



The Alabama

FFA NEWS

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MARBURY INVOLVED IN NEW COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Once upon a time (as all happy stories begin) there was a little, rural community called Marbury. This community of approximately 250 people was about 35 miles north of Montgomery, just off highway 31.

Marbury, like other communities nearby, was provided with library service via the bookmobile that came every two weeks from the Cahaba Regional Library in Clanton. But--the Cahaba Regional Library had a cutback in funds, and, thereby, had to cut the bookmobile visits in the Marbury area to only once a month. This presented an inconvenience to the people in the area, many of whom were elderly and couldn't travel to the library in Clanton.

So, the community leaders of Marbury discussed the problem with the library officials in Clanton and the idea of a branch library in Marbury was born. The Cahaba Regional Library promised to supply the books if Marbury would furnish the facilities.

As luck would have it, there was a "shotgun" type house across the road from Marbury High School and the county gladly donated it to the cause. This house wasn't in the best of conditions, however. Physical education classes had been held there and the six rooms were in great need of "fixing up."

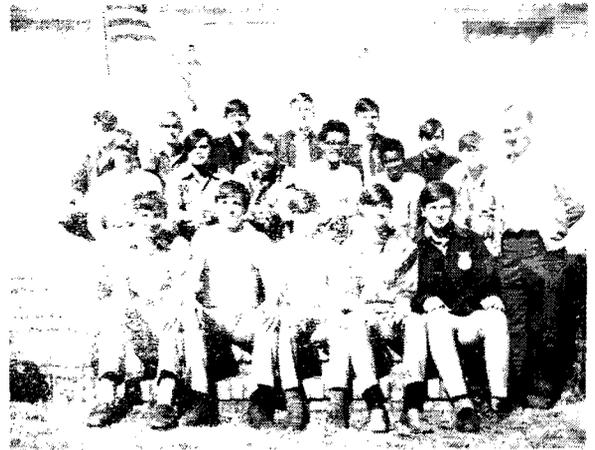
This is where the 11th grade FFA members of Marbury High School came into the story. These 25 or so FFA boys, under the direction of Mr. J. B. Hughes, jumped into the community project with all the elbow grease they could muster. They repaired electrical wiring and plumbing, installed new light fixtures, built bookshelves, and painted three of the rooms. Carpet, which had been donated by a retired businessman of nearby Wadsworth, was also installed in these three rooms.

According to Mr. Hughes, the library became a real community project, with local residents furnishing supplies and money, and the FFA boys doing most of the work.

Then the Cahaba Regional Library brought the books and the "Marbury Community Public Library" was ready for business.

But the Marbury FFA members didn't just stop there. They thought the inside looked so good that they decided to paint the outside of the building. The paint was donated

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These are some of the proud Marbury FFA members who were responsible for all the hard work that went into their new community library. (L-R) Front row: Bayburn Fisher, sentinel; Ronald Berry, reporter; Paul Milton, secretary; Collier Hunt, vice-president; Richie Morgan, president; and Mr. Hughes, standing. Second row: Ronnie Meeks, chairman of the project; Wanda Scarbrough; Tommy Jacks, Larry Lucas; Jerry Cooper; and Tommy Hand. Back row: D. J. Rollan, Ted Howell, Arthur Johnson, Ferrell Hunt, Jimmy Hilyer, and Carlton Cook.



Ronnie Meeks, chairman of the project; Richie Morgan, chapter president; and Paul Milton, secretary, took over the "Building Our American Communities" booklet. In the background is the new library of which they are so proud.

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ALABAMA FFA LOOKING BACK

Forty years ago, in February, 1931, the Alabama Association, Future Farmers of America put out its very first (so far as we can tell) Newsletter. This little (6 X 9 inches) eight-page booklet contained some very interesting information, including details of the third annual National FFA Convention, November, 1930.

The newsletter consisted mostly of chapter news. We are reproducing here one of the more "interesting" articles. (We are in no way poking fun at the writer or the FFA chapter. We just thought reading about the "good old days" would be an enjoyable experience for the "new generation" of Future Farmers.)

