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CONVENTION ISSUE...

FFA--LEADING THE CHALLENGE



THE 61st STATE CONVENTION
Kevin Webb, President

The preparation had been made, the bags were packed, and we were on our way. The hotel had been located, and we were checked into the room. Lunch had been eaten, and we stood in the registration line. Delegate orientation was a success, and then the moment arrived--the lights grew dim, and then proceeded to a total darkness, and yes, out marched the State Officer Team. My first State Convention was in session.

Yes, this was my first State Convention, and boy was I excited! It's funny though every year this same excitement comes back. Some say once you have been to ONE convention you've been to them all. I look at them and say, "Well, it's obvious you haven't been to an FFA Convention." You ask what makes every Alabama FFA Convention so special. The specialties and differences are easy to pick out. Where else can you meet so many other FFA members from your own state? What other activity can you attend that is educational, motivational, exciting, and of course, entertaining? Let's not forget the competition between the teams, chapters, and individual FFA members. It is an honor to me that we, as FFA members, are able to be present at a function that has these four qualities at one time, but most of all, we do these as one big family.



CHALLENGES
John Gladden, Vice President

We've been issued a challenge--a challenge to move the world forward. That's right! We will take this world from where it is to heights unknown!

John F. Kennedy once said, "One man makes a difference, and every man must try." We must not shy away from this challenge, but meet it head-on. If but one person has an impact on agriculture in the future, they have made a difference.

We must accept the challenge to make our impact on the agricultural industry by using our limitless boundaries of technology.

It seems that every generation of Americans has had some form of challenge, from the founding of the country to the Civil War; from World War II to the present. As I look back over more than 200 years of history, I see the American people have always accepted the challenge--and won!

I see no reason why we, as young Americans, cannot start leading the challenge now; to make our world a better place.

The FFA with its numerous contests and awards can give us an early start in accepting challenges. Each FFA member has a duty--a duty to accept these challenges to make their chapter the very best in the state.



LEADERSHIP
Delicia Carey, Secretary

"FFA--Leading the Challenge" adequately fits today's society; however, before you take time to reflect upon this theme, you should first analyze an important word, LEADERSHIP. In the FFA and the wide world of agriculture, leadership will continue to play an important role in the future as it has in the past and present.

Our history contains many people who succeeded in their endeavors because of their ability to lead. For example, George Washington, the nation's first leader, was able to serve his country in a positive way because he utilized his leadership skill in his position as President of the United States. In addition, Harriet Tubman, after gaining her freedom, directed many slaves to freedom because of the fine qualities of leadership she possessed. In leading the slaves to freedom, she carried along with her leadership, concern for their safety. Moreover, Thomas Jefferson once said, "Nature scatters human talents among all types of people, rich and poor alike, and this reservoir of abilities must be used for leadership and enrichment of democracy."

I challenge each of you to come and exhibit your leadership abilities at the 61st State FFA Convention. Remember. "FFA is leading the challenge."

Call to Convention Continued....

THE ALABAMA FFA REPORTER

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Editor Troy D. Newton
Secretary Betty L. Wright

State Officers 1989-90

President Kevin Webb
Rehobeth Chapter
Route 8, Box 187, Dothan 36301
Vice President John Gladden
Attalla Chapter
Route 8, Box 56, Gadsden 35901
Secretary Delicia Carey
Paramount Chapter
Route 2, Box 56, Boligee 35443
Treasurer Christy Dison
Elkmont Chapter
Route 1, Box 221, Elkmont 35620
Reporter Sally Spratlin
Woodland Chapter
Route 1, Box 135, Woodland 36280
Sentinel Scott Schneider
Citronelle Chapter
P.O. Box 187, Citronelle 36522
State FFA Advisor C. W. Reed
State Department of Education
Montgomery 36130
FFA Executive Secretary Troy Newton
State Department of Education
Montgomery 36130



EDUCATION
Christy Dison, Treasurer



CAREERS
Sally Spratlin, Reporter

A, B, C. -- 1, 2, 3; add, subtract, divide. Remember in grade school how every year things took new form. Today it is not only in grade school, but in agriculture as well. We are teaching our agricultural programs with a twist, a little beam of light to guide everyone. Education with regard to agriculture is a very important factor. We need highly motivated, highly educated, and extremely dedicated people to make sure our nation is fed and provided for in the future. Innovations will help meet the new demands of the industry. The agricultural curriculum must be constantly changed and updated in order to meet the needs and demands of agriculture in our society.

