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FORMER STATE OFFICER REFLECTS

by

Philip Paramore
Former State FFA Secretary



A delegate at the State FFA Convention sat nervously at his seat. The year 1978. David O'Shields was the State President, and Chris Hardee was the National Officer at the Convention.

The delegate was asked to move that a particular amendment be accepted as read. The delegate walked to the microphone and did as he was asked. He was so afraid of messing up that he did just that. Point of order was called, which forced the delegate back to the microphone to correct his mistake.

I was that delegate—and was so embarrassed that I wished the floor would open and swallow me, but of course, it didn't. That experience at the State Convention was the beginning of my wanting to become a state officer.

Seven and a half years have passed since that June day, but I still remember the mistake. However, I did become a state officer, and I learned how to avoid making such mistakes.

First Day in Ag Class

My first day in ag class was on a hot, humid August afternoon. It was right after lunch and a bunch of 14-year-old boys hadn't settled down for class. So, the ag teacher thought he would give us something to do—learning the opening and closing ceremony. It worked, and I've always been grateful to him for making me learn it.

My main interest in FFA was my beef cattle project. Through my 12 years of showing, I met many people and made new friends. My interest in cattle allowed me to travel across the country and become acquainted with fellow Future Farmers. However, being at the barn by 6:00 a.m. to feed steers and heifers was not all fun. Neither was brushing steers in freezing weather, when the water sprayed on them had frozen before you had time to brush it.

Dream of Becoming a State Officer

My other interest in FFA was the dream of becoming a state FFA officer—a dream that later became a reality. Two years of studying and preparation paid off, but, oh, the time involved!

My year as State Secretary was full of experiences. For example, I told a joke at a chapter banquet for an eye-opener and nobody laughed. What do you do? Panic! But try not to let them see the "pain and agony of defeat" on your face. Another experience was voting on a controversial issue at the National Convention which had an affect on the future of FFA.

First Memorable Occasion

My first memorable occasion as an officer was

activities. Sleepless nights and cold rooms were common, as was shopping in downtown Kansas City. If you ever go shopping in Kansas City, make sure you go out the same door that you entered. It'll save you hours of walking downtown in the wrong direction.

I also enjoyed speaking at chapter banquets and assembly programs, being the guest of a city and traveling during my year as a state officer.

As I reminisce five years later, I realize I learned three important things through serving as a state officer. First, I learned to be prepared. I thought once that I was to be a guest at a chapter banquet. After I arrived, I found out I was to be the guest speaker! Since that misunderstanding, there have been a few times when I wasn't prepared. But, I do know what I'm supposed to be doing.

Learned to do Job

Next, I learned to do my job. Without good preparation, I couldn't do it. For example, at one Executive FFA Meeting, I forgot to take minutes and had to later write them from memory, which meant I had forgotten several important details. Thirdly, I learned to mind my own business. I don't mean you shouldn't speak and be friendly, but keep your nose where it belongs. I discovered this when I tried to tell someone how to do his job—but I found out he was doing his job properly—I was doing mine wrong. These three rules I established not only helped me as a state officer, but have helped me these past five years.

I wouldn't give anything in place of the things I learned as a state officer. And, I certainly wouldn't have been a state officer if it hadn't been for FFA members like you. Thanks.

ABOUT PHILIP PARAMORE

Philip Paramore, a former member of the Notasulga FFA Chapter, served as the State FFA Secretary in 1979-80. He is a March 1985 graduate of Auburn University with a bachelor's degree in agricultural journalism.

Philip served in the Auburn Collegiate FFA Chapter as secretary, treasurer, social chairman, ag council representative, parliamentarian, and willingly helped where he was needed with various other activities. He was also a member of the Auburn University Band. Presently he is employed by the Wood Citrus Company in Frostproof, Florida.

The National Convention

The National Convention was one of the highlights as a state officer. The week's events proved enjoyable—and exhausting. The meetings of committees (all National Convention delegates were assigned a committee) and the business sessions during the convention were only a part of the

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Foreign Exchange Student



Annette Adamsen

Annette Adamsen, 17-year-old member of the Montevallo FFA Chapter, is a foreign exchange student from Ebeltoff, Denmark. She is living with the Michael Martin family in Montevallo. Michael Martin is the president of the Montevallo FFA Chapter. She has been in Alabama since August 1984 and will return to Denmark in June 1985. Major agricultural activities in her home town are swine, dairy cattle and poultry. She enjoys steer shows and enjoyed showing hogs at the State Jr. Market Hog Show in Birmingham recently.

