

File

NEWSLETTER

KANSAS ASSOCIATION

of

FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

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Volume IV

January, 1933

Number 5

SUGGESTIONS FOR FATHER AND SON BANQUETS

After deciding to hold a banquet, determining date and place, committees should be appointed. It is a responsibility of the chapter officers and the local advisor to work with and insure the proper functioning of each committee. Committees customarily appointed are - Invitation, Reception, Menu, Decoration, Program, and Finance.

Written invitations to guests are desirable. These may be delivered by individuals, thus saving postage. Members of the invitation committee will invite special guests agreed upon by the chapter; superintendent, representative of the press, local ministers, local business men, and speaker of the evening.

The reception committee will meet and greet guests as they arrive, taking care of wraps and effecting necessary introductions.

The decoration and program committees will cooperate in placing the paraphernalia, arranging for seating, and properly locating the place cards.

Music while the guests are gathering and while the group is being seated is highly appropriate.

Begin on time. Close on time. Open with prayer. The regular opening and closing ceremony should be used. It is imperative that officers know their parts and be able to deliver same effectively. Inability to handle this feature satisfactorily reflects discredit upon the officers, the advisor, and the chapter.

Between the serving of the first and second courses, the presiding officer will ask each boy to stand, give his name, and introduce his father or other guest. All applause should be withheld until the introductions have been completed.

Group singing between the second and third courses is desirable.

A few well chosen anecdotes will enliven the party. Too many jokes, or stories poorly told will react unfavorably. Fun and good fellowship should prevail. Hilarity would be in poor taste.

The program should largely be "of, by, and for the boys". Suitable topics for the first FFA father and son banquet are, objects of the FFA, history of the organization, the creed, explanation of the emblem, membership grades and privileges. It is obvious that these subjects will need skillful variation if they are to be used more than once. Subjects that lend themselves year after year are, local chapter objectives; chapter achievements; achievements of individuals of the chapter; state and national contests; demonstrations; declamations, and debates.

Boys participating in the program should expect to give of their time and thought. Papers should be written, memorized, and delivery practiced until the message can be presented in a manner that will reflect credit upon both the chapter and the participant. Individual and chapter pride should permit of nothing short of one's best effort.

If a guest speaker is invited, he should be given the time allotted him. This will necessitate careful timing of the program numbers, and the ability of the presiding officer will be tested in keeping the program on schedule. Guests should not be called upon for remarks unless notified, and such persons should have a definite understanding as to the time allotted. Lack of terminal facilities has caused many program schedules to go awry, and this proverbial "weakness" should be circumvented if possible. Careful planning, timing, practice, and a definite understanding on the part of all persons contributing to the program will give satisfying results.

Mothers should be invited if finances will permit.

The Reporter should prepare an article for the local paper.

Express appreciation to those cooperating.

All borrowed property should be promptly returned, and the room cleaned and put in readiness.

A successful father and son banquet is a cooperative enterprise. Valuable experience will result from a properly conceived and executed occasion of this nature. Through this medium the community is informed of the nature of the vocational agricultural program, the purpose and place of the FFA, and, understanding results in appreciation. A poorly conducted father and son banquet defeats its very

purpose. If your father and son banquet is to be more than a "belly-fill" there must be given cooperation, thought, time and labor on the part of every member. Successful banquets do not happen, they are built.

The Haddam Department of Vocational Agriculture organized an FFA chapter and received their charter December 27, 1932. Their annual program of work is as follows:

1. At least two projects carried by each member.
2. A thrift bank with each member paying dues regular.
3. Hold a father and son banquet in spring.
4. Each member make an average in school work of 85%.
5. Place an exhibit at the Washington County Fair, and also in a down town business building.
6. Conduct a project tour in spring.
7. Conduct two chapel programs.
8. Hold a school FFA judging contest.
9. Every member hold an interest in our swine class project.
10. Enter team in state judging contest.
11. Place on bulletin board the agriculture honor roll every six weeks.
12. Arrange a county FFA basketball tournament.
13. Each member earn \$25.00 and save or invest earnings.
14. Complete 100% of projects started.
15. Hold an FFA corn show.
16. Increase the enrollment in the vocational agriculture class at least 15%.
17. Establish an experimental plot.
18. Test seed for farmers.
19. Prizes are to be given for best project work.
20. Have a baseball team in spring.
21. Enter the Washington County stock judging contest.
22. Have a three-day camping trip in summer.
23. Hold meetings regularly every four weeks.

