



# FFA Alumni Association

## NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 1980

### LANDING A FISH BY THE TALE

As an avid fisherman, I am painfully familiar with the story of the "one that got away." How many of these tales are true we'll never know—they usually grow in importance with the number of beers consumed while the story is being told. In reality, it's not important that the story is true—'cause it's the story that's important.

Some of the stories I have heard, but not witnessed, include the one about the fisherman who cast unsuccessfully all day. On his last cast as he pulled the plug out of the water, a 13½-pound northern leaped for the plug, missed and landed in the bottom of the boat. One fisherman landed a 10-pound lake trout that had three hooks and five spinners in its stomach—and another lure and leader protruding from its mouth. A catfish had 11 hooks and 50 feet of line in its stomach. A rainbow trout was caught stuffed with 17 alewives in various stages of digestion—one protruding part way out of his mouth. On the ocean, a fisherman hooked a huge tuna that pulled the boat 200 miles over the next 62 hours as fishermen took turns fighting it. The reward was a 792-pound tuna. A guy in Tennessee hooked a bundle while fishing which turned out to be \$685.00. And so it goes.



The picture describes one of my own experiences. Fishing with a fly rod and only a light trout leader, a 16-inch walleye took my minnow. As I started to pull in the walleye, a large northern hit the walleye amidships—and hung on. Our 15-minute tussle resulted in a 38-inch northern and a 16-inch walleye. They are mounted as they were caught and are on display in the Doering residence. Another time, I thought I had a huge fish on only to discover that two small-mouth bass had struck simultaneously with one on the front set of hooks and another on the rear set. Another time, a northern tried to eat our walleyes on the stringer so my wife put the landing net under the northern and we had a fish without much difficulty—of course, we had to throw it back 'cause it's illegal to use walleye for bait!!!

Of course, I have the usual stories about the big one that got away. The usual stories about broken lines and broken hearts. The largest northern I have mounted is 20 pounds and was caught 2½ hours after it had broken my line in the first place. So, how does all this equate with the FFA Alumni? Pretty simple: We're letting the "big ones get away." In some states, we use no lures, no live bait, no inducement. The number of fish that jump in a boat are few in number—most need some gentle persuasion. There's a lot of fish out there, but not many will take the bait presented by you. Think how optimistic the early organizers of the Alumni program were. They expected 20,000 members the first year—eight years later, we are still trying to reach that mark. The FFA Alumni is a great organization with tremendous goals and aspirations. But inducement, advertising and promotion are needed. Will you receive the Legion of Merit this year? I'm going to try for this award—how about joining me?

A good strong line, properly presented is all that is needed. Any old fisherman will tell you that.

### FFA ALUMNI FLAG

The National FFA Alumni in cooperation with the FFA Supply Service is proud to announce that an FFA Alumni Flag (3x5 feet) is available for purchase to any FFA Alumni member or affiliate. The Minnesota FFA Alumni has played a vital role in stimulating the development and production of the flag. As a result, the first FFA Alumni Flag will be presented to the Minnesota FFA Alumni Association. Your state or local FFA Alumni Affiliate can order a flag for approximately \$50 from the FFA Supply Service after September 1. If a flag is needed before this date, contact the Alumni office so that special arrangements can be made.

### LEGION OF MERIT AWARD

To recognize and honor active leadership, the Legion of Merit Citation has been created exclusively for those whose personal efforts and initiative have helped to build the FFA Alumni Association. To qualify for this special Legion of Merit Citation, all you need to do is enroll 10 or more *NEW* FFA Alumni members, or five *NEW* Life members, or five FFA Executive Sponsors—and send their names, and yours, along with the official application to the FFA Alumni office at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

*Send your completed applications to the FFA Alumni Association, P. O. Box 15058, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.*

## PLAN TO ATTEND

Make plans to attend the FFA Alumni and FFA Conventions in Kansas City, Missouri, on November 12-14. The FFA Alumni will have the opportunity to attend activities which will allow a better understanding of your FFA Alumni Association, and also an opportunity to view the educational and inspirational FFA Convention. The FFA Alumni will host a reception for the Honorary American Farmers and Leadership Workshops for FFA members and advisors and FFA Alumni. The FFA Alumni Convention sessions will be held on Wednesday and Thursday mornings.

## EXECUTIVE SPONSORS

**FFA . . . You can make a difference!** Your investment as an Executive Sponsor will continue the prestigious Star Greenhand, Star Farmer, and Star Agribusinessman programs in local chapters across this nation. The one-half million young men and women working toward improvement, striving toward excellence, becoming better people . . . because you cared enough to make a personal commitment.

**FFA . . . The Executive Sponsor Commitment.** Executive Sponsors to FFA make a personal commitment by investing \$100 or more. Your investment will be a meaningful commitment to young people, to FFA, and to the future of agriculture. The future is now . . . and now we ask you to join the hundreds of others who annually become Executive Sponsors.

**The FFA Alumni salutes the 1980 Executive Sponsors.** The following have contributed \$100 since our last newsletter as an investment toward the vocational agriculture-FFA program. The Executive Sponsor funds directly support the prestigious Star Greenhand, Star Farmer, and Star Agribusinessman Award Programs and the FFA Alumni Association.

