



# Virginia RECORD

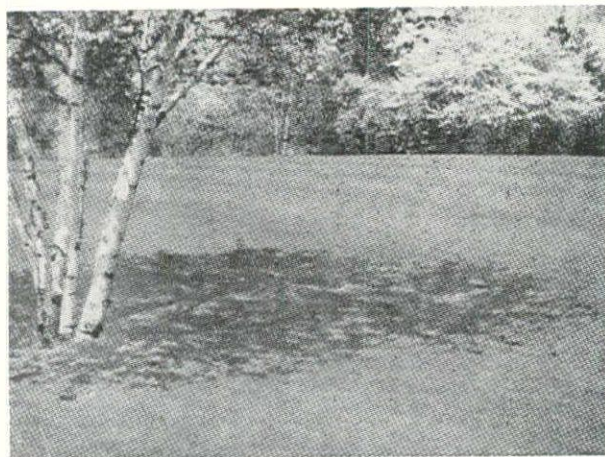
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APRIL 1964

NUMBER FOUR

## Platoon System For Psychiatrists

SOMETIMES I THINK that when social historians of a future time study this present era, they will not find us frightened and ridden with anxieties—"man estranged from himself"—but very funny. We all recognize the enormous lag between progress in scientific techniques, by which man controls nature, and the lack of progress of man in adapting to the new technological world. But in these lags exist makeshifts in the operation of the social structure that could only be ludicrous to those not involved.

The battle of the psychiatrists in the Jack Ruby trial could typify the material for a skit on our courtrooms. Nothing would have to be parodied. Here we have 12 worthy Texans, eight gentlemen and four ladies, asked to judge the merits of conflicting positions on a subject of which they are totally ignorant. These 12 good people were no more qualified to judge the findings of psychiatrists than they would be of judging the findings of cyclotron scientists.

Psychiatry itself is an extremely new field in the study of human behavior and almost any ten books picked at random will yield at least six different points of view. Many of the psychological or psychiatric diagnoses of an individual would be open to different or even conflicting interpretations among psychiatrists themselves. The very names of states of aberrant behavior change about every ten years. This is not in any sense to imply any derogation of the work done in research and therapy in the vital new areas of psychology and psychiatry. But the constantly changing theories and the different interpretations do indicate that the study of the human psyche is far from an exact science. There is no  $2 \times 2 = 4$ .

Within the inexactitude of the science—which its practitioners fully recognize—there are, however, vast accumulations of correlative studies on human behavior which require as high a specialization as, say, a cyclotron scientist. That is, though psychiatrists and clinical psychologists may not agree on an interpretation of a grouping of symptoms (any more than medical doctors always do), they are working from a common pool of specialized knowledge. In medical practice, if doctors disagree amongst themselves over a patient, you would think the world had gone mad if they brought in 12 people off the streets to decide which was right. This is no more absurd than to have 12 people picked at random to decide which group of psychiatrists is right about a patient.

If the problem at issue was whether or not a patient was insane, and should be committed to an institution, or sane enough to become a safe, and possibly useful, member of society, it is scarcely likely that 12 uninformed strangers would be selected to make the decision. Because the question of a patient's sanity or insanity is involved with the guilt of a crime, the 12 strangers are not any more qualified to judge his sanity or insanity than if the question was of his commitment.

Manifestly the courtroom is not the place to decide a patient's sanity any more than it would be to decide if he should have his appendix removed. Whether an individual who has committed a crime is sane or insane (Continued on page 33)

## CONTENTS

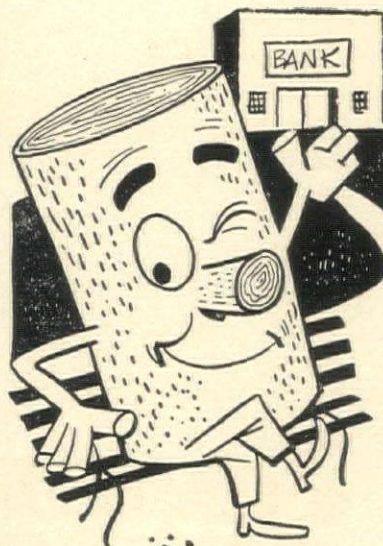
The History of The Agricultural Extension Service by WARREN G. MITCHELL	5
Modern Concept of Agriculture by P. H. DeHART	9
Extension Workers Contemplate Their Changing Roles by GENE MOODY	12
Travelers' Guide	17
In Our Mail Bag	18
Staff, VPI Agricultural Extension Service	26

THE COVER goes to show that agricultural projects in 4-H work are not restricted to boys. Here a young 4-H'er holds her prize lamb.

VIRGINIA RECORD gives recognition to the Agricultural Extension Service on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. The attainments of the agricultural economy and rural way of life can be correlated with the "Golden" Anniversary of the Service. Marked by new methods and techniques, new products and new concepts, the agrarian society has been helped to a new way of life by the Service and its agents.

For the articles of this feature presentation, we are sincerely grateful to Mr. P. H. DeHart, Mrs. Gene Moody and Mr. Warren G. Mitchell. To Mr. R. D. Michael we extend our thanks for his help in planning this presentation.

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*Editor's note: 1964 marks the 50th anniversary of formal establishment of the Agricultural Extension Service. The following story sketches the development of this method of adult education and the benefits that America has gained from it.*

**"D**ON'T BELIEVE ANYTHING YOU HEAR and only half of what you see!" This old homily must have been the theory on which farmers operated many years ago, and perhaps still do. But, "seeing is believing", and the Agricultural Extension Service led the way and "showed 'em!"

Probably no other adult educational program has ever had such an effect on the population of a modern nation as has Extension education in the United States. Evidence of its success is all around us.

The industrial revolution would not have been possible without better farming (brought about by Extension introduced methods) which released workers from the farm for the factory. The technological revolution now sweeping the country had its earliest counterpart in the mechanical marvels of automation which has made the U. S. farmer, in recent years, the world's most efficient.

When Extension had its official beginning back in 1914, in many ways this country was an "under-developed" nation. Today, of course, it's the most powerful in the world.

This lesson has not been lost on today's under-developed nations. One of America's most popular exports to such lands is the Extension idea. Agricultural experts in many disciplines are helping through such programs as the Agency for International Development and the Peace Corps. Many countries are actually copying the Extension idea lock, stock, and barrel.

Though Extension had its official birth in 1914 with the passage of the Smith-Lever Act, its roots go back to the earliest days of the nation. In his first message to Congress, George Washington urged the establishment of a national university, in which there should be a chair of agriculture with the responsibility "of diffusing information to farmers."

The first president, himself the inventor of the disk plow, was no mean forerunner of today's Extension agent. By experiment and demonstration on his own acres and by word of mouth he was influential among his neighbors, especially with reference to soil conservation, crop rotation, and diversified farming.

In 1785 a Society for Promoting Agriculture was organized in Philadelphia to disseminate agricultural information through publications, newspapers, articles, and lectures, and to bring about local agricultural organizations elsewhere.

These efforts were not unique. President Thomas Jefferson was also a skilled agriculturalist, the inventor of the mold board for the all-metal plow, a passionate devotee of agriculture as a way of life, and also much interested in spreading improved farm practices. (The fact that the first two successful candidates for the presidency both had invented plows makes one wonder if present-day political hopefuls are not missing a good bet!)

State Agricultural societies sprang up in several northeastern states and in South Carolina between 1785 and 1800. They held regular meetings for exchanging ideas and experiences concerning agricultural activity. They also encouraged the formation of county societies to

which they sent speakers to give public lectures on practical and scientific knowledge.

From these county societies sprang the idea of county fairs. Fairs provided not only for the sale of animals and farm products and for competitive exhibitions with prizes, but also for some educational features, such as addresses on agricultural subjects.

Soon after the War Between the States ended, the first of the national farm organizations, which is still functioning, came into being. This was the Patrons of Husbandry, better known now as the Grange. Perhaps one of the most valuable accomplishments of the Grange was its early insistence on the much-needed coordination of the training at agricultural colleges with the needs and interests of the farmers at large.

But the time was not yet ripe for Extension. Providentially, there were two other events that transpired before the passage of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914. These were the Morrill Land-Grant Act of 1862, signed by President Lincoln in the midst of the Civil War and the Hatch Act of 1887 which provided federal assistance to establish and maintain experiment stations at every land-grant college.

The Land-Grant Act made possible in each state an educational institution "where the leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical

## THE HISTORY OF THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

BY WARREN G. MITCHELL

studies and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and mechanic arts in such manner as the legislatures of the states may respectively prescribe in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life."

In 1862, when the state agricultural colleges came into existence, agriculture was more of an art than a science. The boy of scientific knowledge was little more than embryonic.

The Hatch Act helped remedy this situation through aiding the colleges to carry on agricultural research. From then on, the body of knowledge in all aspects of agriculture grew rapidly. (Continued on page 6)



Without this knowledge it is doubtful if the Extension Service could ever have succeeded as it has. And so, the stage was set for the Extension idea, and with the passage in 1914 of the Smith-Lever Act, the actual birth occurred.

This body of scientific fact about agriculture has been the fuel for Extension Service operations. But, without the pioneering efforts of early Extension workers, even this would not have been enough.

