CHAPTER III

Growth of the Md. All Stars

1921 to 1948

INTRODUCTION

In order to review the growth of the Maryland All Star Chapter since its early beginning in 1921; many, many searches were made of all available records to uncover the history of the group. Naturally, it was impossible to gather complete information, since records were not maintained in an effort to enlarge or publicize the All Stars. The development of the organization and its accomplishments from 1921 to 1948 as contained in this chapter are a historical record of the minutes, correspondence, and brief information bulletins contained in the yearly files. Frequently, the names of key individuals are missing; the information regarding the marital status of many members is incomplete and actual summaries of accomplishments from year to year are inconclusive.

Letters and other information have been included in this chapter exactly as they appeared in the records; other data, based on its informative value, has been extracted from the files in the same manner.

THE FOUNDING OF THE MARYLAND CHAPTER

The Maryland Chapter of 4-H Club All Stars was begun in 1921. "Daddy Jenks" describes the beginning of the work in the following statement in a letter to Erna M. Riedel, May 1, 1941:

"In the summer of 1920 I sent Min Elsie Hill, (now Mrs. Roland) principal of the Flintstone High School in Allegany County, to West Virginia to report on their Short Course which was then held at Morgantown. She was enthusiastic about the All Stars. In 1921, Adice Jones (now Mrs. Faw) then State Girls' Agent, and B. B. Derrick, County Agent in Harford County also attended the West Virginia Short Course. They were most enthusiastic about the All Star Organization and had tentatively agreed with the All Stars of West Virginia to send a delegation here to organize a chapter. A month or two later they came to our Club Week, and using their chartering method, selected nine young people, and Adice Jones, P. W. Chichester, who was my assistant, and myself, and organized the first chapter."

The West Virginia All Stars who installed the Beta Chapter of the Maryland All Stars were: Gladys Scranage, Raleigh Schawver, Adele Bigelow, and Steve Morton. Twelve members were installed as charter members of the Beta Chapter of All Stars by this delegation. The newly founded 4-H Club All Star Chapter elected Wilbur Smith as Big Chief.

The following year, 1922 to 1923, twelve additional members were chosen with Laura Amos serving as Big Chief. The spirit which is typical of that which makes the All Stars a fine group, is expressed in Big Chief Laura Amos' letter to the All Star members in preparation for the 1923 Fall Conference.

College Park, Md., July 19, 1923

My dear All Star:

We are planning the best All Star Conference ever held in Maryland. This will last through the week of the Short Course at College Park—August 6 to 11. The Alpha Chapter from West Virginia will be represented at this Short Course. We expect to revise the old manner of selecting All Stars and adopt a new Constitution. We are also going to try to adopt a standard pin and furnish each member with one. We feel that our future success depends largely upon our work here this summer.

Therefore, let me urge each and every loyal All Star of Maryland to be present, if possible, at the first meeting on Monday evening, August 6th at 6:30 p. m. No further announcement of this meeting will be given.

Let us show our true All Star spirit at this Short Course.

Yours fraternally,

Laura Amos
"Big Chief" of Beta Chapter
of All Stars.

First Maryland All Star Group in 1921

First Row: (left to right) Peter W. Chichester, Katherine Baker, Laura Amos, Alverta Miller, Adice Jones, Elizabeth House, and E. G. Jenkins. Second Row: (left to right) Walter Bromley, Fred Bull, David Price, Wilbur Smith (Big Chief), and Virgil Dolly.

Thus, began the first realistic approach to the development of the Maryland All Star Chapter with its various problems pertaining to the method of selecting the outstanding boys and girls from their counties; the manner of bringing them into the Circle during the Consecration Service; and the ways and means of forming a stronger, more unified group from the many individuals

Sunday evening after the Consecration Service the group chose Katherine Baker as the Big Chief for the coming year, 1924 to 1925. Other officers selected at this time were as follows:

Lesser Chief: Fred Bull
Scribe: Susie Amos
Medicine Man: Stanleigh Jenkins
Scout Eagle: Lawrence Downey

All Star Traditions

By this time it was realized that the service rendered by the members of the All Star Group at Club Week would definitely be a major contribution to the development of 4-H Club work throughout the State. The practice of having the All Star group come the week end prior to Club Week was initiated. The idea that various All Stars could act as tribe leaders, nation chiefs and ushers was also conceived. Thus, in the summer of 1925, "Daddy Jenks" prepared his first reminder which proposed the originating of the Vesper Service and the All Star supper. These activities have become traditions of the All Star week end prior to Club Week through the years. Since this letter was one of the earliest in regard to All Star assistance at Club Week, it is presented below exactly as it appeared in mimeograph form on July 22, 1925.