Farm Boasts Seven American Farmers

The Martin Moates Farm which is served by the Enterprise, Alabama school district and the Enterprise Future Farmers of America boast a legacy of seven American Farmer Degree recipients. These FFA members were employed at the Moates Farm through the Supervised Occupational Work Experience Program.

Martin Moates was the first to receive his degree back in 1944. He now owns and operates a 1,000 acre row crop and dairy farm in partnership with his two sons Ben and David.

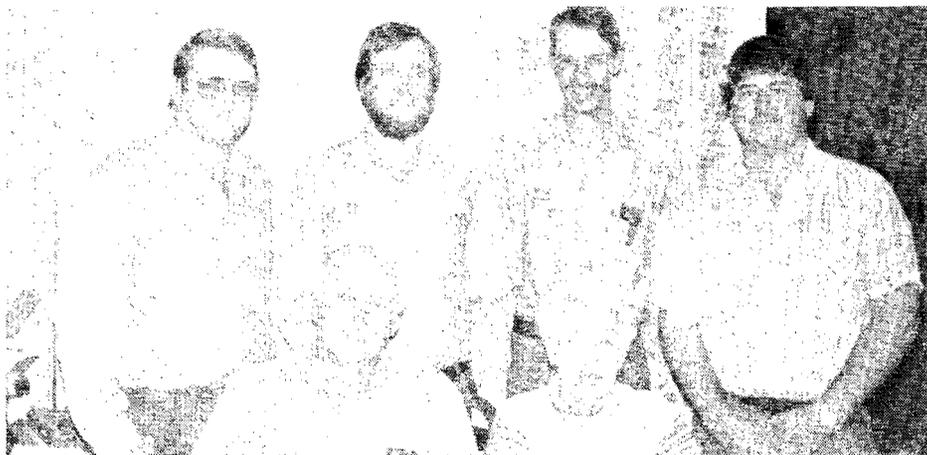
Ben Moates received his degree in 1973 and is a full-time farmer and manager of the dairy in the family partnership. Wayne Hendrix received his degree in 1974 and is a farm owner-operator employed by the Moates Farm. David Moates received his degree in 1976 and is the mechanic for the Moates Farm as well as being a farm owner-operator. Steve Yelverton received his degree in 1976 and is employed by the Soil Conservation Service in Chambers County, Alabama. Donnie Parrish received his degree in 1976 and is employed

by the Federal Land Bank in Jackson, Mississippi. Johnny Brunson is the latest recipient of the American Farmer Degree while working on the Moates Farm. He has recently bought a 156 acre farm and a herd of cows.

The success of these men can be attributed in part to the fine cooperative spirit of all the members of the Moates Farm team and the Vocational Agribusiness Department at Enterprise High School.

Credit must be given to Mrs. Jeanette Moates for inspiring each of these young men. Mrs. Jeanette Moates is the mother of Ben and David and is Martin's wife. She is completely involved in the operation.

Agribusiness teachers who have worked with these young men are B. P. Dilworth, J. W. Reeder, Roy Johnson, Pete Thompson and C. C. Martin who received his Honorary American Farmer Degree in 1984 at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.



American Farmers from the Moates Farm are standing (l-r) Ben Moates, David Moates, Wayne Hendrix, and Johnny Brunson, seated Martin Moates and Mrs. Jeanette Moates.

Farm Produces Same Results—

Gilbert M. Butler, former vocational agribusiness teacher at Sylvania High School, had an unusual situation with students who earned the American Farmer Degree. Of the 33 young men who earned the coveted American Farmer Degree in his 31 years of teaching, three of the young men earned the degree while living on the same farm at different times, with their parents who owned the property.

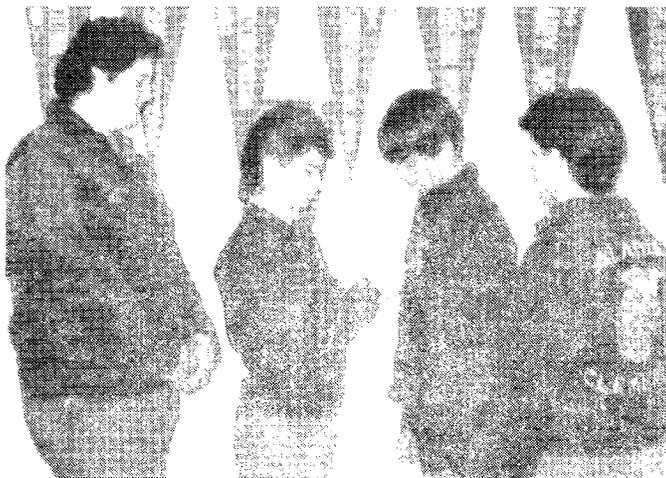
Rodney Oliver, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray

