

## FOUR MEN AND A CAMP

Ohio FFA Camp Muskingum exists primarily because of the interests and efforts of four men:

**Mr. Ralph Howard**, first Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Ohio FFA, State Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture and Director of Vocational Education.

**Mr. Bryan P. Sandles**, Director of the Ohio State Junior Fair, 1930-46

**Mr. Trent Sickles**, Assistant to the President, F. and R. Lazarus and Co., Columbus, Ohio.

**Mr. Bryce Browning**, Secretary of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, New Philadelphia, Ohio.

**Mr. Ralph Howard** is an ardent sportsman, interested not only in hunting and fishing, but more importantly in sound conservation policies. He held the opinion that FFA members were not only interested in conservation, but were in a position to do something about it on their farms and in their local communities. **Mr. Howard** felt that a properly designed camp program would do much to further the interest of young people in conservation and develop abilities needed to carry out good conservation practices. In addition, he felt that a camp would provide many opportunities for FFA members to live and work together, develop leadership abilities and other "qualities every Future Farmer should possess".

**Mr. Bryan Sandles** invested a lifetime working with youth. In the early years of the FFA, **Mr. Sandles** developed a very high regard for the FFA organization and for FFA members and proved to be one of its very best salesmen. He too was a sportsman with fishing as one of his hobbies. He gave enthusiastic support to the idea of an FFA camp, and convinced many important leaders that the Ohio FFA was an outstanding state organization which deserved their support. Numbered among these were Messrs. **Trent Sickles**, Thomas Hayward, President of the Ohio (Ford) Tractor Company and officials of the Standard Oil Company (Ohio). It is extremely doubtful if the FFA could have developed a camp at that time without these and other friends influenced by **Mr. Sandles**.

**Mr. Trent Sickles** is an ardent conservationist who neither hunts nor fishes. However, as a Chamber of Commerce Secretary, hotel manager, and later a top executive in a large merchandising organization, **Mr. Sickles** has given a lifetime of a vocational effort in the conservation of our natural resources; promoting public parks, insuring lake and streams shorelines for public use and giving special attention to the needs of youth organizations. He has helped them secure facilities, purchase equipment and found many sources of money for scholarships to encourage camp attendance. Mr. Sickles' family believes that every camp should give major emphasis to conservation education. The prominent part that **Mr. Sickles** has played in the development of FFA Camp Muskingum is very apparent in this camp story.

Thanks to the counsel of **Mr. Bryan Sandles** and **Mr. Trent Sickles** who have given special attention to FFA members.

**Mr. Bryce Browning**, as Secretary of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, has devoted his lifetime to the development of the District and in this position became a national authority on Conservancy Districts. His goal was to operate the district in such a manner that it would not only serve as a flood control and conservation program in the broad sense, but in addition it would serve the best interests of the people in the district and in the surrounding area. Included in this was a desire to serve young people, especially in the field of conservation. Through a close friendship with **Mr. Sickles**, **Mr. Browning** learned of the FFA, the interests of these young, rural people in conservation, the opportunities they had to carry out good conservation practices and their need for education in conservation. He saw the value of a conservation oriented camp program in the FFA, their total educational program and made every effort to aid them in this effort. His part in the development of FFA Camp Muskingum is very apparent in this review.

### **EARLY FFA CAMP EFFORTS**

The 1934-35 National FFA Program of Work included a recommendation that State FFA Associations provide camps. During the thirties, several states, including Florida, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky established FFA camps. Beginning in 1935, Ohio FFA officers attended Camp Miniwanca in Michigan. This camp was established by the William H. Danforth Foundation. During this same

period, many Ohio FFA chapters organized tours and camps, indicating an interest in this type of activity.

The first recorded mention of an Ohio FFA Camp was that of the late Earl Blayney, 1935-36 State President. In 1939, Bert Showman, State Reporter, opened a discussion during an officer meeting on the possibilities of an FFA State Camp. It was felt that it was an excellent idea, but at the time the cost and available finances made the project seem an impossibility. During this year, **Trent Sickles**, Secretary of the League of Ohio Sportsmen, established a chapter award for outstanding work in Game Management. The following year, the Rausenberger Conservation Memorial Fund was established through the influence of **Mr. Sickles** with its major objective, the encouragement of youth observing good conservation practices. With this objective, the Rausenberger Fund has financed FFA Camp Awards all the years the camp has been in operation.

A National FFA Camp was opened in Alexandria, Virginia in June 1924 for use by local chapters touring the Washington area and many Ohio chapters took advantage of it. The location was the present site of the National FFA Supply Center.

In 1941, FFA State President, Eugene Junkin, gave enthusiastic support to the camp idea and a resolution favoring the setting of an FFA State Camp was adopted, provided plans could be arranged for financing and program planning. Eugene continued to support the camp idea until his term ended. Unfortunately, Eugene Junkin lost his life during a bombing mission during World War II. During this time the FFA Chapter Advisors were also discussing a State FFA Camp and while the reactions were almost unanimously favorable, financing seemed impossible.