'POSSUM SUPPER AT FLAT ROCK

By J. N. Esslinger, Acting Secretary

A 'possum supper was given by the Green Hand Farmers and the Future Farmers at the vocational building of the Flat Rock High School last Saturday night. The affair was well attended by the vocational boys whose mouths began to water as soon as they entered the building and smelled the 'possum that was thoroughly side-dressed with potatoes. The persimmon eater was the center of attraction for several minutes until all of the boys had arrived.

The food was spread on a long table in the class room and supper was announced by Principal J. N. Esslinger, who acted as toastmaster and gave a short Hambone Meditation on the 'possum. He complimented the boys on the fine spirit they were showing in their F. F. A. and vocational agricultural work. No one said anything about the financial depression, because there was food enough for twice the number present.

The animal that suffered, bled, and died for the occasion had a very interesting history which was related by James Frasier, who had been successful in catching him in a small tree near his home. The animal had been fed nutritious food more than four weeks. He liked persimmons and rabbits the best. However, no one saw him eat because he preferred eating after dark.

The vocational teacher, H. E. Phillips, made an interesting talk about the use of fertilizer under cotton this year. Every member of the organization made talks concerning the project that he had selected for this year. Many interesting points were brought out by the boys about chickens, calves, and pigs.

All of the boys are interested in vocational activities and work in the Flat Rock High School. Two boys walked three miles over muddy roads in coming to the supper.

A committee was appointed to arrange for a rabbit hunt soon. No guns will be allowed; hickory sticks will be the only weapons. The rabbits will be sold to pay club dues. The club of happy boys left for their homes at 9:00 P. M.

CHAPTERS LEND A HELPING HAND

Guatamula is one of the most underdeveloped foreign countries in South America when it comes to land use planning and soil control measures. Last month, four Alabama FFA chapters assisted this country in its effort to control erosion and avoid the waste of valuable land resources.

Camp Hill, Hanceville,

Moore Academy (Pine Apple), and Houston County (Columbia) FFA chapters each dug and packed about 1000 Kudzu crowns to ship to Guatamula. This project was a part of the FFA Brotherhood program in assisting community developments. Congratulations to these chapters on a job well done!

Marbury...continued from page 1 by the local mission, headed by Father Anthony, and in no time the building was transformed into an object of community pride. They will also continue working on the project until all the rooms have been redone and made useable.

The library now has approximately 4000 books and will add more as space becomes available. Record albums are also available and may be checked out for two weeks. In addition, subscriptions to newspapers and magazines, plus various other books have been donated by residents of the community. A lending program, whereby the library gets the current best sellers, has been established through the regional library. Art reproductions are also borrowed from the regional library for periods of three months and are displayed on the walls of the Marbury library.

All in all, the Marbury Community Public Library serves about 1000 persons within a 10-12 mile area around Marbury, where less than a year ago there was only a bookmobile that came once a month. And the Marbury FFA can be proud of the fact that they had a hand in this most worthwhile community project.



Arthur Johnson and Wayne Scarbrough arrange books on shelves in the children's room.



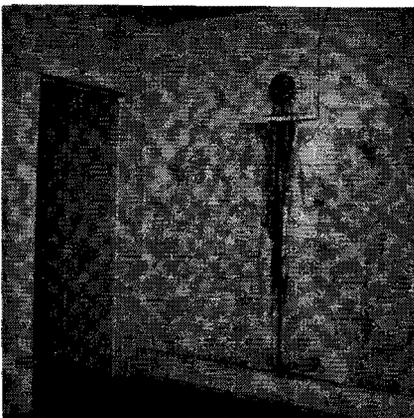
The final touch! Ronald Berry hangs the "open" sign under the supervision of Chairman Ronnie Meeks.



Not only did the FFA members help start the library---they also use it! Around the table doing a little "reading for pleasure" are: (clockwise) Ronnie Meeks, Tommy Jacks, Paul Milton, Ronald Berry, and Rayburn Fisher.



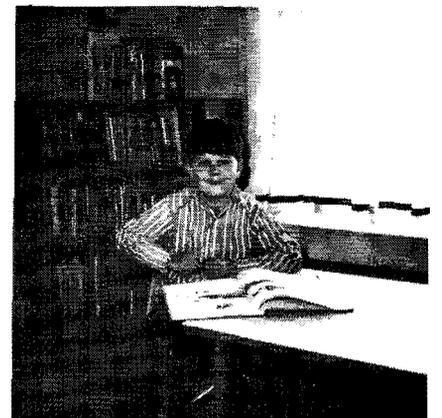
Jerry Cooper and Larry Lucas apply finishing touches of paint to outside of building.



