes to government as a market. More than half of our agricultural exports are sold abroad by the Commodity Credit Corporation. It is interesting to note that unmanageable surpluses of farm commodities were practically unknown before we had government purchase programs. The unfair competition of crop acreage diverted from quota and allotment crops encourages increased production of substitute crops and they in turn are inevitably forced to turn to government as a market. Thus the vicious cycle leading toward complete destruction of the free market is perpetuated. A gradual return to the free market is essential if we are to have a good future in farming.

The third essential factor that has made it possible for farmers in the United States to have a constantly improving standard of living is the opportunity to accumulate capital and own property. Modern agriculture requires large capital investments. The average investment per worker in agriculture is more than that of almost any other industry. Without this high capital investment, we would be condemned to a life of hard backbreaking and labor. One of the greatest barriers to the accumulation of capital is high taxes. In turn, high taxes are a result of the public demand for more and more government services. Farmers have been as guilty as other folks in their demands for the subsidies and protection that big government offers.

Other than expenditures for national security and interest payments on the public debt, farm programs take more money than any other federal government activity. Farmers should take leadership in a determined effort to reduce federal government spending and reduce federal government spending and

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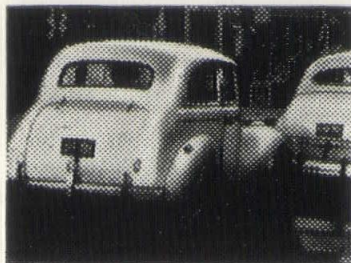
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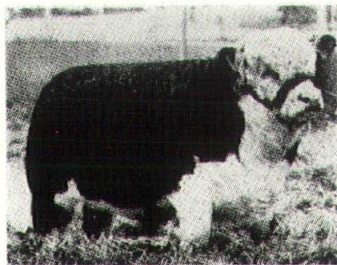
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reduce the heavy load of taxation which threatens our economic system by reducing the ability and incentive for folks to save and accumulate capital.

Another barrier to the ability to accumulate the capital necessary for modern agriculture in inflation. Inflation destroys the incentive to save and invest funds, since the value of savings is impaired or destroyed by declines in the purchasing power of money.

Inflation is particularly harmful to young farmers and small farmers who cannot accumulate capital necessary to expand their operations during an inflationary spiral. Inflation also destroys the value of the savings of older farmers. Farmers have much to gain by policies which will bring about reductions in the size of government spending and checks on the inflationary pressures that now exist.

A fourth feature of the system that has brought prosperity to American agriculture is the emphasis we have placed on improving our educational system and our search for new knowledge. Education and research have been carried on at both public and private institutions. Children from families in all walks of life and all levels of income have been encouraged to get as much education as possible. An increasing number of farmers has had the advantages of four years of college training. We should continue to encourage farm young people to go as far with their formal education as their resources and abilities will permit. Today's business type agriculture demands better informed and more highly trained farm operators. College trained men and women can find satisfying and challenging opportunities on our modern productive farms.

As farmers strive to increase their efficiency, they will continue to turn to our research institutions for new knowledge and to the extension service for assistance in its application. Since 1940, productivity per man in agriculture has increased approximately 90 percent. These remarkable increases in efficiency have resulted in more reasonably priced food for consumers. Today the average factory worker needs work only 41 working hours to secure the food supply for his family for one month, while in 1952 it required 51 working hours. Thus agricultural research and extension work have benefited consumers as well as farmers and should be supported by public as well as private funds.

A fifth essential to an agriculture with a future is the extension of competitive pricing into all areas of economic activity. There are very few areas of business where absolute monopoly is

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justified and they, of course, should be subject to federal regulation. Farmers wish to sell their products on a free competitive market. They have the right to insist that the goods and services they purchase also be produced in a competitive market. During the last year, we have witnessed a very alarming tendency for big business and big labor organizations to bargain with the idea of dividing up the results of their increased efficiency between labor, capital, and management with little concern for the consumer. Consumers of the products of industry and labor have the right to share in the benefits and savings resulting from increased productivity.

The sixth fundamental for an agriculture with a good future is an aggressive and broad program to expand markets for farm products, both at home and abroad. There are vast opportunities to secure increased sales of agricultural products through promotional programs designed to improve the diet of the American people. A large proportion of the consuming public does not appreciate the importance of an adequate diet to human health. Farmers, as well as the processing and distribution industry, have a responsibility to help develop expanded markets for farm products. The Farm Bureau, through state and county units, can stimulate farmer interest and help secure increased support for sound programs to promote the increased sale and consumption of farm products.

**FOREIGN SALES INCREASE**

During the last year, we have been gratified to see a marked increase in foreign sales of agricultural products. However, it must be recognized that a large portion of these sales was made by Commodity Credit Corporation and was subsidized. There are good possibilities for increasing foreign sales of U. S. farm products, but a sound export program must be based upon competitive sales and should not depend upon subsidy. The American Farm Bureau Federation has recently launched a plan to bring together and coordinate the activities of all commodity groups interested in developing improved domestic markets as well as those working to increase export trade. If we can work together in the interest of all agricultural products, rather than following the commodity by commodity approach, there is a good prospect of materially expanding farm markets both at home and abroad.

Since the difficulties we now have as a result of declining prices and surplus

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accumulation of farm products are traceable to government actions, it is reasonable to assume that some legislative action will be necessary to remedy the situation. The flexible price support legislation was a step in the right direction toward eliminating price fixing and giving prices some opportunity to change. However, this legislation remains too restrictive and should be changed to permit greater fluctuation in price. Otherwise the natural function of price will be disrupted and the markets will not clear themselves of the price fixed commodities. We should continue to move gradually away from dependence upon government action for determination of price in agriculture.