Coincidentally, the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District was organized during this period, primarily to control flood waters in the Muskingum River. Passage of the United States Public Works Program in 1933 made this possible. But this Conservancy District was interested in more than flood control. It sought to develop recreation and conservation facilities, which would create maximum public benefits, including ten conservation pools or lakes which would provide locations for campsites, bathing beaches, picnic and other similar facilities. Hunting and fishing rights on the 16,000 acres of lakes and 35,000 acres of adjoining lands have been leased to the Ohio Division of Conservation in a contract drawn up by **Mr. Sickles** and Mr. Finfrock, Dean

of the Western Reserve Law School. Also, the area between the two areas of Leesville Lake was dedicated to the youth of Ohio to be used exclusively for youth camp site purposes. To date, 15 youth and church camps have been built on Muskingum Conservancy District Lakes.

In the development of these concepts, and later in their implementation, Browning and Sickles worked together very closely. They effected a change in the Federal Laws, which enabled the Army Engineer's program to include conservation and recreation. They secured the cooperation and support of the Ohio Division of Conservation. They were responsible for reserving the "inside" of Leesville Lake for youth camp purposes. They led the fight to secure the maximum in public benefits from the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District.

Again, coincidentally, the National Youth Administration(NYA) was established by the U.S. Government. This was a depression era effort to get unemployed, young men off the streets and into job training programs. The procedure was to establish camp centers to give this training in all trades and this included Agriculture and Conservation. Messrs. **Sickles** and **Browning** learned of this and through their efforts the Muskingum District offered the NYA officials a site for a camp free of charge. This was offered with the provision that, if and when the NYA was discontinued, the NYA camp buildings would become the property of the MWCD, to be used for youth education in Conservation. The fact that this was the only contract of this type in the nation, which contained this clause, reflects the foresight and resourcefulness of Messrs **Sickles** and **Browning**. As a result, these fine facilities have been used since 1944 for FFA leadership training and education in conservation instead of being dismantled with little value resulting.

The building of the NYA Camp on Leesville Lake stimulated action among FFA officers and advisors. A committee of the two groups was appointed early in 1941. The members were:

Advisors:

Ralph E. Burdick, Fremont/Sandusky  
 Ralph Grimshaw, Whiteoak/Highland  
 Dale Friday, Belleville/Richland  
 C.T. Newsom, Trey Twp/Athens  
 Marion Wallace, Germantown/Montgomery

FFA Officers (1941-42):

Carl Fought, Past President  
 Eugene Junkin Jr, President  
 Charles Might, Vice President  
 Merle Voris, Exec Comm  
 George Hansel, Exec Comm

D.L. Martin, Forest-Jackson/Hardin

FFA State Office:

**Ralph A. Howard**, Advisor

Warren G. Weiler, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

The first meeting of the committee was called to order by Mr. Ralph Burdick on February 28th, 1941 and plans for effecting a camp organization were discussed with **Trent Sickles** and Dean Finrock of the Western Reserve Law College. Warren Weiler, FFA Executive Secretary, made a report of other FFA Camps and told something concerning the programs that were developed. Members of the committee were divided into groups to discuss various phases of the proposed camp. It was decided that the next meeting should be held at the site of the proposed camp and that all teachers would be invited to attend.

On July 18, 1941 a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Ohio Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association was called by President Ralph Burdick, now deceased, at the Deshler-Wallick Hotel in connection with a "Friends of the Land" meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the possibilities of developing an FFA Camp. **Mr. Bryce Browning**, Secretary of the MWCD, was asked to explain the development of the District and the nature of the NYA Camp. He explained that the NYA had a lease for eight years and that when they leave the buildings will (probably) be left.

**Mr. Sickles** suggested that the NYA could probably build an FFA camp if materials for the camp were furnished. The only cost for the site to the FFA would be the taxes, probably \$25,000 to \$50,000 per year.

**Mr. Howard**, State Advisor, was asked to chair a roundtable discussion on the proposed camp.

In the opening discussion, **Howard** said:

1. A camp would be an excellent place for leadership training and to study all phases of conservation.
2. The NYA Center would offer the best means of building our camp we may have.
3. It must be a "pay as we go" project and not incur a debt.
4. The OVATA and the Ohio Association of FFA might be able to help with taxes and donate some money.
5. The District Chairmen must secure a definite expression from all advisors.

It was decided that the District Chairmen secure the reactions of advisors in all

Districts to a proposal that:

Chapters with membership under 25 pay	\$5.00
Chapters with membership between 25 and 35 pay	7.00
Chapters with membership over 35 pay	10.00
All Teachers, Teacher Trainers, and Supervisors pay	1.00

A committee of four teachers was authorized to assist with the planning and developing of the camp. The members of the committee were:

C.T. Newsom	D.L. Martin
Dale Friday	M.W. Wallace

In accordance with plans made February 29, 1941, the Executive Committee met October 4, 1941 at the NYA Camp on Leesville Lake, adjacent to the camp site offered to the FFA by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. Ralph Burdick chaired the meeting. All FFA advisors were invited to attend and a total of 90 attended the meeting, including **Sandles, Sickles and Browning**.