Dear All Star:

Miss Emerson and I, after talking with several All Stars about the large part you folks are to play in Club Week this year, have decided to ask you to come on a day ahead (Wednesday, August 5.)

This will give you a chance to visit and talk over all sorts of things during the day. We will have a reunion about 5:30 or 6:00 and have supper together. After supper we will have our own quiet, strength-giving Vesper and then a formal meeting.

I can make no promise, but if I can raise the money, we will pay your extra meals or part of them. If I can not, it may cost you a little extra; perhaps a dollar or dollar and a half. That is; about 35 cents per meal up to Thursday supper which goes on the regular six dollar Club Week fee.

We earnestly hope all All Stars will be with us this year to help make this the most wonderful Club Week ever held.

Yours fraternally,

Jenks

The only record of the conference conducted at the Club Week of 1925 is a brief listing of the achievements of the group, made in ink on scratch paper and unsigned as follows:

ALL STAR MEETING—SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 1925

1. Consecration Service and Initiation of ten new members.
2. Election of Officers for 1925-1926.
   Big Chief: Stanleigh Jenkins
   Scribe: Curry Nourse
   Medicine Man: Stanley Sutton
   Scout: Fred Bull
3. Vote on dues: one dollar per year.
4. Change of Constitution: none.

On August 3, 1926 the All Stars gathered at the University of Maryland for the annual two day session prior to Club Week. Naturally, the current problem was the selection of new candidates. At this time, Miss Emerson pointed out to the group that many potential 4-H Club boys and girls were real All Star material in their respective communities, however, they did not seem to exhibit the same ability at Club Week. It was then decided that various All Stars would furnish names of individuals in this category who were attending Club Week so they could be placed under observation.

Three Leaders Tapped

In the second business meeting of the conference on August 4, the dues were finally established at one dollar a year. That evening, the Vesper Service was conducted on the campus lawn in front of the old Engineering Building followed by the Council Circle in the woods below the dairy. Later in the week the Consecration Service was conducted in the old gymnasium. Sixteen members of the Club Week group, including three out-of-state leaders: Lorenzo Kinney, Rhode Island State Club Leader, Mrs. Edith Craig of Massachusetts and Dr. R. G. "Bob" Foster of the United States Department of Agriculture were consecrated. The following Monday, at the final meeting during the 1926 Club Week, the Initiation Service was conducted and immediately following, the entire group re-elected Stanleigh Jenkins as Big Chief. The supporting officers for the coming year were: Lesser Chief—Curry Nourse, Medicine Man—Norwood Thornton, Scribe—Louise Townsend and Scout—Gladys Bull.

Rhode Island Desires Membership

In the fall of 1926 the Maryland Chapter of All Stars was faced with the problem concerning the formation of additional groups in other states, particularly Rhode Island. Mr. Lorenzo F. Kinney, Jr., the Rhode Island State Leader and a Maryland All Star taken in during the 1926 Club Week, was deeply interested in the All Star movement and expressed a deep concern regarding the organization of the All Stars into a National group. In his letter of March 17, 1927, written to all Maryland All Stars, an interesting statement was made regarding expansion. It is quoted below, since it is a typical presentation of the recognition of service and outstanding development of each of the 4 "H's" which make a successful All Star group.

"The question of expansion would seem to involve the same questions that you consider in the selection of individuals. Numbers are the last consideration. The achievements already made are the only available guides as to the future. Because new groups will have the power of expansion it is most important that each one comes entirely up to the All Star ideals. Since the All Star ideals are the highest ideals of 4-H Club achievement, it is certain that young men and young women of All Star calibre will eventually appear in each state. When such characteristics appear, the individual deserves All Star recognition. It would seem desirable to have several individuals receive this recognition and carry the All Star spirit into the community or state for a year or several years until it was certain that there had been no mistakes, before permission was granted to form a new organization."

the All Stars in the fall of 1927 and the summer of 1928 resulted in his election as the leader of the group for the coming year, 1928 to 1929. Thus, the final meeting of the 1928 Club Week came to a close with the initiation of sixteen new members. Stanley's executive committee for the coming year was composed of Lesser Chief Margaret K. Ringler, who nineteen years later was to become the Big Chief; Curry Nourse, last year's Lesser Chief, as Scribe; John Joesting, Medicine Man, and Delma Caples as Scout.

Outstanding Reports

After the conference of March 23 and 24 in 1929 a record of the various activities at the meeting was forwarded to All Stars not in attendance. Although the practice has not been adhered to, it presented valuable information for the many All Stars unable to be part of the group at the conference. In connection with the position of Scribe, Curry Nourse, did exceptional work in presenting the minutes and keeping all members of the chapter informed. The Scribe's report of the 1929 Spring Conference has been extracted from the All Star records and is shown below in its entirety.