Of these Dr. Seaman A. Knapp was no doubt the greatest! In 1885 Dr. Knapp resigned as president of Iowa State College to manage a million-acre farm development and colonization project in Louisiana. Despite enthusiastic efforts, little land was sold. "In desperation," said Dr. Knapp, "we resorted to demonstration." A few good Middle Western farmers were subsidized to begin farming anew in scattered townships of this tract under Dr. Knapp's direction. These men demonstrated that the land was highly productive when properly handled. The rest of the land was soon sold, and Dr. Knapp learned the power of demonstration.

In 1902 when nearly 70, Dr. Knapp accepted an appointment from the U. S. Department of Agriculture to establish and supervise a few demonstration farms in the south. These farms were operated under government subvention without the direct, active participation of farm people.

Results did not satisfy the good Dr. Knapp. He proposed a community demonstration farm, operated at his own expense, by a farmer chosen by the community, but guaranteed against loss.

The Porter "Community Demonstration Farm" near Terrell, Texas, was the first launched under this plan in 1903. (Here again is evidence of the Extension idea aborning—even before the passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914. Without such foundation effort, the passage of this act might have been delayed for decades.)

The success of the Porter farm and of efforts to combat the boll weevil, then beginning its invasion from Mexico, showed the merit of the demonstration method.

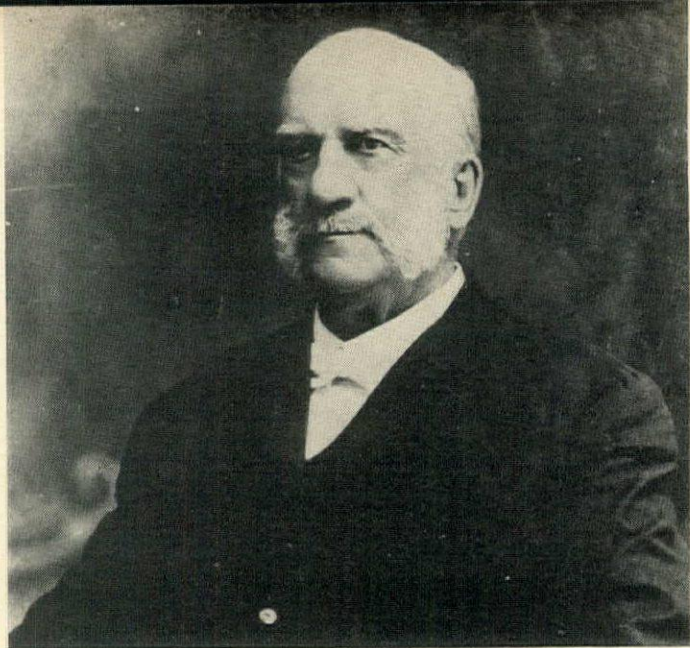
Actually, the county agent had his beginning in these early efforts of Dr. Knapp—before the Extension Service officially began. By 1904, 24 agents were employed in three states and 7,000 farmers had agreed to serve as demonstrators.

In 1910, 450 county agents were reported working in 455 counties in 12 states. By 1911 the number of agents had increased to 580. In 1914 more than 700 counties in the Southern states had county agricultural agents.

Knapp's success was no accident. He knew the farmer is naturally a conservative, that he is slow to change unless convinced beyond a shadow of doubt that it is wise to do so. He was sure no farmer could be talked into a new method, but he was convinced that farmers would quickly grasp new principles and methods if their value was demonstrated in terms with which the farmer was familiar. This could be accomplished by the itinerant teacher schooled to make field, garden, orchard, or kitchen at once the classroom and the textbook.

Knapp also used youths both for their own sakes and as another method of reaching their elders. A few experimental boys' clubs were organized on a demonstration basis in 1907 and 1908. Two years later all agents were instructed to begin this type of work and girls' clubs were added. So, Knapp's work was also the forerunner of the far-flung work with rural boys, girls, and youth now under Extension auspices and known as 4-H clubs. This youth work began even before demonstration work for farm women was initiated in 1913.

Extension in the Old Dominion had its beginning in a





meeting in Richmond in 1906 between Dr. Seaman A. Knapp and state leaders, including Dr. J. D. Eggleston, then state superintendent of public instruction, and Dr. H. B. Frissell, principal of Hampton Institute. Also present was Governor Swanson.

T. O. Sandy of Burkeville was appointed state demonstration agent. By May of 1907 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 of 1907 he chose Southall Farrar to work with him.

Farrar, in the spring of 1909, organized 75 boys in Dinwiddie and 25 in Chesterfield and "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 this work.

This 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.

With passage in 1914 of the Smith-Lever Act, 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's easy to look back at early pictures of county agents and home demonstration agents in their outmoded means of transportation, including horse drawn carriages and early Model T Fords, with some amusement. But the sobering thought soon follows that these people pioneered a new way of life for America

and that we owe them a great debt of gratitude.

Many urban dwellers have trouble identifying themselves with agriculture these days, and scoff at government programs to help the farmer. Of course, in the early days of Extension a majority of people lived in rural communities. As agriculture became more efficient, however, more folks were released from the farm to seek livelihoods in the cities. And now, several generations removed from the farm, the urban dweller has lost touch with his country cousin.

The fact of the matter, however, is that Extension work has benefitted

America, not just the farmer. Americans pay less of their total income for food than citizens of any other country in the world. The diet they get is second to none. Progress in agriculture has been passed on to the consumer in ample quantity of better foods and year 'round availability of formerly seasonal products, and at costs much less than the average citizen understands.

And what of Extension in the future? There are some who are saying that Extension has had its day and should now be turned out to pasture. But, Extension workers are adapting to the

(Continued on page 24)

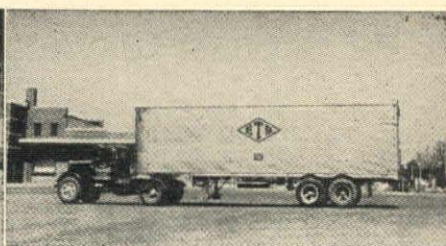
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Photos, opposite page. Top, Seaman A. Knapp created the idea which grew into a nationwide system for improving agricultural methods. His idea was simple: help a few leading farmers to adopt the best-known practices. Other farmers, by seeing the actual demonstration and results, would be convinced. County farm agents, home demonstration agents and 4-H Club agents—all parts of the agricultural extension system—still follow Knapp's basic principle. Center, The Hon. Asbury F. Lever, Representative from South Carolina. Bottom, The Hon. Hoke Smith, Senator from Georgia. The Smith-Lever Act was passed in 1914. (USDA Photographs)

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# MODERN CONCEPT OF AGRICULTURE

• Too many people, and this includes agricultural leaders, the press, business and professional men and the public in general still have a 50-year-old concept of agriculture. Agriculture cannot and will not receive the recognition it deserves, and many of the basic problems in agriculture will not be solved unless and until the leaders and the public can see and understand the true modern concept of agriculture.

The general and most widely accepted concept is that agriculture is confined to the fence lines of the farm and consists only of the operation of the farm itself. That was true 50 years ago when farmers purchased very few items needed in the home or for the operation of the farm. The power used was produced on the farm by growing horses and mules. The fuel was corn, oats and hay, all of which was produced on the farm. A great deal, if not most of the processing of butter and cheese and the slaughtering of livestock and curing of meat was done on the farm. The primary markets for the butter, eggs, cured meat, dried fruit, live poultry, chestnuts and many other items were the country stores. These products were exchanged at the country store for the limited grocery needs, shoes and clothing used by the family. Hogs, cattle and sheep were driven to markets over the highways. The automobile, buggy, and wagon gave them the right of way. The operation of a farm required very little capital. This condition no longer exists on the farm and in the farm home. Many changes have taken place, most of which have taken place during the past 20 years. These changes have been so rapid it is difficult for the public and even those in agriculture to see the entire picture. Therefore, wrong conclusions are reached. They read and hear reports on the decline in the number of farms and the decline in the number of farm workers and arrive at the conclusion that agriculture is a declining industry. This is not true; many of the farm workers have moved to the towns and cities for employment in various phases of off-farm agricultural business such as feed, machinery, fertilizer manufacturing and distribution. In fact, there are more people employed in

agriculture today than ever before in the history of the state or nation.

These changes which have taken place down on the farm have resulted in the development of an entirely new and different concept of agriculture. This concept, instead of farming, is more correctly identified as the business of farming. This segment of the industry of agriculture in Virginia employs 154,000 people. The 1960 gross value of farm products at the farm gate was 528 million dollars. The assets used in production, that is the land, machinery, fertilizer, fuel, feed, and other items amounted to only \$6,000 for the average farm in 1940. Today, it is around \$35,000 for the average farmer. On many farms this will exceed \$100,000. In 1900 farmers purchased very few of the items needed in production and only a small amount of capital was required. However, today, farmers purchase about 65% of the resources needed on the farm. A few examples of items purchased by Virginia's farmers are feed, 63 million; repairs, 70 million; labor, 62 million; buildings and equipment, 81 million; electric current, 11 million; telephone bills, 3½ million; long term credit, 150 million and farmers paid 9 million in interest.

