**Convention Time—Never To Be Forgotten!**

Jayme Feary  
President

After I attended my first Alabama State FFA Convention as a freshman, things really started happening for me. It motivated me so that I worked hard enough to see some dreams come true. This can happen for you also.

The "getting ready" is almost through. When this year's 55th Annual Convention, with its theme of "Keeping America on the Grow," begins to unfold, it will present many delightful moments which will never be forgotten. I would like to see anyone miss such an unforgettable experience.

The State Convention is a time when FFA members from every corner of the state come together to put their skills to work in the state finals of all areas of FFA competition. It is also a time to be motivated and to think seriously of our abilities, talents, and what we can contribute to the future of our lives and the lives of others around us.

**Experience Through Competition**

Tom Whitehead  
Treasurer

The time has come for us to highlight our year's activities through friendly competition. This year awards will be earned by hardworking individuals in 39 contest areas. I sincerely hope that each of you will be challenged by the many opportunities you will encounter. By your use of these opportunities, you will have the chance to meet new friends, test your unique abilities, and add to your experiences. By using these valuable experiences, you will begin laying the road of your future. My personal "experiences through competition" will be long—remembered and treasured throughout my life. I hope that these sentiments will apply to each of you.

**Montgomery...A City of Decisions**

Jess Drummond  
Vice President

As many of you prepare to come to the State Convention, I'm sure you are wondering about the city in which it will be held. Montgomery is a city rich with culture, history, and important people. The State Capitol is located here, as well as the first White House of the Confederacy. At the State Capitol lawmakers, representing every part of Alabama, make decisions that influence our way of life. If you have time, a tour of the State Capitol can be a very educational trip. Also, in Montgomery you could visit the zoo and go to one of several museums, or take a ride on a riverboat along the Alabama River. There are also various other attractions, too numerous to name.

**FFA—Key to the Future of Agriculture**

Steve Martin  
Reporter

It is time to reflect on a year of contests, awards, fun and most importantly, LEARNING. As each of us sits daily in our Agribusiness Education classes, we gather the knowledge necessary to fulfill the obligations that will be laid on us in future years. We are the future of American agriculture; and in being that future, we have a grave responsibility to perform with excellence the task marked out for us.

Through our Supervised Occupational Experience Programs, FFA contests, and everyday classwork, we are preparing and learning the skills that not only can be applied to our contests of today, but also to our careers of tomorrow. The FFA is developing potential in each of us, and we are then sent out to lead and guide our agricultural world of tomorrow.

**FFA—A Way of Life**

Wayne Wootten  
Secretary

Have you, as a member, ever thought about what your life would be like without the FFA? I have given this great deal of thought, and I don't think I could survive without the FFA. The FFA has provided me the opportunities which would not have been available anywhere else. Let's consider what's available to us as members of this great organization. It offers development of leadership, cooperation, and citizenship. Look at all the friends you would miss if it were not for the FFA. What about the enjoyment you would have missed: such as showing steers, working in the chicken house, traveling or writing speeches. If you follow the FFA path, you'll have an opportunity to achieve anything you want to achieve. Without the FFA, these things may not be available to us.

**The Door of Opportunities**

Terry Holder  
Sentinel

"The Sentinel." "Staioned by the door." "Your duties there?" "Through this door pass many friends of the FFA."

Everyone dreams of the Door of Opportunities and how the FFA can help you gain leadership experience and strengthen your goals for future success.

In the FFA the Door of Opportunities is open for anyone who wants to take the first step. Your Supervised Occupational Experience Program is one of the biggest steps in gaining hands-on experience for your future career.

There are four things that do not come back: the spoken word, the spool arrow, the past life, and the neglected opportunity. FFA members, when you see an opportunity, grab it and take it to great heights. Don't be afraid to be a dreamer, because the Door of Opportunities is there for you.
DEDICATION

Frank B. Killough

The 1983-84 State FFA Officers proudly dedicate this edition of the Alabama FFA Reporter to Frank B. Killough, who served as Editor of THE REPORTER for the past ten years. We salute Mr. Killough for his dedication and loyalty to Agricultural Education, the Alabama FFA Association, and his duties as Editor of this publication. We extend congratulations to him upon retirement and wish him many years to enjoy the time he has earned and deserves.

