



THE FAS LETTER

AROUND THE WORLD WITH THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE SERVICE

A decorative border surrounds the central text, featuring stylized holly leaves with serrated edges, pinecones, and clusters of small berries. The border is drawn in a simple, line-art style.

**A
Merry Christmas
and
A Happy New Year**

*from
All of Us
to
All of You*



EUROPEAN ATTACHE SEMINAR . . . From left to right are the following participants in the November conference of agricultural attaches held in Bonn: Roger Euler, USSR, William Ladd, USDA legislative officer; Al Trick, Switzerland; John Knebel, assistant counsel House Agricultural Committee; Ford Milam, Portugal; Tom Street, France; Congressman Ed Jones, Tennessee; Brice Meeker, Netherlands; Congressman Eligio de la Garza, Texas; Dave Hume, United Kingdom; Congresswoman Catherine May, Washington; Ambassador Kenneth Rush of Bonn; FAS Administrator Ioanes; Minister Russell Fessenden (DCM at Bonn); and Ken Ogren, OECD, Paris, seated on the inside of the conference table.

22 POSTS REPRESENTED AT BONN ATTACHE MEETING

Agricultural trade and market development were the chief topics of discussion among attaches from 22 European posts in a conference held last month in Germany.

Unlike some of our attache conferences abroad, the press gave this one considerable coverage and in reports to the U.S. said the general mood was one of concern about "impending Common Market threats to American food exports." A full report on conference discussions is being expedited and will reach all attaches soon.

FAS Administrator Ray Ioanes was chairman of the seven-day seminar, and Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Clarence D. Palmby was a principal speaker.

The group was welcomed to Bonn by U.S. Ambassador Kenneth Rush, and Minister Russell Fessenden (DCM at Bonn) participated in some of the sessions.

Other participants, in addition to attaches, included William D. Ladd, USDA legislative liaison; Fred Hallford, assistant inspector general, USDA; Philip J. Toskes, deputy assistant inspector general, USDA; Frank G. McKnight, associate general sales manager, Export Marketing Service, USDA; Quentin West, administrator, Foreign Economic Development Service, USDA; Leonard Weiss, Minister for Economic Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Bonn; James H. Lewis, commercial counselor, and Gerald Goldstein, economic officer, also at the Bonn Embassy; and Abraham Katz, EUR/RPE, Department of State.

Congressional participants included Congresswoman Catherine May, State of Washington; Congressman Eligio de la Garza, Texas; and Congressman Ed Jones of Tennessee, all members of the House Committee on Agriculture; and John A. Knebel, assistant counsel, Committee on Agriculture.

FAS participants were Ken Krogh, assistant administrator for export programs; Ken McDaniel, deputy assistant administrator for management; Quentin Bates, deputy assistant administrator for international trade; Oscar Zaglits, advisor; and T. O. Engebretson, European area officer.

Hats off to Bonn Attache George Parks and his crew, along with the Embassy administrative group, for the capable way in which they handled the many details connected with setting up conference arrangements.



DR. P. G. MINNEMAN HONORED BY WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT

Dr. Paul G. Minneman, long-time agricultural attache who is enjoying retirement these days, was pleasantly surprised several weeks ago when the Government of West Germany presented him with the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit at a special ceremony in the German Embassy in Washington.

This honor was bestowed on Dr. Minneman in recognition of his outstanding efforts in maintaining good relations during his six years service as agricultural attache at Bonn. It came as a most fitting culmination of his many years of service abroad.

RETIREE ROSTER

- **Dr. Henry L. Buckardt:** Formerly agricultural attache in Korea and Uruguay. "Buck" has served the U.S. government for over 35 years. He will enjoy retirement on his farm at Paeonian Springs, Virginia (near Leesburg), where he plans to grow ornamental horticultural plants for supplying nurseries. In addition, the Buckardt acres will be stocked with pheasants.
- **Paul Quintus:** Formerly agricultural attache in France. After a total of 32 years service with the U.S. government, Paul is making plans to do a lot of hunting, indulge in visits with his grandchildren, and eventually do some college teaching.
- **Arthur Flatequal:** Deputy director of the Budget and Finance Division, Art is ending over 40 years of Government service. It's been rumored that he'll enjoy some of his leisure time giving his new movie camera a good work-out.
- **Mrs. Beulah Norris:** Budget and Finance Division. Her years of government service total 30. Beulah will be a full-time homemaker at Waldorf, Maryland.
- **Miss Rebecca Spittler:** Foreign Training Division. After more than 28 years in government service, Rebecca's "loafing days" turned out to be of short duration. Shortly after her retirement, she was asked to do part-time bookkeeping and auditing work for a local company and is already in the midst of this activity. She does plan, however, to take time out for a trip to Florida in the very near future.
- **Miss Mable McKendrie:** International Organizations Staff. Mable has been in government service for 34 years. Her retirement plans include several hobbies—principally handicraft work, sewing, and gardening.
- **Mrs. Agness Wood:** International Trade Fairs Division. Agness has been a government employee for 17 years. She plans to continue her hobby on a full-time scale—the breeding of Basenji dogs in her newly-established kennel in Florida.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Carlos Vieira, senior agricultural assistant at Salisbury, has received a grade promotion.