Romaine J. Ace . . . . .	Brooklyn, Wisconsin
Robert W. Boeke . . . . .	Bettendorf, Iowa
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J. N. Tiemann . . . . .	Kansas City, Missouri
Roy W. Uelner . . . . .	Brookfield, Wisconsin

## SLIDE-TAPE PRESENTATION

The FFA Alumni is presently developing a 15-minute slide-tape presentation called "FFA Alumni-It's Working." It will explain the ways the National FFA Alumni is supporting and serving vocational agriculture-FFA. The premiere showing will be at the National FFA Alumni Convention. The slide-tape production costs are sponsored by Ace Bolt and Nut Company. The script is being written by Dan Reuwee, former Director of Information with the FFA and now with the National Soybean Association. The narration will be done by Orion Samuelson of WGN Broadcasting Company in Chicago.

## HALL OF ACHIEVEMENT

The National FFA Alumni presented on your behalf a check for \$500 to the FFA Foundation for the Hall of Achievement. The Hall of Achievement will include a memento room, library, resource center, conference rooms, and exhibits, and will be available to the thousands of FFA Alumni, FFA members, and guests, who visit the National FFA Center. FFA Alumni members, affiliates, and State Associations are encouraged to support this outstanding exhibit.

Pictured below is a portion of the auditorium gallery display which features the FFA Alumni Association. This exhibit, sponsored by John Deere, is the first of ten areas to be finished as part of the Hall of Achievement.



## WEA ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Congratulations goes to Paul Ehrhardt of Oakfield, Wisconsin, for receiving the 1980 WEA scholarship sponsored by the National FFA Alumni. The \$130 was presented to Paul on June 10 as he prepared for departure on a 12-month Around-The-World WEA program.

Paul wrote from Brussels on June 12 stating:

I'd like to thank the FFA Alumni and the entire FFA for your support of the WEA program. The tour is already quite interesting and educational, and I'm really looking forward to the remainder of the WEA placement.

Things in Brussels are quite different than how it is in America. The differences really make me think about life and wonder why the differences exist. I like the city of Brussels very much and enjoy watching the people and seeing how much the same people are throughout the world, and how much they differ in many ways.

I'd especially like to thank you for the scholarship money as I have found dollars don't go very far in Belgium or any of Europe. The WEA program is very much worthwhile and hope to see you continue to support it. Thanks for supporting me, and the entire FFA program.

## WASHINGTON FFA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS



The National FFA Alumni awarded 21 scholarships valued at \$4,200.00 this summer. The National FFA Alumni awards one scholarship for every 500 active FFA Alumni members in a state. The scholarship winners are selected by the State FFA Alumni.

Pictured above are Michael Larson, Evansville, WI; Jeff Zimmerman, Forest, IL; Mike Torrey, Wamego, KS; Pat Steiner, New Holstein, WI; Jim Kasten, Omro, WI; and Lisa Byrd, Oxford, OH, which were Alumni scholarship winners attending the June 23-27 Conference.

### SALUTE WESTMER FFA ALUMNI

The Westmer FFA Alumni in Illinois kept their vocational agriculture-FFA program running in an outstanding manner until a new teacher was found to fill a vacancy created in mid-year. Eldon Aupperle, FFA Alumni President for Illinois, spoke at their banquet this spring and reported this FFA Alumni group is an outstanding example of a local alumni in action.

### STATE FFA OFFICERS BECOME LIFE MEMBERS



Another milestone has been reached in Wisconsin during 1980. The entire FFA officer team has become lifetime members of the National and Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association. This group has energetically promoted the FFA Alumni concept throughout the year during their chapter visits. This support has led to the establishment of 18 new affiliates and 864 additional Alumni members. These dedicated young people are helping to assure the continued growth and relevance of FFA in Wisconsin. Wisconsin has already surpassed last year's (1979) total of 3,622 members.

## FFA ALUMNI INTERN



Steve Washington, the 1980 FFA Alumni Intern, is pictured with Robert Cox, Executive Director of the National FFA Alumni, Congressman Wes Watkins from Oklahoma, and Congressman Carroll Hubbard from Kentucky. The intern position, established to provide visibility to vocational agriculture-FFA in the governmental affairs area, has proven to be very successful. The FFA Alumni Association has an agreement with the Congressional Rural Caucus for the FFA Alumni to serve on a half-time basis in their Capital office. As a result, the FFA Alumni Intern has the benefits of other Congressional interns that include educational seminars and use of the Library of Congress. Congressman Watkins serves as Chairman of the Congressional Rural Caucus and Congressman Hubbard is an active member. Steve is a former Kentucky FFA President and presently is a student at Iowa State University. Steve recently made the following statement about the first month of his internship:

The day of the FFA Alumni intern is far from being dull. Mornings are filled with briefings and contacts to disseminate vocational agriculture-FFA. My afternoons are involved with the Congressional Rural Caucus, which monitors legislation that affects rural America and helps to see that rural life is sustained in the highest degree. Since my major in college is public service and administration in agriculture, it is hard to imagine a better position to learn and to give service to the FFA and rural living which has done so much in shaping my life.

### 1980 NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI COUNCIL

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Robert W. Cox  
P. O. Box 15160  
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## FFA Alumni Association

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