The morning was used to observe the NYA operation and learn more about the operation of the District and the nature of Leesville Lake which would be filled by early

1942. It was pointed out where the FFA buildings could be built, with reference to the waterline, and just southwest of the NYA buildings. Some additional understandings were reached:

The NYA road could be extended to the FFA camp site by NYA labor.

The REA line could be extended to furnish electricity.

**Mr. Sandles** suggested that FFA Chapters make a drive for dead chestnut logs and ask for the aid of State and County trucks to haul them.

Captain Larrison, Director of the NYA Center, offered to saw the logs and house the FFA boys while they build the buildings.

The FFA Camp could utilize the existing water and sewage systems, granting that the costs were shared.

Chairman Burdick asked the District Chairmen regarding reactions received in District meetings and all chairmen reported a 100% favorable vote. Through formal action the following decisions were made:

Secretary Warren G. Weiler was authorized to write letters to MWCD Directors and ask for a site of land adjacent to the NYA Camp.

Ask FFA Chapters to contribute money for the camp at the following annual rates for three years:

Chapters with membership under 25 pay	\$5.00
Chapters with membership between 25 and 35 pay	7.50
Chapters with membership over 35 pay	10.00
Teachers pay	1.00
Supervisors and Teacher Trainers Pay	2.00

Authorize the Camp Committee to include the following teachers: C.T. Newsom, Dale Friday, D.L. Martin and M.W. Wallace. That a camp organization be formed and when a sufficient amount of money was raised, construction should begin.

Soon after the October 4, 1941 meeting, steps were taken to organize Ohio FFA Camps Inc., a nonprofit corporation which could administer the the business and

program of FFA Camps effectively. **Mr. Sickles** obtained, without cost, the legal services of C.M. Finfrock, Dean of the Western Reserve Law School to prepare incorporation papers. It will be noted that the name of the organization specifies “Camps rather than Camp”. This was by design as it was thought that the FFA might have more than one camp, perhaps in different parts of the state.

Dean Finfrock prepared the Articles of Incorporation and Ralph Burdick, **Ralph Howard** and Warren Weiler were named as subscribers to the Articles, desiring to form a Corporation, not for profit, in accordance with the general corporation laws of the state of Ohio under the name and style of Ohio Future Farmers of America Camps Inc., with all the corporate rights, powers, privileges and liabilities conferred or imposed by such laws, subscribed and acknowledged certain Articles of Incorporation.

These Articles of Incorporation were accepted in a meeting held December 16, 1941 and were filed on December 18, 1941 in the office of the Secretary of State Of Ohio. Concurrently with the filing, the incorporations appointed Warren G. Weiler as the agent of the corporation upon whom process tax notices and demands against the corporation may be served. To hasten the process of incorporating, a procedure known as “Record of Proceedings of Incorporators”, was followed. Dean Finfrock also prepared a Code of Regulation for the Ohio FFA Camps, Inc. These were adopted during the June 5, 1942 meeting.

In April 1942, a poll by mail was made of the Camp Executive Committee to determine whether plans for the camp should be carried forward. Details regarding probable costs of construction, amount of money on hand, sources of materials and other details were sent to the members. The returns showed an unanimous vote in favor of going ahead. With the formal organization of Ohio FFA Camps, Inc. underway

publicity was given the effort and contributions started. The first State Camp Section in the Ohio Future Farmer appears in the September 1941 issue. It states that Ohio Future Farmers have frequently expressed a desire for a camp, but that finances seemed too much of a problem. However, **Bryce Browning**, of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District offered a tract of land at little cost and NYA officials from the nearby NYA camp offered construction labor so a camp seemed a possibility. The article states: "Such a camp presents a wonderful opportunity, not only for a recreational program for Future Farmers each year, but also for officer training meetings and for a study of nature and of conservation practices."

The October issue of the Ohio Future Farmer discussed further developments which seemed to an Ohio FFA Camp a reality. Of perhaps more value was the fact that contributions started, the St. Marys Chapter, Mr. E. G. Hasler; Paul Pulse Advisor at Mowrystown, Ralph Grimshaw sent the first check, a \$7.50 contribution. **Bryan Sandles**, soon to follow, Junior Fair Manager, and a staunch supporter of the FFA, donated \$28.00, the first individual contributor. D. R. Purkey and Ralph Grimshaw were the first advisors to contribute.

The November issue of the Ohio Future Farmer stated that 15 other FFA Associations had state camps and that they had been paid for by chapter and individual subscriptions. The camp layout was discussed, including camp buildings, and that the committee felt \$4,000 would be a minimum amount to have on hand when actual building was started. The program possibilities included conservation, leadership training, service and recreation, and the first camp was planned for the summer of 1942. The first reservation was received in November from the Carroll Chapter, R. W.

Kenreich, Advisor. A total of \$487.50 in contributions had been received by December 1, 1942.