PROGRAM

55th Annual FFA Convention
June 12, 13, 14, 1984
Monday, June 11

P.M.
1:00 Forestry Judging Contest (Montgomery)
     Livestock Judging Contest (Auburn)
     Dairy Cattle Judging Contest (E.V. Smith Research Center, Milford)
     Land Judging Contest (Montgomery)
     2:00 Final Interview of Officer Candidates (Civic Center)

Tuesday, June 12
A.M.
8:00 Registration (Civic Center)
     Agricultural Mechanics Contest (Auburn)
     Building Construction Contest (Montgomery)
     Small Engine Contest (Montgomery)
     9:00 Nursery-Landscape Contest (Civic Center)
     Floriculture Contest (Civic Center)
     Public Speaking Contest Preliminary (Civic Center)
     Quartet Contest Preliminary (Civic Center)
     String Band Contest Preliminary (Civic Center)

P.M.
1:00 Delegate Orientation
     Opening Ceremony
     Posting of Colors
     National Anthem
     Official Seating of Delegates
     Greetings—Chuck Duggar, National FFA Vice President
     Business Session
     Appointment of Committees
     Retiring Address—Terry Holder, Sentinel
     String Band Contest Finals
     Proficiency Awards—Crop Production, Dairy Production, Horse Proficiency, Beef Production, Swine Production, Poultry Production, Agricultural Mechanics, Agricultural Electricity, Fruit and Vegetable Production, Nursery Operations, Floriculture, Soil and Water Management, Home and Farmstead Improvement, Fish and Wildlife Management Awards—String Band Contest
     Greetings and Announcements—C. W. Reed, State FFA Advisor
     Closing Ceremony
     Meeting of all Local Advisors (Civic Center)
     Courtesy Corps Meeting following Advisors Meeting

P.M.
7:30 FIRST GENERAL SESSION
     Opening Ceremony
     Retiring Address—Steve Martin, Reporter
     Future Farmer of the Year Award
     Honor Parents and Advisors of 1983-84 State FFA Officers
     Public Speaking Contest Finals

Address—Chuck Duggar, National FFA Vice President
Awards—Forestry Judging, Champion Corn Growing, Nursery-Landscape Judging, Floriculture Judging, Land Judging, Public Speaking
Vespers Program—State FFA Officers
Announcements
Closing Ceremony

Wednesday, June 13
A.M.
8:30 Music—Convention Organist
9:00 SECOND GENERAL SESSION
     Opening Ceremony
     State FFA Officers’ Annual Report—Steve Martin, Reporter
     Retiring Address—Tom Whitehead, Treasurer
     Chapter Awards
     Miss Alabama Agriculture, Kristi Eubanks
     Crime Prevention
     Activity Programs
     Retiring Address—Wayne Wootten, Secretary
     Building Our American Communities Awards
     Computers in Agriculture Awards
     Awards—Building Construction, Agricultural Mechanics, Small Engines
     Announcements
     Closing Ceremony

P.M.
1:00 Tours

Wednesday Evening

P.M.
6:00 Foundation Board of Directors Meeting (Civic Center)
7:30 THIRD GENERAL SESSION
     Opening Ceremony
     Confering of Honorary State Farmer Degrees
     Retiring Address—Jess Drummond, Vice President
     Quartet Contest Finals
     Proficiency Awards—Placement in Agricultural Production, Agricultural Sales and Service, Agricultural Processing, Forest Management Awards—Quartet Contest
     Announcements
     Closing Ceremony

Thursday, June 14
A.M.
9:00 LAST GENERAL SESSION
     Opening Ceremony
     Star Farmer Ceremony
     Retiring Address—Jayme Feary, President
     Speaker—Jerry Clower
     State Farmer Degree Ceremony
     Installation of New State Officers
     Presentation of Past Officer Pins
     Presentation of Gavel to Past President
     Announcements
     Closing Ceremony
     New Officers and their Local Advisors Meeting (Civic Center)
To appear on Convention Program

CHUCK DUGGAR
National Vice President

Chuck Duggar of Marianna, Florida, is the Southern Region Vice President of the Future Farmers of America. In this position he serves nearly one-half million FFA members throughout the United States.

As a member of the Marianna FFA Chapter, Chuck participated in many facets of the FFA leadership, speaking, judging contest programs and activities. He served as Chapter, District, and State President and participated in the National Agricultural Mechanics Contest in 1979. Chuck's SOE program started with two hives of bees and grew to 50 hives over a 5-year period. Chuck will address the convention on Tuesday evening.

