

Norman F.F.A. Group Earns 2nd National Scholastic Award

Eleven years ago a handful of high school boys under the guidance of E. F. Foreman founded the Norman chapter of Future Farmers of America. Their headquarters then were in the basement of the Junior High School; but now the organization boasts one of the best vocational agriculture plants in the nation.

It was in 1935 that Foreman, then only 27, came to Norman, after teaching five years in Mannford, and organized the local F.F.A. chapter. He had but a few farm youths and even less equipment to work with. Their regular club meetings and frequent exhibits of farm produce were held in the school's lower floor for those first few terms of existence. But better conditions were pending.

Student and faculty pure-air advocates, who became offended by the "fowl" odors which permeated the upper-floor classrooms, were in no small part responsible for putting Foreman and his eager charges on a newer and higher level. Their complaining prompted action from townspeople and school board members, and in 1937 a vocational agriculture building was erected just north of the main high school campus. The voc-ag plant now consists of eight buildings, including a greenhouse, and complete equipment for agricultural carpentry, mechanical work, plumbing and all allied subjects. The plant is valued at \$35,000.

The chapter's rise from obscurity to national prominence has been little less than phenomenal. Its latest distinction was gained last October when it became the first chapter to receive the national Gold Medal scholastic achievement rating a second time. (Norman first won this coveted prize in 1941.) Announcement of the award, highest in F.F.A.-dom, was made at the national convention in Kansas City, Missouri. Only three chapters in the United States are chosen for this honor annually.

Since its organization, the Norman club has walked off with four state championships, in 1938, '39, '42 and '46. No contests were held during the war years 1943-45. The local chapter is the only one to represent Oklahoma twice in national competition.

In eleven years Norman has produced 54 state championship teams and 62 title-winning individuals in such fields as dairying, poultry, crops, horticulture, entomology, terracing and farm shopwork. The chapter's record can be extended almost indefinitely.

In winning their latest Gold Medal, the youthful farmers established 242 objectives, all but one of which had been accomplished when school let out last May. A report of these activities was sent to Oklahoma F.F.A. headquarters at Stillwater and was chosen to represent the state for a fourth time in Gold Medal competition. The report was forwarded to Washington, D. C., where it was compared with those from the nation's other outstanding chapters.

Last year's fifty members completed 338 projects valued at \$44,844. The average boy accomplished nearly seven projects and had a farm investment of \$601.52. Some of the goals included the raising of 2,266 fryers, 1,648 breeding poultry, 153 hogs, 31 beef animals, 30 dairy animals, and the tending of 150 acres of corn and 40 acres of watermelons.

The chapter took part in eight co-operative activities; sponsored tournaments in horseshoes, ping-pong, checkers, dominoes and other recreational functions; rendered innumerable community services, and was active in state leadership activities. Over a third of its members ranked in the upper quarter in class scholarship.

Achievements of the Norman chapter are well-known in F.F.A. circles throughout the nation. It has been publicized in such prominent periodicals as Life Magazine, Colliers, Southern Agriculturist, Agricultural Leaders' Digest, American Farm Youth, Oklahoma Farmer Stockman, and in a host of state newspapers. Members participated in broadcasts over radio stations WKY, WNAD, KTUL, KVOO and KOMA.

Norman added two more state championships

to its growing list last September in Tulsa, where Floyd Davis, Joe Murphy and J. C. Smith captured the poultry judging title and Kenneth Pitts, Bill Crownover and Bobby Moroney won the crops judging crown. The poultry team placed second in the recent Oklahoma City Poultry Federation meet.

Foreman contributes his organization's success to "strong community backing and the wonderful attitudes of the boys participating."

"A world of credit is due parents and other interested Norman citizens who have so earnestly aided in all our endeavors. Without their assistance the chapter could never have reached its present position."

The expert instruction and untiring efforts of Foreman is a salient factor in this success, however, and the chapter's record is an account of his achievements as a leader of farm youth.

O.U. War Heroine Eludes Japs, Loses Three Diplomas in Cebu

"To the President
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

"Dear Sir:

"More than a year ago our islands were liberated by the great American forces and we, who had to evacuate to the mountains because we did not wish to co-operate with the enemy and have profound respect for the principles of democracy, found ourselves once more free people to come back to the homes we had to leave in such a great haste on April 10, 1942.

"We took with us what little we could pack, and among the things I evacuated were the three diplomas I received from the University of Oklahoma. During the entire period of Jap occupation I lived up in the highest mountains of Cebu Province, and as a doctor made myself useful to the recognized Guerilla force of this province as well as to the civilians.

"During the three years of enemy occupation, I was forced to make 17 evacuations, due to the nearness of Jap troops or raids, and I managed to

keep most of the things intact despite the fact that I had total strangers helping me carry what little baggage I had farther up the mountains.

"When at last our long-looked-for American liberating troops came to liberate us, and the Japs could do nothing else but retreat in haste, we also had to make way for the hordes of Japs who were heading for the mountains to live in the very huts which had been our homes while the Japs ruled these islands. In this confusion, part of our things were lost and I regret so much that among the things that I had treasured much were my diplomas.