In December 1941, two FFA officers, Eugene Junkin, President, and Carl Fought, past President, and Warren Weiler visited the Kentucky and Tennessee FFA Camps to study types of buildings, equipment, programs and camp organization. Following the visit, Eugene wrote: "I feel that Kentucky should be complimented on their fine camp. I hope that our association will be able to offer its members the same opportunities in the form of a state camp as other associations do in the very near future. It is toward that goal that your officers are working."

By January 1, 1942, a total of \$804.00 in contributions had been received. By February 1, it was \$1, 077.00; March 1, \$1,500.50 and by April, \$1,820.00.

However, at this point all new building, for non-essential purposes was stopped by presidential decree as a war emergency. This prevented going ahead with the building of new units, a fortunate development in the light of what was to transpire later.

However, the FFA was encouraged by **Sickles** to find a way to start a camp program in the face of the emergency. The purpose of this was to have a camp organization and some experience in operating a camp if and when the NYA program was discontinued. This counsel proved extremely wise and in less than two years the NYA was discontinued and a lease for the spacious facility was offered to the FFA and gratefully accepted.

A way to proceed with a camp program in 1942 without new construction was provided by the MWCD, in the form of a set of farm buildings, with permission to remodel to suit the convenience of the FFA. This plan was studied by a committee of supervisors, together with **Sandles, Sickles**, and A. W. Short, Game Management

Commissioner, Ohio Conservation Division. After full consideration, it was decided that the only way the FFA could have a camp in 1942 was to remodel the buildings if labor could be secured at a minimum cost.

These facts were presented to the Camp Executive Committee on June 5, 1942 and approval was given to a plan whereby advisors would voluntarily supply the labor, that mileage at 3 cents per mile would be paid advisors who would transport groups of workers and that the camp fund would pay for food for the workers while at camp and for necessary materials and supplies.

Actual remodeling of the farm building to be used for a camp was started June 10, 1942 when the first of six groups of advisors arrived at work. The plan was for a group to come each week, early on Tuesday, work three long days and return home late on Thursday. Four meals per day were served and the men worked from daylight to dark.

The plan was to use the basement of the barn for a kitchen and dining room. The main floor served for assembly and recreation purposes and the second floor for sleeping purposes. A second and smaller barn was remodeled for sleeping purposes, a second floor being added. The house provided space for an office and sleeping quarters for the staff. A latrine was built and much cleaning up was done following the demolition of small buildings not usable for camp purposes. However, much remained to be done when the first campers arrived. Included in the camp program was a two hour period each day for "service" whatever needed to be done.

The accommodations for the workers during the remodeling were something less than adequate. The first meals were prepared over an open fire in the yard. Dr. Elton Rhoad, Professor of Agricultural Education, was head chef, assisted by R. D. Clymer and

R. W. Guinther. During the first periods, one meal per day was served to the group at the NYA Center.

After the meals, each washed his own dishes. Sleeping quarters were arranged to suit the would-be sleeper. Some slept in the house, others under the stars, some in the barn. A rain caused a slight inconvenience to some the first night. Some sleepers complained about the tactics used by the larger mosquitoes. At daybreak, the men were up waiting for enough light to resume work. The hours were long and the work hard and dirty. A dip in the lake was a treat in the evening. But no one complained because they seemed to enjoy the three days of work, new friends, and the satisfaction which comes from helping on a worthwhile project. Enthusiasm was the order of the day. The advisors showed market abilities in many fields and their ability to improvise in unusual and difficult situations was a credit to the advisors.

It is difficult to list all of those who helped, but a majority of the advisor names, school/county follow. \* indicates more than one week:

First Group—June 10, 11, and 12:

R. W. Wells\* - Nashville and Glenmont/Holmes (first to arrive)

Southeast Ohio

Joe E. Parrish – Freeport/Harrison

Harland T. Martin – Gallipolis/Galia

C. Tom Newsom – Trey Twp/Athens

J. W. Clark – Chardon/Geauga

G. D. Whetstone – Salt Creek Rural/Muskingum

Central Ohio

R. W. Guinther – Union Rural/Richland

H. C. Bernhard – Harlem Twp & Sunberry/Delaware

E. R. Smith – Delaware/Delaware

C. R. Fridline – Orange Rural & Berlin Twp/Delaware

E. F. Coleman – Unknown

R. D. Clymer – Clairbourne Richwood & Liberty/Union

### Western Ohio

H. E. Slager – Sidney/Shelby  
 John Smith – Unknown  
 Robert Mallow – Unknown  
 John H. Leonard –Van Wert/Van Wert  
 Robert Farst – Willshire & Wren/Van Wert  
 Paul Mechling – Mad River & Concord Twp/Champaign  
 H. H. Austermilller – Unknown

### North Central Ohio

L. M. Bratton – Tiro/Crawford  
 J. Ralph Harner – Sulphur Springs & N Robinson/Crawford  
 Lewis J. Winegardner – Holmes-Liberty/Crawford  
 Wilbur L. Beach – Lykens & Chatfield/Crawford  
 F. T. Grimm – Nevada & Eden/Wyandot

### Northern Ohio

T. F. Wonderling – Old Fort/Seneca  
 T. G. Vickery \* – Gibsonburg/Sandusky  
 W. F. Stevens – Risingsun/Wood  
 M. L. Ransom - Unknown  
 C. R. Cattell - Unknown  
 Elbert Hargesheimer - Unknown

Messrs. **Ralph Howard\***, E. O. Bolender\* and Warren Weiler\* from the State Staff served as “flunkies, orderlies, and general “routabouts”.

