

Notes
By G. E. Ross

The opinion of the bankers on the present agricultural situation in regard to farm prices, I think would be very profitable at this time, so I am devoting this week to the topic. We received enquiries for Bankers' Notes.

FAIRLY GOOD VPI HEADS

What's ahead for the farmer? Income may decline, but net income should remain near the level of 1959. That's the opinion of Dr. Harry Love, agricultural economist. He said too, farmers likely will find means to improve their net income by reducing production costs. However, he warns against trying to do this by such means as sharply reducing the use of fertilizer or some other item of cash outlay. "The most ominous cloud of the economic horizon for farmers in this country is the problem of controlling production and finding profitable uses for the result," he said. Average allotments have already been indicated for wheat, cotton, tobacco, peanuts and soybeans.

Homemakers
By EVA JO LISKEY

The Farmington Home Demonstration Club met on November 19 at the home of Mrs. Claude Fitch with 19 members present. Two new members, Mrs. A. W. Parrow and Mrs. N. F. Smith, were welcomed. Plans were made for the Christmas party at the next monthly meeting. Gifts not to exceed \$5.00 in change in grab bag will be held in the month of December.

NEWHILL, Frank
Judging team which other members of the county; and William Little.

district Winners Are Announced in Pasture Improvement Contest

Franklin, Lee, Nottoway, Prince William and Westmoreland counties have been named winners of the five district year in Virginia. Dr. Walter S. Newman, president of VPI and chairman of the Pasture Improvement Committee, said each county will receive a silver trophy presented by the National Fertilizer Association. The pasture contest is designed to recognize the county in each VPI Agricultural Extension Service administrative district which had the best over-all pasture program in 1959.

Majestically Take Part
This year, in spite of the drought, 63 counties participated and sent in contest reports. Most of the counties have a pasture committee which includes representatives of all agricultural agencies, farm organizations, commodity groups, industries, civic clubs, and others. General activities have included educational meetings; seeding, fertilization and management demonstrations; use of mass media; tours to farms and to experiment stations; and many other ways to encourage pasture improvement and use. Franklin County was cited particularly for its excellent demonstration pasture tour, seeding demonstrations, and increased number of samples.

Keep Sheep Better Bet For Farmer

Sacrifice Cattle If One Must Go

BLACKSBURG, Nov. 22 (AP)—The farmer caught short on winter feed for his sheep, should keep the sheep, VPI experts say. The feed supply will stretch much more efficiently when used only for sheep, the experts said, and sheep will do well on some foods cattle will not eat. These other sheep-feeding tips were offered: One ton of hay can winter eight ewes, and one ewe can get through the winter on 275 pounds of good hay. At least part of the hay should be alfalfa to help avoid paralysis. In winter pasture that will winter pasture and their ewes in half the amount required. With twin lambs, one feed will help.

CHICAGO BOUND — Members of the county judging team (above) will try livestock Exposition in National Livestock Exposition in Chicago. (left to right): Robert F. V. Halifax; an unidentified member; and James Bowman.

Woods for Fence Posts, New Methods Described

to supplement this year's feed supply. ant bringing hay in from unknown areas poses leads to contamination at the s...

Woods for Fence Posts, New Methods Described

...but it calls for the expensive equipment, efficient oil, and solid under will give...

County Agent Tells Where Applications Can Be Made For County Drought Aid

By T. M. Hepler

Another item of interest to everyone in Montgomery County is the winning of the Community...

NEW SMALL CABBAGE RESISTS YELLOW

A new cabbage variety that resists "yellowing" disease.

Virginia Agricultural News

Virginia RECORD

OCTOBER
1960

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PUBLICATION

FOUNDED 1878

FIFTY
CENTS

INTERNATIONAL MINERALS & MINING CORPORATION

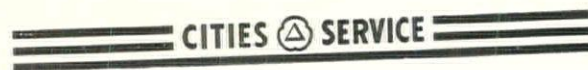
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VOLUME LXXXII

OCTOBER 1960

NUMBER TEN

While Kennedy and Nixon Recite

A VISITING PROFESSOR, a Southerner at the head of the classics department in a Northern college, was talking about the splintering of societies during the collapse of the Roman empire, and, during the course of the conversation, he was asked, "When would you place, approximately, the beginning of the so-called Dark Ages?"

The learned gentleman replied, "That would be more psychological than statistical. The people living then were not aware that they had entered, what history would regard as, 'a dark age.' In the same way now, the people are not aware we are entering a dark age."

The shock of his statement came in the very casualness with which he made it, as in passing reference to a fact. The medieval period was suddenly forgotten in the turn to our own times. No agreement could be reached on the precise period when America began its course toward a new dark age, though there was general agreement that the signs became pronounced after the second World War and the single outstanding symptom was the approaching presidential election. Just as when Rome approached dissolution the empire produced increasingly weak emperors, so America, in the midst of a survival crisis, when the known world can be destroyed as in an apocalyptic vision, can offer for leadership only two youngish men whose chief asset seems to be desire for the office and who between them have not presented one sound plan for meeting the emergencies, internal and external.

In the traditional sense of Liberal and Conservative, the two major parties of the past century have both lost all character and definition. While the political climate of the urban North was naturally liberal in the old meaning of the word (before the emergence of extremists into power) and the natural climate of the South was conservative, these two viewpoints in the past represented a normal balance out of which the effective compromises of democracy were made. These balancing viewpoints represented responsibly held convictions. In the socialistic experiments which began during Roosevelt's first administration, the drift of both parties toward an unnamed socialism became accelerated into a give-away race in which responsibility for the nation's welfare was abandoned as excess baggage, along with convictions and party identification.

Since the Democrats had "got there fust with the most dollars" and, outside the South, were less restrained by traditional conservatism, they enjoyed a head start which has kept the Republicans puffing to keep up. The non-Southern Democrats, to hold their lead, broadened their vote-getting base, around organized labor and urban masses, to minority groups of all kinds and pitched their grab-bag appeal to what has come to pass for a fashionable liberalism. In doing this they not only repudiated their traditional Southern allies but, during the leadership of the venomous Butler, publicly denounced, excoriated, the South and all its works. The Party leaders went out of their way to show they regarded the Southern contingent as unwanted poor relations, a drag on vote-getting.

Not to be left behind still further, the Republican leadership likewise repudiated their conservative elements and, in blithe disregard of their traditional position, set out to prove that their party could be as liberal as the Democrats. Since Russian Communism became unfashionable, (Continued on page 33)

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COVER NOTE: The cover montage suggests only one of the many ways by which V.P.I.'s Agricultural Extension Service brings vital information to thousands. For the full story, turn to page 5. VIRGINIA RECORD wishes to express appreciation to Mr. L. B. Dietrick, Mr. W. H. Daughtrey and the V.P.I. Agricultural Editorial Offices for preparation of this feature.

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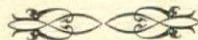
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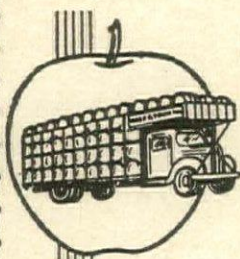
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Animal husbandry barns at VPI, scene of many tours and meetings for Virginia farm folk.



EDUCATION — — FOR ACTION

THIS IS THE MANY-FACETED JOB OF VIRGINIA'S
COUNTY AGENTS AND HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENTS,
FIELD FORCE OF V.P.I.'S AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

by
GENE MOODY and W. G. MITCHELL
V.P.I. Agricultural Editorial Offices





VPI Dean of Agriculture L. B. Dietrick. He heads the multi-purpose school of agriculture, composed of resident teaching, Experiment Station, and Extension Service.



W. H. Daughtrey, associate director in charge of the Extension Service.



Miss Lucy Blake, assistant director of the Extension Service, in charge of home demonstration work in Virginia.

ON ANY RECENT DAY these things could have happened—and probably did:

A farmer crumbled dry soil in his hand and wondered how to best combat one of his worst enemies—drouth.

An 18-year-old bride looked helplessly at her new and irate husband and wished she had more experience in cooking, sewing, and family budgeting.

A young high school graduate leafed through college catalogues and wondered again what he really wanted to do with his life.

A dairyman juggled pencils and record sheets and pondered ways to become more efficient to meet the increasingly heavy competition.

A suburban garden club member frowned and flicked her finger at a Japanese beetle feasting on her prize rose.

A housewife stood in front of the meat counter and puzzled over the perennial problem of serving economical and nutritious meals to her family.

* * *

These people may, or may not know, that help for their problems and for many other problems, is as close as the nearest office of the county agricultural or home demonstration agent. Last year in Virginia, over 164,000 people opened the door of their county extension agents' offices and asked for help on problems of varying magnitude. They kept the telephone lines humming with over 335,000 calls. The agents themselves knocked on over 146,000 doors making individual farm and home visits; and held or participated in 57,816 meetings which over 1,390,000 people attended. The agents were helped by local volunteer leaders who conducted more than 17,000 meetings with an attendance of 305,842.

And over 5,000 farmers cooperated in result demonstrations—a familiar tool of education in agriculture in which the farmer shows his neighbors what to do by doing it.

The county agents comprise the field force of the Virginia Agricultural Extension Service at VPI in Blacksburg—an organization which has been described as the pipeline from the laboratory to the farmer. Its scope actually is much larger than that, and getting larger all the time.

Behind the statistics lies a fascinating story. A story of many successes, large and small. A story that began several decades ago.

* * *

Picture life in Virginia shortly after the turn of the century! Agriculture was king, partly because manpower and

horsepower (the four-legged kind) were the main sources of energy, and many men and horses were needed to do the work.

Corn production per acre averaged less than 23 bushels; oats made less than 15 bushels per acre. It was a common sight to see farmers, who had taken a load of some cash crop such as tobacco to market, returning with their wagons filled with hay or western meat—items they should have been raising at home.

Poor roads, poor transportation facilities, poor communication, too few people being educated—all added up to poor people. The world was larger in those days, and people "stayed put" more than today. While the world was vaster, an individual's understanding of it was smaller.

Many children attended school only when farm work slackened enough for them to go. And when grown, with their smattering of knowledge, they farmed as their fathers before them had done. Many placed their eggs in one basket with the cash crop then prevalent in their communities.

Scientific information on farming was just beginning to be reported, but the average farmer would not adopt practices he read about being done on state-owned land.

Now, into the picture inject the idea of learning by doing—on a man's own farm.

This was the idea of Dr. Seaman A. Knapp, the father of extension work in America. Knapp, who spent his life working with farm people, rediscovered and applied to agriculture the principle of teaching that "men learn best by doing."

His idea of teaching by demonstration got its start in Texas in 1903 and 1904. Success was such that the General Education Board made appropriations for extending this type of education to other Southern states.

Knapp came to Virginia in 1906 at the request of Dr. J. D. Eggleston, then state superintendent of public instruction, and Dr. H. B. Frissell, principal of Hampton Institute. At a meeting of state leaders (including Governor Swanson) Knapp explained his program.

Knapp's philosophy is best summed up in his own words:

"The rural toilers must first be properly nourished, clothed, and housed; it is the order of greatest necessity. The money to do this cannot be given to them, and if it was there would be no uplift. They must be shown how to earn it by a better tillage of the soil and how to husband their earnings by greater thrift.

"The only remedy that can be successfully applied to help all the rural people, one that will be effective and immediate is to increase the net earnings of farmers and farm laborers. The paramount issue now is how most wisely and effectively to aid all the rural people. If each farmer is shown how to produce twice as much to the acre as he now produces and at less cost, it will be a profit in which all rural classes will share and will be the basis of the greatest reform ever known to rural life."

When Knapp was through outlining this dream in Richmond that day in 1906, Dr. Eggleston said, "Dr. Knapp, we *must* have this in Virginia, and have it without delay."

Organizational problems were solved on the spot.

"Where will you get the money? The state must put up its share to finance the work."

"Don't worry. The legislature of 1908 will surely appropriate it."

"What about the right man to become state demonstration agent and begin work with a few adult farmers?"

"I invited Mr. T. O. Sandy of Burkeville to this meeting," said Dr. Eggleston. "I think he is the man we are looking for."