A quality step increase has been awarded to Mehmet Veli Karakus, driver for the ag attache office in Ankara.

COFFEE BREAK . . . Attaches Jim Lankford (Sweden), Harlan Dirks (Denmark), and Ernest Koenig (USEC, Belgium) chat with Congresswoman Catherine May of Washington at the attache conference in Bonn.



"NOW, AS I WAS SAYING . . ." Administrator Ray Ioanes holds the attention of Attache George Parks of Bonn and Ken Krogh, assistant administrator of export programs, between sessions at the recent attache conference.

WEDDING BELLS

Congratulations and good wishes to Freda Weimer and SFC Myles M. Anundson, who were married in Arlington, Virginia on October 24, 1969. The couple met in India, where Freda was serving her second tour of duty as a field secretary.

Upon her return to FAS/W in July, Freda enjoyed home leave in Arizona, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. She reported for duty in early September in the office of Ken McDaniel, assistant administrator for management.

Sgt. Anundson returned to the States from temporary duty in Rome and Stockholm on October 18 and left on November 13 for a 30-day temporary assignment in La Paz.

The newlyweds plan to spend the holidays with their families in Arizona and North Dakota and in mid-January will be off for Sgt. Anundson's new assignment in Tehran. Happy journey!



Dr. R. L. Beukenkamp



Duane W. Clark

NEW ATTACHE FOR ROME

Dr. R. L. Beukenkamp, who has been assistant to the assistant administrator for export programs of FAS since 1965, will take over his new duties as agricultural attache in Rome in late December.

"Berk" is well known in agricultural circles, having had wide experience in business and agriculture both in the U.S. and abroad. A native of the Netherlands who became a U.S. citizen in 1959, he holds M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in agriculture and general economics from the University of Wageningen, the Netherlands, and at one time was in the service of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture for the Dutch government.

From 1946-50 he was stationed in Buenos Aires as agricultural attache for the Netherlands, covering Argentina, Brazil, and Chile, and from 1950 to 1956 was agricultural counselor of Embassy for the Netherlands in Washington.

In addition to being internationally known as a writer and lecturer, "Berk" is fluent in six languages: English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, German, and Dutch. He is presently mastering still another tongue—Italian.

DUANE CLARK NAMED ATTACHE AT TEL AVIV

Duane Clark and his family have settled in at Tel Aviv, where Duane replaces retiring John Wenmohs as attache.

Duane is no newcomer to FAS field service, having served as assistant attache in Buenos Aires from 1958-1961. Since that time, he has been in the export area of FAS. His USDA career dates back to 1950, when he joined the PMA staff in Dallas, Texas. He was a consultant in agricultural education for USDA/OFAR in Washington from 1951 to 1953, and served in the export area of FAS from 1954-58 before going overseas.

A native of Galway, New York, Duane has a B.S. degree in agriculture from Cornell University.

Duane joined the ranks of newly-married FASers shortly before his Tel Aviv assignment. According to reports, the new Mrs. Clark quickly and capably adapted herself to the task of establishing a home far removed from the banks of the Potomac.



Family Traditions

IN ARGENTINA

We are indebted to Miss Edna Pega, senior agricultural assistant in the Buenos Aires office, for this delightful glimpse of the holiday season in Argentina:

"Argentine people dine very late on December 24 and at midnight they make the traditional toast with cider and eat Pan Dulce (sweet bread). This traditional cake is similar to the fruit cake of your country.

"It is not customary in Argentina to exchange gifts on Christmas Day. Instead, presents are usually given to children on January 6, "Three Kings' Day". Before children go to bed on January 5, they leave their shoes outside their bedroom door or on a balcony, with a letter addressed to the Three Kings asking for the toys they'd like to receive. The Three Kings are expected to arrive during the night and deliver the toys.