This group tore down old buildings and cleaned the reusable lumber. The Carrollton Future Farmers had hauled about three feet of manure from the barn basement. The advisors cleaned the floor and walls, sealed the ceiling to keep dust and dirt from sifting down from the barn floor above and poured concrete in the area with a dirt floor.

### Second Group – June 17, 18, and 19:

H. C. Ruggles – Holmes-Liberty/Crawford  
 George H. Krill – Ashland/Ashland  
 Nelson Beam – Loudonville/Ashland

Robert R. Hammett – Ruggles & Troy Twp/Ashland  
 J. K. Wells- Savannah-Clearcreek-Butler/Ashland  
 D. L. Martin – Forest-Jackson/Hardin  
 A. D. Reuwee – Wharton & Salem Twp/Wyandot  
 Harold W. Morehead – McCutchenville & Sycamore/Wyandot  
 L. D. Schuler - Unknown  
 G. F. Fuller – Killbuck & Clark/Holmes  
 D. R. Purkey\* – Wauseon/Fulton  
 Dale T Friday – Belleville & Butler Village/Richland  
 D. L. Coffman – Chester-Franklin/Morrow  
 Lawrence Sarbaugh - Unknown  
 R. Stark Beard- College-Gambier & Howard/Knox  
 Thomas A. Wheeler- Danville/Knox  
 R. E. Kibbey - Unknown  
 M. T. Monson – Vanlue & Liberty/Hancock  
 Lloyd Lutz - Unknown  
 Fred O. Abel – Carey/Wyandot  
 E. J. Ball – Piketon/Pike  
 Wayne E Wilson - Mendon-Union/Mercer

State Staff: Dr. Harold Kenestrick\*(OSU) & Warren Weiler\*

During this week, D. R. Purkey served very capably as chef, using the newly remodeled “kitchen” in the barn basement. Electricity was not available so kerosene and gasoline stoves and an ice refrigerator had to serve. Quantity water was heated over an open fire in the yard. Deluxe sleeping accommodations were cots set up on the barn basement floor and when Chef Purkey started operating at daylight, further sleep was impossible. During this week, forms for the foundation for the latrine were built and concrete poured. The concrete was mixed in a small barrel type mixer, powered by a gasoline engine. A grease trap and leaching bed for kitchen waste were completed.

Third Group – June 24, 25 and 26:

J. W. Dunbar – Marion Local/Morgan  
 R. E. Detrich – Salem Liberty/Washington  
 W. A. Gillogly – Penn Rural/Morgan  
 H H. Loxley – Westfield Rural/Washington  
 B. E. Snyder – Damascus Twp & Malinta-Grelton/Henry  
 A. C. Beasley\* – Burbank & Creston/Wayne

C. E. Stout - Unknown  
 G. W. Newburn – Ames-Bern/Athens  
 E. E. Kinney – Buckland/Auglaize  
 E. J. Koenig – Ridge Twp & York/Van Wert  
 K. E. Riker = Shawnee Rural/Allen  
 Paul Hartsook- Oregon/Lucas  
 Charles E Hootman- Lake Twp/Wood  
 Ira E. Jump – Jackson Twp/Sandusky  
 T. G. Vickery – Gibsonburg/Sandusky  
 Stanley I. Tschantz- Margaretta Rural/Erie  
 Ralph M. White – Brighton & Camden Twp/Lorain  
 T. O. Bascom – Milan Rural/Erie  
 Robert Meade –Woodville/Sandusky  
 L. R. Clark – Chardon/Geauga  
 R. C. Hackenbracht- Orwell & New Lyme/Ashtabula  
 E. P. Watkins – Austinburg/Ashtabula  
 D. P. Troendly –Utica-Washington/Licking  
 B. F. Morris – Hartford Twp & Johnstown/Licking  
 A. W. Cochran – Somerset-Reading/Perry  
 M. H. Hamilton – Glenford-Hopewell & Thorneville/Perry

State Staff(OSU): Dr. W. F. Stewart, Dr C. E. Rhoad & A. C. Kennedy\*-Farm Shop Tch Educator

State Staff: Warren Weiler\*

The head chef, during this week, was Professor C. E. Rhoad, assisted by Dr. W. F. Stewart. During this week, much of the latrine was built. Professor Kennedy was the chief advisor during this period in determining stress and strains, cutting rafters and giving technical advice as the overhead sleeping quarters were built and outside fire escapes installed.

