

Franklin F. F. A. Chapter Winning Top Award Was No Accident

Pvt. Jarrett Ledford At Virginia Fort

Pvt. Jarrett P. Ledford, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Z. Ledford, of Franklin, Route 1, recently was assigned to the 79th Engineer Group at Fort Belvoir, Va., according to the Army Home Town News Center.

A draftsman in the headquarters and service company of the group's 575th Engineer Battalion, Pvt. Ledford entered the Army in December, 1956, and took his basic training at Fort Dix, N. J.

He is a 1955 graduate of Franklin High School and prior to entering service worked for Macon Construction Company.

Minister Returns To Native Hills

Though he's 86 and in poor health, when A. P. Foster, Macon County native, felt the urge the other day to see the mountains again, he drove here alone from his home at Macon, Ga.

He is visiting his daughter, Mrs. Bill Watkins, of East Franklin.

Mr. Foster, a retired Methodist minister, left Macon County in 1917, but has returned from time to time.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Foster, he was reared on "the first farm this side of the Georgia state line", he explained.

Commenting that this might be his last trip to his native hills, he quickly added, with a chuckle, that he is "going to fight death off as long as I can. He is my enemy — and I've never shown my heels to an enemy yet."

Sfc. Scruggs Home On 30-Day Leave

Sfc. Emory L. Scruggs, of Ft. Lawton, Wash., is home on a 30-day leave. He arrived last week.

He is battalion supply sergeant with the 28th Guided Missile Battalion at Fort Lawton, where he has been stationed for nearly all of his five years in the Army. Sergeant Scruggs recently re-enlisted for six years.

With him are his wife, the former Miss Mary Sue Johnson, and their son, Harvey.

United States population in 1975 is expected to be 210 to 220 million.



North Carolina's Future Farmers Of America Chapter ... Franklin's Own 70-Member Group

Long Hours, Hard Work, Did The Job

Accomplishments Of Chapter During Year Are Reviewed

North Carolina's best Future Farmers of America chapter—Macon County's own 70-member chapter—didn't receive its high honor recently by accident.

Long hours and hard work went into it as the F.F.A. boys tackled projects ranging from taking over the county farm on US 23-441 on a lease agreement, to building flower boxes for merchants participating in a town beautification program.

And what more proof is needed of their ability to remain on top than to point out that this year's state honor is just a repeat performance of 1955. In addition, the chapter this year copped the state cooperative activities award, one as coveted as the best chapter honor.

Leases Farm

The Franklin chapter this past year took a 10-year rent-free lease on the county farm, bringing to 120 acres the total of land it is farming. The county farm was badly run down and needed plenty of attention, particularly fertilizer.

In the spring the chapter spent \$400 on fencing, building a four-foot woven wire fence around 60 acres of bottom land. Later in the year, 30 acres of hill pasture were fenced.

Through the local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation program, the chapter received all fertilizer, seed, and lime it was eligible for and this helped cut the cost of improvements.

It used 15,000 pounds of 2-12-12, 1,000 pounds of ammonium nitrate, 30 tons of lime, 40 tons of chicken manure, 600 pounds of lespedeza seed, 60 pounds of orchard grass and fescue, and eight pounds of ladino clover.

120 In Grass

The chapter goal is 120 acres in grass, with summer and winter grazing, plus hay.

Pvt. Pickens Ending Training In Texas

Pvt. Robert E. Pickens, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wade Pickens, of Franklin, Route 4, is scheduled to complete eight weeks of basic combat training with the 4th Armored Division at Fort Hood, Tex., the middle of this month, according to the Army Home Town News Center.

A 1952 graduate of Franklin High School, his wife, Mrs. Ada Pickens, also lives on Route 4.

In the spring the chapter maintained a flock of 70 sheep. Lambs were sold the last of May.

The county farm is considered ideal for sheep. It is near Franklin High School, the chapter's base of operations, and there is enough land to practice rotation grazing.

All good ewe lambs are sold to chapter members with the idea of increasing the sheep population in the county.

Lambs Are Saved

The Future Farmers constructed two large electric lamb brooders, which were used to save several lambs during real cold weather. Chapter members learned how to shear sheep by practicing on their own. Two members shear for local farmers at a charge of 50 cents. Forty cents goes to the boys and 10 cents to the chapter.

As an experiment, the chapter bred a Dorset ram to some of the Hamp ewes. It was pleased with the results. The lambs were fed separately in a creep to push them for the early market. The wool from the ewes pay for the feed they eat, so the lambs are considered clear profit and the money is used to finance seed and fencing and other improvements.

Feed Out Hogs

During 1956, the chapter fed out one group of eight hogs. Arrangements were made with the high school lunchroom for garbage to feed them. The chapter purchased corn and a protein supplement to balance their diet. The chapter cleared \$96.80 on the hogs.

During the winter and spring hogs were not fed out because the chapter had several ewes and lambs at the school and "hogs and sheep don't go together."

A purebred Yorkshire boar is kept by the chapter for breeding, both by the chapter and by farmers. No breeding fee is charged when the boar is taken to individual farms.

Win Show Honors

F.F.A. and 4-H members walked away with most of the honors at the annual W. N. C. Fat Stock Show and Sale at Enka last November. They received 16 blue ribbons and two reds. Eight calves

graded prime and 10 choice. Franklin chapter won first in the county group of the best five animals and also for the best three. Johnny Killian, an F.F.A. boy, had the reserve champion of the show and he also won first place in showmanship and fitting.

Macon County calves sold for an average of 31½ cents per pound. This was made possible by the generous support given the boys by the businessmen of the county.

Owens Two Bulls

The chapter still owns a Mill Iron Hereford bull and a Polled Hereford bull. It also keeps two Hereford bulls sponsored by the Sears chain. These bulls' services are in demand at all times.

In state competition last year, the Franklin chapter placed second in the bull breeding contest and received a Hereford heifer as a prize. She is being kept by the chapter to start a beef herd.

Enter Booths

Each agricultural class at F.H.S. put a booth in the county fair last fall and each received a blue ribbon. They collected a total of \$60 in prize money.

For six months of the school year, the F.F.A. boys did the janitorial work in the school gymnasium. For this work, the chapter received \$100 a month. Three boys did the work during their study period.

Mailbox posts and picnic tables also are being built by the chapter to help with community development work. This work is done

ing and meat cutting, sheep shearing, dehorning, castrating, lawn seeding, parasite control, and chemical weed control.

Make Flower Boxes
Twenty-five flower boxes were constructed for merchants participating in the community beautification program. The chapter cleared \$2 on each.

At no charge, the chapter prepared a barbecue supper for the Soil Conservation Service. More than 150 attended.

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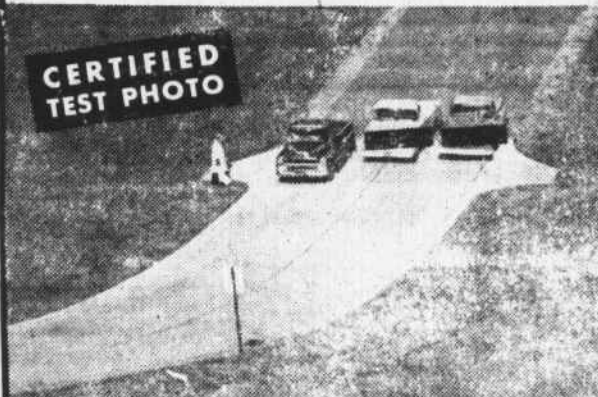


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