



ag alumni news

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Ag Alumni President William H. Smith, III, right, of Statesboro, presents Past President's plaque to Frank Cobb, LaFayette, at recent annual banquet of the Agricultural Alumni Association.



Walter S. Brown is inducted into the Agricultural Hall of Fame. Jason Riley of Bunnell, Fla., unveils the portrait of his great grandfather, the late Walter S. Brown, former Director of the Georgia Cooperative Extension Service and the 19th Georgian to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Ralph Mobley of Woodstock, chairman, Hall of Fame committee, conducted the ceremony. Mrs. Brown, Athens, looks at the portrait of her husband that will be placed in the Hall of Fame room in Conner Hall. (Related story and picture on page 2).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by W.H. Smith, III

It is indeed an honor and a privilege to serve as president of the Georgia Agricultural Alumni Association. I accept this office with a great feeling of humility as I look back at the men who have led this organization in the past, including my father who was president 16 years ago. With your encouragement and support, we can lead the Ag Alumni Association through the coming year and achieve many of the goals that we have set for ourselves.

We have many challenges for 1984. Agriculture is now facing some of the most trying times that many of us have ever observed. This is not limited entirely to farmers. Agribusiness, banking, and all other

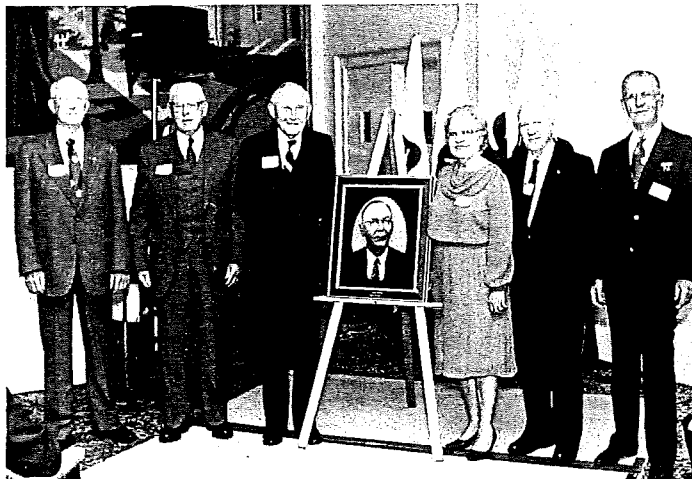
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AG ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SPONSORS AG TOUR OF EUROPE

An Agricultural Study Tour of Europe is being sponsored by the Ag Alumni Association March 1-9, 1984. The highlight of the tour will be the 1984 Paris Agricultural Products & Machinery Show. A brochure and additional information is attached in the center of this newsletter.



New officers of Ag Alumni and Young Ag Alumni for 1983-1984 after installation at Athens Country Club on October 28. From left, *Young Ag Alumni Section*: Kirby Thompson, Atlanta, secretary-treasurer; Arch Smith, Warrenton, vice chairman; Frank Pirkle, Hoschton, chairman. *Ag Alumni Association*: Wallace Beggs, Clarkesville, treasurer; J.B. Amos, Augusta, secretary; Douglas Strohbehn, Macon, 2nd vice president; W.H. Smith, III, Statesboro, president; Robert L. Hadden, Ellijay, 1st vice president and president-elect. *Student Board Members*: Jim Mitchell, Griffin, and Frank Ginn, Atlanta. *Eterna Club Trustee Chairman*: Olin W. Ginn of Atlanta. Not present for picture, Fred Voigt, Waycross, state-at-large director. Garland Thompson, Douglas, who was president of Ag Alumni in 1980, conducted the installation ceremony.



Five Agricultural Hall of Fame members and Mrs. Walter S. Brown with the portrait of Mr. Brown. From left, Hugh A. Inglis, Athens; J.W. Fanning, Athens; D.W. Brooks, Atlanta; Mrs. Brown; Donald M. Hastings, Sr., Lovejoy; and Calvin C. Murray, Athens.