Fourth Group – July 1, 2, and 3:

H. H. Warner – Arlington/Hancock  
 John V. Henderson – McComb & Rawson/Hancock  
 R. W. Wells\* - Nashville and Glenmont/Holmes  
 J. D. Fitzgerald – Scio/Harrison  
 H. E. Drum\* – Carrollton/Carroll  
 Montford Finincum – Scio/Harrison (FFA member)

Reo Burgoon

State Staff: Warren Weiler\*

Mrs. Burgoon and Mrs. Weiler were the chefs for this week, giving the 'fare' a feminine touch. During this week floors were laid, doors hung, the kitchen painted to give it respectability.

Fifth Group – July 9 and 10:

A. B. Augsberger – Ada/Hardin  
 J. W. Matz- Lafayette-Jackson/Allen  
 N. W. Wallace – Germantown/Montgomery  
 Leon Boucher – Montpelier/Williams  
 J. E. Dougan - McArthur/Vinton  
 Russell Doepfer – Alger Future Farmer  
 L. B. Smith – Bryan/Williams  
 W. P. Rawn – Jefferson Twp & Plain Twp/Franklin  
 L. O. Walker – Bennington Rural & S. Bloomfield/Morrow  
 D. R. Purkey\* - Wauseon/Fulton “Chef for the second time”

During this week floors were laid, screens installed, the kitchen painting completed, ventilators installed and general cleanup work done.

Sixth Group -- July 24 and 25

H. E. Drum\* – Carrollton/Carroll  
 L. O. Stafford – Minerva/Stark  
 A. J. Bishop – Harpster-Little Sandusky & Morral/Wyandot  
 M. E. Schmidt – Pleasant Twp/Marion  
 S. A. Mawer –Mt. Victory-Ridgeway Taylor/Hardin  
 John L. Borton – Marseilles Rural & Upper Sandusky/Wyandot  
 L. A. Basinger – Willard & New Haven/Huron  
 J. H. Bacon – New London/Huron  
 R. W. Wells\* - Nashville and Glenmont/Holmes  
 P. H. Rinkes – Canal Fulton/Stark  
 H. M. Doyle – Wooster/Wayne  
 A. C. Beasley\* - Burbank & Creston/Wayne  
 H. S. Smith – Stokes Twp & Washington/Logan  
 D. H. Scott - Sugar Creek Twp/Wayne

Eugene Junkin Jr-FFA State President

State Staff(OSU): Dr. H. G. Kenestrick\*, A. C. Kennedy\*.

State Staff: **Ralph Howard\***, E. O. Bolender\*, Warren Weiler\*, R. D. Burgoon

Mrs. Burgoon, Mrs. Howard and Frank Hammill, a graduate student, served the meals, which were of the usual high standard. This group completed many projects previously started and also installed counters, shelves in the kitchen, put equipment in place and got the facilities in reasonably good condition for the first group of campers. A well had been drilled by the Ohio Department of Conservation and a pump purchased and installed with camp funds so the hauling of drinking water was no longer necessary. It was necessary to pump the well for 12 hours and this was done by hand, with men pumping in shifts, as electricity was not available.

The Carroll County Commissioners and County Engineer, Donald R, Blythe, were very supportive by grading and improving the road to our camp.

The amount expended from the FFA Camp Fund for remodeling the farm buildings and for equipment follows:

Alteration materials	\$ 483.29
Grounds Improvement	83.17
Food for workers	353.70
Travel for workers	299.66
Equipment	<u>1284.47</u>
TOTAL	\$2504.29

Bill Windsor, an employee of ODC, went above and beyond and laid brick and tile, hauled drain tile, found food sources, brought a large ice refrigerator and a portable electric light plant to camp. Whatever the difficulty, Bill always had a solution. He was practically a staff member. Bill has passed away, but his services will always be remembered by those who struggled to get the FFA Camp show on the road.

Others helped in many ways. J. R. Benjamin, of the Conservation Department helped with the drawing of plans. A. W. Short, Chief of Game Management, Ohio Division of Conservation and a former FFA Advisor, gave much time in helping to plan for the camp and helped make available men from the Soil, Water and Forestry Divisions to assist with demonstrations and the instructional program. **Sickles** gave a truck load of equipment, including 125 folding chairs, show cases, kitchen equipment, tables, etc.

The Isaac Walton League, a national organization of public minded men and women, interested in the preservation of the outdoors, sent a check for \$100.00. In a letter of transmittal, this statement was included:

“The Members of the league believe that for a democracy to live, its citizens farseeing; that conservation of natural resources is the most important, longtime problem before our nation. Thus, it becomes imperative that the Youth of our Beloved Land shall grow up strong in body, mind and soul, with a deep abiding love for an enjoyment of God’s outdoors. This means that they should be properly instructed in all phases of true conservation. These are some of the reasons why the Isaac Walton League is much interested in helping the Future Farmers of America.”