I am sure, from the above information, you realize that the business of farming is big business for Virginia. Very few, if any of the businesses and industries furnishing these supplies and services existed 100 year ago, or even 50 years ago they were very small. Most of this business developed within the past 30 years. The demand for these services and supplies from the modern business of farming resulted in the development of a new segment of agriculture identified as the businesses furnishing supplies and services. This segment employs 166,000 people and in 1960 had gross sales amounting to 403 million dollars. These businesses include 355 equipment dealers that employ 1,900 people with an annual payroll of \$5½ million; 44 feed manufacturers with an annual payroll of \$4 million.

There are many others such as banks, gas and oil distributors and dealers,

electric power industries, telephone, fertilizer manufacturers, steel industry, and many others that could be added to the list. The point which should be understood is that these businesses and industries are a part of agriculture.

Many of the people who have left the farm are now employed in this off-farm segment of agriculture. These off-farm businesses are having some of the same problems that are so prevalent in the business of farming, such as the cost-price squeeze and stiff competition. Similar to farming, the profit margins are small, which requires a large volume of business to meet the cost of operation. We have seen, and will continue to see these businesses combine, merge, or take some action to grow larger. They must do this in order to stay in business.

The same is true with operators of farms. They are forced to buy or rent additional land or in some way increase the size of their business. This accounts, in part, for the decline in the number of farms and this trend in both farming and in the off-farm businesses will continue. One fact which needs emphasis and understanding is that any condition which affects one of these segments of agriculture will have an immediate effect upon the other. A drought, change in production, or change in price of farm commodities will be reflected in the income of all businesses and industries furnishing supplies and services to the farm. Likewise, a shortage or a change in price of machinery, seed, feed, drugs, credit, fuel, and other items used in production on the farm will have its effect upon the farm income.

As a result of these changes, the farm is no longer self-sufficient and independent. The farm is a highly specialized and competitive business requiring not only business ability and managerial skill equal to other business enterprises, but in addition the operator must have knowledge of and use up-to-date technology in many fields such as engineering, plant and animal nutrition, soils and chemicals of many kinds. This is a full-time job, and time is not available for the farmer to market his products through the complex system of distribution. (Continued on page 10)

by P. H. DeHART, Assistant Director, VPI Agricultural Extension Service



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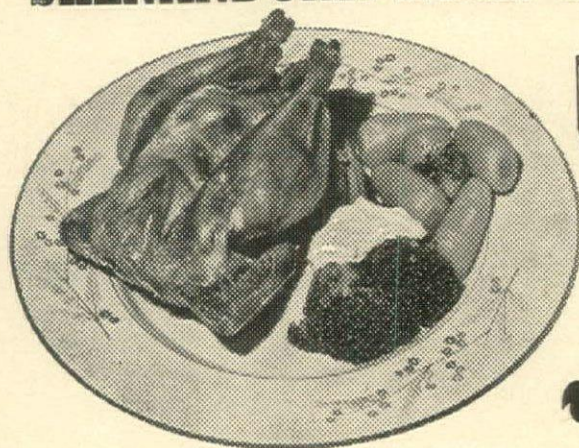
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Therefore, another segment of agriculture has developed, known as the businesses and industries that pick up the farm commodities at the farm gate and deliver them to the consumer. This includes transportation, processing, warehousing, wholesaling and retailing the farm products to the consumer. This is a big business in Virginia, employing 147,000 people with a gross value to the consumer of one and three quarter billion dollars annually.

In 1958 there were 16,436 businesses engaged in the marketing or processing of farm products in Virginia with a combined annual payroll of \$357,468,000. This segment of agriculture is now facing and will continue to face problems similar to the other two segments. That is, competition and lower margins which require larger volume in order to stay in business. For example, in 1948 there were 9,974 grocery stores in Virginia with sales of 464.6 million dollars. In 1958, ten years later, the number of stores declined to 6,508 and the sales increased to 897.2 million dollars. If all of the retail trade of agricultural products are considered, there were 12,783 establishments in the retail business with sales of \$1,147,639,000 and an annual payroll of \$95,376,000. The processing of agricultural commodities also means much to the economy of Virginia. In 1958 there were 2,520 manufacturers of farm products with an annual payroll of \$215,460,000.

Therefore, the modern concept of agriculture is "The Industry of Agriculture" with gross sales of \$1,700,000,000 annually. This is the largest single business or industry in the state and it is a dynamic, growing and important segment of the economy of the state. All three segments are dependent upon each other and in order for Virginia agriculture to compete, all three segments must be efficient. We have long passed the day when one segment of agriculture can afford to operate independently. There is a great need for frequent conferences of representatives from all segments of the industry of agriculture where the problems and opportunities can be brought out into the open and discussed freely and frankly for the mutual benefit of everyone.

The industry of agriculture has a great potential for expansion and contributing even more to the economy of Virginia. We must study our situation, recognize our opportunities, and have the courage to break away from many of our traditions and put into use modern methods that will be in keeping with the modern concept of agriculture and the space age in which we live. ●



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# EXTENSION WORKERS CONTEMPLATE THEIR CHANGING ROLES

by GENE MOODY

THERE'S A FAMILIAR and delightful story about a man by the name of Windwagon Smith. Windwagon Smith was a man of vision who lived on the frontier when both men and ideas were big. Windwagon had a face like any other man and two legs to walk on, but the morning he rode into a town called Westport (a frontier settlement), the quietest mule in town jumped 16 feet.

Windwagon was a man who had an idea and believed so firmly in that idea that all who came into contact with him believed also. Windwagon was convinced that horses were unnecessary and outdated. All you needed to get across the great wide plain was to unhitch the horses, place a mast in the center of a covered wagon, and raise a sail. The wind would take the wagon wherever anyone wanted to go.

Windwagon was so enthusiastic about wagons in the wind that he convinced the town of Westport that its future lay in prairie schooners. He had visions of great ships sailing across the prairie with nothing to give them power but a sail held high. As Windwagon himself said, "This clipper shows that all you have to do is believe in these things and they'll come true."

A great corporation was formed to build windwagons, and the day of the launching finally came. The mayor, the chairman of the board, the president of the corporation all climbed aboard with Mr. Smith. While the town waited with bated breath, the sail was hoisted aloft and the anchor raised. Sure enough, Windwagon was right.

The prairie clipper took off at great speed across the desert. Visions of vast fleets of prairie schooners leapt to the minds of all who watched. As the wind rose, the schooner picked up speed. Gradually it gained, until finally it was sailing round and round the town of Westport at 200 miles an hour. The president of the corporation discussed this unusual fact with the mayor. The treasurer interrupted to say he was worried. The ship was just going too fast. Panic swept the crew—except, of course, Windwagon himself who laughed with glee at this first success. It was the treasurer who finally succumbed to fear and doubt, and ran to the anchor to lower it so the ship might stop. It was the treasurer who fouled up the anchor so badly that nothing could stop the ship.

The chairman of the board was the first to jump from the moving vessel, followed by the president, the treasurer and the mayor. The ship sailed on, and was last seen sweeping across the prairie with Windwagon at the helm. Fear and



*On-the-farm help is still an integral part of the county agent's duties. Here an agent advises a farmer on his irrigation system.*



doubt had clouded the dreams of all the others, but Windwagon was convinced in what he was doing and so enthusiastic about its success that the speed didn't bother him.

Many men saw Windwagon after that day. He was in the pilot house when the first steamboat came up the Yellowstone, and they swear that nobody but Windwagon held the golden spike when the two railroads came together at Promontory Point. When the first transcontinental airplane roared out of Kansas City, a little sandy-haired man closed the plane's door and waved on the pilot. When the first astronaut climbed into his space ship, the man was there again. His eyes seemed to burn, and he had the perpetual squint that comes from looking always at horizons.

Certainly he is still here, along with the men who are afraid, the men who are confident, the men who are critical, as the Agricultural Extension Service contemplates its changing role, and its county agricultural and home demonstration agents face problems their predecessors never even thought of.

Now socio-economic problems, public policy, consumer education etc., are all a concern of the Agricultural Extension Service. To be sure, the words and actions of Extension today would be entirely foreign to pioneers of Extension work, whose early concerns were the boll weevil, "corn clubs," "girls' tomato canning clubs."

Most comments from educators, Extension officials, and farm publication editors favor the changing role of Extension—and no one can deny it is changing.

On the other hand, it is possible that the public in general is not so aware of the change.

Before World War II, Extension was engaged primarily in farm and home technology—in building the base for America as the best clothed, best fed nation in the world. During World War II, Extension was engaged in emergency measures—in greater and greater output of food and fiber with fewer workers. Since World War II, the country has witnessed an unprecedented growth in population.