This is the way the rooms looked before the FFA members took charge of fixing them up. What a mess!



Mr. Hughes and Father Anthony look on as Larry Lucas puts up the library's new flag.



One happy and satisfied customer! When asked if he liked the new library--and especially the children's room, Benjie Hughes, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Hughes, remarked, "I sure do. It's lots of fun."

----- CHAPTER NOTES -----

Clifford Aldridge, Lauderdale County forest ranger, and Robert Young, forest patrolman, met recently with members of the Waterloo FFA Chapter.

Demonstrations were presented on how to use fire rakes to make fire lanes and the use of fire flaps. The fire fighting tools were presented to the chapter by the North Alabama Conservation Club of Florence.

A demonstration on the correct way to set out pine seedlings using a hand dibble was also conducted. After the demonstration, the group gathered in the auditorium and watched a film, "Wildlife and Human Touch."

Ranger Aldridge made a talk on fire prevention and urged the students to prevent forest fires by following these simple rules:

- Don't burn during dry periods.
- Burn in late afternoon when wind is low.
- Have an area clean for a safe distance around the area to be burned.
- Have tools and water available in case the fire escapes.
- Notify neighbors of your intention to burn.

Auburn High School FFA Chapter held its annual public speaking contest on February 3, before the student body of Auburn High. Will Ard received \$25 as first-place winner and will represent the chapter in the county contest. Larry Webster took the \$10 second prize and Joe Waters won third place and \$5. Will and Larry are both seniors and Joe is a sophomore.

The Auburn Lions Club sponsored the event with three of their members serving as judges: Dr. Alexander Nunn, E. L. McGraw, and Dr. J. A. Lyle.

Carver FFA Chapter (Eutaw) celebrated Vocational Education Week on February 8, with an assembly program. Newly elected Sheriff Thomas E. Gilmore was the guest speaker on the occasion. Mrs. Mary E. Sanders, deputy sheriff, also spoke to the FFA members and guests.

Sheriff Gilmore selected as his theme, "FFA Code of Ethics."

The speaker encouraged FFA members to stay in school and study hard in order to make a success in life.

Section FFA Public Speaking Contest was held on February 10. David Varner won first place. Other winners were: Ricky Paschal, second; Johnny Carroll, third; Robin Haynes, fourth; and Douglas Graden, fifth.

Judges for the contest included T.H.Green, reading teacher, Section High School; Jimmy Nichols, coordinator, Title I, Jackson County; and Ben Richardson, county farm extension chairman.

Millport FFA has had a very successful "Building Our American Communities" program this year. Various phases of the program included helping to construct new bleachers for the football field, repairing and painting lockers in the school, landscaping and beautifying the school grounds, constructing new sidewalks near the school building, and painting the boys' bathroom in the school.

The chapter also has plans to construct new backboard advertisement signs for the football field and to add a new concrete floor for added space in the vo-ag department.

Fairhope FFA members had their annual dogwood "pull" on January 16. About 500 dogwood trees were pulled and distributed to interested residents of Fairhope. The purpose of this event each year is to assist in the beautification of the area.

The members went into the woods early on Saturday morning, pulled small dogwood trees suitable for transplanting, and were back at the high school parking area by 9 a.m. for distribution.

Fairhope FFA has a new advisor, Jack C. Beasley. Mr. Grant has a new position as head of the technical schools in the county.

Members are currently moving the chapter's entire hog production and hope to be finished by May.

The nation had an estimated 2,924,000 operating farms during 1970; this was 2% less than in 1969. The preliminary estimate for 1971 indicates that 2,876,000 farms will be in operation. This reduction would be slightly smaller than the average of recent years, however.

Total land in farms, estimated at about 1,121 million acres for 1970, continues a slow steady decline but at a slower rate than the farm numbers. For 1971, the preliminary estimate of land in farms is 1,118 million acres.

The past decade saw a 26% decline in number of farms while only a 5% drop was recorded in land in farms. The continued disappearance of small farms along with larger unit mergers into more efficient operations contributed most to the change in farm numbers. Urbanization and highway construction were the major causes of decline in land in farms.