The first FFA Camp session opened Sunday, August 2, 1942 and ended Saturday, August 8, with two similar periods following, closing on August 22. Reo Burgoon, a teacher in North High School, Columbus, was the first Camp Manager. His experience with Hi-Y and Boy Scout Camps and his training and experience as a medical officer in World War I were of especial value in organizing and conducting the camp program. Also his experience in conducting group discussions proved valuable. Burgoon did an excellent job as a business manager and program director. His efficiency was shown by the fact that the total camp charge was \$5.00 for six days and all had plenty of good food to eat. The balance at the end of the three week period was \$4.63. A part of this was due to the efficiency of our Chef, Mrs. Mary Jay, Manager of the Worthington School cafeteria. Mrs. Jay served as camp chef for 23 years, when it was her desire to retire.

The camp program was slightly different that first year. Two hours of service were given by each camper each day, peeling potatoes, washing dishes, mowing weeds, and cleaning up the campgrounds. A discussion or a field trip on some phase of conservation followed. During the afternoon, the discussions and demonstrations pertained to guns, fishing tackle, swimming, boating, sports, etc. The evening program usually pertained to some phase of conservation with one evening for a vesper program by fire on a rather high hill.

After visiting the camp, A. W. Short, Chief of Game Management wrote a letter sharing his thoughts:

“Flag of the USA floating in the breeze \*\*\* impressed with general appearance of the camp \*\*\* hard work, sweat and a cooperative spirit was evident \*\*\* food was wholesome \*\*\* kitchen, dining room, lecture room and sleeping quarters showed evidence of pride \*\*\* respect for speakers, reflection of a good home, school and church training \*\*\* absolute lack of griping \*\*\* The training, guidance and inspiration these

FFA boys receive at their camp will cause them to work out a sounder mental, social, physical, economic and spiritual world for themselves and their children \*\*\* it takes the open outdoor camp to help build a faith in God, confidence in our fellow man and a humble faith in our own abilities.”

During the three weeks a total of 225 FFA members came to the camp, along with 28 counselors. Men who helped with the camp program included: Messrs. Curtis and Garritt of the MWCD; O. A. Alderman, State Forester; Fred Salter, Guy Conrey, and Earl Jones of the Agricultural Extension Service; Scott Garbry, J. R. Benjamin, Ted Ramsey, Game Management Agents; Mark White, Fish Management Agent; R. D. Lewis, Ohio State University.

The first group to arrive and register for camp were the Dresden Future Farmers, Mr. R. G. McMurray, advisor. The State FFA Officers met at the camp August 10 and 11. The County Commissioners visited the camp one day and had dinner with the campers. Many complimentary comments and letters were received from the campers following their return home. Some comments follow:

Cletus Schmeising, state officer from Minster:

“It is needless to say that our camp was a great success. A much better success than almost anyone had anticipated, even though there are still many improvements to be made. This marvelous success was only possible through the help and assistance of a few kind men and helpful organizations.”

Ralph Braus, Sulfur Springs:

“The conservation field trips in the morning were very helpful to the boys in learning the names of plants and trees and how to preserve the farm woodlots and wildlife. Also, the boys learned how to build feeding stations and birdhouses. The work period in the afternoon helped build up the camp very much. It was only an hour long and it could have been longer. During that period we hauled ground, cleaned up paper, tin and boards and mowed weeds. When we left the camp looked a lot better.”

In 1946, the Standard Oil Company (Ohio) financed a Memory Book for campers. Four camps had been held, two in the remodeled set of farm buildings and two in the NYA camp, with comparatively luxurious facilities. This bit of camp history is found in the forward of the Memory Book:

### **OUR FIRST CAMP**

“Five years ago when we, as Future Farmers, began our program in an abandoned set of farm buildings, little did anyone think that in a few short years we would be

enjoying camp facilities as pretentious as these found here at Camp Muskingum. That humble start was made possible through the courtesy of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District and with the assistance of **Bryan Sandles, Bryce Browning, and Trent Sickles.**

In this original camp site, located across the lake and which we used two years, the kitchen and dining hall was the basement of what had been a dairy barn. The first floor of the barn was the assembly hall. The hay loft and an adjacent machinery shed served as dorms. The buildings were remodeled by FFA Advisors with funds furnished by chapters, advisors, and friends.

A portable electric light plant furnished electricity for lighting. A dug well furnished water for dishwashing and drinking water was pumped by hand from a well drilled with the assistance of the Ohio Department of Conservation. The County Commissioners from Carroll County cooperated in grading and improving the road to the camp. Refrigeration was provided through a borrowed box with the ice hauled by car and boat. Water was heated in a drum over an open fire. These facilities were crude, but the spirit and enthusiasm of the campers was excellent. The limited quarters made close friends and that first camp was left rather regretfully. However, our larger quarters at Camp Muskingum makes possible a camp program more in keeping with the outstanding work done by Ohio Future Farmers in other phases of our program.”

Also in this same Memory Book, published in 1946 this is found:

“We are fortunate to have camp facilities as complete as those found here at Camp Muskingum. Our water system and our sewage disposal plant compare favorably with those found in many small towns. An adequate supply of hot water for showers and kitchen use a luxury found in few camps. Our dining hall is large and well ventilated. Our dormitories are not crowded. A roomy electrical refrigerator is provided for the safe storage of large quantities of food. A dishwasher and a potato peeler add to the comforts of life at Camp Muskingum.