Says a report of the Policy Statement Committee of the National University Extension Association:

"The possibility of a destruction of mankind through accidental or deliberate nuclear warfare, the new and fast means of transportation and communication, the increasing interdependence of nations and of areas, make it imperative that all people have a better

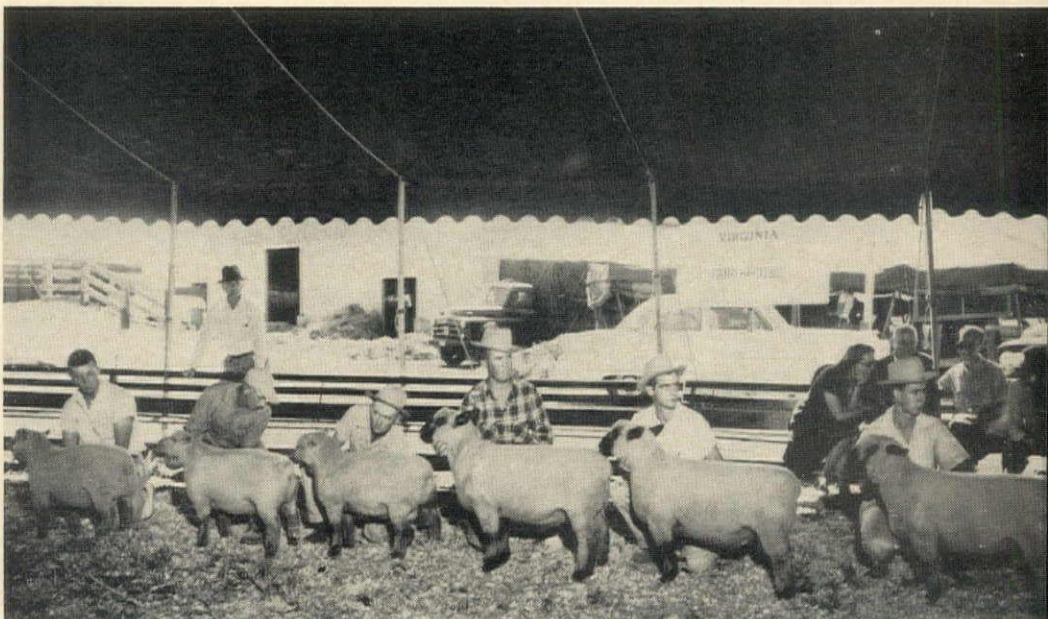
to tell the Virginia Story



*Demonstrations are one of the more effective ways of teaching modern agricultural methods. Here a county agent conducts a tour for farmers on a demonstration plot.*

*Four-H club members who do outstanding work in their projects are often rewarded by tours at special events. Here a group of 4-H'ers view the famous statue of George Washington in Virginia's capitol.*

*Shows and sales are held throughout the state for prize livestock, with county agents playing an important part in arrangements. Here a group of sheep producers show their top animals.*







County agents often are called upon to entertain visitors from foreign lands and to teach them American methods of farm production, Extension organization, etc.

understanding of one another. Ignorance of international or world problems and isolationism no longer make sense. . . . Involvement of the total society and the university has been increasing. It will continue to increase; informed citizens will demand that it increase, and universities will respond in different ways.

"The achievements of university Extension in making the resources of the university available to the people justify, in part, the conclusion that continuing education and appropriate supporting educational services must remain an important and basic function of most universities and colleges in America. . . ."

Prospective county agents receive thorough training in classes and laboratories before their appointments. Here a student works with Dr. R. G. Henderson in Virginia Polytechnic Institute plant pathology laboratories.



Today the universities have multi-million dollar research and educational plants. These gigantic "think" factories turn out wave after wave of students, trained to tackle the biggest and thorniest technical and social problems of the age.

But the Agricultural Extension Service of VPI—and those of other land-grant universities—operate big adult education programs and off-campus youth programs too. In the field of agriculture, the Extension Service through its county agents, seeks to meet the information and education needs of big commercial farmers, professional farm managers, low income farmers, homemakers, and many other groups with specialized interests—such as the businesses which provide supplies and services to the farmer, the grocery stores which sell the produce of the farms, the processing plants, etc. The agents provide leadership for these and other groups to come to grips with pressing local and national problems of common interest—unemployment, job retraining, education of youth for jobs for tomorrow, taxation, water pollution, resource development and a host of others.

Related to the changing role of the agent are some remarks from the director of the Virginia Agricultural Extension Service at VPI, W. H. Daughtrey. He says:

"The Extension worker's role as an educator has and is continuing to undergo necessary change. While the major aspects of his role continue to be focused on teaching and interpreting research findings, the setting in which he operates today requires that he and/or she provide overall organizational and educational leadership for the people. . . . The development and maintenance of a high level of professional competency will require the staff to take advantage of professional growth and development opportunities."

What do these theories mean in practice, and how are they being followed in Virginia?

Many authorities feel that the core of agriculture perhaps now, and certainly in future years, will be management—the whole process of adjusting to change through decision making, action and follow-up. County agents in Virginia have found a way to give more effective training to farmers in specific subject matter areas. The new approach is through team teaching.

The new training method was proposed last June by Daughtrey, and 18 assistant county agents were selected to devote full time as specialists in farm

management. These men received an intensive training program totaling 270 class hours at the graduate level.

This was the core of the new program. These agents worked with farmers enrolled in the VPI farm record-keeping program and combined in teams to teach farm management.

A total of 68 farm management schools have been planned. To date 28 have been completed with about 560 farmers in attendance.

The main purpose of the schools is to train farmers in the basic principles of farm business management for use in their day by day decision making.

A similar approach is being used with a series of grain handling schools. Some years ago, area grain handling schools were held as a cooperative effort of the Virginia Farm and Home Electrification Council and the VPI Extension Service. Power supply engineers were trained in grain handling. Then area meetings were held by Extension specialists with the help of the power supply engineers and equipment dealers. About ten such meetings were held, directed mainly at off-farm segments of agriculture and a few key farmers.

Today county agents and power supply engineers have received additional training in mechanized grain handling. Several agents, with an engineer, make up a team and such teams are teaching one-day schools throughout the Old Dominion.

What are the advantages of this type of teaching? County agents are closer to the local situation faced by farmers than are members of the state staff at VPI—who nevertheless are an integral part of the Extension Service because they back up the agents as resource people with highly specialized training. With proper training the agent can be an effective teacher, and will be more readily available to the farmer for consultation and follow-up. The team approach also makes more efficient use of the state specialist's time.

What have been the results to date? Well, one farmer in Bland County turned a \$23 deficit in 1961 to a net profit of \$4,538 in 1962! Another farmer in this county was helped to calculate a least-cost feed ration for dairy cows that saved him \$12.75 per ton.

Farmers completing the third day of farm management schools were asked for comments on the usefulness of the schools. Typical comments were: "outstanding," "Well planned and presented," "Will help me make some important decisions in the future."



PERHAPS in no county in the state has the change in the role of the county agent been more dramatic than in rapidly urbanizing Fairfax, which lies just across the Potomac from Washington, D. C. Here the county population has risen to over 250,000 from 41,000 two decades ago. Also two decades ago, Fairfax was one of the leading dairy counties of the state, with 1,480 farms. Today there are fewer than 430 farms. The agents there have no choice but to change. One of the changes has been the devotion of more than 50 per cent of their time to "Special Problems in Urbanization."

Along with programs developing in gardening, landscaping, insect control, plant disease, sewage disposal, recreation, housing, community development, and consumer education, the agents have had special problems in knowing how to go about their tasks.

One of the programs in Fairfax which has received national attention has been the soils education programs. Farmers, homeowners, real estate developers, and the departments of health, education, public works, planning and zoning, and assessments all use the county soils survey information. "Our soil survey," says County Agent J. E. Beard, "was designed to meet the needs of all the people in the county, whether farmers or non-farmers. Regular soils education classes are held for employees of the different departments of county government working with or appraising soils."

Meanwhile, Extension administrators make it abundantly clear that they expect their personnel to engage in more than farm and homemaking problems.

Public Law 87-27 outlines Extension's organizational and educational responsibilities in administering the area redevelopment act.

"Assigned to Federal Extension Service: Advice, assistance, and information to individuals, committees, groups and enterprises in rural redevelopment areas regarding the application of the Act, the implementation of proposed projects and objectives of the proposed Overall Economic Redevelopment Program for the area, and matters as set forth in Section 10 of the Act. . . ."

"What does it mean?" queries one of the more experienced agents in Virginia. "It could mean almost anything."

An adjunct to that particular law is found in an administrative statement on Extension's organizational and educational responsibilities in the areas development program. Some agents are enthusiastic and active, some are not. Some have not found their niche in the



Above, ASHTON W. SINCLAIR, county-agent-at-large Abingdon, president of the Virginia County Agents' Association.

Below, CARL COINER, Shenandoah county agent, immediate past president of the Virginia Agents' Association.

Other officers include E. A. Davis, vice president, county agent Southampton County; Bobby E. Leonard, secretary-treasurer, county agent Botetourt County; and Harold A. Little, county agent Essex County, Sergeant at Arms.



machinery of the program, and exactly what is or is not being done is one of the most difficult possible procedures.

Says the administration: "The Rural Areas Development method provides us with the opportunity to broaden our concept in program planning and exercise a more meaningful and significant leadership role."

"One of the major tasks of Extension education is the improvement of methods in program planning in order to achieve greater participation, deeper involvement and more lasting results from educational efforts. Program planning, therefore, is of vital concern if the Extension Service must, if it is to meet the basic organizational needs of its clientele, first translate those needs into specific organizational purposes and operational objectives."