College Park, Md., May 24, 1929.

"Dear All Star Members:

"We were very sorry you were not able to attend our March Conference. Therefore, we thought you would be interested in receiving a report of it:

"A meeting of the Beta Chapter of All Stars was held Saturday, March 23, 1929, in the rest room of the Agriculture Building, University of Maryland.

"The meeting was called to order by Chief Stanley B. Sutton. The minutes of last March conference and the two August meetings were read.

"Letters and telegrams of greetings from various members who were not able to be present were read.

"The Scribe was instructed to write Miss Buchanan and tell her about the meeting, and as she requested in her telegram we sang the "Four Leaf Clover Song" for her.

"Under old business, the question as to people coming in for just the day during Club Week, being eligible to vote in election of new members was discussed. A motion was made that more than fifty percent of members present must vote on a person before he or she could be taken in.

"Under new business, there was a discussion as to the order and governing of folks during Club Week.

"A motion was made and carried that we send a report of this meeting to all members not present.

"The treasurer reported $30.00 in bank.

"There was a discussion as to the reduction of dues. It was finally decided to keep them as is—$1.00 per year.

"Each member present told what he or she was and had been doing since we last met: Alverta Miller, Lawrence Downey, Carolyn Chesser, Gladys Bull, Anne Matthews, Arthur Hamilton, Billy James, Winifred Gahan and Curry Nourse are attending University of Maryland. Bessie Gavit is county health nurse in Charles County. Susie Amos, Betty Joesting and Agnes Emmerick are teaching school. Ned Preston is working at the Government Farm at Beltsville. Frank Bushey, James Bushey, Warren Tydings, Jordan Dorsey, John Joesting, Fred Ernst, Page Smith, Stanley Sutton, Van Ridenour, Elwood Anderson, Wheeler Ensor, Bill Joesting and Charles Hines are working on farms. Richard Tracey is attending Pennyslvania University. Jack Price, Kathleen Moore, Lucille Lusby, Margaret Beck, Sally Chesser, Jane Wine and Ann Green are attending high school and doing active Club work. Julia Williams is attending Western Maryland College. Rutland Hopkins, Helen Zeman, Evelyn Zepp and Erna Riedel have business positions. Eben Jenkins is attending

was approved on the conditions that the Rhode Island chapter adopt the All Star name and the Constitution. At the same time, much of the ground work had been accomplished to establish the Massachusetts chapter. To complete this work, it was voted that the Maryland All Stars join Virginia and West Virginia in organizing the Massachusetts All Stars. After this discussion the first major revision of the Constitution was proposed. The changes are discussed in detail, in Chapter V, and therefore are not presented here. Other than the appointing of several committees, the remaining meetings of this conference did not contribute any major discussions or newly developed programs.

The initial meeting of the 1930 Club Week was held on Tuesday evening prior to the opening of Club Week on Wednesday August 5, 1930. During this session much of the planning for the coming week was completed and Walter Morris was elected as Lesser Chief to replace Jack Price who was unable to continue in the office.

The remaining sessions conducted during the Club Week were mainly concerned with the scouting and selecting of new members. However, on Sunday morning seventeen new members were chosen on the final vote after considering the individual scouting reports. At the annual Initiation Service conducted that evening the new members were officially taken into the Circle and Stanley Sutton after serving two terms in 1927 and 1928 was again chosen as Big Chief. The remaining officers chosen on the ballot were as follows: Fred Ernst, Lesser Chief; Winifred Gahan, Scribe; Walter Morris, Medicine Man; and Oland Howard, Scout. After retiring Big Chief, Kathleen Moore, gave an interesting report of the trip to Rhode Island and Massachusetts, in connection with their All Star activities, the meeting was adjourned. In the final meeting of the 1930 Club Week several recommendations were made regarding the identification of All Stars by the use of an appropriate pin and the identification of candidates by using photographs on membership proposals.

In the absence of Big Chief Stanley Sutton, Fred Ernst, Lesser Chief, opened the mid-year conference on March 28, 1931. At this meeting, the acting Chief proposed the selection of two delegates to go to West Virginia All Star Conference in June. Once again the revision of the Constitution became the main problem for discussion. The changes regarding membership are outlined in Chapter V and reflect a general restricting or "tightening up" of the membership requirements.

In the final meeting of the Mid-Year Conference, a draft of a membership form was presented to the group. These forms were designed for use by local home demonstration and county agents in proposing new members. In the final session of the conference, Fred Ernst and Ruth Judy were selected to represent Maryland at the West Virginia meeting.

