



# THE FAS LETTER

AROUND THE WORLD WITH THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE SERVICE

September-October 1974

## A MILESTONE IN ATTACHE HISTORY

by

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Assistant Administrator for Agricultural Attaches

Twenty years ago in August Congress, under the provisions of Title VI of PL 690 (83d Congress), transferred the Agricultural Attaches back to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Although USDA had some form of representation abroad as early as the latter nineteenth century and there was a system of Agricultural Commissioners functioning by the late 20's, it was in 1930 that the Agricultural Attache service was formally established by an act of Congress, authorizing the establishment of the Foreign Agricultural Service.

The Agricultural Attache service conducted its overseas activities as a part of USDA until 1939 when, during a reorganization of the Executive Branch, Agricultural Attaches were transferred to the Department of State and integrated into the Foreign Service. This arrangement did not facilitate satisfactory representation of U.S. agricultural interests abroad and Congress subsequently acted to again place Attaches under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture.

The Attache Service has not increased much in size in the past two decades, but its scope of activities and responsibilities have expanded appreciably. With the contribution of the Agricultural Attaches, Agriculture has amassed an impressive record in the promotion and sale of U.S. agricultural products. Not only has U.S. agriculture been catapulted to a new prominence in world politics, it has become the major contributor toward achieving a favorable U.S. balance of payments in foreign trade.

In a speech given just ten years ago, then Secretary of State Dean Rusk, stressing the importance of agriculture in U.S. foreign relations, states "Our agricultural exports of approximately \$6 billion a year—more than \$4 billion for hard currency—are crucial to our balance of payments. Without them, we would be hard-pressed to meet the costs of guarding the ramparts of freedom and of helping other people to preserve their independence and raise their living standards." This statement is as valid today as it was ten years ago, but, instead of \$6 billion, agricultural exports in fiscal year 1974 reached the phenomenal level of \$21.3 billion, more than tripling the record of ten years ago. This represented a positive contribution of \$11.8 billion to the U.S. balance of trade.

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## FIELD HANDS, WHERE ARE YOU?

We're not happy to be publishing a skinny, 4-page FAS Letter, but we can't do more unless we hear from you. This is a report of your activities, and we depend on you for most of the news items and pictures that go into it. So send us those letters and photos; let us know what's happening at your post. We'll do the rest. Send contributions to Room 5080 (note the room change), FAS/W.



**EXPORT EXPANSION AWARD . . .** Pictured here is Satoru Sakata of the National Renderers' Association receiving an FAS Export Expansion Award from Larry Thomasson, ag attache to Japan. Mr. Sakata received the award in recognition of his contributions to the growth of American agricultural exports to Japan. Looking on are assistant attache Alan Hemphill (left) and Jim Iso, Far East Director of the National Renderers' Association (right).

## FIGHTING FOREIGNERS

### BAT .500

The Foreign Agriculture Club softball team recently completed a ten game schedule in the D.C. Recreation League with a record of five wins and five losses. The fighting "Foreigners" started the season with two impressive victories over the Tax Court team (11-10) and the A's (22-13), followed by two setbacks as both Riggs National Bank and the D.C. Corrections rallied in the bottom of the last inning to put Foreign Agriculture players on the losing side of both games. The "Foreigners" ended the first half of the season with a 13-10 victory over the previously undefeated Defenders.

The FAS'ers led off the second half of the season in fine fashion with back-to-back victories over the Tax Court (7-0) and the A's (9-7). The team lost their next game to Riggs Bank (7-6) in a hotly contested battle. The season ended on the downside with a 12-3 loss to D.C. Corrections and 19-2 thrashing at the hands of the Defenders.

Pictured here are the team members. Kneeling, left to right, are Dave Dlouhy, catcher; Paul Drazek, second base; George Schumpert, outfield; Bill Tinklepaugh, outfield; Jim Schullen, third base. Behind them are, left to right: Emanuel McNeil, pitcher; Lynn Abbott, catcher; Jim O'Mara, outfield; Bill McNeill, outfield; Larry Hoffman, first base; Duffy Browne, outfield; Frank Lee, shortstop and team captain; Kerry Reynolds, first base and co-captain; and Tom Twomey, outfield. Missing are: Willie Brooks, outfield; Gordon Patty, second base, and Abner Deathridge, outfield.

## A MILESTONE IN ATTACHE HISTORY

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Recent political and economic developments have caused attention to be focused on new countries and regions. The exchange of Missions between the People's Republic of China and the U.S. has brought with it the expansion of commercial relations, particularly in agricultural trade. For the first time in our history, Asia is displacing Western Europe as the number one customer for U.S. agricultural products. The Secretary of Agriculture has requested that the Secretary of State place an Agricultural Attache on the staff of the U.S. Liaison Office in Peking.

The resumption of diplomatic relations with Egypt has brought a resumption in agricultural cooperation and an increase in Egypt's demand for U.S. farm products. To meet its new responsibilities, the USDA has requested that the Agricultural Attache Office closed when diplomatic relations were severed in 1968 be reestablished as soon as possible.