"The Extension Service, as an educational organization, not only has the responsibility but the obligation to provide the necessary training, leadership, and opportunities whereby people can more effectively plan for their future. To neglect this challenge is to neglect one of the most important and crucial responsibilities of Extension—to provide the methods by which the needs of the people can be effectively identified and expressed in terms of action programs through active participation of lay people in program planning."

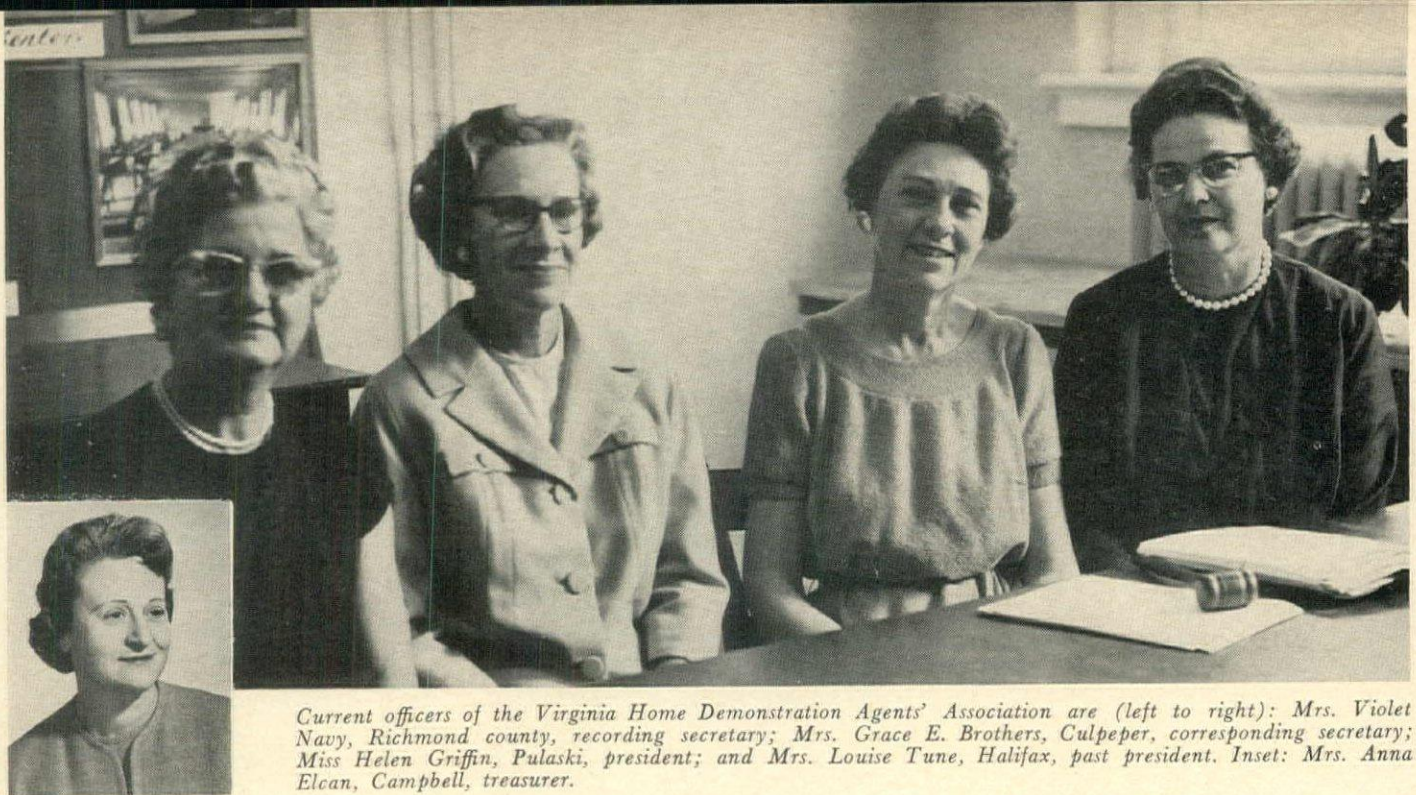
"There is no limit to the extent to which people in a county will respond if we assist in arriving at really vital considerations in improvement programs through effective group leadership and discussion."

Evidence of this claim is found in a typical situation in Surry County. Suppose you, as millions of other Americans do, lived in a rural county where the county health officer and one other extremely overworked gentleman were the only doctors available. Suppose this county were miles from the nearest hospital. Suppose further that boating and water sports were popular and that most people made their living by farming—a notoriously hazardous occupation.

This sort of situation might or might not make you uncomfortable—if you thought about it at all.

However, the description of the county is a fair one of Surry County, a relatively small county tucked down in the historic Tidewater section, and strong in tradition, pride, and individuality, but admittedly short on trained medical care. Also, while not in a main target area in any possible war, it is what could be called "mighty close"—close to the seaport city of Norfolk.





Current officers of the Virginia Home Demonstration Agents' Association are (left to right): Mrs. Violet Navy, Richmond county, recording secretary; Mrs. Grace E. Brothers, Culpeper, corresponding secretary; Miss Helen Griffin, Pulaski, president; and Mrs. Louise Tune, Halifax, past president. Inset: Mrs. Anna Elcan, Campbell, treasurer.

But the people down there aren't as worried as they used to be and this is largely because of an intensive self-help medical-care training program, spearheaded by the Health Committee of the Rural Areas Development Program. The home demonstration program—one of magnitude for many years—had previously been concerned with many aspects of health and health care. So it was a “natural” for the RAD Health Committee to coordinate activities with the home demonstration clubs.

Jack Savedge, a county supervisor and chairman of the Surry RAD effort, says the program, started a little over a

year ago by county civic leaders, promises to be of great benefit to development on a longtime basis. The group directing the overall program meets twice a year, in the spring and fall, and committees in charge of other aspects of the program meet more often.

The overall RAD group has set up committees on agriculture, health, education, and small industry.

The health committee, under the direction of Mrs. Garland Spratley, conducted a series of classes on medical self help last summer.

No one can sit in a room full of people and say for sure how many might not be there had there not been classes on medical self help, or programs on safety. Some might have lived: some might not. You'd be making a statistical guess, but try it.

Mrs. Opal Jennings, Home Demonstration Agent in Surry, has been trying to make such a guess. She can remember boating and swimming accidents, farm and home accidents during the last year. One thing is certain—you feel much safer in Surry County, Virginia, knowing that even though medical help may be miles or hours away, or even impossible to find, many people are trained in the rudiments of what to do if, for instance, you sever an artery in your leg, suffer a first-degree burn, fracture your leg, or—without enough warning—have a baby. Who can say with certainty how many people are alive and uncrippled today in Surry because someone knew what to do?

A home demonstration health committee has been in existence for several years and has held countywide meetings

on subjects such as mental health. The home demonstration health committee (some of the members serving actively on the RAD Health Committee) now coordinates its activities with RAD.

Particularly comforting is the fact that citizens of Surry know how to be medically self-sufficient (to the best possible degree for laymen), not only in individual cases but during a nuclear or natural disaster.

Dr. W. R. Ferguson, county health officer and an ardent backer of the RAD health effort, taught the first two lessons of the medical self-help program—on radioactive fallout and shelter, on hygiene, sanitation, and vermin control. Mrs. Melvin Rollings also spoke at that first meeting on water and food supplies.

At the second meeting, held a week later, Mrs. Linda Barry, Mrs. Kenneth Barham, and Mrs. Allison Moore followed with discussions on shock, bleeding, and bandaging; artificial respiration; fractures and splinting; and transportation of the injured.

At the third and last of the stepped-up intensive courses, Mrs. H. B. Burt, Jr., Mrs. Livesay Burrow, Mrs. Merrill Seward, and Mrs. Lennie Barnes discussed burns, nursing care of the sick and injured, infant and child care, and emergency childbirth.

Mrs. Jennings said the three meetings were held at different points in the county so no one person or persons would have too far to travel. She believes the intensiveness of the course and the fact that the three lessons were held in relatively rapid succession had

(Continued on page 20)

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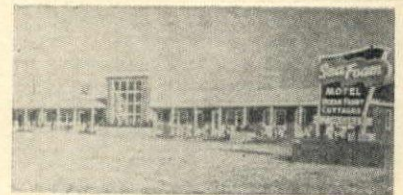
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Trigger Fish	1,409	7	9,863
Porgies	754	3	2,262
Dolphin	2,940	14	41,160
Bonita	399	12	4,788
Red Snapper	1,602	3	4,806
Flounders	7	3	21
Gray Trout	5	5	25
Spade Fish	612	5	3,060
Spanish Mackerel	158	2	396
Wahoo	24	17	408
Blues	209	3	627
Octopus	3	1	3
Barracuda	152	20	3,040
Cobia	40	40	1,600
Grouper	45	40	1,800
Pilot Fish	5	3	15
Tuna	45	18	810
Sharks	50	100	5,000
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# In Our Mail Bag

Editor  
Virginia Record

Dear Mr. Dowdey:

I want you to know how very much I enjoyed your article *The History of the General Assembly of Virginia* in the January 1964 issue of the VIRGINIA RECORD. It was not only a very enlightening presentation of the legislative history of the Commonwealth but I was particularly pleased at your reasonable objectivity in reference to basic political issues which currently face our state.