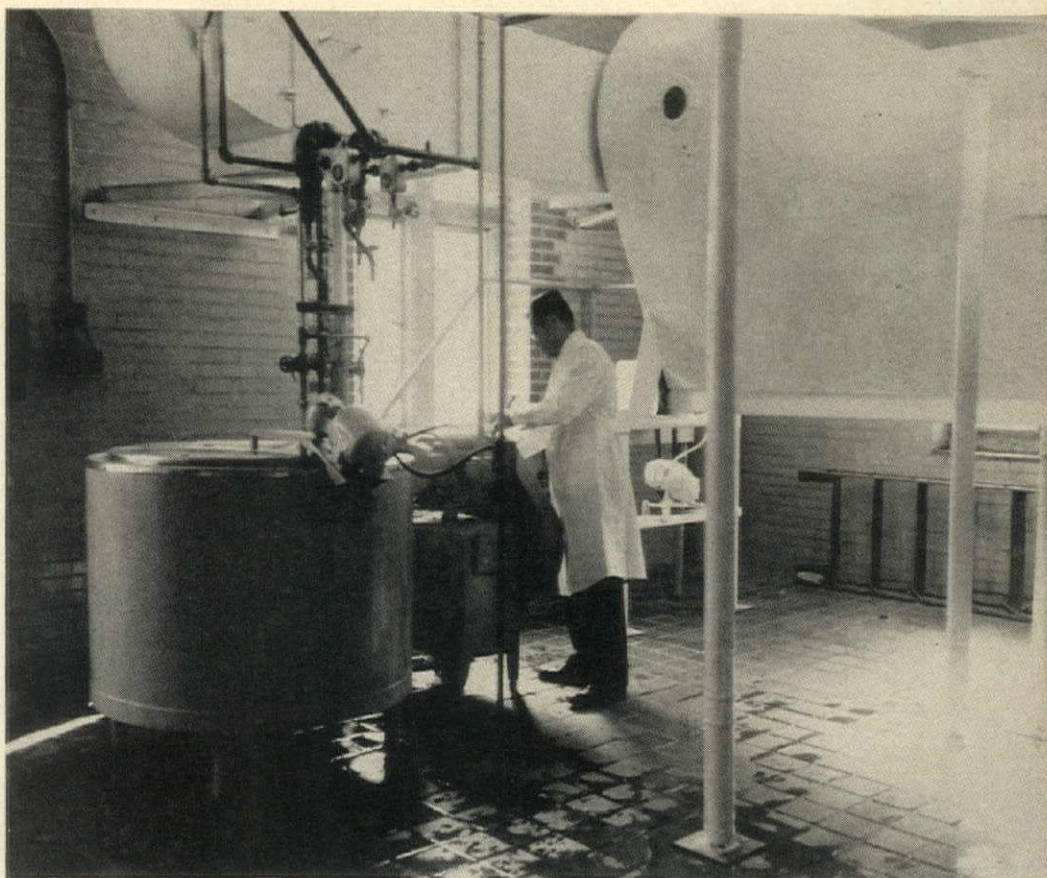
The General Education Board of New York (the Rockefeller Board) which earlier had made arrangements with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to conduct demonstration work in the Southern states, shortly thereafter appropriated money for the work in Virginia.

By May 1907, Sandy reported that he had 20 farmers doing work under his directions, all within 40 miles of his Burkeville home. Sandy has been called the "father of Extension work in Virginia." Certainly he was imbued with a rare common sense, a finely poised judgment, and a passion to be of service. In October 1907 he chose Southall Farrar to work with him. Dr. Eggleston once remarked that Mr. Farrar, a man with a small foot, made the biggest tracks of any man he ever knew—that wherever he walked over the fields, great crops of corn and wheat and oats sprang up.

When the legislature of 1908 met, Mr. Sandy and Dr. Eggleston went to work to get appropriations for boys' and girls' work. And at that legislature, Senator Keezell, chairman of the finance committee, favored the appropriation of \$3,000 as a trial.

"Mr. Sandy and Dr. Eggleston will have to be sent to a lunatic asylum if the appropriation is not made," the

(Continued on next page)



ABOVE: The dairy processor is one of the "clients" of the Virginia Experiment Station and Extension Service. Here a VPI researcher conducts tests on milk processing. His information will be funneled to the dairy plants by the Extension Service. BELOW: Individual counseling is one of the more effective teaching tools of the Extension Service. Here a county agent visits a farmer. Note strip cropping in the background—a soil and water conservation measure.



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senator said. "This would be a calamity—at least to these two gentlemen."

The senator had a small twinge of doubt about the proposed program. "These gentlemen," he said, "speak of 100 bushels of corn being raised on an acre as if it could be an everyday occurrence. Up in Rockingham county we have excellent farms and think we are fairly good farmers, and I confess I've never seen 100 bushels of corn to an acre. We can overlook this exaggerated enthusiasm."

But Mr. Sandy, who the year before had been named Virginia's first state demonstration agent and who had started working with farmers in three counties contiguous to Burkeville, went to Rockingham county and organized a boys' corn club. The senator's son (a lad about 14 years old) was made president of the club. The boy captured the county prizes for the largest yield, for the best 10 ears of corn, and for the best single ear. His yield, on his one acre on the Senator's farm, was 114 bushels of corn.

Southall Farrar, in the spring of 1909, organized 75 boys in Dinwiddie and 25 in Chesterfield, and the "one boy one acre" corn plots became a growing concern.

In 1910 the girls' garden clubs were started in Virginia, and were soon joined by canning and poultry clubs. Ella Agnew, then doing YWCA work in the middle west was named to head the work.

It was another wise choice. Extension work then was trail blazing; pioneer work requiring great wisdom, great patience, great constructive ability and Miss Agnew laid solidly the foundations on which the girls' work and women's work have developed. The idea from the beginning was to start in the garden with a tomato club, then to get into the kitchen, and then into the home.

It doesn't take much imagination to see how tough these early agents had things. "Book larning" was often scoffed at by the farmers, and progress was sometimes slow. But every demonstration that succeeded gained new advocates of the scientific approach to farming. As conservative as farmers were, it didn't take too long for them to find out why and how some neighbor was outproducing them.

With the passage of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, the General Education Board withdrew and the U. S. Department of Agriculture took over the work. At this time the demonstration work in Virginia was transferred to VPI and became known as Extension

Work in Agriculture and Home Economics.

It is financed by Federal, state, and county funds, and the Extension Service is a part of the educational triumvirate at the school of agriculture at VPI. With resident teaching and the Agricultural Experiment Station, its influence extends directly or indirectly into the lives of everyone who produces or uses food or fiber, who cultivates a field or a small patch of ground.

By 1915 the work was well underway and demands for services were increasing. Sandy reported in this year that, "for the first time in the history of Virginia, farmers have raised a sufficient amount of corn for our own consumption, and that the same is true of hay."

In 1915 there were engaged in cooperative extension work in Virginia one state agent, four district agents, 51 county agricultural agents, and five special field agents who traveled 72,796 miles by rail and 11,593 miles by team and other conveyance.

Yes, times were different back then. Not only in farming, but in prose. Here is a flowery sample from the annual extension report of 1915. "Corn is yet king in Virginia—to him who serves with diligent intelligence, a monarch that bestows with justice golden profits; but to him who in his own conceit follows not the laws that best serve the interest of this king, a despot who with equal justice and without pity metes out a leaden loss."

* * *

And today: Shortly after midnight the telephone rang at the county agent's home. Answering it, he learned that a dairyman was having some trouble with his cows.

"Can't you come out and help me?" the dairyman asked.

Within a few minutes the agent was at the farm where he remained until 2 a.m.

Thus began the day. At 8 a.m. our midnight-visiting agent was at his office where he planned a few terrace lines for a farmer before noon. He attended a Lion's Club luncheon, gave a live-stock demonstration in the afternoon, wrote 18 letters back in his office, and went home. After supper he gave a talk for a community improvement club.

* * *

A county agent is presumed to convey agricultural and home economics information to people of his county, and if his work were confined to this duty, and within the confines of normal working hours, his life would be little different from that of a

banker, a lawyer, or anyone else engaged in working with the public. But the agent has no hours of his own, nor do his duties have many bounds except when, through sheer exhaustion, he calls a halt to duties which are too foreign to his regular assignments.

He and his counterpart, the county home demonstration agent, are highly trained. Most of Virginia's agents have gone through a period as assistant. The assistant agents are selected largely from VPI graduates.

The agent must be a man (or woman) of many talents. He is an agronomist, an animal husbandman, a dairyman, an insect and disease control specialist, an orchardist—all rolled into one. He is, increasingly, an expert on economics and policy and management. He must not lose his aplomb when talking to tenant farmers—or to state department officials. He sometimes plays host to visitors from Europe, Asia, and South America.

If he does not know the answer to your question, he must know where to find the answer. Reinforcing his not inconsiderable knowledge is a staff of specialists at VPI. Many of the state specialists were once themselves county agents, and have a sympathetic knowledge of problems on the local level. Neither they nor the county agents are expected to stagnate intellectually. More and more emphasis is being put on in-service and graduate training, and they must go fast to keep pace with the changing times and the challenge of the atomic age.

The county agent deals with facts—but most of all he deals with people. Basically the county and the state Extension Service program is planned around the needs of the people. Working through local committees, through volunteer leaders, the Extension Service conducts an informal education program for all the people of Virginia who are interested in agriculture, home economics, and related subjects.

Farm men, women, boys and girls, and the industries and businesses related to agriculture receive priority. But these educational activities are extended to rural non-farm and urban people as far as practical. The average size of the county staff is slightly less than four professional people per county, with responsibilities to an average of 1,350 farm families. Agents are located in every county and two cities in Virginia.

The specialists at VPI keep in close touch with the research programs of the Experiment Stations. They assemble, analyze, and interpret the results of research and make such

information quickly available to county staffs.

The entire field of agriculture and rural life is undergoing revolutionary changes. In the business of farming, commercial farms are not only becoming larger, but they are also becoming highly specialized. Because of higher capital needs and mechanization, management becomes increasingly important. Furthermore, the high degree of specialization demands that the farmer use the best technical information if he expects to stay in business.

There are also constant shifts in types of farming enterprises. In the past 25 years, the percentage of cash income derived from the sale of livestock and livestock products, including poultry, rose from 43 to 57. The most striking changes have been the transformation of the poultry industry from a farm flock basis to that of large commercial enterprises, the expansion in beef cow numbers to six times the number on farms in 1940, the intensification and mechanization of dairy enterprises, and the expansion of the commercial swine production in eastern Virginia.

In making these shifts, the Extension Service has been called on for help in many fields, including the solution of problems in diseases, parasites, nutrition, breeding and management of livestock. Also involved were the establishment and improvement of pastures, and the production, harvesting, storing, and use of feed crops.

Total acres of cash crops declined from 1,400,000 in 1930 to 900,000 in 1956. Most of the acreage taken out of cash crops went into pasture and forage crops for the additional 600,000 head

of cattle now on Virginia farms. During this period, the annual income from cattle rose from \$40,000,000 to \$150,000,000. At the same time, the income from cash crops rose from \$65,000,000 to \$213,000,000. The intensification of production on fewer acres increased the problems of fertility, plant diseases, insects, and soil management.