On Saturday morning the final results of the voting indicated that twenty-three members would be taken from the Club Week group at the Consecration Service on Sunday evening.

Following the Consecration Service and Initiation Ceremony the officers for 1932 to 1933 were elected as follows:

Big Chief: Walter Morris
Lesser Chief: Wilson Hudson
Scribe: Erna Riedel
Medicine Man: John Stiles
Scout: Orvil Ernst

Big Chief Walter Morris' letter of March 14, 1933 informed the All Stars that the Spring Conference would again be held at the University of Maryland on April 8 and 9. The major topics for discussion at this get-together were: the program for the coming Club Week; the summer All Star meeting; and the county organization for older boys and girls.

Budget Reductions

At the first session of the conference, "Daddy Jenks" explained conditions in regard to the decrease in the Extension Service budget. The major reduction in an effort to maintain limited expenditures, was the abolition of positions for assistant county agents. This elimination was further explained by Dr. T. B. Symons who stated that in order to avoid the removal of assistant county agents, the All Stars must do everything in their power to gain public approval of 4-H Club work and in doing so could prevent further slashes in appropriations.

1933 Spring All Star Conference

at an appropriate location on the University of Maryland Campus. In connection with the current economic situation, the All Stars were alerted by Dr. T. B. Symons to its effect on rural relief and rehabilitation of certain communities. The success of Club work during 1934, was seriously impeded due to the severe budget cut; Dr. T. B. Symons therefore again urged the All Stars to expend every effort to stimulate Club work in their local communities.

During the August meetings, prior to the 1934 Club Week, the Constitution was under considerable fire, particularly the articles concerning membership, voting, dues, and honorary membership. At this time, a constitution committee attempted to revise the above mentioned articles; however, on the following day, the changes which were proposed were shelved for further revision at the 1935 Spring Conference. This ruling however, did not prevail, since on the meeting of August 12, the revisions as previously proposed, were accepted by the group.

Later in the week, during the annual Consecration Service fifty-one new members were consecrated. This was the largest number of candidates ever selected in any one year to All Star membership to date, 1934. Following the Initiation Service, Charlie Hines was elected as Big Chief for his second term. The secondary officers consisted of William Comella as Lesser Chief, Polly Taylor as Scribe, Abram Gottwals as Scout for the second time, and Lee Howes as Medicine Man.

Conduct County Meetings

The initial session of the March 30 Spring Conference revealed the first extensive attempt by All Star groups to conduct county meetings between the annual fall and spring sessions. At this time, Prince Georges, Montgomery, Kent and Queen Annes Counties reported the results of their local meetings. The following day, at the final session of this conference, Mary Jenkins and Russell Umstead were appointed to go to the Rhode Island All Star convention.

During July the county and home demonstration agents were again requested to assist in the selection of candidates. Big Chief Charles Hines, in his letter to the local leaders, stated that of the fifty-one members tapped at the Club Week of 1934, more than half were unknown by the State Leaders or by most members of the All Star organization.

Lesser Chief, Bill Comella in the absence of Big Chief Charlie Hines, opened the first session on August 9, prior to the 1935 Club Week. At this time it was proposed that a Corresponding Scribe and Recording Scribe be elected to replace the former position of Scribe. During this meeting, a committee was appointed to prepare a mimeographed pamphlet of the purpose and history of the All Stars for distribution to new members.

After the final vote at the third meeting of the week, twenty-two 4-H'ers were approved for tapping at the Consecration Service. This group was considerably smaller than the fifty-one chosen in 1934. No doubt this reduction

physical and spiritual side of home-making, Dr. Smith made the following statement:

"For example, there is the table, around which on practically all the farms of America and in the homes of most small town merchants, the whole family meet three times a day. That is the place where much of the character building of children takes place. We attach great importance to the abundant, well-prepared table. It is probably as significant in child training as is the school or church. The meeting at the table is a social event for the family. It is there that father and mother comment on the behavior of the neighbors, of other children; there that they express themselves on current topics, the church, religion, politics, character, education, prohibition; there three times daily the children drink in, through the years, ideas of right and wrong, the place of honesty, integrity in life; there they are inspired to high ideals and with ambition to be someone and something in the world."

Being a truly inspired family man, Dr. Smith, near the end of his memorable speech, offered an excellent viewpoint of man and his love for family life and the beauty of nature, for he said:

"In our own family, the six children, now grown, claim that their tramps with their parents on Sundays and holidays and at other times in the woods and fields and along the streams stand out in their memories as the happiest events of their childhood. On these occasions we learned the trees, noticed the birds, tasted the wild sassafras, and red sumac, smelled the spice bush, found the first wild flowers of spring, hunted for the singing crickets, gathered nuts, listened to the frogs, and watched the high-circling hawks float lazily in the sky. Besides, we floated chips on swift-running water, played they were enemy submarines and tried to drive them ashore with stones before they got beyond a certain point in the stream. If we drove the ships ashore, we won; if they floated beyond the chosen point, the enemy won."