The improvement in relations with Eastern Europe and the increase in agricultural trade brought requests from U.S. trade organizations for USDA representation in these countries. An Agricultural Attache will now be resident full-time at the Embassy in Vienna and will cover Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

The 20 year mile-stone for the Agricultural Attache Service marks a period of importance for U.S. agriculture. Our export markets are now all-important—in providing jobs throughout the nation, in adding needed income for farmers, and in furthering U.S. foreign policy. The challenge ahead remains one of developing and strengthening foreign markets, adding depth to our representation in behalf of the American farmer, and strengthening the world trading system. Agricultural Attaches will be as important in meeting those challenges as they have been in the past.



# ROAMING AROUND

Bob Haresnape has transferred to Monrovia, where he will serve as assistant attache. He has been assistant attache in Paris for two years. Bob and his family spent their home leave on a whirlwind auto tour of the eastern half of the United States. They started from Boston, stopped off in Washington, and from there headed for Florida. From the Sunshine State they toured the Gulf Coast, with a stop in New Orleans, and then headed to Kansas. The Haresnapes then drove north through the Midwest to Canada, came back to the U.S. via Niagara Falls and drove south to pay a return visit to Washington before heading to post. They arrived in Monrovia in Mid-August.

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Our sympathy goes to **June Berger**, secretary in Rome, whose brother passed away last month.

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With the re-establishment of diplomatic relations with Syria, our attache **Shack Pitcher** is now actively covering agricultural activities in that country as well as in Lebanon.

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**Susan Buchanan** reports that she is enjoying seeing the sights of Brussels and beyond from her new VW. Susan has been secretary in the USEC office since April of this year.

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**Harold Koeller** of Tobacco Marketing Division has been filling in temporarily as ag attache in Brussels, following the retirement of **Quentin Bates**.

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**Sally Fagan**, secretary in London, and recipient of a Certificate of Merit for Special Achievement, reports that she is enjoying her assignment there. After-hours have been spent taking in the sights of London and the surrounding countryside, and entertaining friends—including fellow secretary "**Brownie**" **Brown**, who visited London on her way back to her post in Beirut.

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**AWARDS IN PARIS . . .** U.S. Ambassador to France **John Irwin** recently presented three members of the Paris ag attache staff with FAS awards for outstanding job performance. **Eleanor Burford** (left) received a Special Achievement Award for "exceptional dedication and superior performance of her duties in the Office of the Agricultural Attache during a period of unusual challenges and a heavy workload." Agricultural assistant **Josette Miede** (second from right) and agricultural economist **Bruno Julien** (right) were awarded Meritorious Step Increases for high quality performances above those ordinarily found in their positions.



# Around Washington

**Ann Sameth** (nee Armentrout) has returned to FAS after having worked for a year at ARS's International Programs Division in Hyattsville. Ann is currently secretary to Area Officers **Stan Brown** and **Ted Freeman**. She replaces **Linda Lueders**, who is now in Bonn with her new husband, assistant ag attache **Jon Falck**.

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**Rose Holman**, secretary to Assistant Administrator for Ag Attaches **William Horbaly**, is leading the USDA Travel Club's three week tour of Eastern Europe. The group will be visiting Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia. They will return to Washington September 30.

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Welcome to **L. J. McMillan** and staff, who will be heading up the International Visitors and Representation Staff that was established as part of the new FAS. They come to us from ERS's Foreign Training and Development Division.

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**CUTTING THE CAKE . . .** Mr. and Mrs. Jon Falck prepare to cut into their sumptuous wedding cake. They were married July 20 in Richmond, Virginia. Mrs. Falck is the former Linda Lueders, who served as secretary to the European and Near East Area Officers. The Falcks are now in Bonn, where Jon is serving as assistant ag attache.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

(Editor's note: This is the first installment of what we hope will be a regular column on retirees' activities. What's been happening with you since you said goodbye to the 8:30 to 5:00 routine? Drop us a line at Room-5080-S, FAS/W).

**Norma Halvorsen**, formerly of Management Services Division, spent this past summer attending the International Summer School at the University of Oslo, Norway. She had been taking Norwegian lessons from a private tutor since she retired from FAS last year. Norma found time to travel throughout much of Norway during her stay there, and included on her itinerary was the exciting boat trip to Norway's western coast from Bergen to the North Cape. She returned to the United States in mid-August.

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**Sally Cross**, has been keeping up a busy schedule since her retirement from FAS two years ago. Recently she returned from a vacation in Myrtle Beach, S.C., where she visited her sister. Now that she's back in the Washington area, Sally is taking up volunteer work at Sibley Hospital, and the Glaucoma Testing Program sponsored by the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness.

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**Eleanor Schrier**, formerly head of Personnel Division's Employment Branch, is recovering from recent surgery and is looking forward to getting back on the golf course and at the bridge table.

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**Maxine Phillipi**, who served as secretary to the Assistant Administrator for Ag Attaches, has recently moved to Florida. Her new address is: 7008 11th Avenue West; Village Green; Bradenton, Florida 33505.

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### THE FAS LETTER



To U.S. Agricultural Attache Posts

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