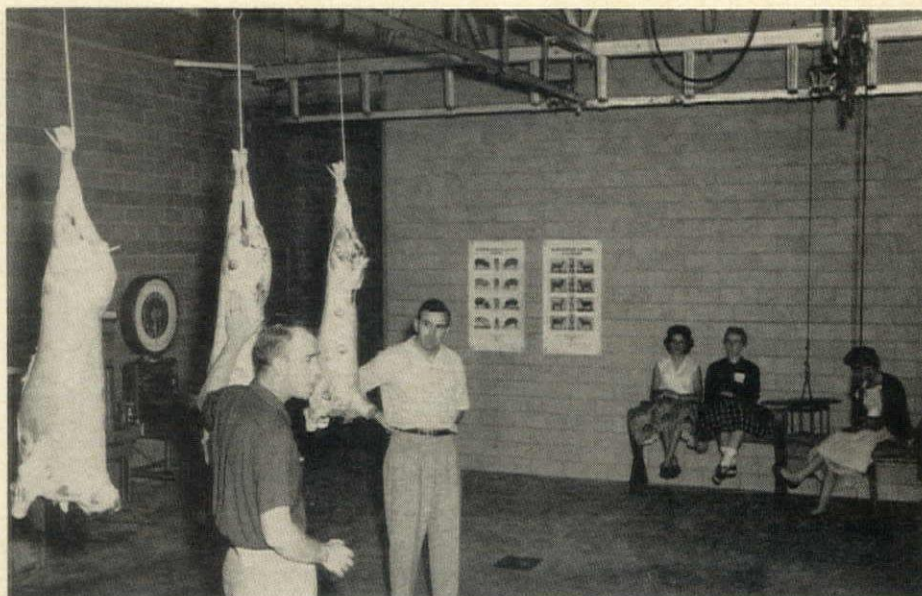
While revolutionary changes have taken place in recent years, it is expected that they will be even more pronounced in the future and that the Extension Service will be asked to help with them. In farming, this involves the entire field of plant and animal production.

There is also a constant increase in requests for assistance in the general field of marketing, which includes work with market agencies, processors, distributors of farm products, and the suppliers of materials for farmers.

The steady population increase is resulting in an increased demand for more assistance from home economists in nutrition, management, budgeting, clothing, house furnishings, and other areas of family living. The rural population in Virginia increased from 1,636,000 in 1930 to 1,759,000 in 1950; and the estimate for 1960 is a rural population of 1,992,000—the same as that estimated for the urban population. These additional people need homes to live in—and an increase in home building has increased the requests for help in landscape planning, control of diseases and insects in gardens and ornamental plantings.

* * *

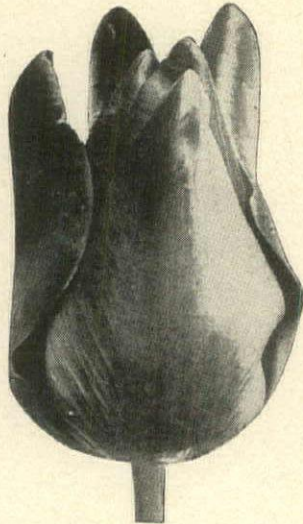
"Well," the novice may say, "that's all very interesting. But how do you
(Continued on page 21)



A class in meat carcass evaluation is taught by VPI staff members to farm youths attending a short course.

Darwin Hybrid Tulips

A new race of Tulips, the results of crossings between Darwin Tulips and Fosteriana varieties. They have enormous flowers on strong stems and vivid colors. Stock limited.



APELDOORN. 24 inches. Orange-scarlet, base black, edged yellow. This is one of the newest Tulips in existence and is a cross between Tulip Red Emperor and a new red Darwin variety. Perhaps the largest Tulip on the market today and of most striking color. 3 for 60¢; \$1.50 per dozen; \$10.00 per 100.

DIPLOMATE. 24 inches. Vermillion red, very large flower. 3 for 70¢; \$1.85 per dozen; \$12.00 per 100.

DOVER. 24 inches. Fiery poppy-red, very large flower, beautiful black center with yellow border. Fully open, 8 inches across. 3 for 60¢; \$1.50 per dozen; \$10.00 per 100.

EMPIRE STATE. 26 inches. The largest and tallest of all Darwin hybrids. A cross of the Darwin Red Pitt and Fosteriana Red Emperor. Tomato red with yellow base. 3 for 70¢; \$1.75 per dozen; \$12.00 per 100.

GENERAL EISENHOWER. 24 inches. Orange-red flower of enormous size. This variety promises to be the most beautiful Tulip in the future. 3 for 50¢; \$1.50 per dozen; \$10.00 per 100.

ROOSEVELT. Clear orange-red, extra large, well formed flower. 3 for 70¢; \$1.75 per dozen; \$12.00 per 100.

HOLLAND GLORY. 24 inches. This is the most perfect, the largest and strongest of all Tulips. There is no other variety with such a beautiful warm dazzling scarlet color. It won the highest awards on all exhibitions of the last few years. It is a cross between Red Emperor and Advance, combining the good qualities of both. 3 for 70¢; \$1.75 per dozen; \$12.00 per 100.

GUDOSHNIK. 26 inches. Yellow, spotted red. When fully open flower is 8½ inches across. Foliage of this variety exceptionally attractive, green spotted with gray. 3 for 80¢; \$2.50 per dozen; \$17.50 per 100.

SPRING SONG. 24 inches. A spectacular new variety of a brilliant scarlet color. Enormous large flowers on tall, strong stems. One of the biggest hits of the last decade. 3 for 60¢; \$1.50 per dozen; \$10.00 per 100.

SPRINGTIME. Scarlet red with black base. Actual measurements of the flower is twice the size of most Darwin Tulips. The length of the petals are 3 inches or more and when fully open, measure 7 to 8 inches in diameter. 3 for 70¢; \$1.75 per dozen; \$12.00 per 100.

PEACOCK TULIPS. 12 inches. This is a new race of Tulips, outstanding by its very striking colors. Contains all the colors of the rainbow. Special attention should be taken of their colorful hearts and their striped and colored foliage. Flowering time, early April. Very substantial and long lasting. Mixed colors only. 3 for 75¢ \$2.25 per dozen; \$15.00 per 100.

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Garden Gossip

Section

Mrs. Gerald J. Pierce, Editor

Phone AT 8-0202, 7700 Hillview Ave., Richmond 29, Va.



Photo by Colonial Studios

The abundance of the harvest season, particularly the American one, is typified in this richly colored arrangement in a large earthenware plate. The bold texture of the leaves—green tobacco leaves—provides a good balance for the weight of the fruits and vegetables used with the bronze chrysanthemums to create a mass design to express the opulence of the autumn season. Mrs. R. E. Bryant of Richmond set this arrangement against a background of natural burlap in the artistic section of a recent Virginia Chrysanthemum Society Show.

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BOOK NOTES



THE JUDGING OF ROSES a book by C. H. Lewis, price \$3.00, 89 pages with black and white drawings, available from the American Rose Society, Columbus 14, Ohio.

The first book ever published on rose judging. Adopted as the official judging manual by the American Rose Society, it is the "law" for the more than 547 Accredited and Apprentice Rose Judges.

Background for the book is the American Rose Society's 60 years development of judging practices and techniques carefully assembled and edited by C. H. Lewis, Salem, Virginia, nationally known rose judge, lecturer and instructor who served eight years as Chairman of the ARS Rose Judges Committee, currently a Director. The author presents valuable information for identifying roses, their characteristics, the scale of points for judging, classes of roses, color classes, a model rose show schedule and how to set up a rose show. The black and white drawings illustrate rose bud forms, basic flower forms, the anatomy of the rose, types of inflorescence, types of petals, types of sepals, details of the bloom, the pistil, the styles, the calyx tubes, thorns or prickles, stipules and auricles, the leaf and leaflet, and leaf margins.

A book that will be of great assistance to every rose judge, exhibitor, or grower, as an aid to understanding what one sees in a rose that makes it the "Queen" of flowers.

Nelson Coon first published his *Using Wayside Plants* privately in 1957; now this book of interest to campers, nature enthusiasts, Scouts, hikers and autoists is available through Hearthside Press. Working on the theory it "behooves every loyal American. . . to discover what is at hand along the waysides . . . and to aid in this discovery" the author takes you into the byways. He gives recipes for using wild foods like watercress soup, ways of cooking with mushrooms, salads of dandelions and cress, vegetables including fern croziers and pokeweed and the many berry favorites. His chapter "Something for the Children" is nostalgic in its discussion of rush and hollyhock dolls, whistles from grass and the many uses of pods and nuts. All sorts of plant crafts, ways to make emergency equipment and medicines add to the charm of this volume in which about one hundred wayside plants are discussed.

N.E.P.

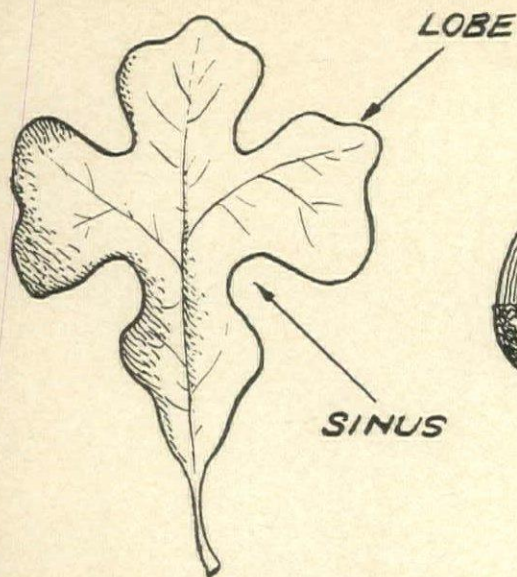


Figure 1—Post Oak
Leaf in shape of cross, covered with dense, matted, short hairs on undersurface.

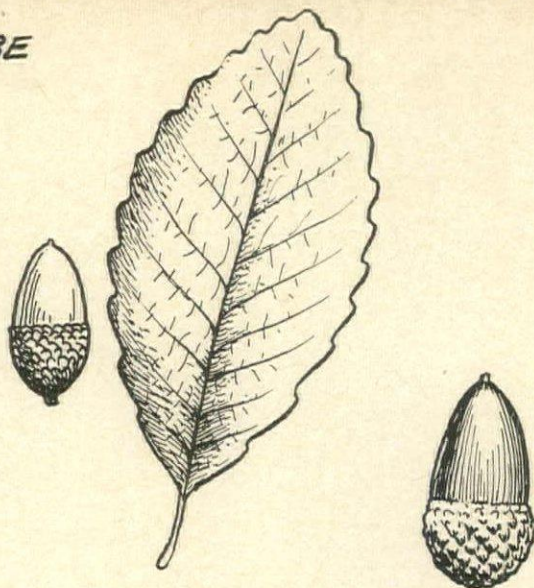


Figure 2—Swamp Chestnut Oak
Leaf egg shaped with widest portion at the top; margin of teeth varying from blunt and rounded to sharp pointed.

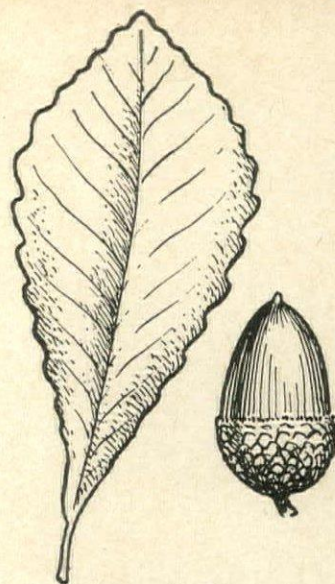


Figure 3—Chestnut Oak
Leaf widest at middle, tapering to each end; margin with rounded to blunt teeth.

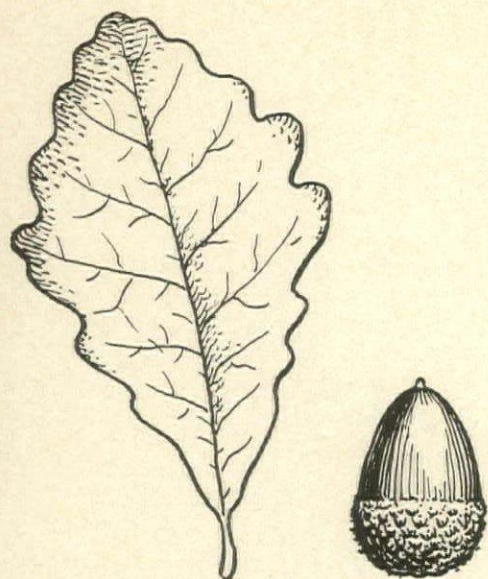


Figure 4—Swamp White Oak
Margin variable, rounded to blunt teeth or shallowly lobed.