WALTER S. BROWN TRIBUTE

EDITOR'S NOTE: J.W. Fanning presented the following tribute to Walter S. Brown following his induction into the Hall of Fame.

Walter Brown's labor of love, to which he devoted his life, was improving the lot of farm people and the great and basic industry of agriculture.

Life was never dull for Walter Brown. He lived amidst change. He was an apostle of change. He went about "lighting fires in cold rooms." He brought hope where there was despair and cheer amidst gloom. He was a true pioneer for a new day for farm people and the business of farming. He believed that education could be a powerful force in improving and building anew. His life and the Cooperative Extension Service of which he was a part stand as bulwarks of the tremendous influence of education in bringing about constructive change.

Born in Towns County, Georgia, in 1889, Walter entered the College of Agriculture of the University of Georgia in 1913, just eight years after its establishment. He graduated in 1917.

He entered college when there wasn't much encouragement for a person to seek an education. Walter was reaching out. He was searching for new ideas and new ways of doing things. He found education an exciting experience—a foundation for a life of service.

His first employment was county agent in his home county of Towns. The year was 1917—just three years after the passage of the Smith Lever Act creating the Cooperative Extension Service. From Towns County he moved to responsibilities as district agent in the Atlanta district. In 1921 he embarked upon a challenging and very difficult assignment. He was given the responsibility of influencing the county commissioners of 40 counties in Southeast Georgia to join with the Extension Service in employing county agents. All 40 counties responded and extension education became a force for improvement in that land of small farmers wrestling with the ravages of the boll weevil.

Cattle of poor quality roamed the open ranges which burned each year. Pine forests occupied most of the area, offering one of the great opportunities for improvement. Tobacco was trying to find its place. For 15 years Walter labored among the farm people of Southeast Georgia, encouraging county agents, ever seeking to establish a new idea, a new practice in production and marketing.

Then came the great depression with 5 cents cotton, 25 cents corn, 10 cents tobacco, ¾ cents cattle and 3 cents hogs. The only items that remained high were farm costs and payments on debts incurred in the post World War I period. Those depression years tried "men's souls."

The Live-At-Home Program moved into the spotlight. So did the Emergency Seed Loan of the Federal Government to provide credit as more and more banks failed. Walter never lost faith in education and the county Extension agents, both men and women, as apostles of hope and counselors and advisers and friends of farm people in time

of desperate need. His guidance was invaluable—his common sense a haven in stormy times.

The New Deal of the Roosevelt Administration came in 1933 offering financial assistance to farm people. The Extension Service was made responsible for administration of the farm program. This challenge and burden fell heaviest upon the district agent and the county agent.

Farmers, in return for financial rewards, were asked to reduce production by plowing up a portion of what they had planted—sell off little pigs before they grew big, and leave acres of cropland idle. Decisions to destroy came hard for farmers for they were basically producers, not reducers. They found a friend in the county agent. Walter stayed close to his county agents admonishing them to stand steady in lending a helping hand while never forgetting their responsibilities to youth through the 4-H Club.

Walter became Director of Extension in 1937, at a time when there flowed from Washington a great variety of new farm programs—in addition to the old AAA which Extension was responsible for administering. There were the Soil Conservation Service, Rural Electrification Administration, Farmers Home Administration, Farm Credit Administration, Land Use Planning. The Extension Service as the agency of many years standing among farm people extended a helping hand to each of these agencies in their efforts to help those in rural areas.

Walter Brown as Director of Extension found his duties multiplying enormously with the many new relationships that came to be. He served on numerous committees and said that every possible assistance was offered to each new agency while never losing sight of Extension's basic educational and service responsibility to farm people.

With the coming of World War II, Walter led the Extension Service into and through new program emphases of increasing rather than decreasing production.

Shifting gears from holding back to pushing ahead in production was no easy task. A different approach was required. It fell the lot of Walter as Director of Extension to administer an educational program for farm people in time of war. Extension was given the added responsibility of administering all Emergency Farm Labor Programs to recruit critically needed workers for harvesting vital food and fiber crops.