New Hampshire Desires Chapter

On the final day of this Conference Mr. R. A. Wadleigh, State Club Leader of New Hampshire informed the All Stars of the work being done in his State and of the vital interest in the All Star Organization. After the usual discussions at the business meeting, the inspiring and enthusiastic 1937 Conference came to an end.

In "Daddy Jenks" and Miss Emerson's letter of July 26, to the All Stars in regard to the coming Club Week, an intimate appeal was made for all to attend. For some unknown reason, they had a premonition that the coming Club Week was to be an important gathering for they said at this time:

"The spring meeting was an inspiring event; it seemed to convince us more than anything has for several years that this group of folks, dedicated to service, can accept the great challenge of this New Day, if it will, and can be a powerful influence for wholesome life in Rural Maryland if each of us will face our own responsibilities and meet our every day challenges as an ideal All Star can and should.

"Some way we have the feeling that this will be the most important gathering of our Chapter in years. Won't you come to us with a more earnest and more determined thought of the profound responsibility that rests on this Honor Group of Maryland's 4-H Clubs?"

The initial session of the All Star gathering prior to the 1937 Club Week opened on August 4 with forty-four members present. At this time the various committees on membership, future plans, and social activities were appointed. The following afternoon thirty-four 4-H Club members were nominated for membership. A Scout was designated to observe each nominee during the coming week. It was at this meeting that Margaret Ringler made a strong appeal to the group to exercise more care in selecting new members for even though there were three hundred and forty-five elected members, the same group of individuals come back to the Conferences year after year.

accepted by the group. The recommendations accepted at this time were as follows:

1. That no special efforts or campaigns of any kind should be undertaken to induce any states to organize All Star Chapters. However, we believe in acquainting All Stars with the All Star idea.
2. Any state desiring to have a chapter of 4-H Club All Stars should have the state officials or older 4-H Club folks secure from an All Star State, the fundamentals of the organization and the minimum standards of the chapter.
3. We further recommend that a group of older 4-H folks from any state contemplating an All Star Organization send a delegation to an All Star Conference of an organized chapter.

The highlight of the annual spring banquet conducted at Holbrook's Dairy on the night of April 23 was an excellent presentation by Mrs. Grace Lee Anthony, an All Star of 1925, entitled, "It Takes a Heap of Living in a House to Make It Home."

Consider New Members In Spring

At the final meeting of the 1938 Spring Conference on the morning of April 24, each All Star County Chairman gave a report on eligible candidates who were to be considered for membership at Club Week in August. This was a significant development of the Organization which followed the appointment of leaders for the County All Star groups. The final order of business at this session was a revision of the recommendation blank to include more data regarding the activity of prospective candidates.

In the usual Pre-Club Week correspondence "Daddy Jenks" and Dorothy Emerson, in 1938, asked the All Stars to again accept specialized responsibilities due to the severe cuts in the Extension Service budget. It was during this session that a committee was appointed to work with a group of Virginia All Stars to formulate plans for a combined meeting of the five All Star chapters.

The All Stars discussed various Constitutional changes and selected thirty-four Scouts to observe forty-one candidates during the coming Club Week. Then "Daddy Jenks" asked the All Stars to consider taking in a larger number of All Stars on the basis of the work they performed back home. This motion was tabled to be considered at a later meeting during the week.

Three of the meetings were devoted to a lengthy discussion on having the Consecration Service out-of-doors, and finally an affirmative decision was reached. However, the most important decision of the group at this time was to define the equivalent of Club Week as one year of accredited 4-H Club work.

On August 12, the final balloting for the new members took place. Of the forty-one candidates scouted, only twenty-six were chosen from the Club Week membership to become All Stars. All twenty-six were received into the Circle at the annual Consecration Service. Thus, the fifteen nominees who were not tapped represented the largest group ever rejected from the All Stars during preliminary or final balloting.

At the final meeting, after the Consecration Service on Sunday, the "unwritten law" of casting a unanimous ballot for the slate of officers as presented

Nicodemus as Scribe, Henry Koller as Medicine Man and Ruth Leonard as Scout. Prior to the adjournment of this meeting Erna Riedel was chosen the Chapter Historian. At that time very little significance was attached to this appointment, but it eventually lead to the writing of this history.