As you well point out, Virginia is rapidly passing into a stage of our history where inevitable changes will occur as the state continues to pass from a predominant rural state towards yet another vast urban area on the eastern seaboard. Her dilemma is largely posed by the natural press of a rapidly expanding population, now the second fastest growing state east of the Mississippi, with the realization that a more dynamic economy is necessary to sustain such a population, but often in conflict with justifiable and understandable traditions and principles of the past forged under conditions largely different from those we must face today. Your article performs a great public service towards bringing this vital public confrontation into proper perspective towards the best possible solutions for an increasingly more dynamic Commonwealth capable of maintaining the pace of modern economic and social demands.

I am particularly interested in a factual documentation of the origin and growth of the present day Republican Party of Virginia and have undertaken some research on the subject at the nearby Library of Congress. Your article, of course, touched upon this subject and tends to verify my belief that our party today in Virginia arose not from the Radical Republican party in Virginia but rather from a counter-movement against the Radical Republicans. In fact, you state, "a counter-movement began among Republicans who did not wish to form a virtually Negro party. A simultaneous movement was begun by native Virginians to form a coalition with the conservative Republicans, as the Republican Party

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comprised the power of the US, the only chance of the state's restoration to the Union was through it." It is my belief that, aside from legislative manipulation to strengthen one-party rule, (i.e. short ballot, poll tax, etc.), one of the major reasons for one-party power in Virginia has been due to the general public misapprehension, rather misunderstanding, regarding the relationship of the Republican party today and the Radical or Black Republicans. I would be most grateful to have your advice and thoughts regarding this point because it seems to me that in many regards this has been a corruption of history for a political purpose.

Sincerely,  
Horace E. Henderson,  
Chairman

Republican Party of Virginia  
McLean, Virginia

Dear Mr. Henderson:

Thank you so much for your interesting and stimulating letter.

I honestly do not believe that the average Southerner would know the difference between Radical Republican or Conservative Republican. I think when the Radicals used the name of Lincoln as a mantle to cover their villainies, the apotheosis of Lincoln as the patron saint of the Republican Party tended to associate in the Southerner's mind Lincoln and Reconstruction—hence Lincoln's party and Reconstruction. Very little knowledge of history would be necessary for any voter to realize that no similarity exists between the present Republican Party and the Reconstruction Republican Party. As I mentioned elsewhere in the article all parties have changed their identities at different times and the labels today are almost meaningless.

Beyond the labels, as we both know, the ramifications of political operations are so vast and complex that labels constitute only a single confusion in the total considerations. However, I do think clarifications of the meaning of the Republican Party in the South would certainly be a place to begin. By chance I have been reading a good deal about Reconstruction lately in another connection, and the amazing thing is that the Southern people have been no more affected than they have. In the Deep South the best thing that could happen for the clarification of the Republican status would be one more Democratic administration like that of the Kennedy brothers.

Cordially,  
Clifford Dowdey

to tell the Virginia Story

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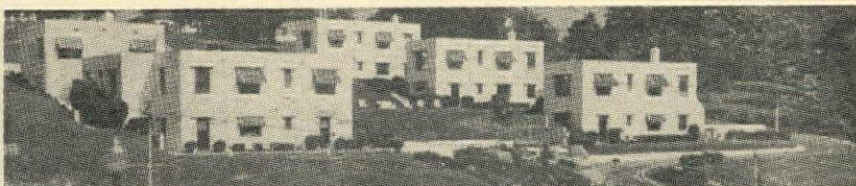
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**EPSILON SIGMA PHI OFFICERS** — Retiring president H. B. Eller, county agent in Smyth County, and the current president, Dr. W. E. Skelton, associate director of the Virginia Extension, discuss activities of the Virginia Alpha Gamma chapter of the national honorary Extension Service fraternity, Epsilon Sigma Phi. Dr. Skelton also is vice president, and Miss Lucy Blake, assistant director of the Virginia Extension Service, is secretary of the fraternity at the national level. The purpose of the association is to maintain the standards and ideals, uphold the traditions, morale, prestige and respect of the Extension Service.

### Extension Workers (from page 16)

something to do with its success. "People didn't have time to lose interest."

(In some other places where a similar course has been held, the courses have been extended over a year or more; and have not been regarded as successful and interest-arousing as those in Surry.)

The Surry health program is to some extent self-perpetuating. Home demonstration clubs are still stressing health programs — particularly those concerning survival in event of nuclear warfare. Mrs. Jennings says the current programs put emphasis on existing shelter which might be used, water, and food supply.

In the courses, students were given booklets covering all topics presented, including reproductions of the slides presented. The instruction kit includes instructors' guides and lesson folders, a projector and screen, color filmstrips, examination booklets, answer sheets, and grading templates. The medical self-help training course was developed over a period of two years, and is endorsed by the American Medical Association and all other medical associations. It is offered to the public at no cost.

The national aim of medical self help is to train one person in every household—which would mean about 50 million people taking the course during the next three years. In Virginia, State Department of Health officials hope eventually to train between one-fourth and one-third of the State's population.

Mrs. Spratley says, "With the scarcity of doctors and nursing care in many areas—even more severe in case of disaster—it would be a good idea for every homemaker to be concerned about her family's health."

In Surry, Mrs. Jennings pointed out that the course was attended in part by 53 women and for two or more days by about 35 women.

Many requests have been received from Surry County residents for the courses to be repeated for those who did not have the opportunity to take them the first time. "We may go to other communities—perhaps at night so people who work can have a chance to take them," she says.

Women also have served on other RAD committees, and together they helped plan and set up an educational exhibit at the State Fair in Richmond last year showing "Rural Areas Development in Historic Surry."

The exhibit indicated the situation in Surry and listed goals set up by each of the four subcommittees of the overall RAD committee. The exhibit was viewed by thousands and won first place in competition with six other counties. It later merited one of three blue ribbons at the Petersburg Fair.

Surry is justifiably proud of its history, and at the rate it's going it also can be proud of its future.

**F**ARM PRODUCTION is and always will be an integral part of agriculture—if America is to continue to be the best fed, best clothed, best housed nation on earth. So working with farmers

will continue to be an important part of the county agricultural agent's work. Look at Bath county last year, which with counties throughout Virginia faced a severe drouth and the prospect of dwindling yields, both in livestock and crops.

"Should I sell my cows? Should I buy hay? Can I replace my herd next year and what will the price be? If I can replace them, will they produce as well as the cows I have raised?"

These and many more were the questions asked by farmers all over the Old Dominion in 1963. Lester Dalton, the county agent in Bath, went to work with his farmers to try to find some answers. All of the farmers talked about the shortage of hay and loss of pasture during most of the summer and fall, and some did something about it. They turned to silage—corn silage if they had it or could buy it. Many planted corn for silage, while others put out corn for grain and ensiled it to get the additional feed. Then they asked "How can I store corn silage?"

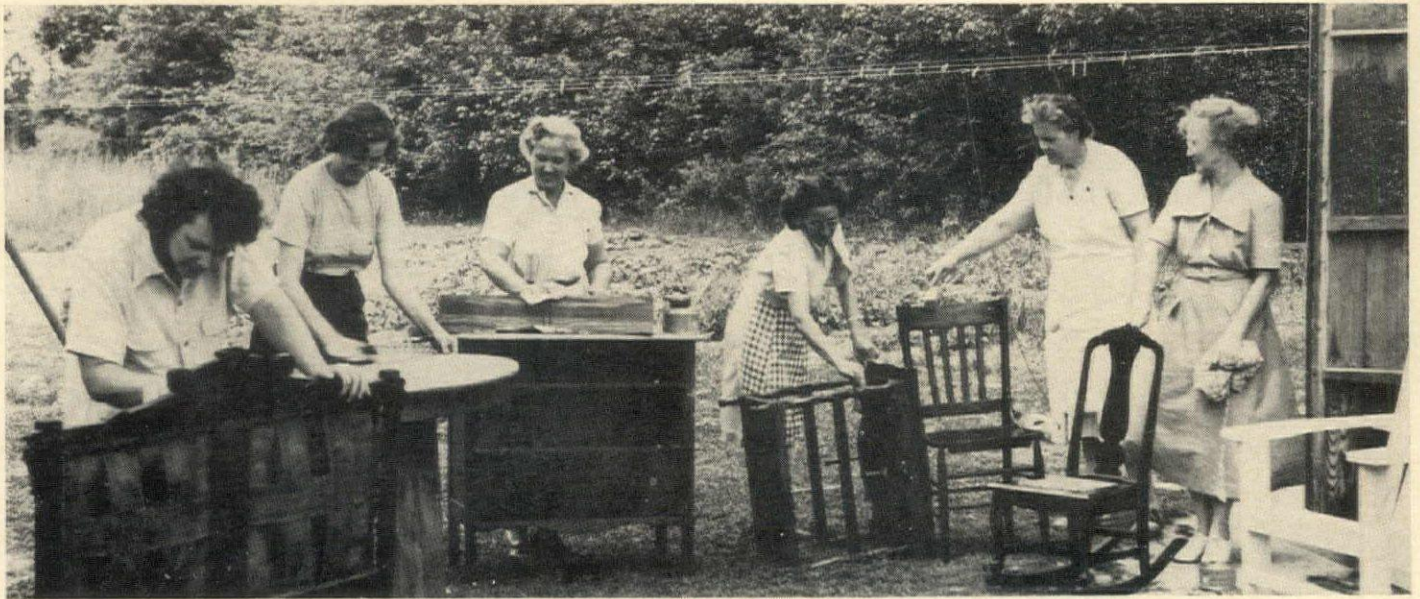
Charles McCormick, Williamsville, put in his corn to make grain for sheep and hogs, but cut it for silage and put up a "stack of corn silage." His five acres of corn made about 75 tons and will help him keep his cows.

