

50+ Years Ago (Volume V, No.2, 1961)

A constitutional amendment providing for a slight name change of our organization was considered at the business session held at 1:30 p.m. March 20, 1962. At the 1960 annual meeting held in Springfield, Missouri, Dr. E.E. Puls of Southeastern Louisiana College suggested that the name of the National Association of College Teachers in Agriculture be changed to permit the solicitation of institutional memberships. The executive committee meeting in Memphis, Tennessee in June 1961, unanimously approved the suggestion that the matter be placed before the general membership at the annual meeting in 1962.

The change which the committee suggested was so slight that many members scarcely recognized the difference, yet it was sufficient to aid the envisioned new role of our organization. The proposed name was The National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture. Also approved at the same session was a second amendment to the constitution which provide for the acceptance of institutional memberships from schools, colleges, and universities teaching agriculture.

This remained the official name of our organization until it was again modified, preserving the NACTA logo, but now officially the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture as we moved to be inclusive of our Canadian membership.

30 years ago (Volume XXIII No. 3)

Congratulations NACTA!!! You are at the wonderful young age of 25! You achieved much during the first 25 years. Silver is a valuable achievement, but gold is more precious.

NACTA's achievement so ably chronicled by NACTA's remarkable elder statesman, Carl Schowengerdt, in the Silver Anniversary NACTA Journal publication, is really people. These people are the salt of the earth, for they are the people who teach agriculture throughout the United States and Canada and for that matter, throughout the entire world. They prepare students-leaders-for the greatest industry on earth-the Industry of Agriculture.

We are privileged to be part of that vital Industry of Agriculture which has been and will always be the fundamental basis of civilization. Because of it's vital nature, Agriculture must always be nurtured. Future generations are dependent on a continued strong, dynamic, vibrant Industry of Agriculture.

Agriculture in the United States and Canada is strong because members of NACTA and other professional agriculture teachers have made it so.

You past presidents, whom we are honoring, especially, at this Silver Anniversary Conference, have made signal contributions to professional agriculture. And of course, all of you who have served so unselfishly on boards and committees have contributed more than can be described adequately. To all of you again, congratulations for a great achievement, a job well done. -- O. J. Burger

20 Years ago (Volume XXXIII No 3 1989)

In his address to the 35th NACTA Conference, June 11-14, 1989, at the University of Tennessee, G. M. Jenkinson from the Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph said in 10 years and 6 months we will enter the 21st century. It is logical now to ask ourselves "What would we really like agriculture to be in the year 2000?" At a recent meeting on our campus, the group assembled suggested they would like agriculture to:

- provide an adequate food supply worldwide
- be sustainable
- provide a fair return to labor and capital with fewer producers
- be relatively self sufficient
- be relatively free of government subsidy
- be environmentally sensitive
- be conscious of resource stewardship practices and policies
- have fair pricing of internationally traded commodities
- have more stability in commodity prices
- be governed by policies that enhance heritage, family, and community

Altruistic? -- perhaps. Achievable goals -- possibly! Can we make some progress in attaining these goals? Yes. if we have the will and if our leadership believes in these goals. As agricultural educators approach 2000, I believe we must ask ourselves, "What would we like our college/department of agriculture to be like in the year 2000?" "How will our curriculum best meet the needs of graduates whose entire professional careers will occur after the year 2000?"

10 Years Ago (Volume 43 No. 3 1999)

The 45th Annual NACTA Conference was held at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg Virginia. 44th president Bryce Lane passed the gavel to 45th president Bruce Johnson. Dr. Joseph Jen of California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo won NACTA's 1999 Distinguished Educator Award. Rob Golembiewski, Rick Bates, and Bob Gough, all from Montana State university received the E.B. Knight

NACTA Yesterday

Journal Award, and Murray A. Brown of Sam Houston State University was presented the NACTA Distinguished Service Award. This award recognized Murray's four decades of service to NACTA.

President Johnson finished up his remarks with the following story about making a difference. "While walking along the beach after a storm a man came upon a young boy. The boy was picking up clams that had washed up on the beach. The man asked the boy what he was doing. He replied. 'If I don't throw these creatures back into the sea, they'll die.' 'I see,' said the man, 'but there must be millions and millions of

clams. You can't get to all of them. What you are doing can't make a difference.' The boy smiled, bent down, and picked up another clam. As he threw it back into the sea, he replied, 'Made a difference to that one!'"

I was there in Blacksburg, and I don't remember much of Bruce's address, but I've remembered that story for 10 years

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