With the end of World War II there came to the Extension Service another great challenge—an educational emphasis and program to gear up for peace and utilizing the flow of new technology to farms and the changes resulting from its adoption.

Walter's concluding experiences as Director of Extension prior to his retirement in 1954 came amidst all the problems and challenges in administering this gigantic effort. The machine came to the farm as a substitute for human labor as people left by the thousands for off-farm employment. Farm people entered a period of dramatic change in their farm operations and way of life.

Agriculture moved from people intensive to capital intensive. The Extension Service was called upon for answers faster than research could find the answers. The rapidity of change was fantastic. The number of farms declined drastically—the size of farms increased rapidly—the small farmer found his way of life in trouble, gross farm sales rose while cash costs sky-rocketed. Truly a new day came to Georgia agriculture.

Walter Brown ended a long and distinguished career helping farm people to prepare and enter that new day. He was a true educator—a true apostle of change for a better life for farm people—an advocate of a stronger agriculture—an effective administrator of an agency of the College of Agriculture that responded to the time and needs of farm people—in war and peace—in good and bad years—in depression and adjustment.

Walter received many honors. He was named Man of the Year in Agriculture by the Progressive Farmer. He served as the first chairman of the National 4-H Foundation, chairman of the Georgia 4-H Foundation, chairman of the State Extension Directors, chairman of the State Conservation Committee, member of the State Triple-A Committee, the State Agricultural Council, the Georgia Citizens Council, Alpha Zeta, Aghon, Epsilon Sigma Phi among others.

I know that Walter claimed as his most satisfying accomplishment, among his many, that of the acceptance by Miss Clemmie Massey of his proposal for marriage, which took place in 1922. Their's was a long and happy marriage. The family which they established included two

children, Sarah Brown Riley and William Robert Brown.

After 48 years of service to agriculture, 37 of which were in the Extension Service, Walter S. Brown died on December 5, 1965.

The influence of Walter S. Brown lives on in Georgia. He served agriculture and made his significant contributions amid good times and difficult times. He was a true pioneer with the same spirit of adventure possessed by those who settled the lands of this country and with dedication and hard work helped bring forth this great nation and its 250 year old state of Georgia.

There seems to be no easy times for farm people. Even today the farmers of Georgia possess problems that appear insurmountable. Yet, we cannot forget that their fathers and grandfathers encountered hardships difficult for us to imagine. History tells us loud and clear that their faith sustained them and they prevailed.

Walter Brown came of that sturdy stock of believers and doers—true pioneers. And the pioneers of today who are farming the lands of this state came from that same stock. They, too, will prevail.

Standing by their side as was true in Walter's day and within his experiences is a great College of Agriculture with its programs of Instruction, Research and Extension—programs that are in tune with the times and geared for a better future—and supported by a concerned and involved Agricultural Alumni Association.

I join with you assembled here this evening in honoring Walter S. Brown—County Agent—Director of Extension—Educator—Pioneer—Fox Hunter and Fisherman—as a member of the Hall of Fame of the Agricultural Alumni Association of the College of Agriculture, The University of Georgia.

May we also pay tribute to his wife and children and grandchildren and great grandchildren who were major contributors to his life.

(President's Message, cont. from page 1)

facets of our total agricultural economy are experiencing the most difficult times they have seen in the last 50 years. Our College of Agriculture has not been spared the deep budget cuts which have been made necessary by the lagging economy of our state.

The College of Agriculture, represented by its three branches, Teaching, Research, and Extension, offers the best avenues for strengthening our overall agricultural picture in the years to come. It needs the support of every eligible Ag Alumni member. I encourage you to solicit the active membership of any person who is eligible to join the Agricultural Alumni Association and, if possible, the Eterna Club. Funds from these organizations have done great things in the past and can do even greater things in the future. I also encourage you to give us your advice, time and support because they are invaluable to the College of Agriculture. We are now organizing our plans for the coming year and will welcome any suggestions any of you have for activities and projects we might consider during my term as president.

