

FARMERS ARE ORGANIZED.

(May 8th, 1919: Several farmers from this vicinity attended the meeting at Knox last Saturday for the purpose of perfecting a County Farmers' Organization, including C. Pohlmann, John Origer and Earl Schuyler, officers of the Wayne Township organization.) The first officers of the new county association are: Harry Davis, Oregon township, president; Earl S. Schuyler, Wayne township, vice president; Lee Totten, Center township, secretary; John Short, Oregon township, treasurer.

A suitable constitution and by-laws were adapted at the meeting which was well attended.

(May 22, 1919 - in a later note, I find where Case Pohlmann attended a special meeting in Knox, on a Saturday evening, of the officers of the Starke County Farmer's Association.

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1919 Acts now Effective.

Governor Goodrich issued a proclamation Thursday, declaring the Acts of the 1919 Legislative in effect. The laws now effective include the presidential suffrage for women; voter's registration; authorizing cities and towns to erect War Memorials; providing that road taxes be paid in cash; regulation of weight of loaves of bread and sanitary conditions of bakeries; Junior high schools and amendments to the police pension law providing for an increased levy to support the funds. (Copied from the North Judson paper as of May 22nd, 1919.

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STARKE COUNTY FARM BUREAU RECORD.

It seems we do not, or at least cannot locate a record pertaining to when or where the Farm Bureau was organized in Starke County: - so, I began writing to people in and out of the County - to people I thought might remember who some of the officers were during the first few years.

Thinking that perhaps the State Farm Bureau office at Indianapolis may have some records, I wrote to inquire for any information they might have as to when Starke County was organized and who the officers were.

Mr. George R. Harvey, secretary-Treasurer mailed me the following quote: "We do not have a listing of the officers who served in the counties during those early years." I suppose the folks at that time did not realize how important it might be to some of us in later years."

However, we did find something from the August issue of the 1919 Hoosier Farmer, as follows: "The County was organized at a meeting held at Knox the middle of April, when the following officers were elected: Harry Davis, President; Earl Schuyler, Vice-president; John Short, treasurer; I. L. Totten, secretary. There were about 884 paid up members." Some co-operative buying through local retailers is being done by the township organizations. Twine and coal for threshing was bought in this manner.

The one idea that helped spur the idea was when the County Board members talked and decided we would like to have a picture taken of the first membership paid and getting some past history from our first membership 1961 being paid at the County office.

And since we had just installed a new office girl, Mrs. Peggy Matt who did not know of our previous plans. But when I called her as to who the first one was, she informed me it was Mr. H. C. Harness of Hamlet. He was getting ready to leave for Florida soon. So, knowing Mr. & Mrs. Harness for many years, I wrote him a letter in Florida, telling him what I had in mind. He answered soon with a very nice letter. He couldn't say just when Farm Bureau had been organized in the County, but was sure he has had Auto insurance every year since it was organized. Mr. Harness, manager in Hamlet of an organization known as "the Hamlet Shipping Ass'n." He also recalled that when Farm Bureau came along, some of the interested men of the County met with his directors to look over the By-laws of the Shipping Association and incorporated some of them in their corporation papers. From then on, we and the shipping association worked with them as far as we could, in buying their feed, seed, coal and fertilizers.

Other reports received were from Mr. Bill Suttle, who was State chairman in 1919, with Harvey Hull of LaPorte County as District 1 chairman.

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The annual dues for the first years were \$3.00 but later were raised to \$5.00 per year. During the first eight or nine years, there were no women included. We have had testimony of this when Larry Brandon, former State Leader told us how, when the men in neighborhood or township would hold a meeting in a one-room country school or home to talk over local affairs.

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Because in those days Washington D. C. was much farther away from us than today. Anyway, these men at their meetings decided there should be some wives, and mothers included. For several years women were members, but didn't hold an office.

Paul Riley was the County Agent from March 1, 1919 to December 1919. Then H. W. Davis held that office from December 16, 1920 to December 1, 1922. Mr. W. K. Delaplane March 1924 to May 15, 1930. During those years, the County Agents would hold schools in some section of the County on hog cholera, dairying, poultry, or most any subject which might be a farm problem at that time - of course, with some helpers from Purdue.