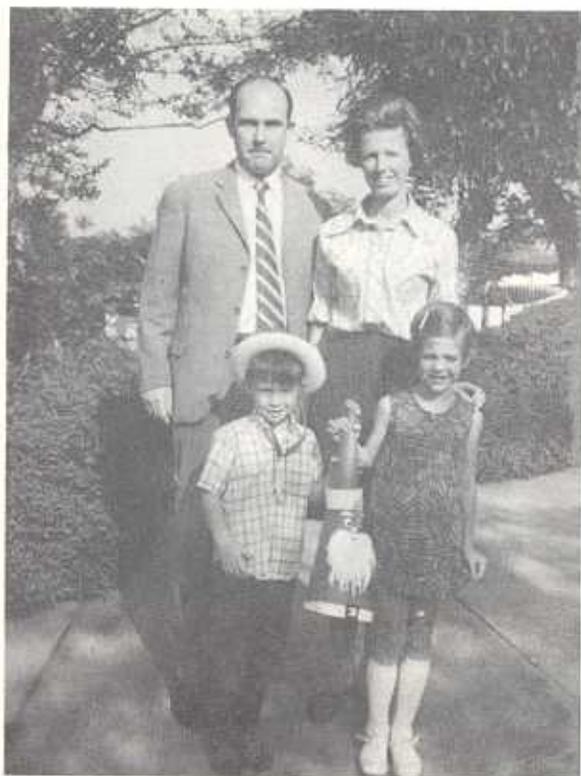
"Argentine parents agree that January 6 is the only day during the year that children get up practically at dawn. Would you blame them? (We don't!)"

Christmas



PARISIAN HOLIDAY . . . Last December, secretary Mattie Sharpless of the OECD ag office gave her mother a very special kind of Christmas gift—a three-week holiday trip from her North Carolina home to Paris. Mattie and her mother are seen here as they celebrate the visit at the home of Attache Ken Ogren.

CANADIAN CHRISTMAS . . . Four-year-old Elizabeth and Frederic Mark—age 11 months—were anticipating Santa's arrival when Papa Persi snapped this picture. Al is assistant attache in Ottawa. The Persi household celebrates Christmas family-style with opening of gifts and a traditional "turkey and all the trimmin's" dinner. Christmas in Canada is celebrated in much the same way as in the U.S.—with youngsters looking forward to Santa's arrival by sleigh and reindeer on Christmas Eve. As in the U.S., turkey is traditional holiday fare.



FAMILY GROUP IN SAO PAULO . . . "Shack" Pitcher, agricultural officer in Sao Paulo, Brazil, with his wife Birgitta and the two little Pitchers, Karen and John. The Santa Claus doll is a treasure from the 1968 Consulate General Christmas party.



CHRISTMAS IN THE TROPICS . . . Attache Bob McConnell and his family recorded family fun last year in Santo Domingo. Left to right are Bob, Patti, Jimmy, and Kathy, with Ginny in the rear. The McConnells did a little improvising to have a traditional celebration. Since it's illegal to cut trees in the Dominican Republic, they substituted an artificial evergreen from the U.S. Providing a fireplace for Santa was another matter, since fireplaces aren't needed in Santo Domingo—but a decorated table under the tree was a perfect place for hanging the family stockings.

ROAMING AROUND

Secretary **June Berger** reported for duty in Hong Kong on November 7. June, who is a newcomer to the secretarial field staff, came to USDA from Chicago in 1965. She was with C&MS prior to joining the FAS staff.

Attache **Joe Dodson** of Buenos Aires arrived home in early December. After consultation in Washington and home leave in the Los Angeles area, he'll be returning to his post sometime in February.

Nina Bandali, local secretary in the Nairobi office, has resigned.

Jack Anderson, formerly ag attache in Djakarta, has transferred from FAS to the Peace Corps.

Iris Nichols, secretary in Taipeh, arrived in Washington in early December. She'll return to post after home leave.

With the transfer of "**Berk**" **Beukenkamp** to attache duty, **Alex Bernitz** is serving as acting coordinator of export programs.

Bill Rodman, agricultural attache in Mexico, was in Washington the latter part of November to attend the joint U.S.-Mexican conference on tomatoes.