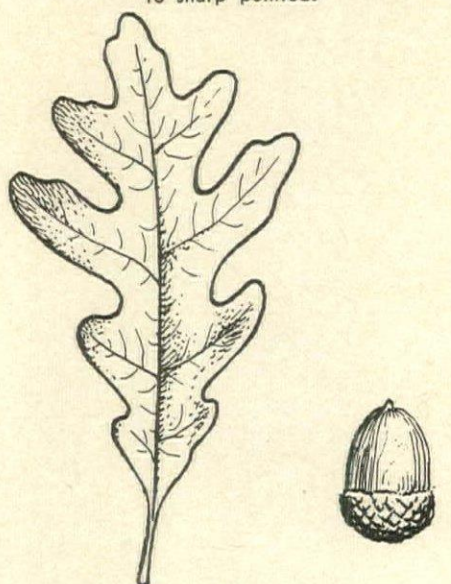


Figure 5—White Oak
Leaves deep or shallow and rather evenly lobed; sinuses rather narrow; under-surfaces without hair.

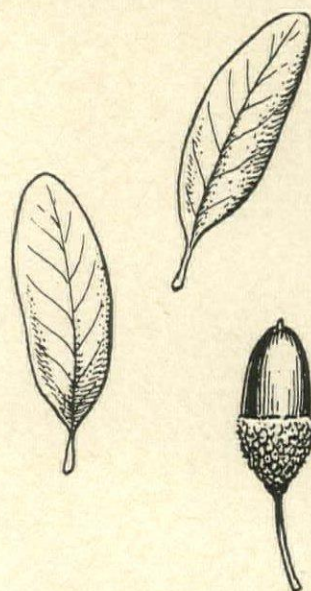


Figure 6—Live Oak
Leaves persistent; smooth margin; wide in middle, tapering to each end.

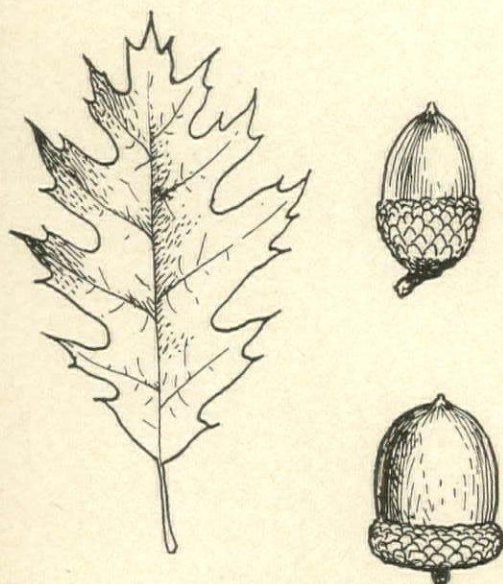


Figure 7—Northern Red Oak
7 to 11 lobes with narrow, rather regular sinuses; outline of leaf like egg, with widest part at top; smooth beneath except for minute tufts of hair on center vein.

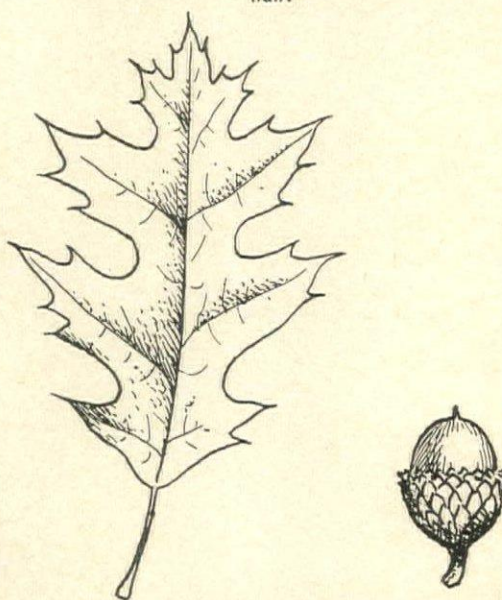


Figure 8—Black Oak
Inverted egg shaped to oval in outline; sinuses of varying depth; yellowish to copper colored beneath; hair on center vein white to reddish brown.



Figure 9—Scarlet Oak
Oval to ovate in outline, with 5-9 deep lobes; sinuses approaching circular in shape, smooth below except for hair on center vein.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR OAKS?

VIRGINIA has about seventeen important species of oaks within her boundaries—how many can you identify? What makes it confusing is the oak family is a member of a larger family, the beeches, and in Virginia this includes the beech, chestnut, chinquapin as well as the oaks.

In classifying the various species of oaks, the genus is divided into two main groups—the white oaks and the red oaks. These are separated on the basis of the structure of the leaf and the ripening and structure of the acorn. Several of the white oaks are called chestnut oaks—these have a number of shallow lobes around the leaf margin. Several of the red oaks form a group called willow oaks, distinguished by the absence of lobes and their length rather than width.

The following table lists the more important oaks found in Virginia and their approximate range with the state:

WHITE OAK GROUP — WHITE OAKS

<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Range</i>	<i>Common Name</i>
<i>Quercus alba</i> *	Statewide	White Oak
" <i>lyrata</i>	Coastal plain	Overcup Oak
" <i>stellata</i> *	Statewide on dry soils	Post Oak

CHESTNUT OAKS

<i>Quercus prinus</i> *	Coastal plain	Swamp Chestnut
" <i>montanta</i> *	Mountains of state	Chestnut Oak
" <i>bicolor</i> *	Few in north of state only	Swamp White Oak
" <i>muehlenbergii</i>	Mountains of state	Chinquapin

RED OAK GROUP — RED OAKS

<i>Quercus borealis</i> *	Statewide	Northern Red
" <i>velutina</i> *	Statewide	Black Oak
" <i>falcata</i> *	Coastal plain	Southern Red Oak
" <i>coccinea</i> *	Mountains	Scarlet Oak
" <i>palustris</i> *	Piedmont	Pin Oak
" <i>laevis</i>	Southeast	Turkey Oak
" <i>marlandica</i> *	Statewide	Blackjack Oak

WILLOW OAKS

<i>Quercus phellos</i>	Coastal plain	Willow Oak
" <i>nigra</i> *	Coastal plain	Water Oak
" <i>imbricaria</i>	Mountains & Piedmont	Shingle Oak
" <i>virginiana</i> *	Southeast	Live Oak

*Important as wildlife food.

During the fall and winter months, acorns from 13 of the above species are utilized by many forms of wildlife for food, including songbirds, game birds, waterfowl, shore birds, deer, small mammals and fur and game animals.

Homeowners with oaks on their property may dislike the leaf raking chore in the fall and winter months but the shade and added beauty of a few oaks adds immeasurably to the value of home property. Trees usually acquire their common names by some main characteristic. In the oaks found in Virginia, this is readily noticeable. A good example is the chestnut oak or the willow oak. In some localities many trees have from 10 to 30 local names, which results in much confusion as to just what species of tree is being referred to. Because of this great confusion in common names, the universal system of technical names was devised. Not the name of a tree is the same throughout the world.

Drawings and information reproduced from an article by D. E. Cantor in VIRGINIA WILDLIFE with permission of the editor.

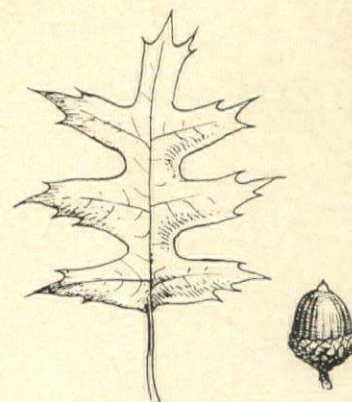


Figure 10—Pin Oak
Similar to scarlet oak, but sinuses are broadly U-shaped to squarish.

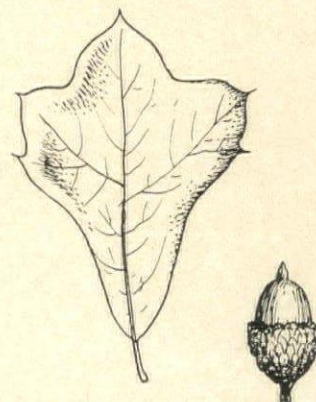


Figure 11—Blackjack Oak
Typical leaf outline, egg shaped with widest portion at top; 3 shallow lobes at tip, slightly hairy beneath.

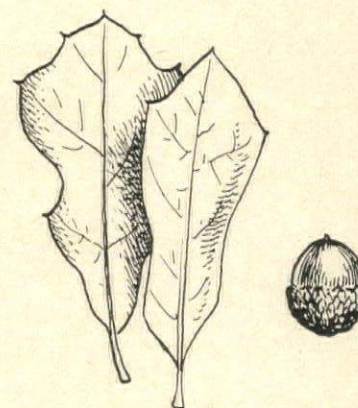


Figure 12—Water Oak
Very variable. From spatula shaped, oblong, egg shaped, with widest portion at top to linear. 3 to 5 lobes.



Figure 13—Willow Oak
Linear to lance shaped. Top and bottom surface without hair.



THE LATEST ON PLASTIC GREEN HOUSES

(from VPI Extension Service)

Greenhouses made of plastic instead of the traditional glass are an accepted part of the gardening landscape in Virginia now—but there have been a few problems connected with their use.

Scientists at Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station say recent research has been aimed at developing a better structure, an automatically controlled and economical heating system, and an inexpensive automatic ventilation system. They've also been testing new types of plastic film. Horticulturist P. H. Massey, Jr., and Agricultural Engineer McNeil Marshall report some notable progress.

The search for a better structure to support the plastic film has resulted in the development of two new types of framework—a planted post foundation with scissors-type trussed rafters, and a masonry-block foundation with ordinary rafter construction.

The planted post foundation house is 21 feet wide and has sidewalls three feet high. Most commercial growers like greenhouses wider than 18 feet. The low sidewalls reduce the air volume in the house which reduces the heating load. The scissors-type trussed rafters are easily constructed. The slope of the rafters lets snow slide off.

Water accumulation on any relatively flat surface of the inner lining of plastic greenhouses has been a serious problem. An inner layer of plastic film attached to the underside of the scissors framing lets condensed moisture drain to the outer walls of the greenhouse.

The masonry-block foundation house costs a little more than the planted post foundation, but it is more permanent. The masonry-block sidewalls are laid on a concrete footing and are usually more than two feet high. This

new greenhouse has interested many small growers. It is built low to the ground and is easy to heat.

Recirculate Heated Air

Many types of heating systems have been tested in an effort to find one that effectively and economically heats a plastic greenhouse. For continuous winter-time use, where temperature differences between outside and inside the greenhouse are often 60 or 70 degrees, the scientists have found that forced warm-air furnace, with pressure-type oil burner and automatic controls, best serves the purpose.

The recirculation of the heated air, characteristic of this heating system, tends to control and prevent condensation of moisture on the inside layer of the plastic film. A 20 by 40-foot greenhouse can be heated satisfactorily for about \$1 per day for the heating system.

Where plastic greenhouses are used only in the early spring months, one or more oil-burning space heaters equipped with circulating fans have been found satisfactory.

The VPI tests indicate that adding a second layer of plastic should reduce heating costs by about one-third. The inner lining can soon be paid for by savings on fuel, and is a good safety factor should the outside-layer of film be torn.

New Plastics Tested

All new plastic covering materials are being tested at VPI as soon as they become available for experimental work. Some films have been in use for three years before disintegrating under severe weather conditions. One new film that seems promising is made from polyvinyl fluoride. Some other films being tested are made from polyvinyl chloride and have weathered in good condition for two years. Longlasting plastic films that will stay in good condition on greenhouses for three to five years likely will soon be commercially available.

Trends in greenhouse ventilation back up VPI tests which show that manually operated systems should be replaced by automatically operated systems. The best solution to the problem of low-cost automatic ventilation seems to be the use of large exhaust fans, controlled by an air-switch type thermostat plus automatically operated intakes of proper size.

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news from the gardening world . . .

FOR FRUIT LOVERS

Jefferson, a new yellow-fleshed peach, is the second in VPI's presidential series of new peach varieties to be released, according to Dr. George D. Oberle and R. C. Moore, of the Agricultural Experiment Station at VPI.

This peach is a cross of J. H. Hale with Valiant. Its outstanding characteristic is the ability to withstand damage from frosts during the blossoming season. R. C. Moore made the first cross in 1946, at Blacksburg.

The fruit is noted for exceptional color, attractive appearance, above average size, firmness of flesh, and desirable texture, flavor, and quality.