Oliver, received the American Farmer Degree in 1966. Later, Earl Bludsworth, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Bludsworth, earned the Degree in 1972. Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Graham purchased the farm, and in 1982 their son, Greg C. Graham, earned the Degree while living on the same farm where Earl and Rodney had lived. Presently Rodney operates a feed mill in Henagar; Earl is making a career in the Navy, and Greg is enrolled at Auburn University in agricultural economics.



This is the homestead in which Rodney Oliver, Earl Bludsworth and Greg Graham lived during the time they each earned their American Farmer Degrees.

REFLECTIONS from FFA Week...



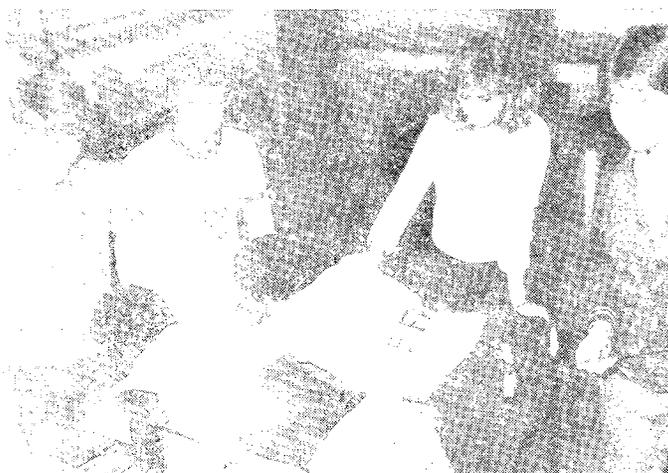
THE CLEMENTS FFA raised chapter farmers during FFA Week. Shown during the ceremony are (l-r) Tom Kilgore, Chapter Treasurer; Tab Black, Chapter President; Jimmy Holt, receiving Chapter Farmer pin, and Bryan Abernathy, Chapter Secretary. Advisor to the Clements FFA Chapter is Donald Wilson.



THE DAPHNE JR. HIGH SCHOOL FFA CHAPTER celebrated FFA Week with their annual FFA Parent-Member Banquet. During the banquet parents and supporters were recognized. Show above is Chapter Secretary Amanda Odom as she presents a corsage to Mrs. John W. Leonard, wife of the school principal. Chapter Advisor is R. H. Barnes.



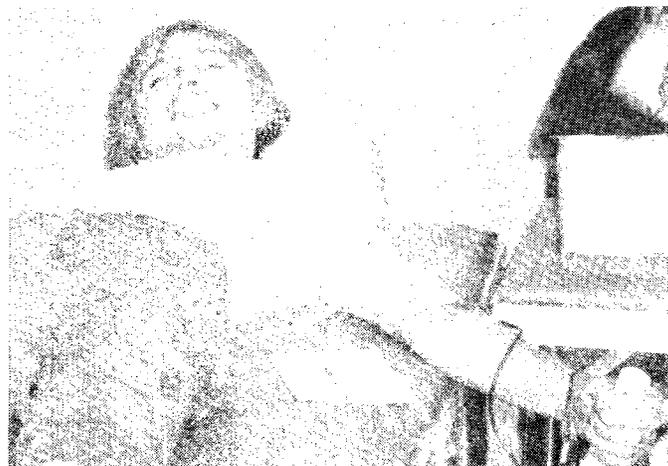
THE SKIPPERVILLE FFA CHAPTER celebrated FFA Week with a number of activities. One of the most enjoyable was providing a Petting Zoo for the elementary school children. Shown with some of the children enjoying this event is FFA Week Committee Chairman Richard Pinyan. The advisor to the Skipperville FFA Chapter is Bob Moorhead.



THE MONTEVALLO FFA CHAPTER held Greenhand Initiation Ceremony during FFA Week. Applying the Green FFA Brand to Mark Mayweather (l) and Lance Byrd is Bert Pecte. Looking on with approval from left are Norman Payne, Trey Hughes, and Andra Clark.