This program is a well balanced one and should keep the Haddam chapter busy. A chapter with something definite to do is a healthy chapter. Deane Nelson is president, and Merwin Stearns is secretary.

The Smith Center Department of Vocational Agriculture is the latest addition to the Future Farmer ranks. A charter was issued the Smith Center chapter December 28, 1932. The program of work as outlined by the youngest chapter follows:

1. Sponsor a judging team to the state contest.
2. Put on a program in assembly.
3. Start plans for a class project.
4. Have a father and son banquet.
5. Improve and landscape lawn around vocational agriculture building.

6. Prepare exhibit for county fair.
7. Prepare exhibit and program for Chamber of Commerce meeting.
8. Improve interior of classroom by framing and re-arranging pictures.
9. Learn the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of F.F.A.
10. Have one social gathering during the summer months.

This is an interesting and worth while program for the newest chapter in the state. Leonard Brown is president, and John Carpenter is secretary-treasurer. We extend greetings and best wishes to the two new chapters.

HANDBOOK FOR FUTURE FARMERS

Henry C. Groseclose is author of a new handbook for Future Farmers, which is designed primarily for the use of the chapter advisor and officers. The contents of this handbook follow:

Dedication

Chapter I -- Organization

- Job I -- Organizing an F.F.A. Chapter
- Job II -- Setting Up and Attaining Objectives
- Job III -- Conducting Meetings
- Job IV -- Organizing Chapter Association

Chapter II-- Thrift

- Job V -- Organizing and Conducting a Thrift Bank

Chapter III -- Cooperation

- Job VI -- Cooperative Buying and Selling
- Job VII -- Improving School Grounds
- Job VIII -- Participating in Contests
- Job IX -- Conducting a Community Fair

Chapter IV -- Recreation

- Job X -- Staging a Barbecue
- Job XI -- Arranging a Father and Son Banquet
- Job XII -- Taking a Farm Tour
- Job XIII -- Establishing a Permanent F.F.A. Camp

Chapter V -- Welfare Work

- Job XIV -- Aiding Destitute Families

Summary

This book is available through The French-Bray Printing Company, Homer Building, Washington, D.C. The price is 25¢.

THE F.F.A. SONG -- "Hail the F.F.A."

This song with an arrangement of piano music and words is published by the French-Bray Printing Company, and the price is 15¢ each. Special chapter rates are one dozen copies for \$1.50. Every chapter should have a copy of the F.F.A. official song.

A book that should prove of interest to chapters expecting to enter the Public Speaking Contest has been published recently by Lester C. Boone of the University of Texas. The title of the book is, "One Hundred New Declamations". This book is published by the Babcock Company Printers, Ft. Worth, Texas, and the price is \$2.50.

The following are some of the authors and titles selected at random from the collection:

The New Frontiers -- Congressional Digest.
 The Universal Obligation -- Donald W. Stewart.
 The Greater Man -- Grier D. Patterson.
 Slackers in Peace -- Senator Goff of West Virginia.
 The New Armor -- M.A. DeWolfe Howe.
 The Pioneer Woman of Texas -- Empress Young.
 Mothers of Men -- C.C. Dill.
 Uncle Sam -- Anonymous.
 The Pioneer Woman -- Patrick J. Hurley.
 Lincoln, The Man of God -- Senator Goff.
 Our Dry United States -- Morris Sheppard.
 The Sign of the Muckrake -- Henry Van Dyke.
 Americans for America -- Laurette Taylor.
 Being True to Ourselves -- William E. Borah.
 The People of the South -- Herbert McClure.
 Beneath American Roofs -- Genieve Temple.
 The Weaving of Our Destiny -- Herbert Hoover.
 Rebuild and Remodel -- Franklin D. Roosevelt.
 Mightier Than the Sword -- Luther Ostander.
 Saviors of Civilization -- R.D. Putman.
 Makers of History -- Anonymous.
 How Long Must the War Go On? -- Nichols M. Butler.
 What of America? -- Henry J. Haskell.
 The Homes of Freedom -- Orville Dewey.
 The District School House -- Edwin H. Chapin.
 The National Emblem -- R.D. Putman.
 The True Glory of the Nation -- E.P. Whipple.
 The Life Blood of the Nation -- C. Sprague.
 Have Faith in America -- Hamilton Fish.
 A Giant Among Men (Jefferson Davis) -- John S. Williams.
 Thomas A. Edison -- Charles A. Eaton.
 The architect of Americanism -- C.C. Dill.
 The Spirit of the Past -- Anon.
 The New Liberty -- Frank E. Bush.
 The Old Faith -- William E. Borah.
 The Unknown -- Bruce Barton.
 The National Apostasy -- K.M. Hunter.
 True Americanism -- Henry Cabot Lodge.
 The Higher Patriotism -- Monroe W. Miller.
 Comrades in Peace -- John Grier Hibbon.
 The Conscience of the Nation -- George W. Curtis.
 The Great Commission -- Camillo Osins.
 Thou Shalt Not Steal -- William J. Bryan.
 Religious Tolerance -- David I. Walsh.