The new variety is adapted to mountain areas in Virginia where peaches can be grown, and possibly to similar mountain areas in adjoining states.

Jefferson ripens at Blacksburg about August 27, or about two days after Elberta. The blossoms have good pollen and are self-fruitful. Trees grow vigorously in the nursery, Oberle says, and in the orchard. Flavor and quality of the fruit have been evaluated as comparable to those of its J. H. Hale parent, and superior to Elberta.

Propagation materials are available as follows: Buds only, from Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, Blacksburg. And trees available winter of 1960-61 from Waynesboro Nurseries, Inc., Waynesboro.

WILLIAMSBURG SYMPOSIUM

Plans for the 1961 Garden symposium have been announced by Colonial Williamsburg, sponsor of the annual seminar. The fifteenth Williamsburg Garden Symposium will be held March 20-24.

"Keys to Garden Pleasure" will be the theme of the Williamsburg Garden Symposium. Distinguished horticulturists and landscape architects will discuss garden design, plant material and cultivation at the morning lectures. J. Gregory Conway, noted flower arranger, will give a demonstration of his art and during garden clinics home gardeners will have an opportunity to discuss their individual planting problems with the experts. There will also be tours of the more than 90 colonial gardens in Williamsburg and private homes usually closed to the public.

Registrations for both events are being accepted by Registrar Mrs. Mary B. Deppe, Goodwin Building, Williamsburg, Virginia.

(More on next page)

CLASSIFIED

PINE CONES—Booklet pictures tiny cones to foot long. Unusual all-cone wreaths. December evergreens. **WESTERN TREE CONES**, Corvallis, Oregon.

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HOLIDAY SHOW SLATED IN RICHMOND

Mrs. P. W. Underwood, President of the Richmond Council of Garden Clubs, has announced that Mrs. John C. Pounds, Jr., will serve as general chairman of the Council's eleventh annual holiday show, "CHRISTMAS, THE OLD AND THE NEW", with Mrs. W. Thomas Holmes as co-chairman.

Christmas in July really came home to the committee members, especially the schedule chairmen, Mrs. Gerald J. Pierce (Artistic) and Mrs. Berkeley Williams, Jr. (Cultural) as they planned the classes for the exhibitors to enthuse over in December. The annual event will be held at the Carillon in Byrd Park, Richmond on December 2-4, 1960.

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YOU CAN GET RID OF CHICKWEED!

If chickweed is a bothersome pest in your lawn, why not take advantage of the slack in garden work this fall to work on eradicating the nuisance? Unfortunately, chickweed is a broadleaf weed which does not respond to a 2, 4-D application. It is a winter annual which starts to germinate in August and may continue until frost. The best time to kill this particular weed is when the plants are very small. When about one inch in height, use 3½ ounces of potassium cyanate or 4 tablespoons of an amine salt in dinitro in 1 gallon of water for 1000 square feet of lawn. Both of these herbicides are contact weed killers; therefore, good coverage of all parts of the chickweed is necessary if control is to be obtained. Two or three applications may be needed. The best results are obtained when the temperature is about 60 degrees when the spray is applied. Or another chemical called Silvex or 2,

4, 5-TP is effective for chickweed and may be obtained under the trade names Weedone Chickweed Killer (manufactured by Amchem Company of Amber, Pa.) or Super Liquid Chick-Not (manufactured by Nott Manufacturing Co. of Poughkeepsie, N. Y.). In either case, follow the proportions recommended by the manufacturer. Spray weeds as soon after emergence as possible—this makes the job easier.

You might also want to be working on wild onion and wild garlic in your lawn. October is the time to spray with 1 ounce or 2 tablespoons of a low volatile ester formulation of 2, 4-D in one gallon of water per 1000 square feet of lawn. Spot spraying clumps of onion, being sure to wet the foliage thoroughly, in October and April should clear the lawn of this pest the second year, if not the first. Just keep after it!

Information, courtesy V.P.I. Extension Service.

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VIRGINIA BUSINESS REVIEW

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY has awarded to a Minneapolis firm, S. J. Groves & Son Company, the contract for the lower, or Leesville, dam of the two-dam Smith Mountain Hydro-Electric Project on the Roanoke River. The upper dam, about 18 river miles upstream, is being constructed by Sollitt Construction Co., of South Bend, Ind. The Leesville Dam will differ from the concrete arch Smith Mountain Gap dam in that it will be a concrete gravity type structure.

The two-dam development will be the largest hydro-electric installation in the United States involving combined river flow and pumped storage. Operation of the entire project is expected in 1963.

Other Appalachian projects, to cost nearly \$700,000, are underway in the Fieldale-Martinsville area, according to E. L. Munday, company Fieldale manager. The work, which will take about a year to complete, has been undertaken to meet increasing industrial expansion and population growth in the area.

Appalachian is a major operating company of the American Electric Power System.

* * *

Norman D. McKenny, project manager for the construction of VEPCO's Gaston hydro-electric dam and power station, also on the Roanoke River, has arrived at Roanoke Rapids to establish field offices. Completion date for the 200,000 kilowatt station, has been set for spring of 1963. When completed, the 3,600 foot long dam will create a beautiful inland lake 34 miles long, 1.3 miles across at the widest point, with 20,300 acres of surface area and over 350 miles of shoreline.

* * *

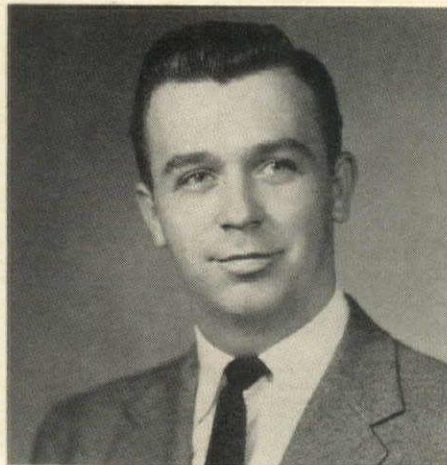
Sixty potential industrial sites in Chesterfield and Prince George counties and in Hopewell have been mentioned for consideration in a state listing.

The 60 sites were nominated at a meeting recently, attended by officials of the Hopewell Chamber of Commerce, of the localities and of the division of industrial development and

planning, State Department of Conservation and Economic Development.

The division has agreed to prepare an industrial sites report for the area.

* * *



(Dementi Studio)

James H. McLeroy Jr. (above) has been appointed manager of the Solite Silica Division of Solite Corporation at Richmond, according to an announcement made by A. Cabell Ford, Solite sales director. Mr. McLeroy has previously served as Petersburg manager and Richmond sales supervisor.

* * *

Herbert C. Moseley, president of The Bank of Virginia, announced that James W. Buffington of Norfolk, vice president, has been given the added title of vice president and trust officer. In Richmond, W. Guy Williams Jr., in the bank's Investment Department, has been elected assistant cashier.

* * *

A new clothing store, "DeLong's Boys and Students Shop," will open soon in Roanoke. The store, featuring nationally known brands of men's wear, will be owned and operated by DeLong's Inc., T. W. DeLong Jr., president, with W. R. DeLong, vice president and secretary.

Peoples Bank

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The Farmers National Bank of Salem now has a capital of more than one million dollars for the first time in its history, according to C. E. Weber, president. Next year will see the bank's 90th anniversary.

* * *

Lake Sleepwear, Inc., has its new plant at Boydton now in operation. The plant manufactures ladies' and childrens pajamas.

* * *

Bassett Oil Corp. has been named a commission agent for Esso Standard, a division of Humble Oil & Refining Co. W. Lynwood Craig is president of the Bassett firm.

* * *

Burke Lake is one step nearer the dam-building stage, according to the Fairfax County Park Authority, which announced transfer of 259 acres to the Virginia Commission of Game & Inland Fisheries.

* * *

Virginia forest products grossed \$877,000,000 last year. Twenty-two hundred Virginia factories are engaged in the manufacture of forest products, with the state's lumber mills alone numbering 1,800. An estimated 200,000 Virginians are directly dependent on the timber industries for livelihood, according to the Southern Pine Association's study of the 1960 edition, Bluebook of Southern Progress.

* * *

Bruce Gay, of Raleigh, N.C., has been unanimously approved as town manager of Big Stone Gap.

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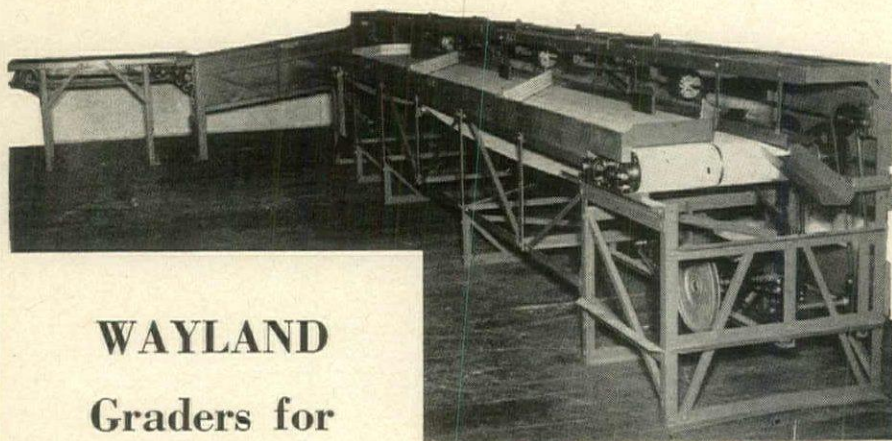
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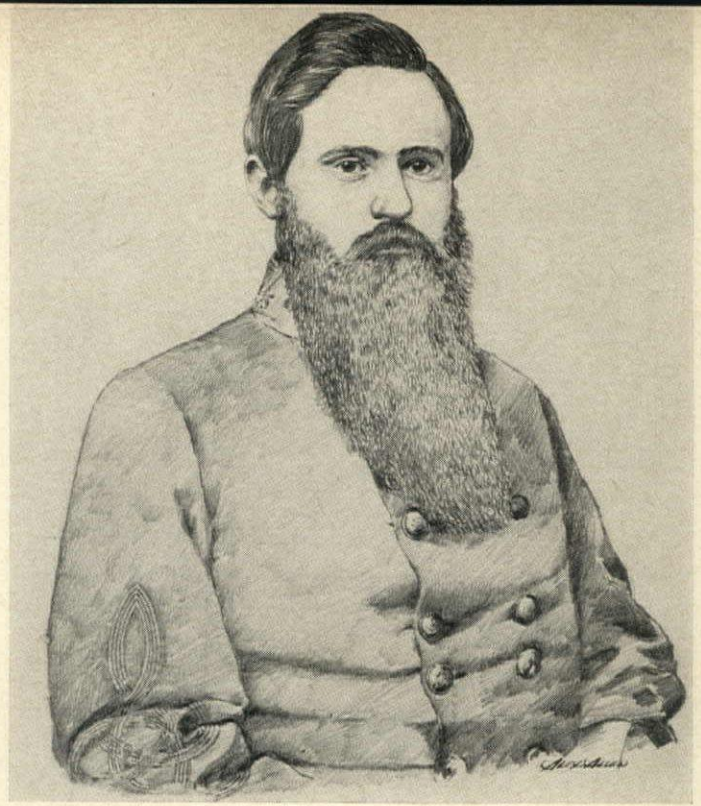
With Drawings by ALEX ALLEN

AS IT USED TO BE SAID about one of the "Rover Boys," Fitz was the "fun-loving" Lee. Other members of the Lee clan who were active during the Civil War could enjoy themselves (the General's outsized son, Rooney, was of a notably sanguine nature), but the General's nephew, Fitzhugh, was the one always ready for "a fight or a frolic."

Not quite 26 years old and five years out of West Point when the war began, the jolly-eyed gourmet, after a brief term on Joe Johnston's staff, soon found his niche in the 1st Virginia Cavalry. In those early innocent days of war, Jeb Stuart, himself only 28, commanded his troopers in the knighthood tradition: his staff-officer and cousin by marriage, John Esten Cooke, said Stuart was like "the chief of a hunting-party." In this congenial atmosphere—along with his younger cousin, Rooney Lee, John Pelham, "the boy cannoneer," the fabled Shakesperian-scholar scout, Farley, and Sweeney, the ex-minstrel and staff banjo-player—Fitz Lee had the time of his life. Bringing a joyous love of combat to his sound professional training, he rose rapidly in the esteem of General Stuart and in July, 1862, after his service in the Peninsula Campaign and the fighting around Richmond, he made brigadier.