I know that with the assistance of all of you we can make 1984 a great year for the Agricultural Alumni Association and the College of Agriculture.

AG ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESENTS AWARDS

Awards were given to an outstanding faculty instructor, research scientist and extension specialist in the College of Agriculture during the Ag Alumni Association's annual membership meeting on Friday, October 28. Receiving these awards were Dorris A. Lillard, teaching; S. Edward Law, research; and Cecil Smith, extension. W.H. Smith, III, Statesboro, made the presentations.

Dr. Lillard, professor of food science, teaches courses in food chemistry, food lipids, and flavor chemistry and evaluation. He was recognized as the Outstanding Undergraduate Professor by the Food Science Club in 1982-83 and received the 1983 Distinguished Teaching Award by the University Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta. Dr. Law, professor of agricultural engineering, was named the outstanding researcher for his development of principles and devices for electrostatic application of agricultural sprays. The techniques and prototype sprayers he has developed result in increase effectiveness and greatly reduces amounts of pesticides used. Mr. Smith is head of the extension farm management department and he developed the Georgia Farm Record Book which is used by thousands of Georgia farmers. He also created a television series for educational television to teach farm record keeping.

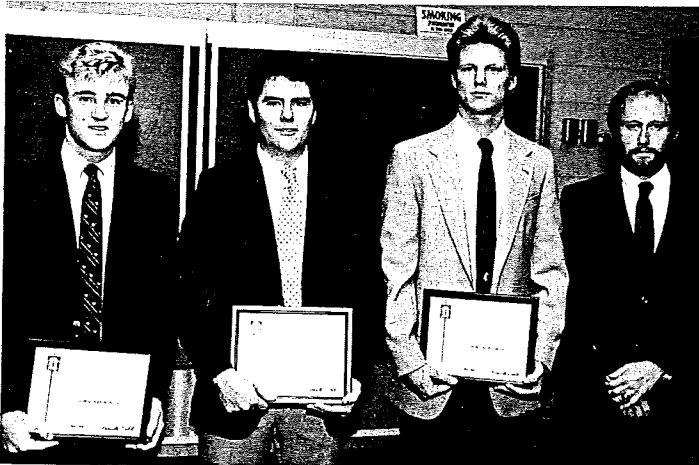
Three agricultural agency awards were presented. Carl D. Hosford, Chester, received the Farmers Home Administration award. The Soil Conservation Award went to Jimmy C. Taff, Hiawassee; and the Vocational Agricultural Award was given to Charles H. Majeski, Sr., of Tifton. Tal DuVall, Athens, made the presentations for the Association.

Three students in the College of Agriculture were given undergraduate scholarships for the school year 1983-84. They are Joseph David Calvert, Eatonton; Steven Bradley Lewis, Ocilla; and Stephen Marion McCarter, Athens. Frank Pirkle, Hoschton, presented the scholarship certificates and Douglas Strohbehn, Macon, awarded a graduate fellowship to Randolph Mark Beaudry of Toledo, Ohio.

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Jean Towers, Executive Director of the Agricultural Alumni Association, during the annual banquet at the Athens Country Club on Friday evening, October 28.



W.H. Smith, III, far right, Statesboro, presented distinguished faculty awards to, from left, Cecil Smith, extension; Dorris A. Lillard, teaching; and S. Edward Law, research; All recipients are from Athens.



Undergraduate scholarship certificates were given to the 1983-84 recipients by Frank Pirkle, right, to, from left, Stephen Marion McCarter, Athens; Steven Bradley Lewis, Ocilla; and Joseph David Calvert, Eatonton.



From left, Tal DuVall, Athens, made the agricultural agency awards to Carl D. Hosford, Chester, Farmers Home Administration award; Jimmy C. Taff, Hiawassee, Soil Conservation Service; and Charles H. Majeski, Sr., Tifton, Vocational Agriculture.