Attache **Verle Lanier** of Kinshasa is enjoying his first R&R leave this month. He's spending it by vacationing in the Uganda and Kenya areas.

Mattie Sharpless, OECD secretary, arrived last month in Washington on home leave and consultation. Mattie will spend part of her leave time with her family in North Carolina, after which she plans to become better acquainted with the U.S.A. by means of a "coast-to-coast" tour. Atlanta, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Chicago are on her tour schedule, with New York as a finale of the trip before her return to Paris.

Guillermo Ramos, ag assistant in Stan Phillips' shop in San Salvador, was in the U.S. recently on a private trip. While here, he spent a couple of days visiting FAS personnel in the cotton, livestock, and grain divisions.

Norm Kallemeyn, assistant attache, departed Hong Kong in mid-December for consultation and home leave, to be followed by reassignment.

Sharon Smith is hard at work these days studying Spanish in anticipation of her upcoming secretarial assignment to Buenos Aires.

Assistant Attache **Lawrence Davidoff** has resigned from his post at Madrid.

Attache **Elmer Hallowell** was called home in early November when his father passed away in Greenfield, Massachusetts. Elmer will take home leave before returning to Tokyo in late January.

Frank Padovano, assistant attache, began home leave in late November. He is scheduled to return to his Paris assignment.

Attache **Doug Crawford** returns from Madrid this month for home leave and reassignment.

Dick Smith, deputy assistant administrator for attaches, is recuperating from spinal surgery which he underwent in mid-October. As this issue of the **Letter** goes to press, Dick's office expects him to be back on the job in early December.

Attache **John Wenmohs** is homeward bound from Israel. En route, he is taking some annual leave and will arrive in FAS/W for consultation late this month. John's retirement is set for January 9.



ROAMING AROUND

Christmastime is summertime down in Brazil—and the Pitcher family, like many Paulistas and their counterparts the Cariocas from Rio, will spend part of the Christmas holidays at the beach. Again this year, there'll also be a Scandinavian "glög" party at the Pitchers' home. "Shack" has learned from experience that while warm "glög" has its merits, something cooler really might be preferable as a summertime refreshment.

Acting attache in Rome since the departure of **Bob Tetro** is **Bill Dobbins**.

Clarence Miller will be leaving soon after the Christmas holidays to take up his post as attache in Madrid.

Attache **Ernest Koenig** of the USEC office in Brussels was in Washington in late October for three days of consultation on agricultural trade matters.

Dewey Pritchard, Cotton, has been detailed for a year to the office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations.

Larry Hall, Grain and Feed, has been detailed for a year to the Office of Food Policy, Bureau of Economic Affairs, Department of State.

Secretary **Margaret Lynch** is home for the holidays, after which she'll be returning to Tokyo for a second tour of duty. Before arriving in FAS/W for consultation, Margaret enjoyed three weeks of annual leave. Her itinerary included Hong Kong, India, Lebanon, Turkey, Greece, and England. Highlight of the trip, Margaret says, was going to Agra, India to see the beautiful Taj Mahal.

Friends of former Attache **Val Hougen**, who has undergone protracted medical care following his return from Tel Aviv, will be happy to know that he is on the mend.

MAIL CALL IN ROME

By way of the international grapevine, we have received word that an avalanche of no small proportions descended on the agricultural office in Rome prior to and following the departure of Attache **Bob Tetro** for Washington—all in the form of mail from friends scattered throughout Italy. This inundation included warm letters of appreciation and good wishes from Ministry of Agriculture officials, trade contacts, editors, Italian farm organization leaders, and other friends made by Signor and Signora Tetro during their Roman sojourn.

One of Bob's special interests during his Rome assignment was the "3P Clubs" of Italy, which correspond to the 4-H Clubs in this country. Throughout his assignment, he was very active in the development of these youth groups—and received commendation for his efforts before his departure through the pages of the publication "Il Coltivatore", which is published by the federation of agricultural cooperatives who are sponsors of the youth clubs. A recent issue of this journal, forwarded from the Rome office, carries as its lead story an article written by Bob titled "The Human Factor in Agricultural Investments."

FORMER ATTACHE DIES

Edwin R. Raymond, who retired several years ago from the attache service, died in Columbus, Ohio on October 25 following a short illness.

Ed was agricultural attache in Warsaw (1945-48), Cairo (1948-50), Damascus (1952-54), and Dublin (1955-60). He retired upon his return to Washington in 1960, having been in government service for 30 years.

THE FAS LETTER



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