In "Daddy Jenks" and Miss Emerson's statement regarding the coming 1940 Spring All Star Conference to be held at Vindabona Hotel, Braddock Heights on April 21 and 22, one of the most timely remarks contained in the records was made. In urging members to attend they wrote the following: "Each year the Spring All Star Conference seems to us a little more intimate and a little more valuable than any other similar experience." To the older All Stars this is particularly true at Vindabona, for as the vast spaces of the green Middletown Valley merged into the horizon on the bright Sunday mornings, the group always gathered for a brief service of worship. Indeed the devotional periods were intimate and extremely valuable.

First Committee Report In Minutes

At the first meeting of the Spring Conference Bill Comella, chairman of the Constitution Committee, gave an extensive report on proposed changes to the By-Laws and Article I of the Constitution on membership qualifications, as drawn up by the committee. With only a few minor changes the By-Laws were accepted, however, the motion to have All Stars sign the applications of new candidates completely bogged down any attempt to complete the revision of the Constitution during the initial meeting. After tabling the Constitution discussion, the Future Plans Committee recommended that a permanent historian be appointed to write the All Star History; that the Big Chief before retiring from office make an annual report to the State Club Office; and that the executive board write a letter to all agents answering the question, "What is an All Star and how do you become one?" It is interesting to point out that of all the previous committees ever appointed, the Future Plans Committee of the 1940 Spring Conference submitted the first written statement to become part of the minutes of any meeting.

After the inspiring devotional service on the hill at Vindabona, the final business meeting of this session was officially opened. The first order of business was the granting of sixty dollars to the "Teepi" Memorial Fund. This was followed by the selection of Betty Becker, and John Hull to attend Camp Miniwanca and Helen May Bryan and Wayne Jerome to be the official delegates at the Virginia Short Course. The final order of business was the new proposals regarding the revision of Article I of the Constitution. Apparently the revision met with the desires of the group, for prior to closing the discussion, it was moved and seconded that the Constitution be printed following the coming Club Week. After Sam Land of the Virginia All Stars gave an interesting talk on the activities of his chapter, the meeting adjourned.

brought into the Circle. Following the Initiation Ceremony, the Nominating Committee reported its slate for new officers as follows: Big Chief, Wayne Jerome; Lesser Chief, Turner Timberlake; Scribe, Helen May Bryan; Medicine Man, Henry Koller and Scout, Alice Rohrer. The committee selections were chosen by a unanimous vote. Before adjournment of the final meeting at the 1940 Club Week, Embra Moorman of the Virginia All Star Chapter told the group that she had a wonderful time and was greatly inspired by the work of the Maryland All Stars to help make things "click" for the kids at Club Week.

It was during this conference that the All Stars received information regarding the annual California 4-H All Star Conference held in March of each year at Berkeley. It is desired to point out that although the organization is called the 4-H All Stars, its structure and purposes are vastly different from ours. The counties of California through their organization of local leaders, select a boy and a girl as representatives to the annual conference. These few individuals are termed All Stars and in most instances the counties have sent them to attend a meeting known as the All Star Conference which is held on the campus of the University of California.

Twentieth Anniversary

With the clouds of war hovering over the entire world, the All Stars scheduled their Twentieth Anniversary Spring Conference at Vindabona Hotel, Braddock Heights, Maryland, on April 19 and 20 of 1941. In the appeal by "Daddy Jenks" to encourage the group to attend this meeting, he wrote an inspiring message on April 1 to the All Stars:

> "Not since the early days of the first World War have I seen people so busy. Every All Star will have so many things going on he will probably have to give up something on April 19 and 20. Thinking of the hundreds of letters I have read regarding what this organization means to you, and realizing what it means to me, I have no hesitation in saying emphatically that this should be, and may well be, the most important gathering of an intimate family, of close friends, of well wishers, of go-givers in the State of Maryland this year. We three at the office need every one of you to uphold our hands in these strenuous days."

Although the Spring Conference meeting of April 19 opened with a feeling of "tenseness," the group made several major decisions under the able direction of Big Chief Wayne Jerome. It was at this meeting that Mylo Downey proposed a definite plan to recognize local leaders for outstanding service. Essentially, the plan approved by the group was to award a certificate to leaders with five years outstanding service and an official leadership pin to those individuals with ten years of outstanding service. Before this meeting closed "Daddy Jenks" urged that each county form a County All Star Group. Apparently "Daddy Jenks" saw the "hand writing upon the wall," and the need for closer and more sincere fellowship in view of the unusual events of world politics and dictatorial leadership. That evening everyone enjoyed the annual banquet, dance, and party which are part of the All Star traditions.