While this book will not give much information that could be used in public speeches dealing with agricultural problems, it

should prove helpful from the standpoint of form to boys interested in preparing for the Public Speaking Contest.

MASTER FUTURE FARMER

The Oregon Association of Future Farmers of America has created a special degree for Future Farmers who have graduated from high school and have carried on farming in a business-like and successful manner. The name of this special degree is MASTER FUTURE FARMER. The following rules and regulations were adopted by the state association:

Eligibility:

- (1) Be a member of F.F.A. at least two years before graduating from a high school.
- (2) Be graduated from high school from one to three years.
- (3) Become an active member of local F.F.A. chapter by having paid local, state, and national dues, and by having attended at least 25 per cent regular meetings since graduating.
- (4) No Future Farmer will be allowed to receive this recognition more than once.

Purpose:

- (1) To give recognition to successful Future Farmers who have graduated from high school.
- (2) To provide additional interest in F.F.A. work.
- (3) To continue the interest of the high school graduates in F.F.A. for at least three years after graduation.

Requirements to Achieve for "Master Future Farmer" Honor:

- I. Become actually engaged in farming by having rented or owned land.
- II. Devote practically all time to the farming enterprise.
- III. Keep an accurate and complete account record of each enterprise.
- IV. Provide systematic and orderly marketing for all farm produce.
- V. Become a member of a Grange, Farmer's Union, or some cooperative marketing organization.
- VI. Possess qualities of leadership as shown by having held responsible position in some community organization, which is of direct benefit to the farmer or his family.
- VII. Improve the appearance of the farmstead by fulfilling at least three of the six following methods:
 - (1) By planting trees, shrubs or lawn around the farm home.
 - (2) By repairing gates, fences and farm buildings.
 - (3) By cleaning up rubbish around farm.
 - (4) By seeing that the farm is labeled by properly displaying the name of the farm at the entrance of the farmstead.
 - (5) By painting farm buildings.
 - (6) By placing machinery under cover when not in use.
- VIII. Produce good quality of products by having developed improved practices in all types of farming.
- IX. Provide for some special methods for advertising farm produce.

While the Kansas Association has not had sufficient experience to see the need for such a degree, it might be that in the future we will consider action of this nature. At present, the majority of our recommendations for the American Farmer Degree come from boys who have had actual farm experience after finishing their vocational work in high school.

CHAPTER NEWS

Miltonvale. The Miltonvale Chapter sold thirty-one boxes of Christmas cards. Future Farmers held a night meeting January 3, and they played basketball. January 9, the Future Farmers put on the opening and closing ceremony for the Lions Club. The 4-H Club furnished the eats and charged the Lions Club for them.

Solomon. The Solomon Chapter held their father and son banquet January 12. As a part of the program they initiated the Green Hands from the Lincoln Chapter. Director C.M. Miller was the principal speaker.

Goodland. The Goodland Chapter will hold its father and son banquet, January 20th.

GRASS

"Lying in the sunshine among the buttercups and dandelions of May, scarcely higher in intelligence than the minute tenants of that mimic wilderness, our earliest recollections are of grass, and when the fitful fever is ended and the foolish wrangle of market and forum is closed, grass heals over the scar which our descent has made and the carpet of the infant becomes the blanket of the dead.

Grass is the forgiveness of nature-- her constant benediction. Fields trampled with battle, saturated with blood, torn with the ruts of the cannon, grown green again with grass, and carnage is forgotten. Forests decay, harvests perish, flowers vanish, but grass is immortal. Beleaguered by the sullen hosts of Winter, it withdraws into the impregnable fortress of its subterranean vitality and emerges upon the first solicitation of Spring. Sown by the winds, by the wandering birds, propagated by the subtle agriculture of the elements which are its ministers and servants, it softens the rude outline of the world. It bears no blazonry of bloom to charm the senses with fragrance or splendor, but its homey hue is more enchanting than the lily or the rose. It yields no fruit in earth or air, and yet, should its harvest fail for a single year, famine would depopulate the world." -

---- John J. Ingalls.