"I have contacted those people who helped us in that final evacuation repeatedly, but all to no avail. The one person who was carrying the suitcase containing the diplomas among other things got so frightened at the rapid retreat of the Japs, all coming up the hills, that he fled, leaving behind that very suitcase.

"Weeks and weeks passed and upon my request to find the diplomas, he slowly, by degrees, went back to the place where he remembered having left the suitcase, only to find that it had disappeared—but the Japs had taken time to tear my diplomas into small bits, scattering the pieces about the place. Some bits of the diplomas were still clear, but most had faded due to the exposure to the seasonal rains.

"I regret of having nothing to show for my years of effort in the University of Oklahoma, no more diploma that will back me up and testify for me that I graduated from the Medical School, University of Oklahoma, in 1927. If people would like to be evil-minded, they even could suspect that I am a fake doctor. So, please advise me whether duplicate copies, a mere certificate or what-not could take the place of the diplomas that were lost because of enemy penetration. I would value your help so much as to how the following diplomas could be replaced:

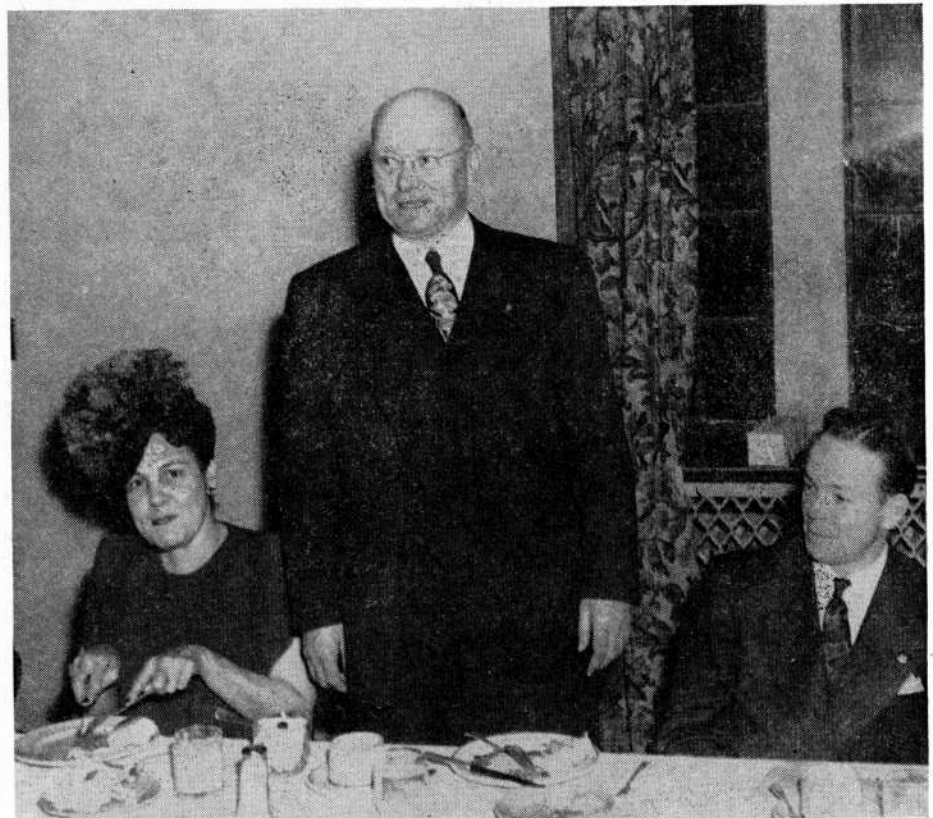
"I, Bertha M. Baltazar, graduated from the University of Oklahoma in the following years with corresponding degrees:

"Doctor of Medicine, June, 1927.