For the following year, Stuart's cavalry force remained in the organization of a division, and he could not advance Fitz Lee or Wade Hampton beyond brigade-command. For the invasion that ended at Gettysburg, Fitz hastened a recovery from an attack of gout to join this command for the trip, and, even in the operation in which Stuart deprived the army of the cavalry in its function as serving as the "eyes" of the infantry, young Fitz distinguished himself in the heavy fighting.

After the return from Pennsylvania, General Lee approved Stuart's plan for organizing his force into a corps of divisions, which would open the way for the advancement of deserving and ambitious officers, and Fitz was promoted in August, 1863, to major-general in command of a division. In the spring of '64, General Lee wrote his youngest son, Robert E. Lee, Jr., that he would have to move Fitz' command



away from Charlottesville, because his nephew was spending too much time at dance assemblies and other frivolities. But Fitz' pleasure-loving kept the spirits high in his regiments, even when the grim times set in for the cavalry, along with the rest of the army.

Horses were gaunt for lack of forage, and the physical strength of the men was ebbing from too long on short rations. Then, the superbly mounted and conditioned Federal cavalry, outnumbering the Confederates three-to-two (with illimitable replacements for horses and men), opened the campaign with eight-shot breech-loading carbines against the Confederates' old single-shot muzzle-loaders. Even so, and against the pressing tactics of bully-boy Sheridan, Fitz Lee's brigades made one of the great stands of the Civil War in the prelude to Spotsylvania Court House.

Outnumbered about two-to-one, he blocked the road through the woods from before dawn to mid-morning, forcing Sheridan to call on Federal infantry to do the job. Even then, Fitz Lee fell back so slowly and skillfully that Lee's infantry, marching through the night, got up to take the cross-roads to Richmond and halt Grant's mighty force.

After Jeb Stuart's death, a few days later, in May, 1864, General Lee had the three division-commanders report directly to him. Then in the fall, he chose Wade Hampton over his nephew as successor to Stuart, probably on the grounds of Hampton's steadiness. When Hampton went South in February, 1865, Fitz Lee at last came into command of the cavalry corps, then thinned in numbers and near exhaustion. In the last battle before the breakthrough at Petersburg, Fitz showed that his uncle's earlier selection of Hampton was a sound one. While the enemy hosts gathered for the big thrust against the thin line at Five Forks, Fitz Lee was off with Pickett and Tom Rosser at a shad-bake. Those fish had just begun to run, and they were too much for the young gourmet.

After the war, growing stout with the years, he became governor of Virginia and major-general of U.S. Volunteers in the Spanish-American War. Living splendidly to the end (1905), Fitzhugh Lee had the unique distinction of dying with the rank of Brigadier-general, U.S. Army, Retired. This was somehow fitting for the happy soldier.



Fierce as he was in combat, Fitz Lee will always be remembered for the shad-bake he attended with Pickett and Rosser while the worn Confederate line broke at Five Forks. . . .

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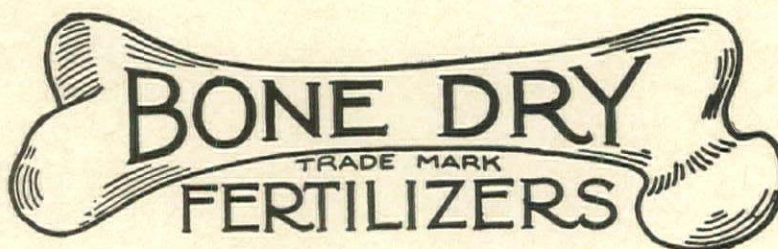


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EDUCATION FOR ACTION (Continued from page 9)

go about teaching informally all these things people need to know? And how, for that matter, do you pinpoint what they need to know?"

The Extension Service teaches through doing, through showing how to do in demonstrations, through showing the results that may be expected by following tried and proved practices. To reach all age levels—adult and youth—it uses every known method of teaching.

"We do not," says W. H. Daughtrey, associate director of Extension, "go to the farm family or the community with a fixed program, a hard set of rules, and say 'This is best for you.' We encourage the development of self-reliance and individual planning ability on the part of rural people, helping them to recognize their own problems. Then we bring all available facts on any given problem to the people and help develop programs that will help meet those needs."

A partial list of the methods commonly used in Extension teaching includes demonstrations, general meetings, tours, news stories, radio and TV broadcasts, bulletins, circular letters, exhibits, farm and home visits, office calls, correspondence, telephone calls, training schools, study courses, working with county leaders. The Extension Service also works with many other groups—federal, state, and county, public and private, that serve agriculture, and also with organizations designed for community life and education, such as PTA, woman's clubs, and service clubs.

* * *

"A perfect vehicle for working with people." That's the tag put on community improvement clubs by Extension Service specialists and agents.

One of the best examples of such organizations was the Newbern Community Improvement Club in Pulaski county. A major face-lifting program got underway in 1952 when a group of citizens organized the club with the help of county agents and VPI specialists.

The first year's goals were simple ones: setting up signs on the highway to identify the community, sprucing up mailboxes, and cleaning up the roadside. In addition, they encouraged individual families to improve farm methods and to modernize and beautify their homes. Community dinners, recreation, and regular monthly meetings combining business, education, and fun, helped them to attain their goals.

The second year, 1953, the community became more ambitious. They raised over \$3,000 to install a modern water system, to replace wells and cisterns. They sought and obtained a woman doctor who became the first resident physician the community had had in over 30 years.

In 1954, the old three-room school building which had been abandoned when a modern new school was built, was bought by the club for \$1,500 to be used as a community center. The acre and a half on which the school was located provided a convenient recreation area for the community. The building was renovated and was no longer the depressing eyesore it had been for many years.

Service organizations from neighboring towns found the Newbern club a desirable place to hold their dinners, and serving such groups has become a major means of raising funds for community improvements.

With the spirit engendered by the community club, a local citizen renovated a neat brick building near the

center of the community to house the newly acquired doctor and her assistant. A modern clinic was installed on the first floor and a comfortable apartment for the two women on the floor above.

In the meantime the churches, home demonstration clubs, and youth organizations were being strengthened and improved. All three churches showed increased attendance.

* * *

Rural development work is like Mrs. Murphy's chowder—it has plenty of ingredients.

Carroll and Cumberland are Virginia's pilot counties in rural development work. In Carroll, the program has come to embrace neighboring Grayson county also, because it is evident the economy of either is closely related to the other.

Virginia's Agricultural Extension Service is contributing to the work in both pilot counties.

While progress is hard to measure in this type work, officials say that in the five years of the program's existence it is evident progress has been made. It would be unethical to assume that the rural development program and personnel have been responsible for the economic gain of these counties, as would be equally unethical for any organization or person to claim such credit. It has been the people, with assistance from every existing agency and organization in the area.

So it would appear that rural development work could be defined as the efforts of the people of a locality to improve their economic life, family life, and community life by working together to accomplish goals.

Per capita income in Carroll county in 1957 was \$930. A population loss of 4,000 occurred in the last 10 years. A recent survey of Grade A milk producers showed their average age to be 59 years, indicating a lack of young farmers in the county. The average farm in Carroll is 61.9 acres in size. Little vocational training is offered in county schools.

But the people of Carroll and Grayson are hard workers, take pride in their homes, schools, and religious activities. The people know the value of money; what they have came slow and hard. They believe in the pay-as-you-go plan, and most are debt free. The fact that many of their young people must go outside the area to seek employment is a source of great concern to them.

Several new industrial plants are either in operation or presently building.

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P. H. Hanes, Inc., has a building under construction in the west side of Carroll which when completed in about a year will employ 1,000 persons. The citizens of Carroll and Grayson counties and the city of Galax subscribed over one million dollars for this construction.

A small sewing industry located in Hillsville started operation in February of 1960. Now employing 25, at its peak it will employ 100 women within the next two years.

Older industry offers employment to Carroll citizens, including the National Carbide plant with 179 employees, Carroll Hosiery Corporation with 113, Lee Hosiery Mills, Inc., with 200, and Gossan Mines which employs 150.

The growth of the dairy industry in Carroll typifies the changes in the agriculture of the area. At present there are 87 Grade A dairies and over 1,200 producers of milk for manufacturing purposes. The average Grade A herd has 30 cows, a family-sized operation. Modern dairy practices, such as bulk tanks, pipe line milkers, artificial breeding, milking parlors, use of quality forage, progressive farm management and planning, and local marketing facilities, have set the pace in farming.

Alfalfa acreage in Carroll has increased from 840 acres in 1949 to 8,000 acres today. The use of both trench and upright silos has grown. Practically all the corn on Grade A dairy farms goes into silage these days.

Community improvement centers have sprung up and many have become centers of community life. Homes have been improved, and, as noted, kept well.

Many agencies and organizations have contributed to the progress which has been made. Among them are State Department of Education, Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Conservation Program, Future Homemakers of America, State Health Department, State Employment Service, State Division of Forestry, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Agricultural Extension Service.

* * *

A bulwark against plant diseases in Virginia, and a link in a nation-wide disease-warning service, can be found on the VPI campus where plant pathologists for the Extension Service operate a plant disease clinic which deals with the many and various problems of farmers and home owners.

Although the clinic was organized primarily to serve farmers, home owners in both rural and urban Virginia take advantage of its services.

Often special problems arise in which farmers must have a positive diagnosis immediately. Not unusual is a telephone call from the field saying that a farmer is delaying "setting out" his acreage, say in tobacco, until a report from the clinic is received. Many times the success or failure of any individual farmer's year's toil hinges on the proper identification of the disease and the advice given. Likewise, prompt action on the part of the pathologists has often brought under control, or averted, a disease epidemic.

Tobacco bluemold first appeared in Virginia about 1930, and within a few years spread throughout the tobacco belt and caused havoc among plant growers. Within a few years effective fungicides were developed to control bluemold, and this disease is no problem, because growers know what to do and how to do it.

In 1945, tomato late blight appeared in epidemic proportions. Commercial growers suffered a loss of several million dollars. Control measures were worked out and the growers who follow recommendations have very little trouble now.

Similar stories can be told about many other crops. In peanuts, for instance, leafspot was a serious threat until a treatment was developed by the VPI Experiment Station and the growers were educated in its use. It has been estimated that the chemical treatment has increased the yield of peanuts by 25 percent and the yield of peanut hay by 40 percent.

Since World War II much work has been done in developing new kinds of spray and dust materials to control diseases of farm crops, vegetables, and ornamentals. In 1950, a combination insecticide and fungicide was formulated by Virginia scientists. Now general purpose dusts or sprays are recommended in most states to control many different diseases and insects, especially for home gardeners and ornamental growers.

In addition to the main clinic at VPI, county and community disease clinics have been held throughout the state and have proved very popular. At the request of seedsmen and county agents, a plant disease newsletter was started in 1955. Each month during the growing season, a report on the occurrence of plant diseases is made, with brief notes on control along with warnings of the new diseases which might be expected to appear in the future.

* * *

A new half-million dollar industry has been developed in Culpeper county,



A full-scale drive by Experiment Station and Extension Service workers has helped the Virginia orchardist combat one of his worst enemies—the orchard mouse. Here an orchardist uses a ground spray—virtually unheard of a few years ago.

clearly pointing out the value of a poultry Extension program to the county.

Culpeper county, located about 70 miles from Washington, D. C., in northcentral Virginia, is primarily a dairy county where land values are quite high. A number of farm families in the county with limited acreage and/or limited capital needed additional income to maintain or improve their standard of living. Business interests in the town of Culpeper also needed increased sales in order to operate more efficiently and provide a reasonable return on investments.