Education today is vital to any role you play in society. In agriculture you have to be a salesman, someone who knows all the tricks of the trade, and good education can get you started in areas such as agriscience, computer technology and marketing. There are many opportunities for you, if you only take the initiative.

In agriculture, the time is always right to do what is right. I suggest that you seek the skills you need in order to start out on the right foot. Remember I mentioned the light that guides--you can be a light. "There are two ways of spreading light, to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it." A good education can make that light brighter. I want you to "let your light shine," as you enjoy your 61st State FFA Convention.

An object streaks into the heavens as cheers of joy are heard blasting from below. The new high school graduates toss their caps into the night air. They hug and embrace their life-long friends with teary eyes and suddenly reality strikes! Their futures are upon them and decisions must be made. What will they do with their lives?

Many of you may not realize it, but you have already started your journey for success--by being enrolled in agribusiness classes and being involved in the FFA. These two provide you with hands-on experience which will lead to a promising career and involves you in various activities that will bring out your leadership skills and sharpen your competitive edge.

Career opportunities in today's agribusiness are as limitless as personalities are different. Whether it may be aquaculture, agricultural research, horticulture or education, all you have to do is choose the right one for you. Agriculture, being our nation's largest employer, provides over two hundred areas of interest and employs over twenty percent of the labor force.

While attending my first state convention, I was filled with pride and joy beyond belief and I knew...this is for me! This is what I want...the FFA and agriculture. By attending many other state conventions, I have realized that I DO want to pursue a career in agriculture. By being involved in my chapter's Nursery/Landscape and Floriculture Teams has given me an important insight to the area in which I am most interested, horticulture.

Agriculture needs you. FFA member, the brightest and best of today's young adults. You just have to answer "Yes" to the many opportunities that are available.



OPPORTUNITY
Scott Schneider, Sentinel

Have you seen it? Have you heard? Opportunity is knocking at our door. If we do not take advantage of it, it may just pass us by. Remember, opportunity knocks only once.

The FFA is filled with an unlimited number of opportunities. As members, we have the chance to become practical, aggressive leaders. We may be a Chapter, District or State Officer. We may lead our chapter's livestock team to the state competition. We may take first place in a public speaking contest or proficiency award. All of these things can happen if we reach out and take opportunity by the strings. We must not let it get away.

As we celebrate the state's FFA Convention, do not forget the many opportunities available

in the agricultural industry today. More and more jobs and careers are opening up for agricultural students, as agriculture changes and broadens its scope. In return, the FFA is leading the challenge to keep agriculture America's number one industry.

All of us are given many opportunities in life, but no one can make our decisions for us. We are the only ones who can accept or deny the challenges we face. Please enjoy the 61st State FFA Convention, and don't forget the opportunities that await us.

Program
61st Annual Convention
Alabama FFA Association
June 5, 6, 7, 1990
Montgomery Civic Center

Monday, June 4

A.M.
 11:00
 Livestock Judging Contest (Livestock Arena, Auburn)
 Dairy Cattle Judging Contest (E.V. Smith Research Center, Milstead)

P.M.
 1:00
 Forestry Judging Contest (Auburn)
 Land Judging Contest (Montgomery)
 Agricultural Mechanics Contest (Auburn)
 Small Engines Contest (Montgomery)
 Agricultural Construction & Maintenance Contest (Montgomery)
 Nursery/Landscape Contest (Civic Center)
 Floriculture (Civic Center)
 7:30
 Final Interview of Officer Candidates (Civic Center)

Tuesday, June 5

A.M.
 8:00 - 12:00
 Registration (Civic Center)
 9:00
 Public Speaking Contest Preliminary (Civic Center)
 String Band Contest Preliminary (Civic Center)
 Quartet Contest Preliminary (Civic Center)
 11:30
 Courtesy Corps Meeting (Civic Center)

P.M.
 1:00
 Delegate Orientation
 1:30
 Opening Ceremony
 Invocation
 National Anthem
 Official Seating of Delegates
 Greetings--Brad Lewis, National Vice President, Southern Region
 Business Session
 Public Speaking Contest--1st Speaker
 Proficiency Awards--Horse Proficiency, Beef Production, Poultry Production
 Public Speaking Contest--2nd Speaker
 Proficiency Awards--Soil & Water Management, Sheep Production, Diversified Crop Production