Everett Caulty, Millboro, put out his ten acres of corn for grain, but the drouth hit it and he decided to make silage for feed. He put his silage in a trench, then had some soybeans and sudan to finish out the winter.

Other farmers did similar things—and the consumer ultimately benefits. If such farm problems were not solved, the cost of the market basket could go still higher. Yes, says Dalton, everybody talked about the drouth and many farmers took action. The U. S. Department hay and grain program helped. "But that is still \$50 (a ton) hay and \$100 (a bushel) corn to feed calves expected to bring about 25 cents (a pound) next year. "The grass may be short, the feed high and scarce, and the winter long and cold, but our beef boys in Bath will stay in the business with silage," says the agent.

The youth program of the Extension Service, conducted by the agents under the supervision of the state 4-H office at VPI, is one which involves around 70,000 boys and girls in Virginia. In the clubs they are taught, with volunteer adult and junior leaders assisting, most of the traditional farming and homemaking skills. But in recent years the youth program has been streamlined to interest urban as well as rural youngsters. So you will find pro-





*How to refinish furniture is one of the home demonstration activities of interest to rural and urban women alike. Here some club women are hard at work.*

jects in use of electricity, pet care, automotive training, town and country business. The latter project is relatively new and is being tried in pilot counties.

The new project involves visits to club meetings by local businessmen who explain the operation of their firms. Club members also have a chance to visit the business for a look at operations previously explained to them.

Members have a part in planning their programs. They select key topics in which they are interested. They then invite local men in to speak to them on the businesses they have chosen to study.

There are five major objectives in the new program. The first is to provide a greater understanding of business as it operates in the marketing field through firms associated with agriculture.

A second goal is to teach some basic economic concepts—such as those of supply and demand, factors of production, and capital and management.

Another object is to help youngsters explore and discuss employment opportunities in businesses related to agriculture. This is so that capable farm youths will be attracted to agricultural careers.

The fourth objective is to emphasize the importance of training and education for young people who expect to be employed with agricultural business firms. Perhaps some will be shown the benefits of a college education when they find the higher paying jobs require college degrees.

A final aim is to help young people who will stay on the farm gain a better understanding and appreciation of the problems and structure of agricultural marketing.

Agricultural Economist Dr. Don Long, who has worked with state 4-H agents setting up the program in Virginia, says "This project has a lot of potential. District agents are in favor of it, and all four pilot counties are continuing the project." (Several other countries are now getting into the project.)

Each Virginia pilot county went about organizing its program in its own way. Three conducted the project in county groups, and one offered it in a community club group. In three counties local businessmen helped organize the program.

How do agents like the new program? Frederick county Assistant County Agent Joe B. Wightman says, "This project is one answer to the need for 4-H work for the older 4-H Club members. They have an opportunity to study many jobs available to older youth. It particularly points up the need for every boy and girl to finish high school at least, and go as far in college or a trade school as possible in order to be prepared for a job that will provide an adequate living."

Assistant Home Demonstration Agent Miss Agnes V. Shirley says, "It is also a good public relations project; it gives us an opportunity to acquaint business firms with 4-H work—to get their help as leaders and as discussion leaders."

**A**LTHOUGH LIKE her counterpart, the county agricultural agent, the county home demonstration agent will continue to teach the traditional skills, she is devoting more and more of her time to leadership development, professional improvement, and other fields. For instance she may be a teacher of consumer education—often working as closely with the urban woman as she does with the farmer's wife.

An article written by Marjorie Webb of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* tells this story:

Agents in Henrico, Chesterfield and Hanover counties provide typical examples of home demonstration work in urban-rural areas.

"We're all consumers of time, money and energy," says Mrs. Anne Confer, home demonstration agent for Chesterfield county. She agrees fully with Elizabeth Hoyte, a home economist at Iowa State University, who said: "One buys the quality of one's life with one's time, energy and money."

"That's a good argument for consumer education," Mrs. Confer said.

Mrs. Helen Hazard, assistant home demonstration agent for Hanover county, Miss Mary Walker, home demonstration agent for Henrico, and Mrs. Confer all say that a primary goal of the home demonstration program is to help the consumer get the most for money spent.

The consumer education pro-



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gram provides information to help consumers meet their buying problems. When buying goods and services for satisfaction of his needs and desires, the consumer must consider many factors before making his selections.

That's where the consumer education program and the home demonstration agent can be helpful.

"But many people don't realize that this service is available to everyone, not just members of home demonstration clubs," said Miss Walker.

Money, management, keeping family records, buying food, shelter, household appliances and every phase of consumer buying is considered in each county's program. However, there are some differences in the presentation in each county.

All phases of the consumer program are available to home demonstration clubs in each county. In Hanover, Mrs. Hazard writes a column for consumers that appears weekly in the Hanover county *Herald Progress*. She also appears weekly on her local Radio Station WIVE with information of interest to the consumer. She visits individual homes upon request, and one of the most effective methods of consumer education has been working with small groups, Mrs. Hazard said.

As an example, she cited a group of five women living in the Pole Green Road area who requested a program in money management. Because they have small children, it was decided that meeting in their homes would be most convenient. Consequently, Mrs. Hazard meets with them in one of their homes for each session.

"It's like a study class," Mrs. Hazard said. "They've been taught planned spending." Each uses a family record book, available at any home demonstration office and issued by the Virginia Polytechnic Institute Agricultural Extension Service.

The family record book gives each an opportunity to take a look at her family standing and to keep a complete picture of food, clothing, health, automobile, housing and other expenditures for a year. The record book

gives the homemaker an opportunity to plan future spending, too.

Another successful session in consumer buying in Hanover has been a laundry clinic where dealers demonstrated their models showing different features of each model. A similar session will be held to feature small electrical appliances used in preparation of food.

Mrs. Hazard, Mrs. Confer and Miss Walker stress the fact that they never deal in brand names at such demonstrations or when some one calls to inquire about a certain type of appliance or other item. At all demonstrations, the brand names are carefully covered.

In Chesterfield county, workshops and consumer conferences, held twice a year, have proved very effective in providing the consumer with valuable information. The conferences are planned for a central location to meet the needs of everyone interested in attending.

"And they are open to anyone who is interested," Mrs. Confer said.

The Chesterfield programs have included what to look for in buying meat, the advisability of reading labels and knowing how to care for an item if purchased, and the importance of buying from a reliable dealer. What to look for in selecting home furnishings, what to buy, where to buy, when to buy and how much to buy have been a part of the consumer education program.

Richmond stores, as well as county stores, co-operate fully with the home demonstration agents' efforts to bring the consumer education programs to the consumers.

A Chesterfield county furniture dealer made his facilities available to Mrs. Confer when one of her groups discussed furniture buying and the consumer.

When Miss Walker held a tailoring class under her consumer program, a Richmond department store made its facilities available for the sessions. The women were able to use the pattern department facilities and then used the fabric department as a workshop for studying



the firmness of weave and the practicality of choosing one fabric instead of another. The women learned the importance of reading labels on the bolts of fabrics as well as the importance of buying the very best fabric they could afford.

A consumer session on economical entertainment has proved to be popular in Henrico county, too. Points emphasized in the program included the importance of serving nutritious foods and buying the most nutrition for money spent. Suggestions included fruit drinks, desserts, milk drinks, raw fruit and vegetables, snacks and salads. Low-calorie foods for weight-watchers and also cost were considered.

A demonstration for comparative cost of foods showed how "delicious desserts can be made using whipped dry or canned milk instead of whipped cream which would be much more expensive," Miss Walker said.

The Henrico county home demonstration office receives many telephone calls with questions that range from whether or not to buy an all-wool rug to what kind of cleaner should be used on a certain type of floor.

"A woman called from a new housing development where a new type of flooring had been used," Miss Walker said. The woman was distressed because she didn't know how to clean the flooring.

Consequently, Miss Walker went to her house where the woman had invited about ten of her neighbors with similar problems. Miss Walker guided them in caring for the new-type flooring.

"They could have ruined their floors without the proper information," says Miss Walker.

Thus, today's home demonstration agent uses every opportunity and every means available to take the consumer education program to her community.

All that's necessary is a spark of interest or a request from a citizen. The home demonstration agent is at the service of the community.