We are fortunate too, in having extensive areas of land available for hikes and for the study of problems in conservation. We have excellent facilities for boating and swimming and while August is a poor month for fishing, Leesville Lake is well known for catches taken during favorable seasons of the year.

All of this is available to Ohio Future Farmers through the cooperation of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, the Division of Conservation and the Division of Vocational Agriculture. These buildings were constructed by the Federal Government for use as an NYA camp. When the work of this agency ended, the building became the property of the Conservancy District and this organization, through its secretary, Bryce Browning, made them available to Ohio Future Farmers for leadership training purposes and education in conservation.

It is our obligation to care for these buildings and facilities while we are here and as we leave, resolve that what we have learned here will be used to improve ourselves, our home farms and the communities in which we live.”

Plans for continuing and improving the camp program continued throughout the 1942-43 school year. Chapters continued to contribute with approximately 64% of the



The Camp Board of Trustees met June 9, 1943 to make a decision regarding a 1943 camp following a mail survey of advisors. It was decided that a camp be held for one week if reservations with deposit fees was 100 or less and that it be for two weeks if these reservations numbered 150. The camp fee for six days was increased from \$5.00 to \$6.50.

Reservations exceeded to 150 and two weeks of camp were held with a total of 225 attending from 47 chapters during the weeks of August 16 and 23. The camp facilities had been improved by the MWCD tree planters. A water pressure system had been installed with a hot water heater so a shower was available. Also the portable electric light plant, which previously had worked at its own convenience, ran perfectly.

Conservation with its related vocational activities was the central theme of the program. This included a study of the care of farm woodlots, soil and water conservation, fish management and and nature trails. Vocational activities included instruction in first-aid, plant & animal identification, swimming, boating, the use of guns, fishing tackle, and photography. The campers were divided into 13 groups with campers from a chapter assigned to different groups. A group leader was elected to assume the usual camp responsibilities. The charge given the leaders were:

“Remember - one of the major objectives in our camp program is to develop leadership. You have been selected to serve as a leader. To do this, you will need to show initiative, to be resourceful and dependable and at all times be willing to accept responsibility. Let each of you demonstrate that your group showed good judgement in selecting you as a leader.”

Another important outcome of the camp program was the exchange of ideas regarding chapter programs, what was included and how the program was implemented.

Food is always an important part of camp, and with Mrs. Jay as the chef, food was always plentiful and tasty. Again campers helped with the preparation, serving, and dishwashing. The songs of the dishwashers and the “Onion Peelers Quartet” under Dale Friday’s direction testified to the fact that these menial jobs weren’t so distasteful after all. Twenty gallons of good jersey milk were furnished each day by a former Future Farmer, James Lerch. The Lerch’s were outstanding farmers in the community with good conservation practices. At the close of the camp period, camp equipment was stored in a garage rented in Sherrodsville.

The U.S. Congress failed to appropriate funds for the continuation of the National Youth Administration program beyond June 30, 1943. Therefore, because of the unusual provision included in the Muskingum lease by **Trent Sickles**, the camp facility became the property of the MWCD. On July 2, **Bryce Browning** called the state office to ask when the FFA wanted to take over the camp property. With little hesitations, the FFA accepted although a number of factors made the use of the camp during the 1943 season impossible. Therefore, the 1943 FFA Camp remained in the old facility.

While there was no question regarding the title to the buildings, the disposition of the equipment was not included in the lease. The cost of equipment for a camp built to house 400 people would be considerable and would be a real task for the FFA. Again, **Trent Sickles** found a way. He and **Mr. Howard** went to the Cincinnati office of the U.S. Treasury Department, the office responsible for the disposition of surplus government property and asked the officials to make the equipment available to the FFA for educational purposes. The immediate reaction was negative, officials believing this was impossible. After considerable pressure from **Trent Sickles**, except for some items difficult to get and needed for the war effort, the treasury officials consented to "loan" the equipment to the State Department of Education, Vocational Agriculture Service. This "loan" was made permanent after a comparatively brief period of time. The only items retained for use by the Army were the dishes and silverware and hospital equipment and some kitchen equipment.

The exact value of the camp land, buildings and equipment that has been made available to the FFA has never been determined. However, it probably was well over \$1,000,000.00 and a delay in opening the camp while a camp was being built was not necessary. It is extremely doubtful if the FFA could have ever financed facilities as adequate as those now being used at Camp Muskingum. FFA members in Ohio should be forever grateful for the continuing lease which assures the future lease of the camp at a very nominal rate.

However, after a survey of the camp facilities by the FFA Camp Board it was decided that not all were needed. They were built to house a minimum of 400 and board members felt that a maximum of 300 would be optimum for the type of FFA camp program planned and not all of the buildings would be needed. Furthermore, other youth groups were planning to build camps in the vicinity and they needed assistance;

therefore, three dormitories, administration building and several shop buildings were shared with Camp Aldersgate (above FFA Camp Muskingum), Camp Firebird (old FFA Camp site) and 4-H Camp Piedmont on Piedmont Lake in Belmont County.

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