KRISTI EUBANKS
Miss Alabama Agricultures

Kristi Lynn Eubanks, 20-year-old beauty from Snead, Alabama, was crowned Miss Alabama Agriculture at the annual meeting of the Alabama Farm Bureau Federation in Birmingham. Kristi will appear on the program Wednesday morning, June 13.

Kristi is a junior at Auburn University, majoring in Fashion Merchandising. She enjoys slalom skiing, piano, and tennis.

Kristi is a member of Delta Zeta Sorority, Sigma Pi Little Sister, and Fashion Incorporated Club.

While attending junior college, Kristi was named Miss Gadsden State and served as Gadsden State hostess.

JERRY CLOWER
Humorist

Grand Ole Opry Star Jerry Clower is a humorist with albums which tickle the nation's funnybone. He's made guest appearances on top shows in television and radio. Clower is a salesman. He sells the good life—laughter, remembering the fun you've had, the friends, the simple things you enjoyed, the humorous side of even the bad times. Clower will speak during the Thursday morning session.

WHEN YOU LOOK GOOD, FFA LOOKS GREAT

When you became an FFA member, you agreed to abide by the FFA Code of Ethics. The Code simply states that "You will conduct yourself at all times in order to be a credit to your organization, chapter, school, and community." We can have a great convention if FFA members will keep the points of the Code of Ethics in mind during the Convention. This means that all members will dress appropriately for the occasion, either the official jacket or official FFA T-shirt. Shorts and other such dress are not a part of the official dress for the Convention. We should also respect the rights and property of others, demonstrate good sportsmanship, and take PRIDE in our organization. Together, we can have a great convention and do our part in "Keeping America on the Grow."

Chapter News — West Jefferson

WEST JEFFERSON FFA QUARTET also known as "The Dixie Boys" is under the direction of Advisor Michael Grissom. The group has sung around the state for the past one and a half years. They have appeared with "The Cathedrals," "The Ambassadors," and "Harmony Four" and have made local TV appearances in the Birmingham area. Quartet members from left are Be Andrews, Greg Terry, Daryl Shackleford, and Kenneth Swiney. The group cut its first album in March. They will compete for District honors in April.
“NEVER HAD AN ENTRY THAT DIDN’T WIN”

MICHAEL PATTERSON, left and Robert Wright, both Red Level High School FFA members with their award-winning entries in the Lincoln Foundation Arc Welding Awards.

For twelve years the James F. Lincoln Foundation has sponsored the Arc Welding Awards for School Shop Students. For those same twelve years, FFA members at Red Level High School have been entering the Agricultural phase of the contest. Under the supervision of Mr. Willis Bell, agribusiness teacher, FFA members have sent 32 entries to the Lincoln Foundation and all 32 entries have been winners. There have been 28 Regional Winners, 2 Honorable Mentions, and 2 National Grand Winners.

Michael Patterson and Robert Wright, 1983 graduates of Red Level High School, placed first and third respectively in the National Grand Awards last year.

For his first-place entry, a 16-foot tandem livestock trailer, Michael won $500 and Red Level High School received $250. Robert, with a tandem gooseneck flatbed trailer, won $300 and the school $150.

All this work over the past twelve years represents a great deal of high quality craftsmanship.

“If it’s not quality work, it just doesn’t go to the Contest,” agribusiness teacher Bell explains.

This must be some type of record to have this many entries and all be judged winners. A moral to this story could be—if you have a good program and fill out the application for a contest, there is a good chance for it to be named a winner!

CHEVRON U.S.A. INC. SPONSORS LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

JOE BETHEA (center), Public Affairs Manager, Alabama, Chevron U.S.A. Inc., presents a check for $8,000 to C. W. Reed, State FFA Advisor. Looking on is Troy Newton, FFA Executive Secretary. The money will be used to conduct leadership workshops for chapter FFA officers during the summer months. The Alabama FFA Association has 370 chartered chapters with over 2,200 chapter officers having the opportunity to gain leadership experience through these workshops sponsored by Chevron. Upon returning to the local chapter, the officers are able to provide more capable leadership to their individual chapters.

1983-84 FFA SWEETHEART SELECTIONS

Michelle Grace
Jasper FFA Sweetheart

Natalie Newman
Milltown FFA Sweetheart

Beverly Stevens
Troy FFA Sweetheart