The women would come and meet with Mrs. Pete Womacks, who at that time was a resident of North Bend township. Mrs. Womacks, along with help from Purdue, would talk over Home Economic Programs, such as making hats, dress forms, sewing, and showed us country women how to cold-pack canned foods which was a real blessing to the country families.

The first Starke County Farm Bureau Woman's leader was Mrs. Ollie Wilson, a school teacher of Washington township. Her title as woman's leader at that time was "Social and Educational Leader. At this time Mr. Hull of LaPorte County and Mr. Paul Engle of Pulaski County were with the State office. Mr. Rodger Benjamin was then elected as District 1 chairman. He was a resident of Lake County.

About two months later, Mrs. Pete Womackos was elected District One Social and Educational Leader in which office she

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did an outstanding job in working with the ladies. A Miss Ann Mohusen of Porter County who was secretary to Porter County's Agent had been serving as such but not under the name of Social and Educational leader.

It was about 1927 before District One was officially organized. Following the retirement of Mrs. Pete Womacks as District Woman Leader, Mrs. Edwin Olson, Pulaski County was elected about in 1954.

Mr. Emil Bannwart of LaPorte County had served as District 1 chairman for several years, and retired about the same time as Mrs. Womack^s. Mr. Charles Riddle of Fulton County was elected to be the next District 1 chairman. Both Mr. Riddle and Mrs. Olson served their offices very efficiently and were very pleasant to work with. Our field man, Wilmer Burrous of Plymouth still holds this office.

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With our trend of the world changes, we may see some changes in the Farm Bureau organization. The organization has always been interested in youth as: 4-H members, Rural Youth, IFYE Exchange students, and many others, - hoping that the youth as the leaders of tomorrow will tell the true story of what we have tried to teach them by helping them in every way possible.

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STARKE COUNTY FARM BUREAU OFFICERS SINCE ITS INAUGURATION

1919 - Harry Travis	County Chairman
Lee Totten	Secretary
1921 - James Newton	County Chairman
Sam J. Taylor	Sec'y. treas.
1923 - Charles Swanson	County Chairman - 4 years
Fern Spenner	Woman's S. & E. Leader
1927 - Joe Hendricks	Chairman
Sam Taylor	Sec'y. Treas.
1928 - John Pflugshaupt	Chairman
29 Clarence Travis	Sec'y. Treas.
1930 - Oliver Cannon	Chairman
35 Edna Shankland	Woman's S. & E. Leader

It was on July 4th, 1932 that the first Farm Bureau Flag was dedicated in the State of Indiana. Mrs. Edna Shankland was the 'Betsy Ross' of its creation.

In 1939 Otto Warnke was elected County Chairman and served in this office very efficiently for nine years, or until 1948. With Mrs. Ruth (Cory) Protzman as Woman's Leader, resigning in 1945; Marion Swanson finishing her term.

1948 - Ray Bennett	County Chairman
51	
Mrs. Dorothy Milner	S & E. Leader
Mrs. Mary White	S & E. Leader
1949 - Clem Piper of No. Bend	County Chairman
50	
Russell Shilling	Vice Chairman
Mrs. Mary White	S & E. Leader

STARKE COUNTY OFFICERS OF FARM BUREAU (cont'd)

1951 - Albert Burns 52	County Chairman
Mary White	S and E Leader
1953 - Oscar Fechner 54	County Chairman
Mrs. Fern Milner	Woman's Leader for 1½ yrs. due to illness. Mrs. Ted Hacker completed Mrs. Milner's 2nd term.
1956 - Ralph Hewlett 57	County Chairman
Mrs. Ted Hacker	Woman's Leader
1958 - Gerald Hellinga 59	County Chairman
Mrs. Ted Hacker	Woman's Leader
Charles Lucas	Vice Chairman

During Mr. Hewlett's term as County chairman, the County Farm Bureau office was moved from Hamlet to a new location at 8 North Shield St. Knox. The Farm Bureau Insurance office opened officially with open house for the public on January 18th, 1957. Special guests were Mrs. Edwin Olson of Winamac, District 1 Woman's leader, Mr. Edwin Olson and their son Allen; Edna Shankland, retired Starke Counth Insurance Agent, and Mrs. Bessie Lotter, retired secretary.