Following the devotional period on the morning of April 20, the All Stars assembled for the final session of the 1941 Spring Conference. Miss Emerson, in the first order of business, gave a review of the out-of-state trips scheduled for the

At the third regular business meeting, Mrs. Lucile Richards was presented with the All Star pin which had been worn by Kathleen Moore of Caroline County. Kathleen, a former Big Chief in 1929 and 1930 who had become inactive, desired that her pin be given to some other All Star who had given many years of service to All Star and 4-H Club work. Then Margaret Loar outlined plans for the coming dance and eight more nominees were added to the list for observation. Following this, the meeting adjourned.

Recognition of Local Leaders

On the evening of August 6 at the fourth business gathering of the group it was decided that twenty-one local leaders would be recognized for performing outstanding service of more than ten years duration. At this time, Mr. Mylo Downey reported that over fifty persons had served five years and about thirty had given ten or more years of service. He further stated that approximately fifteen local leaders would annually reach their fifth year of service and five, their tenth year. Before adjourning, the group rendered favorable reports on twenty-five candidates under observation.

It was in the final business meeting before the annual Consecration Service that seven of the thirty-four members nominated for membership were rejected by the final vote. On the evening of August 8 the twenty-seven nominees were taken into the Circle. During the business meeting that followed the Initiation Ceremony, many decisions were made regarding the various problems encountered at that time. It was agreed that the Maryland Chapter send delegates to the Conference of All Star Chapters to be held at Washington in the latter part of October. It was also mentioned that the two major problems in completing the history were the procurement of funds to get the printing accomplished and getting information to fill in the many blank spaces. It is of interest to point out that, at this time, the group made no effort whatsoever to establish a method for obtaining the necessary funds nor did anyone offer any proposals on how to get certain missing information for the history.

Before adjournment, the Nominating Committee submitted the following slate of new officers:

Big Chief: Helen M. Bryan
Lesser Chief: Henry Koller
Scribe: Vernon Bolte
Medicine Man: Helen Lechliter
Scout: Louise Brown

However, the unanimous vote by the group did not include the committee nomination for Big Chief and after nominations of Stanley Sutton and Rufus King from the floor, a ballot of the entire group finally elected Rufus King as Big Chief. This was the second time in the history of the organization that the Nominating Committee's slate was not completely accepted by the group. It is of interest to state that an urgent appeal had been made by Erna

"At the business meeting, there was much discussion on how the All Stars will carry on in this emergency. Among the various resolutions passed was one asking the State office to write to all counties with reference to the nomination of candidates for selection for membership by the All Stars this summer. Since we will have no Club Week, but may have some kind of 4-H Club Day at College Park, it became necessary to waive the provisions of the Constitution.

"It was decided that the State office immediately ask each county to see that as many of the All Stars as possible get together with the county agent, home demonstration agent, and assistants, and nominate one boy and one girl, sending the names and such information as they may have to this office ***not later than June first.*** Enclosed is a blank for this purpose.

"You will probably avoid embarrassment if your candidates know nothing about your nominations, because they might not be elected this year."

The State Leaders sent out an official notice to all the candidates that had been selected through the combined efforts of the county leaders and county All Star groups. Since this procedure had never been employed before the actual notice to new members provides interesting reading. The first letter is shown below exactly as it was mailed out from the State Office on September 12, 1942:

"To the Knights in the Days of Old
Came A Vision of Holy Grail"

You have been at Club Week and heard the voices of All Stars singing this song as they formed their Consecration Circle the last night of a glorious week. Then you have watched them go through the group and one by one take a few young men and women by the hand and bring them into the circle to become All Stars themselves.

This year—1942—if Club Week had been held, you were to have been one of those chosen to be taken into the All Star Circle.

At the spring All Star Conference when we realized that Club Week would be cancelled we decided that this year the new All Stars must be told of their membership by letter.

On October 3rd we are planning a big State 4-H Club Day. In the evening after the party, there will be a closing camp fire ceremony when your name—and the names of other new All Stars—will be called and you will all join us in the Inner Circle.

Sunday morning the Initiation and Consecration Service will be held, for one is a member in name only until he has been taken into this Service.

All Stars will remain over night—a small charge will be made for the dormitory room, and all will get their own meals together down at the foot of the hill.

Will you be able to come on October 3rd and 4th? Return the enclosed card, please.

Never before in the history of the All Star Circle has the call for consecration to "Follow the Gleam" been so clear. Seeing dimly the present high and worthy cause of the Christian Way of Life for men and Nations—a life of service to honor, justice, liberty and freedom—

The All Stars Call You!

"Follow the gleam!
Banners unfurled
O'er all the world.
Follow the gleam
Of the Chalice that is the Grail."