Most of the people needing additional farm income lacked poultry or know-how and had a limited amount of capital to invest in a new building and equipment. Bankers were skeptical of lending money for the establishment of a poultry enterprise. Farm flocks were small (averaging about 87 birds per farm according to the 1954 census), and a large percentage of the eggs being produced in the county could not meet top quality standards. The expense involved in the handling of small lots of eggs of variable quality was cutting down on returns to farmers and the marketing of these eggs was becoming increasingly difficult. Lacking sales volume, feed stores were also having a struggle to offer service and

compete price-wise with dealers in other areas.

For a number of years the county agents in cooperation with the local county poultry committee had been holding a winter poultry meeting to discuss production and marketing practices. Although some progress was being made, changes were occurring too slowly for farmers to keep pace with competition in this fast-moving industry. In an effort to correct the situation, Roy Heltzel, county agent, and John Hill, manager of the local Culpeper Farmer's Cooperative, arranged for a dinner meeting in 1957 sponsored by the Cooperative, for farmers in the county who might be interested in participating in a commercial egg-production program.

This meeting was followed by other meetings, visits, conferences, and tours, and an effort was made by the manager of the Culpeper cooperative and the county agent, starting back in the fall of 1956, to get local bankers more interested in making poultry loans. It was not long before the bankers were providing moral as well as financial support to the program.

Most of the time the Culpeper Farmer's Cooperative also had a man in the field, as well as one in the store, who could pass along information on approved management practices and

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see that the advice of the specialists was carried out.

Along with these expansion and production improvement activities went efforts for the improvement of marketing. Through the initiative of the co-operative and help from state agencies, a modern Federal-State egg grading plant with flash candling equipment was set up. Although two other business concerns graded and shipped eggs into the Arlington and Washington areas, grading at these plants was done by local graders rather than by Federal-State graders. The establishment of the plant at the Culpeper Farmers' Co-operative provided the only Federal-State grading and cartoning facilities east of the Blue Ridge Mountains and north of the Richmond area. County and State Extension workers, as well as personnel at the cooperative and the other two egg-assembly stations, all assisted in conducting educational programs to improve the quality of eggs produced in the area.

These efforts have helped bring a new industry to Culpeper with a yearly income of about \$400,000. New poultry houses have been built and over 50,000 laying hens, in flocks of 500 or more birds each, have been established within the last two years. A new and modern Federal-State supervised egg grading and cartoning plant is now paying top prices for about 500 cases (24 dozen per case) of high quality locally produced eggs. Daily, rather than weekly grading with refrigeration from farm to retail outlets, is being provided. The other two egg dealers not on the Federal-State grading standards



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also seem to have benefited since their volume has increased and the quality improved.

Culpeper stores and other businesses are realizing that extra dollars in the farmers' pockets are being spent for local merchandise. To quote the Culpeper Star Exponent, "If there are still skeptics, a quick tour of the commercial egg plants mushrooming on county farms and a visit to the local egg grading stations will supply convincing evidence that in Culpeper, eggs spell industry. Standing ready to reap the benefits now and increasingly in the future are the producer and the consumer, the community and the Commonwealth."

* * *

During the last year, 1,922 families were helped to analyze combined farm and home situations and to develop plans which would lead to improvements. This approach, in Extension Service terminology, is known as "farm and home development." It is not a new approach, but it was given new emphasis in 1954 when Congress appropriated additional funds to strengthen Extension work. Early agents, with early missionary zeal, spent much of their time working with individual families. Less of this type of work was done as agents became involved in various types of farm programs in the 30's and with the many war programs in the 40's. They began to depend more on mass media with only a small proportion of their time allotted to individual farm families. In more recent years, farmers have been caught in a squeeze between falling prices and rising costs. They have had to make many adjustments, and they now need more personal help than ever before.

Take, for instance, a farm family designated objectively as "B" in the Extension Service files. In 1955 the family had little of its own. The parents and their four children were crowded into a 3½-room house. The dairy herd was small and low-producing. At first when the agents started conferring with them, Mr. and Mrs. "B" were dubious. "We want and need these things," they said. "But how do we get them?"

A VPI specialist was called to help develop plans for additional space, including two rooms, bath, basement, and a porch. Mr. "B" was encouraged to increase the size and production of his dairy herd, and the size and quality of his sheep flock. He was briefed on the virtues of a year-round pasture-forage program, and cleared 30 acres for pasture and cropland. One improvement led to many others, and he built a hay shed and loafing barns, installed a bulk milk tank, increased silage production, established a definite rotation for crops.

Now family "B" has a topflight dairy business and flock of sheep which puts net profits in their pockets every year. All of the feed is produced on the farm without renting additional land as they did previously. They have a nice home with space for comfort and privacy.

Not all families who have been contacted in the farm and home development program are continuing in full-time farming. In many situations, after analyzing their resources and opportunities, the families have decided to seek other employment. Sometimes they continue to live on the farm, rent their land to other farmers, and go to work in business or industry. They may sell or rent their land and go elsewhere. Part-time employment off-the-farm,

where available, has proved the best solution to raising the level for other families.

"This approach," says Mr. Daugherty, "may therefore be just as effective and important in pointing out to some farm families their lack of opportunity in farming as it is to others in how they might succeed. It helps in either case to make wise adjustments more rapidly."

"We should also point out that there is no standard answer to the problems of farm families. Each has different sets of resources and conditions. Many can be helped by an analysis, pointing out possible alternatives and giving them information which will lead to wise decision. Not all the problems are with small farmers. Large farmers can go broke faster than the small ones and they also are receiving assistance in management problems."

* * *

Farm men and women, like everyone else, ask themselves this question: "Will there be a better tomorrow for us and our children?" But they do not stop with the question. They plan and work for better homes and communities. They organize to improve their surroundings and, with the aid of the Extension Service, promote programs for better health and housing, good reading, and wholesome entertainment, improved roads and more attractive roadsides.

The Virginia Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs, an organization having nearly 35,000 members, is the power for most such activities in rural areas. In its broadest sense, the home demonstration program aims to develop better standards for the home, family, and community. And community and national problems get unstinting sup-

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port from such rural groups. Working with the Federation members, county home demonstration agents now are putting more emphasis on financial planning and money management, buying clothing, food, and home furnishings, and other programs related to the economics of family living.

In nutrition, emphasis is being placed on the increased use of milk in the diet for better nutrition of both adults and youth, and on the problems of overweight.

Additionally, many families have been helped in home construction and improvement.

As rural areas become urbanized and more towns and cities extend their boundaries, the home agents find themselves more and more helping the suburban and urban population.

Young homemakers, inexperienced and unsure, are turning in increasing numbers to the home agents for help. Special interest groups, such as that in the Keysville home demonstration club in Charlotte county, are giving them programs tailor-made for their needs. The Keysville club is composed mainly of young homemakers in their early 20's, all with small children and most in the small salaried group who needed to know more about sewing so they could stretch their incomes by sewing for themselves and their children. Weekly instruction periods were held for them for three months and now—"We're sewing up a storm," claims one of them.

In Accomack simplified sewing classes were held for young homemakers who were not members of home demonstration clubs. They came from Onancock, Accomack, Parksley, Onley, and across the bay from Tangier Island. The classes were held weekly for six weeks, and as a result the "students" have made many garments for their family members, and several have taught other girls in their communities.

* * *

Training tomorrow's citizens is of foremost importance in the Agricultural Extension Program. Undoubtedly one of the greatest character-building programs in the world today is the 4-H club. Year by year the 4-H club program reaches more and more youth, rural and urban. Total enrollment last year in Virginia was over 71,000. Agents and over 8,900 volunteer leaders trained them in a wide range of agricultural and homemaking activities. They learn to produce field and vegetable crops and livestock; they learn to cook, sew, and remodel homes. They are given a firm grounding in citizenship and leadership. Quality of work

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continues to improve as reflected by participation in district and state events and in national awards won. Projects for both rural and urban youth have been developed in career exploration, automotive care and safety, and others. And Virginia led the nation last year in the number of members carrying electrical projects.

Aids in Marketing

In the marketing area, feeder pig sales were held in Courtland, Tappahannock, Richmond, Petersburg, Culpeper, and Lynchburg. This method of selling is helping farmers to help themselves by providing a satisfactory market and offering encouragement for quality production.

A new wool marketing method developed in Southwest Virginia made possible attracting buyers from some of the larger wool-buying companies and the selling of approximately one-half million pounds of wool in one day at satisfactory prices.

The volume of cattle and calves sold through special sales in 1959 reached 33,882 head, a 28 percent increase over 1958. Other marketing activities included helping processors of fruits and vegetables, marketing agencies, and dairy and poultry products groups.

The first of the year saw an intensive program underway for the control of mastitis. Many agencies and organizations are participating. This program is directed mainly to methods of prevention of mastitis.

Confinement feeding of hogs in Virginia is increasing rapidly, and many farmers are requesting information on this subject. Record of performance testing of beef cattle increased during the year. There are now 138 herds enrolled with 6,667 cattle involved.

In poultry, emphasis has been toward modernization and efficiency to enable producers in the state to compete successfully with other areas. An attempt has also been made to improve contractual arrangements between producers and business firms supplying credit.

The Extension Service has worked closely with the brucellosis eradication and vaccination programs for cattle.



Pasture irrigation is on the upswing in Virginia—part of an educational effort to furnish year-round feed for livestock.

County agents assisted area and local veterinarians in planning work on this program. The testing program will largely be completed in 1960. Vaccination of calves reached 108,916 head in 1959, about 80 percent of the number of heifer calves estimated to be needed for replacement purposes.

The past year has seen much effort devoted to trying to interpret regulations governing allowable residues of chemicals on crops, animals, and soils. Specialists combined to develop material for the use of county agents and others to use in answering questions for farmers and processors.

Chemicals are essential in providing an abundance and variety of wholesome low-cost foods. Used in many ways—to nurture crops and livestock, to destroy pests and kill weeds, to cure and heal, preserve and clean—chemicals help assure the people of the United States a nutritional status as high as any in the world. Their safe and effective use is supported by the Extension Service in many educational activities.

* * *

A new term has come into wide usage in the Extension Service—and elsewhere. The term is "Agribusiness."

Better eating for you—and at lower cost. This is the aim of today's agribusiness.

Yesterday the farmer was the whole show in agriculture. But as he began to specialize he found he had to depend on others to take over some of the functions he abandoned. Today there are four broad categories of operations which, together, make up the agricultural community and are called "agribusiness." Included are farm supply, farm production, processing, and distribution of agricultural

products.

To understand a little more about the movement of food and the part each division of agribusiness plays, let's look at them one by one.

Food distribution moves oranges from Florida to the grocery shelves in Virginia; it makes pork available at all times. Fresh apples are available eight months out of the year instead of three or four, because of food distribution. Transportation of food, storing food for future use, keeping retail store shelves full, keeping food quality high, grading food for quality—food distribution does all these jobs and many others to make your eating a pleasant experience. You pay this area of agribusiness 40 cents of each food dollar for taking care of getting the right food to you at the right time, in the right place, and the way you want it. Most of this 40 cents goes to pay labor, transportation, storage, and other such business expenses.

Food processing takes the raw materials of the farm and converts them to products usable by the housewife. Few persons could take a live steer, a bushel of wheat, or a sack of peanuts and use them as they come from the farm. Processors deliver the meat in the form of steaks or ground beef, the wheat in the form of flour, and the peanuts in jars of peanut butter.

It is in this area that "maid service" is performed for the consumer (that's you). Rather than spend hot hours over a kitchen stove, you prefer to pay food processors to do much of the preparation chores. The more processing and packaging the more the cost to the consumer, naturally.

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tween farm fields and the table. About 20 cents of it goes to the processors to pay for their services in helping save you kitchen time and effort.

Farm Supply provides the farmer with all kinds of things he needs to grow food. There are fertilizers, machinery, feeds, seeds, insecticides, medicines, fences, and all the other many items that farmers need to run their businesses.

Farm supply is an industry in itself, as well as being part of the total agribusiness picture. It's an industry that specializes in making and selling things farmers have to have. By doing this job, farm supply lets farmers specialize in growing food.

As pay for its work, the farm supply area of agribusiness receives 20 cents from your food dollar. And the farm supplier in turn will spend most of this for raw materials and labor used in making his products.