**M**EANWHILE, behind the agents and available to them is a wealth of information on almost every conceivable subject. If they do not have the answer to a specific question—and more and more of them do have the answers as emphasis is put on in-service training—they know where to find the answers. Mailcall in an agent's office can be frustrating, funny, sad, rewarding—depending on the circumstances. And many citizens of the Old Dominion prefer to drop a note straight to headquarters at VPI—although it is desirable for them to maintain contact with their own agents. Mail call at VPI is similar to that in the agent's office.

One way VPI keeps its finger on the pulse of people who want to know something about something is a weekly query of the county agricultural agents about what questions are being asked most frequently.

Another way is to burrow through the bushels of letters and cards that arrive each day.

However, even the experts are stumped by some of the post cards. "Send us everything you have about agriculture and Virginia." This request doesn't happen once, but many times. It would take several box cars to meet the request.

"I park my car under a cherry tree and am bothered with birds," complains another citizen. "Move your car," advise the scientists.

"I am giving a party for my 11-year-old son. Please send me some leaf-



VOICE OF FOUR-H . . . Dorcas Campbell of Rockbridge County, crowned Miss Virginia in 1963, is shown singing at a 4-H dress revue on campus at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Dorcas is a veteran 4-H'er and, while she was representing Virginia during the National 4-H Club Congress held in Chicago in 1962, sang with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Arthur Fiedler.

lets on wildlife and game management," writes a presumably frantic mother.

"Please send the best recipe you have for beer," writes one citizen. If the

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experts have a recipe for beer, they're not admitting it.

"What sort of mathematics is it where an irresistible force can theoretically go straight through an immovable object?" "This card has been mis-directed," says the veterinarian. "Send it somewhere else."

"What color is yak's milk?" "I can't read this man's writing," says the dairy scientist. "It looks like he's asking what color is yak's milk."

But most of the questions can be answered. Bulletins and leaflets are available on scores of subjects. If you're interested in raising livestock, if you want to get rid of moles, skunks, or black widow spiders, if you want greener lawns or redder apples or an attractive mail box, VPI or its local representatives, the county agents, can help you solve your problem.



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*Camping in the summer is both fun and education for 4-H'ers in Virginia. Here a group hears a lecture on entomology from Dr. J. O. Rowell, entomologist at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Here again, county agricultural and home demonstration agents help conduct and arrange camps.*

## **The History of the Agricultural Extension Service**

*(Continued from page 7)*

changing needs of the people. Today more and more city folks are discovering the knowledge that can be had through the Extension Service. There are few consumers without some problems concerning food, lawns, gardens, homemaking, finances, and related areas.

Lessons learned through the years

may yet prove valuable in President Johnson's attack on poverty which has been receiving so much attention in the press recently. Adult education is what Extension knows best, and as long as there is a need for such education, it's a good bet Extension agents will be in the forefront of any fight against ignorance!

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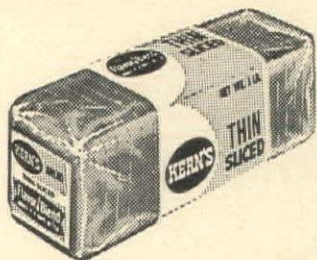
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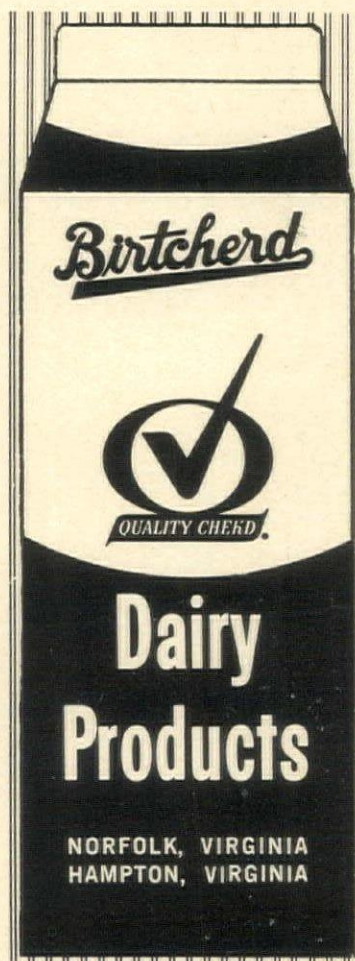


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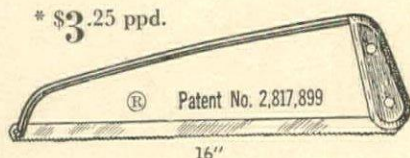
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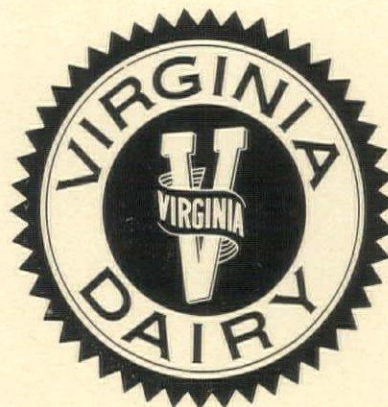
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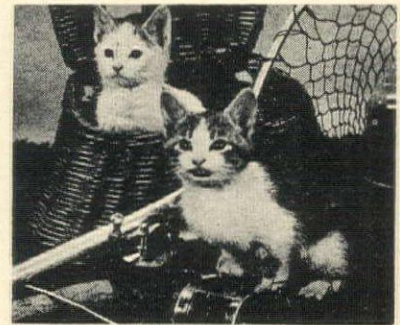
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## Platoon System for Psychiatrists

(Continued from page 3)

should be judged in private hearings by trained persons qualified to diagnose insanity. Their diagnosis should be totally unrelated to any trial for crime.

If he is adjudged to be insane, or to have been "legally insane" at the time he committed the crime, this fact should be presented to the judge. It would seem to be reasonable—though this has nothing to do with legal rationality—that a person capable of committing murder, when "legally insane" at the time of the commission of the crime, would be a poor social risk. As such, he should be committed to an institution for the criminally insane until he was diagnosed as being capable of assuming the role of a responsible adult in society.

The whole line about "not knowing right from wrong" at the moment of the crime could apply to countless murders and acts of violence committed under passion. In these momentary divorces from rationality, an individual does cease to relate to his environment in any way. To say that "everything went black before him" is literally true. For that moment he is totally possessed by the passion of the rage. This can and does happen in law-abiding, respectable citizens who could not be judged insane under any known measurement of sanity. Where the act—as in a furious fist-fight—stops short of murder, and no charges are pressed, no one not immediately involved is even aware that the two antagonists did not at that moment "know right from wrong." If murder results, this crime does not usually become a matter of psychiatric interpretation, but goes as second degree murder or manslaughter. That, is, acts of unpremeditated violence seem usually to be treated as crimes against the society.

When this "not knowing right from wrong" goes into the realm of the insanity plea, it seems to tend toward exculpating the committer of the act of violence. It seems to me that a person who can take another life is a poor social risk whether or not his temporary divorce from the knowledge of right or wrong is involved with insanity. However, if qualified psychiatrists have diagnosed him as insane, he should not be subject to any trial at all—if insanity excuses a killer from the legal charge of murder. Assuming that established insanity does excuse an individual from the charge of murder, though he could be committed to an institution, there is no guilt for the jury to decide.

Presumably a group of men and women chosen at random are capable

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of deciding guilt or innocence. But "guilt or insanity" is asking people ignorant of mental disorders if a murderer is guilty or psychotic. This is simply not within the realm of their capabilities to decide. The element of the ridiculous enters where the opposing attorneys build up teams of psychiatrists in disagreement. Carried

to its logical extreme the side with 100 psychiatrists should prevail over the side with 79.

If this becomes the precedent, it will lead to recruitment of platoons of psychiatrists and, as in football, the side with the most depth of manpower is almost always certain to win. Since the district attorney's hired platoons of psy-

chiatric experts must be paid by the taxpayers, this of course will lead to state legislatures finding new things to tax people to meet the expenses. For the private defendants, this will work an unfair hardship on the poor who could afford to import only five or six psychiatrists.

It would seem the only way to forestall this eventuality would be, as mentioned, to change the nature of proceedings that permit unqualified persons to pass on sanity or insanity. However, like ending the Kennedy Dynasty in Washington, this is doubtless a farfetched and unrealistic dream. Besides, what would television do without the circus of the jury deciding not between sanity and insanity but between mental disorder and guilt?

Where one side is trying to prove the accused sane in order that he may be declared guilty and the other side is trying to prove him insane in order that he may be declared innocent, the actual condition of the accused becomes entirely removed from that of the patient which he, in fact, is if there is any question of his sanity. The point is that since all people, (except the defense lawyers of an accused person) agree that walking up to a person and shooting him to death is a practice that should be discouraged; whether the killer is diagnosed as a nut or convicted as a murderer, his mental state at the time of the commission of the crime should not minimize the risk he is in a society where it is unlawful for persons to go about armed.

The probability is that when future social historians study the goings-on in our courts, the question they will ask is, "Which ones were crazy?"

*Clifford Dawley*

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\*For a complete report of this significant test, see Highway Research Record No. 24, published by the Highway Research Board, 42nd Annual Meeting, 1963.



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