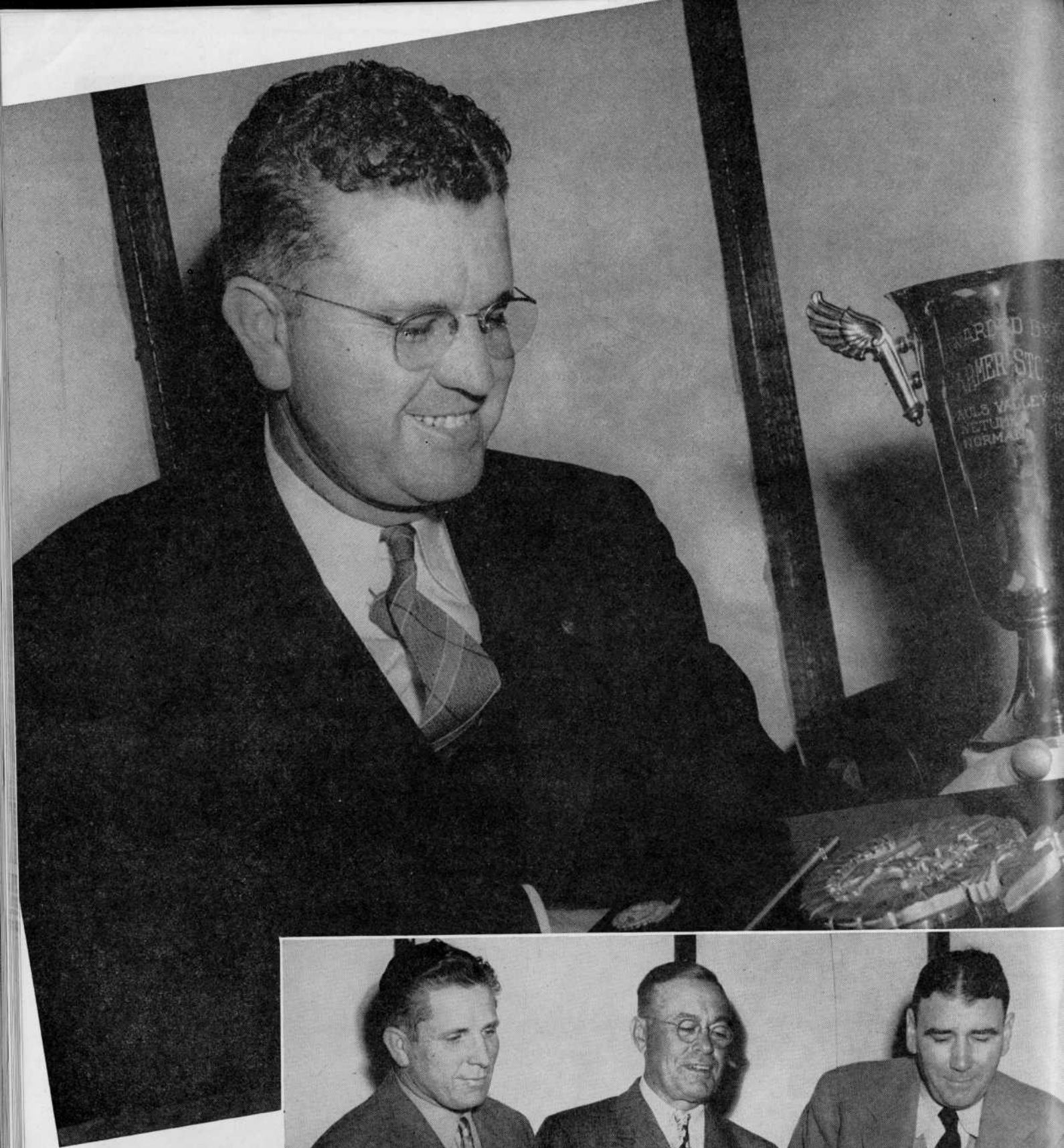
"B.S. in Medicine, June, 1925.

"B.A. Degree, July, 1923.

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A guest speaker at the Law School banquet held December 12, was Joe Looney (center), '20ba, '22law, who entertained diners with humorous anecdotes and witty remarks. Mrs. Looney is seated at left. Lewis Watson (right), junior class president, was on the committee which planned the banquet.



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 Other University alumni business and professional men who are honorary members and advisory counselors of the Norman Future Farmers of America chapter include (seated, left to right) Dr. Curtis Berry, '31phys.ed, '35bs, '37med, Norman physician, and Jim Downing, '21ph.g, Norman pharmacist. Standing, left to right, are Clyde Kirk, '27, '34, Norman merchant; Neil Johnson, '15ba, '17law, Norman rancher, and Hal Muldrow, Jr., '28bus, Norman insurance man.

← Sooner and "Aggie" efforts in the Norman chapter of Future Farmers of America were culminated when the group was awarded the Gold Medal achievement rating at the national convention held in Kansas City last October. "Aggie" Frank Foreman, founder of the Norman group, proudly beams at the award, the second to be won by the Norman group since 1941. In 11 years, Norman has produced 54 state championship teams and 62 title-winning individuals.



Members of the Norman chapter of Future Farmers of America holding honorary positions because of their personal and financial support to the organization include (in the above picture) Lynn Bullard (seated, left), '25-'26, Norman merchant, and Ben Huey (seated, right), '31law, Norman lawyer. Standing, left to right, are Arlo "Skivey" Davis, '31bs, Norman High School coach; Lance Ewbank, '40m.ed, principal of Norman Senior High School, and Claude Southward, '22ba, '29ma, principal of Norman Junior High School. As members of the Norman F.F.A. advisory council, these men have worked consistently to help the Norman chapter bring national acclaim to the state of Oklahoma. Not in the picture is King G. Price, '25, Norman insurance man, who was ill at the time these pictures were taken.

→ Raymond Dragoo (left), '24ba, '27ma, assistant professor of mathematics at the University; J. Don Garrison (center), '29bs, '36m.ed, Norman superintendent of schools, and B. E. Massey (right), '37pharm, Norman druggist, look over new plans for the Norman Future Farmers of America. All are honorary members of the Norman chapter, and serve on its advisory council.

