

# FFA-IAA Studies American Heritage

Nearly 300 young men from 60 Illinois counties listened attentively as Kent Slater, president, Illinois Future Farmers of America, talked rapidly, quietly, sincerely.

He was discussing his convictions concerning this land and its heritage of freedom. He spoke in an auditorium on the Illinois State University campus at Normal during the closing session of the three-day fifth annual Future Farmers of America-Illinois Agricultural Association conference.

You could have heard a pin drop. Kent, well known to Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative members, was saying some of the things he had said earlier to an Illinois REA reporter—and he meant every word.

"THESE YOUNG PEOPLE are FFA leaders from throughout the state," he had told the reporter. "They're leaders in their schools and in their communities. They're learning. They're developing. They're reaching solid convictions that they want to share with others in their efforts to make their communities, their state and their nation even better.

"They're developing an even more intense appreciation of their American heritage and the American way of life.

"They're learning more about their rights of free speech, worship, work, opportunity, their rights to compete, to go into business, to own property and to make a profit.

"They're learning more about

Ken Cheatham of IAA chats with Lloyd Bridge (left), Taylor Ridge, and Russell Shepherd, South Beloit.



Hank Chamberlain, Producers Seed Co. sales manager, and some of his FFA friends. From left are Ron Scherer, Olney; Ralph Endress, Williamsfield; Kent Slater and Mr. Chamberlain; Tom Fisher, Lawrenceville and Mike McElvain, Bushnell.

their rights to enjoy the benefits of cooperative efforts. They. . . ."

"Wait a minute," interrupted the reporter. "I agree with all this but some people seem to think that cooperatives are bad, that they're somehow alien and even unpatriotic. What do you say to that?"

KENT, an intense, quiet-spoken and usually courteous young man, gave the reporter a quick look, smiled and continued:

"Some people mistakenly believe that cooperatives of any kind are a threat to other types of free enterprise businesses. That just isn't true.

"Cooperatives aren't tax exempt. They pay their way. They usually are set up to provide a service not otherwise available or that can better be performed for themselves, by themselves.

"Cooperatives don't compete with free enterprise. They don't destroy free enterprise. They're part of our great free enterprise system. They help make sure that this free enterprise system continues.

"We'd be in pretty sad shape without such cooperatives as those of the Farm Bureau and the Illinois rural electric groups set up under the Rural Electrification Administration."

KEN CHEATHAM, director of young people's activities, IAA, said the conference emphasized the importance of the "American way of life." This was defined as "a social system built upon the foundation of faith in God and a consequent belief in the importance of the individual, with a governmental system anchored to the United States Constitution and with a private capital economic system."

In one major address, Dale E. Butz, FS Service, Inc., director of

economic research, emphasized the importance of advanced training for all young people. He warned that students can jeopardize their equality of job opportunities—part of their American heritage, by failing to obtain a good education.

William Kuhfuss, IAA president, addressed the young people during the annual banquet in the IAA cafeteria. Other IAA and affiliated organizations representatives also participated in the conference.



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# Illini Electric News



Illini Electric Cooperative

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## Annual Meeting Time Again



### 1964 GUEST SPEAKER

*Psychologist  
World Traveler  
Lecturer*



Dr. Henry Rodgers

We are especially fortunate this year to have as a guest speaker the world-renowned psychologist, Dr. Henry Rodgers, whose topic will be "Larger Plows and Less Farmers." Dr. Rodgers is the author of several of our leading books on the human aspect of many of the problems of our society. He is a world traveler and lecturer—one of America's great platform speakers. You won't want to miss this timely message.

Pictured above is a group of the cooperative's annual meeting last year. We hope you can locate yourself in the picture. More important at this time, however, is to arrange your schedule such that you can attend your Annual Meeting this year on **Tuesday, February 4, 1964**. The meeting will begin promptly at 12 o'clock, noon, in the headquarters building located at 1605 South Neil Street in Champaign.

Your Board of Directors and Staff have planned the meeting to be both informative and enjoyable; a good selection of attendance awards will be distributed at the close of the meeting. Every effort will be made to adjourn the meeting by 4 p.m.

There is ample parking space back of the office building. Arrive and register before 12 o'clock noon so your name will be in the drawing for the "Early Bird" award at the beginning of the meeting.

# ILLINI ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S 26th ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

**Tuesday—February 4, 1964—12:00 Noon**

Cooperative Office Building—1605 S. Neil St., Champaign, Ill.

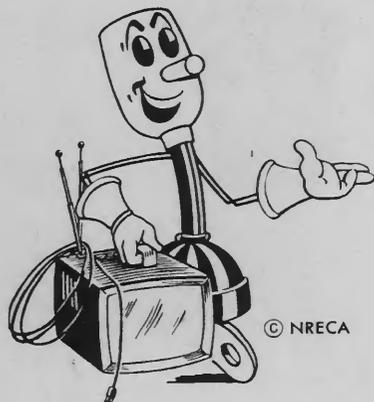
**Gifts for ALL Members  
Attending Meeting**

**GOOD  
SPEAKER**

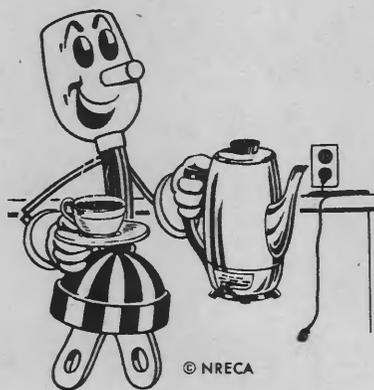
**COME EARLY - - - REGISTER EARLY\***

★“Early Bird” award will be given to a lucky member who registers before 12 Noon. This award will be presented at the beginning of the business meeting.

## ATTENDANCE AWARDS



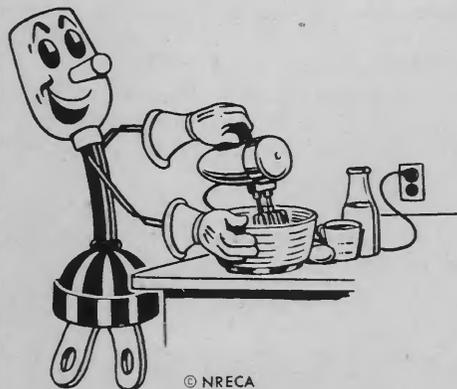
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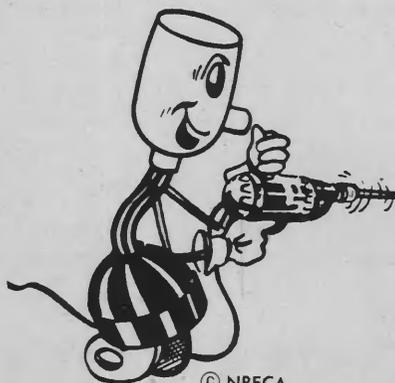
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