The soil bank legislation was another step in the right direction but in itself is not the answer to long range agricultural problems. The best that we can hope from the soil bank is that it will help farmers to make needed adjustments in production and take a further step away from dependence on government. Its success or failure will depend

on whether or not administrative decisions are made with the intent of encouraging maximum adjustment in our over-expanded agricultural production plant.

As good as these steps are, the flexible price support and soil bank combined will not stop the accumulation of government owned surpluses and the resulting price declines in agriculture. As long as the Secretary of Agriculture has the authority to purchase and store farm commodities while attempting to bring about increased prices, we are almost certain to have unwise government interference in the pricing, production, and marketing of farm products. No matter who is the Secretary of Agriculture or what his party affiliation, the political pressures generated by national elections in alternate years will result in political rather than economic decisions influencing the purchase and storage programs of government. I would therefore propose that by Congressional action we eliminate the authority for the Secretary of Agriculture to buy and store a farm commodity whenever the Commodity Credit Corporation disposes of all the supplies now held of any particular commodity. This action should be taken on a crop by crop basis and the authorities to purchase eliminated for a particular commodity only when the supplies have been brought into balance and the free market restored to operation. In order to bring this desirable situation into

being, we should move as rapidly as possible to dispose of the government held surplus storage stocks. They should be sold at reduced prices or given away to needy people at home and abroad and should not be replaced. Programs which result in the production of farm products for government storage rather than consumer use are not in the long-time best interest of farmers. There is no possible way to isolate a government owned surplus from the market and it will most certainly tend to depress farm prices as long as it is in existence.

In reviewing the legislative needs in agriculture, we should recognize that many of our troubles are due to too much legislation rather than too little. However, we do need a further broadening of the flexible price support authorities to permit greater freedom for prices to change. The soil bank legislation should be amended, as experience suggests, so that it will result in shrinking total crop acreage. We need Congressional action to provide

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for crop by crop elimination of the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to purchase and store farm products and authority to dispose of all presently held government stocks as rapidly as possible. This should be done by discount sales and gifts but in such a way as not to seriously injure international relations or disrupt the domestic market.

Other legislative action needed to support this program for a better future in American agriculture would be expanded appropriations for research in the marketing of agricultural products, research in the field of human nutrition to provide the basis for expanded use and continued emphasis on production and utilization research.

This type of legislative program would help clear the decks of useless and harmful governmental activity in agriculture. It would open up new opportunities that would mean far more to farmers than do the government pricing programs.

Farmers can look forward to a future

with good opportunity for continued improvement in farm net income and a better standard of living for the farm family if they are assured that we will move relentlessly away from government assistance and government control of our industry. Farmers need to be no more dependent upon the federal government than any other business or industry. If we can redirect our thinking and action from legislative panaceas towards sound economic remedies, we can do much to solve our income problems by local action as farmers work together to find ways to cut costs and increase returns by more efficient production.

We in the United States are proud of our nation which boasts the greatest degree of political freedom for its people of any nation on earth. We know that many of the pioneers who came to this country did so to secure either political or religious freedom. The Constitution and Bill of Rights were designed to preserve forever these political and religious freedoms which the founders of our country held so dear.



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Until recent years, many of us did not recognize that we could endanger our freedoms, both political and religious, by destroying economic freedom. The experience in many other parts of the world seems to indicate that when government attempts to substitute political power and political law for economic laws it soon becomes necessary for the government to have greater power over the people than is permitted under our form of government. It may be well for us to ask ourselves a ques-

tion. Is it mere coincidence that in this nation where the people have the greatest degree of political freedom, they also have the greatest amount of economic freedom and they have given Christianity as high, or higher, a level of acceptance as any nation in the world? I am firmly convinced that all three are interdependent and that destruction of economic freedom will result inevitably in loss of political and religious freedom.



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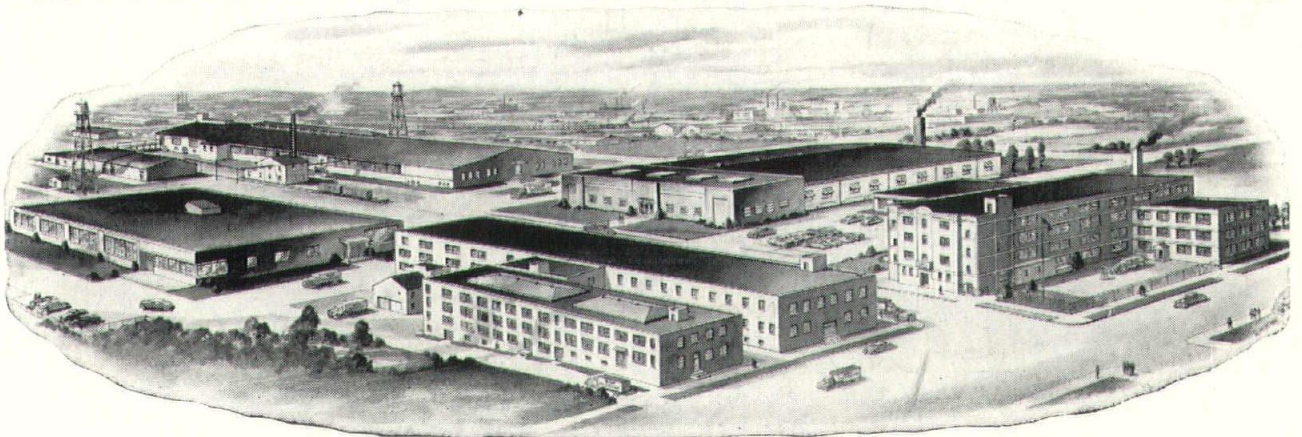
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