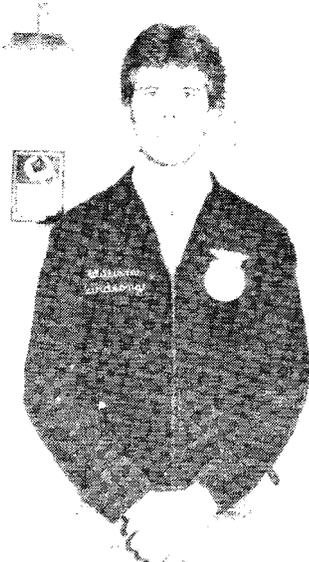


MAYOR JOE SMITHERMAN, of Selma, signed a Proclamation designating the Week of February 16-23 as FFA Week. Present for the signing were Selma FFA officers (l-r) Jamie Calvert, Rob Bond, Pat Nichols, John Westbrook, Mayor Smitherman, Beth Pfeiffer and David Sherer. Advisor to the Selma FFA Chapter is Van Smith.



SYLVANIA FFA MEMBER Larry Wells giving blood--A total of 62 pints was collected for the chapter's first blood drive. This activity was held during FFA Week. The common comment was "Not so bad after all." Advisor to the Sylvania FFA Chapter is Ronnie Stephens.

ONE WILL BE NAMED NUMBER ONE!



**William
Birdsong**

To be named the number one FFA member in Alabama is an honor that any FFA'er would like to have. Three outstanding members are competing for the Future Farmer of the Year Award, sponsored by Chevron U.S.A. Inc.

William Birdsong of the Geneva County FFA Chapter has an SOEP consisting of feeder calves, peanuts, oats, millet, and watermelons. William is



**Keith
McCaghren**

a sophomore at Enterprise State Junior College majoring in Agricultural Science.

The Danville FFA Chapter is represented by Keith McCaghren. Keith's SOEP includes dairy heifers, horses, and poultry. Keith also has a 50% partnership in the family poultry operation.

Marty Wootten's SOEP includes cattle, potatoes, and soybeans. Marty assists his father in his



**Marty
Wootten**

partnership operation and works part-time at the local Farmers' Exchange. Marty is from the Ider FFA Chapter.

All three Future Farmer of the Year candidates have been involved in numerous chapter, school, and community activities. The winner of this prestigious award will receive a cash award of \$600 at the 1985 State FFA Convention in Montgomery in June.

AUBURN COLLEGIATE FFA OFF TO A GOOD START

The 38 members of the Auburn University Collegiate FFA Chapter are excited about their accomplishments and plans for the year. Chapter members involve themselves in many local, state and national FFA activities.

Key local activities by the chapter members include: sponsoring cookout for agribusiness teachers who participated in the Fisheries and Microcomputer workshops; conducting leadership workshop for officers of various agricultural clubs at Auburn University, and conducting Public Speaking Contest for Lee County FFA members. Jeff Palmer, member of the Collegiate Chapter, was recently elected Agricultural Senator for the Student Government Association; Tony Watkins, John Colquitt, and Randy Shuffield were members of the Collegiate Livestock Judging Team under the direction of its excellent coach, Dr. Dean Danilson. The team completed the most successful year ever for an Auburn team.

Statewide activities include sponsoring the FFA-Sears Pig Chain Show and Sale for secondary FFA members throughout the state as a part of the Sears-FFA Pig Chain Program; participating in the State Junior Market Hog Show and Sale in Birmingham; sponsoring the ATA, FFA Jackpot Steer Show; Grooming and Showing Clinic, and the annual ATA/FFA Steer and Lamb Show and Sale to be held May 18, 1985. Assistance is also given by members at the State FFA Convention and the State Young Farmers Education Association Convention held in Auburn.

National activities in which the members have been involved thus far this year include: attending the National FFA Convention and the National Student Teachers Conference in Kansas City, Missouri; participating in the North American Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky,

and touring the Southeastern Exposition at Moultrie, Georgia.

One of the main purposes of the Collegiate FFA is to provide many educational experiences out of

class that will assist its members in becoming better teachers of Vocational Agribusiness Education. Toward this purpose the Collegiate FFA has made an excellent start this year!



THE GRAND CHAMPION of the ATA/FFA Jackpot Steer Show shown receiving the trophy and \$500 cash award is Chris Watson, member of the Lincoln FFA Chapter. Pictured (l-r) are Judge Cliff Bailey of Kentucky; Collegiate FFA President and Show Chairman Greg Adams; Lincoln FFA Advisor John Beasley; Department Head, Vocational and Adult Education, Auburn University, Dr. Richard A. Baker, and Watson.