Ralph Fritz and Carl Lucas were the insurance agents. Gerald Hellinga County roll-call captain.

In 1958 and 59 Gerald Hellinga was elected County Farm Bureau Chairman. Mrs. Ted Hacker County Farm Bureau Woman's leader.

In 1960-61 Mr. Ralph Spoor - County Chairman

Mrs. Ted Hacker - Co. Farm Bureau Woman's Leader.

On 1962 - 63 Ralph Spoor and Mrs. Hacker were again elected chairman and Woman's leader.

1964 - 65 Ralph Hewlett again accepted the chairmanship of Starke County Farm Bureau.

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A Few Memorable Events.

In 1958, Mrs. Matthew Swanson of Knox, RR 3, was the winner in the County, District and State Woman's Public Speaking Contest at the Woman's Conference at Indianapolis.

On March 2,3,4,5, of 1958, Ralph Spoor was awarded an A.F.B.F. Indiana membership award trip to Washington D. C. with a group of winners of other Districts.

In 1932, Mrs. Edna Shankland, the 'Betsy Ross' of the first Farm Bureau Flag was made at Hamlet with the help of co-workers.

At the November Farm Bureau State Convention in 1957, Mr. Oliver Cannon, who was County Chairman in 1932, Mrs. Shankland County Woman's leader in 1932, and Mrs. Ted Hacker, present County Woman's leader speaking:

"In honor of Mrs. Edna Shankland whose continuing devotion to Farm Bureau has spanned a quarter century and in behalf of the Starke County Farm Bureau, I present the original American Farm Bureau Flag, first to be dedicated in Indiana."
(Presents flag to Mr. Schenck.)

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I feel we have lost a great deal of important information by not being able to locate the first information as well as in later years. About the steps the organization has accomplished in the past years.

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Some details about as to who some of the first officers were:

Bill Suttle, first State Chairman - 1919.

Harvey Hull, first District Chairman.

Howard Gearhart, a school teacher was the first township chairman in Davis Township. A few of the Directors were William Hayes, Lon Bolin, Henry Vieting, Peter Sebens, John Pflugshaupt. But, like everything else, time passes on and if we don't put it in writing, it is soon forgotten.

CALIFORNIA TOWNSHIP FARM BUREAU.

The California Township Farm Bureau was reorganized in 1947, with Mr. Elmer Lucas as chairman, Mrs. Fred White as Social and Education leader, and Mrs. Allen Bailey as secretary-treasurer.

The first year there were 46 members.

In 1948 there were 43 members, with Mr. Lucas as chairman.

1949 there were fifty members, with Mr. Lucas doing a real good job as chairman.

1950 - Mr. Lucas was elected chairman, Ralph Spoor vice-chairman, with 52 members.

1951 - Ralph Spoor was elected chairman, with 53 members.

1952 - Mr. Spoor again elected chairman, with 60 members.

1953 - Gerald Hellinga was chairman, with 78 members.

1954 - Mr. Hellinga was chosen chairman, with 88 members.

1955 - Charles Lucas was elected chairman, with 108 members.

1956 - Ralph Spoor was chairman, with 102 members.

1957 - Mr. Spoor was chairman.

1958 - 59 - Gerald Hellinga was elected chairman again.

1960 - James Lucas was chairman

1961 - Ralph Spoor was chairman

1962 - 63 - Carl Lucas was chairman

1964 - Harvey Hammerlund was chairman

NORTH BEND TOWNSHIP FARM BUREAU

The first meeting of the North Bend Farmer's Association was held and organized in March of 1919. Oscar A. Fechner was elected president; Charles Good, vice president, and Cecil Cappis was secretary.

At that time, Mr. Riley was our County Agent.

Mr. James Newton was the first county chairman, while Samuel J. Taylor, secretary-treasurer. County Agent Riley served until 1922 when a Mr. Davis was appointed as County Agent. Then Mr. William K. Delaplane was appointed in 1924, and served in the capacity as county agent until 1930, when Mr. Hainee was appointed until 1934.

John Pflugschaupt was County Chairman in 1925, and Clarence L. Travis, secretary.

The annual dues in the beginning were \$3.00 but were raised to \$5.00 in 1920.

The name was changed to "Farm Bureau" in January 1923.