Farm production is the task of taking farm supply items, combining them with land and labor, and getting food from them. This is the farmer's job—and one he does extremely well today. The farmer of 1959 most often specializes in raising beef or pork, growing corn or wheat, or one of many other farm enterprises. For his efforts he is paid 20 cents of the consumer food dollar. In turn, the man on the farm spends most of this for the use of his land, his capital, his labor, and management.

Of farm production, food processing, food distribution, and farm supply—who can say which is the greater? They all work together in modern agriculture

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Meanwhile, there are those who bemoan agricultural surpluses. The farmer, they say, has over-reached himself. Let's brag about, not bemoan, agricultural surpluses. Year in and year out farmers grow about 5 to 8 percent more than will comfortably clear the market. If you look at the size of the agricultural business, an error, especially always on the high side, of only 5 to 8 percent, is right close shooting.

Agriculture is a multi-billion dollar industry, and it takes pretty good figuring to figure within 5 to 8 percent how much agricultural goods will be needed for this big a business. Closer figuring might be expected if one man, or just a few men or companies, made all the decisions on how much to grow, where and when to grow it, when to market it, how to market it. But this isn't the case. All these decisions are made by millions of different people—farmers, processors, marketers, and consumers. Looking at it this way, agriculture has a remarkable record for matching production to the market. Many another industry could wish it had as consistently good a record.

* * *

What of the future?

In the spring of 1957 the administrative staff of the VPI school of agriculture initiated a study into VPI's role in Virginia's agriculture and rural life.

This is a massive effort to understand fully what has gone before, what is

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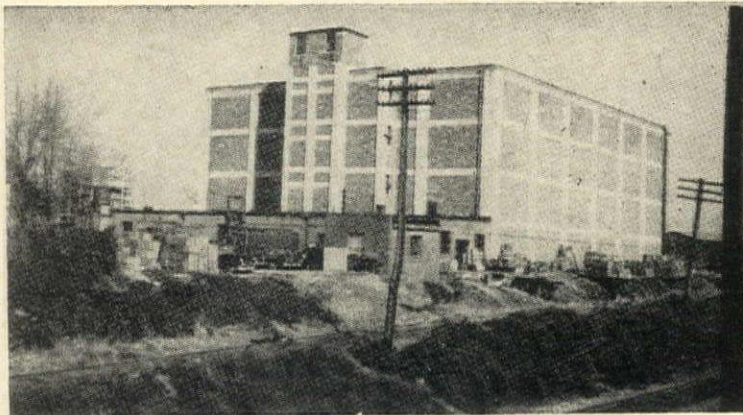
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occurring now, and where and how VPI's efforts should be placed in the future.

Contained in this survey is the contribution of those responsible for extension work in Virginia.

Following the birthing of the role study, a steering committee was appointed by the administration. Their job was to outline the study. This committee soon saw the need for assistance in the varied and specific fields represented at VPI.

So, as the steering committee was the administration's child, the steering committee brought forth the committee of 15. This was a group representing the different departments of the college. Set up in the fall of 1958, the committee furthered the work of planning and energizing the study.

A communication from Dean L. B. Dietrick, dean of agriculture and director of extension, outlined the objectives as follows.

"The general objective is to examine the past and present trends in Virginia's agriculture and rural life, to evaluate potentials, and to improve the role of VPI in serving the people by adjusting the research and educational activities. This general objective may be accomplished by attaining the following specific objectives:

"1. To study and analyze the trends in Virginia's agriculture during the period 1900 to 1955 in order to determine (a) the present situation, (b) why the situation developed, and (c) future potentials.

"2. To adjust the research and educational activities of the VPI School of Agriculture to meet the needs as indicated in the study and analysis.

"3. To make this information available to all segments of our society who have an interest in Virginia's agriculture."

Each department undertook a study to bring together figures of the past, and to pinpoint trends and potentials in their field. Reports were forwarded to the committee of 15, with supplements bringing additional information as it became available.

The results of the VPI role study will be printed in four publications. The first, which is "Handbook of Information," is a compilation of statistical information relative to agriculture and covers the period of 1900-1958.

A second volume now available relates to "Virginia's Animal Agriculture." The third volume will be about crop agriculture, and the fourth, "Virginia People." This volume will contain information on family life and population studies.

* * *

Extension will place particular emphasis in the future along the following lines:

Youth development: One of the most successful crops of rural communities has been its children. The increasing numbers of youth living on farms and in rural and suburban areas calls for specially oriented programs for them and for the volunteer leaders who serve them.

The Extension youth program (4-H) should provide learning opportunities and practical experience in real-life situations. This work should be sufficiently challenging as the age advances so that young people are prepared for economic, social, and leadership responsibilities as adults. Further it is essential that youth be assisted in exploring different types of careers in order to make wise decisions. Extension should supplement any career counseling services available as it works with rural youth.

Leadership development: In a democracy, progress is largely determined by the quality of leadership available and developed within the mass of the population. One of Extension's major contributions has been the development of leadership ability in persons it has served.

Such contributions from Extension will be even more important in the future.

Community improvement and resource development: Extension has a responsibility to render educational assistance in helping people understand such matters as: Adequate standards for community services. Efficient methods of providing such services. Methods of orderly planning. Competitive uses of land and the relation to proper community growth. Solution of problems found in special community areas within metropolitan areas, such as the rural-urban fringe and the rural slum.

Joint concerns and the responsibilities of rural and urban people for community problems which occur where city and country meet. Methods of improving conditions and available services provided by health, education, recreation, religious, and other governmental and private institutions.

The current Rural Development program, in which Extension is taking an active part, is an example of efforts to solve problems of a wide scope.

Perhaps "Community Development" would be a more apt title for the program, for problems cut across rural and urban lines. In many cases progress is dependent upon attracting industry to

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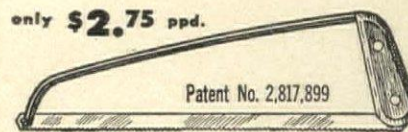
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afford more employment, broaden tax bases, and make it possible for young people to find employment near their homes.

Public affairs: Extension programs grow out of the expressed wants and carefully analyzed needs of local people. The growing interdependence of agriculture and other segments of the economy is causing rural people to have a greater concern with public affairs issues that bear directly upon their welfare. They are turning to Extension, as a readily available informal educational service, for help in getting facts and for methods of analyzing and appraising such facts. Thus they may exercise their responsibilities as citizens in a better informed way.

And, of course, emphasis will continue to be placed upon the backbone of Extension work, the problems of efficiency in agricultural production; in marketing, distribution, and utilization; in conservation, development, and use

of natural resources; management on the farm and in the home and family living.

The major function, and therefore the major responsibility of Extension, as stated in the Smith-Lever Act, is:

"... To aid in diffusing among the people of the United States useful and practical information on subjects relating to agriculture and home economics, and to encourage the application of the same. . . ."

So it can be seen that education is the job of Extension. Not education in the abstract, but education for action. It is of an informal and distinct type. This is education directed to helping people solve the various problems which they encounter from day to day in agriculture, home economics, and related subjects.

County agricultural agents and home demonstration agents are the people on the firing line. They have the most contacts with the clients of Extension. Nationally, the average is three agents (both men and women) per county. Aiding them are some 1.3 million unpaid local volunteer leaders in the nation. Without this help (of the volunteers) a program of the scope of Extension would not be possible.

These agents serve over ten million

families yearly in over 3,000 counties across the country. Of these about two-fifths are farm families—those having first claim on Extension's services and those who receive the most intensive aid. About one-fifth have been urban families. This all adds up to an average of 1,000 families served per Extension worker.

Among those assisted each year are over two million 4-H club members, over one million homemakers in organized groups and over five million homemakers not in organized groups.

In addition Extension aided several thousand cooperatives, food retailers, firms handling farm supplies, and county and community organizations of various types.

Behind these county workers are the resources of the land-grant colleges and universities. Support is provided by state-headquartered technical and administrative Extension workers. Also available is the work, and to a limited degree the personnel, of the state experiment stations and resident teaching staffs.

The technical information and resources of the U. S. Department of Agriculture are also available and used to make the efforts of county personnel most productive.

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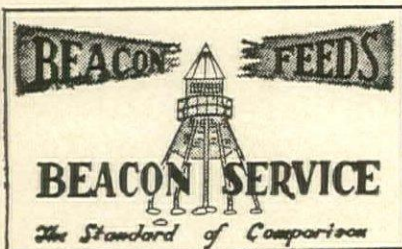
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EDITORIAL (from page 3)

for want of other causes, liberals seized on Civil Rights as the test of allegiance, and, having divested itself of principles, the Republican Party could only declaim that "we are as civil rightist as you are."

It is by now well established that, outside the South, the racial problem is treated with hypocrisy in the actual relations at home while pious abstractions are leveled at the handy whipping-post provided by the South. Where colored population reaches any density, as in New York, the verbal aggressions against the South become more strident as their own problem becomes more unmanageable. What the political leaders are actually doing is to show their love of colored voting-groups by hatred of and punitive action against the South. In the New York area, this has become a political necessity since, as the liberals are unable to pass laws forbidding the whites to flee to ever more distant suburbs and to set up such restricted strongholds as Bronxville, their own case for integration has been a dismal, costly and confusing failure. Yet, as the visiting professor related, New York college students who have never been south of Passaic have passionately embraced the sitdown strikes as a cause to join, without the faintest intention of devoting any hours to study of the living realities. In practical terms, they might as well hold protest parades over imagined discrimination on Mars.

Now, all this race-mongering and these vote hustling promises of subjecting the South (only the South) to conditions of enforced racial equality

might appear no more than particularly irresponsible political cynicism in times of relative world security, as Rome at the height of its power could afford Nero and Caligula. But, in the present survival crisis, for two political parties to commit themselves to programs whose effect will be to divide the American people represents an action that can be regarded in history only as the period of weak emperors is regarded in the study of the world's first great empire.

The individuals chosen to represent their parties are in themselves unimportant. Kennedy, who bought and organized his way into a nomination, has made promises which to keep would wreck the country. Nixon, with eight years of opportunity to observe and analyze at high level, could come up with little more for meeting the international emergency than to make less extravagant promises than his opponent. Where the alternatives of the assumption of world leadership or destruction demand leadership with vision, with convictions and principles, both parties have presented personalities "the most likely to succeed" at vote-getting in a race which promises something for everybody except white Southerners and surviving conservatives. With the most flagrant disregard for the rights of white minorities since Reconstruction, America's political parties have committed themselves to internal division with the Visigoths at the gates. When future history students read of the new Dark Age, which brought a splintering of existing societies and nations, they can only conclude that the fall of the Western giant

was caused by an unenlightened, irresponsible self-interest which failed to produce leaders.

Before the known order of the existing societies is fragmented in a succession of larger and smaller versions of the incidents in the Belgian Congo, it seems the point of wisdom, as well as of pride, for the South to apply some enlightened and responsible self-interest to its political alignments. As the political pundits say that the South and national conservatives have "nowhere to go," and all talk of third parties seems fairly vaporous, the least that Southerners could do would be to declare themselves as political independents.

To tag along, despised and reviled, with the Democratic Party seems as ignominious as unprofitable. This is not to suggest that the Republicans ("the party of Lincoln") offer any

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more, but their own unwanted conservatives at least offer company in misery and represent a traditional viewpoint more akin to Southern convictions and beliefs than anything to be found in the lunatic majority of Democrats following a Pied Piper of plenty.

At worst, an assertion of political independence would preserve our dignity, now sadly bedraggled by our scorned allegiance to an alien party of Labor Bosses, urban masses and idiot-radicals; at best, the South might establish a bargaining position and even encourage independent stands among the unvoiced apprehensive segments who, also, now have "nowhere to go." We certainly have nothing to lose except shackles of our own making, with accompanying slaps and insults. Obviously pragmatic considerations might motivate some of our political leaders, but in these times the fundamental practicality for Southerners is political self-respect.

Mort Sahl, the comedian, said that his prediction for the Kennedy-Nixon election is that neither can win. Certainly neither could win from a top-flight candidate. But, to turn the prediction around, the South loses with either of them. And the South will continue to lose until it asserts its independence. It might lose even then, but we would at least go down under our own colors.

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