Public Speaking Contest--3rd Speaker
 Proficiency Awards--Dairy Production, Swine Production, Nursery Operations
 Public Speaking Contest--4th Speaker
 Safety Awards Line-up
 Proficiency Awards--Agricultural Mechanics, Agricultural Electrification, Turf & Landscape Management
 Retiring Address--Delicia Carey, Secretary
 Safety Awards
 Public Speaking Awards
 Closing Ceremony
 Meeting of all Local Advisors

Tuesday Evening

P.M.
 7:30
FIRST GENERAL SESSION
 Opening Ceremony
 Proficiency Awards-Home & Farmstead Improvement, Wildlife Management, Forest Management, Fruit and/or Vegetable Production, Floriculture, Placement in Agricultural Production, Agricultural Sales and/or Services, Specialty Animal Production, Special Proficiency Awards
 Miss Alabama Agriculture, Lisa Rivenbark, Enterprise
 Honor Parents and Advisors of 1989-90 State Officers
 String Band Contest Finals
 Future Farmer/Agribusinessman of the Year Award
 Mindy Stringer Memorial Scholarship Award
 Retiring Address--John Gladden, Vice President
 String Band Awards
 Closing Ceremony

Wednesday, June 6

A.M.
 8:30
 Music--Harold Whitton, Section FFA Chapter
 9:00
SECOND GENERAL SESSION
 Opening Ceremony
 Star Farmer Ceremony
 Awards--Dairy Judging, Livestock Judging, M.K. Heath Award, Forestry Judging, Land Judging, Nursery/Landscape, Floriculture
 State Officers' Annual Report
 Chapter Awards Line-up
 Retiring Address--Sally Spratlin, Reporter

Chapter Awards
 Crime Prevention Awards
 Awards--Agricultural Mechanics, Agricultural Construction and Maintenance, Small Engines
 100% Membership Recognition
 Retiring Address--Christy Dison, Treasurer
 Computers in Agriculture Awards
 Activity Program
 Closing Ceremony
 P.M.
 1:00
EDUCATIONAL TOURS

Wednesday Evening

P.M.
 7:30
THIRD GENERAL SESSION
 Opening Ceremony
 Address--Brad Lewis, National Vice President
 Conferring of Honorary State FFA Degrees
 Retiring Address--Scott Schneider, Citronelle
 Quartet Contest Finals
 BOAC Awards Line-up
 Corn Growing Awards
 Building Our American Communities Awards
 Quartet Contest Awards
 Closing Ceremony

Thursday, June 7

A.M.
 9:00
LAST GENERAL SESSION
 Opening Ceremony
 Retiring Address--Kevin Webb, President
 Address--Dr. Jim Wand
 State FFA Degree Ceremony
 Installation of New State Officers
 Presentation of Past Officer Pins
 Presentation of Gavel to Past President
 Closing Ceremony
 New Officers, Parents, and Advisors Meeting (Civic Center)

To Appear on Convention Program



BRAD LEWIS
NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Brad Lewis of Elkmont, Alabama, is the Southern Region Vice President of the FFA. His SAEP includes agricultural construction and maintenance and agricultural electrification. Brad's work with a construction company which specialized in building farm homes, barns, stables, and machine shops earned him the American FFA Degree. Brad is a junior at Auburn University majoring in Agricultural Education/Economics. He is a member of FarmHouse Fraternity and the Collegiate FFA Chapter. Brad will address the convention on Wednesday evening.

Jim Wand

Master

H·Y·P·N·O·T·I·S·T

Dr. Jim Wand
Award Winning
Master Hypnotist



Dr. Wand's presentation and stage demonstrations are informative as well as entertaining. He mixes humor with his hypnotic skills to keep the audience laughing and at the same time educates them as to how hypnosis works.

One of the top hypnotic entertainers in the nation.

If you like to laugh, you can't afford to miss this show at:

State FFA Convention
Thursday Morning
June 7, 1990
Montgomery Civic Center



LISA RIVENBARK
MISS ALABAMA AGRICULTURE

Miss Alabama Agriculture, Lisa Rivenbark of Enterprise, will appear on the convention program on Tuesday evening. Lisa is a graduate of Enterprise High School where she was active in FFA, DECA, FBLA, Key Club Sweetheart, Misses Chataqua Club, a majorette and a member of the concert band.