The minutes of the initial session conducted at the first State 4-H Club Day on October 3 are unusual in that they do not record extensive discussions pertaining to the appointing of Scouts, the observation of candidates, or the nomination of county and campus candidates. With Lesser Chief Henry Koller directing the session in the absence of Big Chief Rufus King, it was decided that the Consecration Service should be altered somewhat. Thus, on the night of October 3, around the brilliant blaze of the campfire, the first All Star members were chosen from the gathering at the State 4-H Club Day. Although not as impressive as previous services, the inspirations received by the All Stars when

made an interesting statement which more or less gave an indication of the support that Club work would get in the post war period. At this time, she stated that the State Fair Board had given five times more money for the American Youth Foundation work than ever before.

On the twenty-first of September, 1943, Big Chief Helen Bryan Timberlake forwarded the annual reminder to the All Stars stating that the group would be unable to hold a meeting during the State 4-H Club Day due to the tight schedule of events and the urgent need of All Stars to help with the plan of work for the day. Therefore all members were urged to gather at the week end meeting to be held at Braddock Heights, Maryland on October 16 and 17. It was further stated that the Saturday night banquet would be in honor of "Daddy Jenks."

During the initial meeting of this conference on October 16, much time was spent in reviewing and discussing the recommendations for membership as forwarded by the county agents and County All Star Groups. Considerable work had to be done to insure that the nominees were All Star material prior to forwarding the letter notifying each candidate of his or her selection to the Organization at the coming State 4-H Club Day. That night, at the annual banquet, an inspiring tribute was paid to "Daddy Jenks" as Stanley Sutton, Dan Downey, Wilma Ryan, Vernon Bolte and Jane Shaw put on several clever skits depicting events of "Daddy Jenks'" personal character and his colorful career as a leader in 4-H Club work and as an All Star. Many humorous gifts, as well as gifts of sentimental value were presented to the retiring State Boys' Club Agent. The All Stars also presented their Honorary Big Chief with a leather writing folio as a token of a job well done.

Prayers for Peace

On Sunday morning the usual devotional service was held on the slope overlooking the Middletown Valley. The utmost prayer of the group at this time was for lasting peace throughout the world and the safe return to their homeland of all members of the Armed Forces. During the final business session of the Conference, the preliminary and final votes were taken on the thirty-one members to be chosen from the 4-H Club Day group. "Daddy Jenks" then gave an interesting talk on just what his working with the All Star group for the years since 1921 has meant to him. To "Daddy Jenks" the All Stars were ever so dear and in his closing statement he said, "You folks represent the finest the country puts out." Before adjournment the Nominating Committee recommended Alice Rohrer for the position of Big Chief with a supporting group of officers of Evan Meese as Lesser Chief, Georgia White as Scribe, Daniel Poole as Medicine Man and Henry Heaps as Scout. These officers, elected by a unanimous vote, were to assume their duties following the State 4-H Club Day.

Ann Lee Tipton Sponsors Launching of the S. M. Shoemaker

were tapped by the Scouts. The thirty-three members who were consecrated at Club Day were not initiated until the following spring. In this way, we felt the new members could better understand the meaning and purpose of the All Stars. During 1943 to 1944 we felt that the All Stars were able to start to return to the same traditions as we had in the pre-war years. All Stars were confronted with the problems of peace, when it comes, and looked forward to their new Big Chief, Beatrice Cissel for the inspirations that were sure to follow in the coming meetings. The newly elected Big Chief had a supporting staff of Henry Heaps as Lesser Chief, Jane Shaw as Scribe, Dan Poole as Medicine Man and John Harbaugh as Scout."

Mississippi Desires Chapter

One interesting event, not mentioned in Big Chief Alice Rohrer Downey's report, took place during the year 1944. Mississippi, the most southern state ever to inquire about the All Stars, was planning a similar organization in their State. On October 9 of that year they requested material and suggestions on how to organize an All Star Chapter.

With a definite feeling of victory, Big Chief Beatrice Cissel in her April 26 letter referring to the May 19 and 20, 1945, Spring Conference, urged the group to attend and help formulate plans to attain and preserve this victory. After settling several matters regarding the payment of bills for administrative service rendered the group, it was generally agreed by all to accept the State Fair Board's plan to co-operate in the purchase of the pins to be given by the All Stars to outstanding local leaders. Before the close of this meeting it was announced that Dorothy White, Janet Reese, Edward Moreland and Ted Marcus would attend the Leadership Training Camp, at Camp Miniwanca, Shelby, Michigan.

At the annual banquet that night, Reverend Merval Weaver, Pastor of the Frederick Presbyterian Church, gave an inspirational talk on "Making Our Lives Lighted Windows." The dance and banquet were attended by one

Dr. Smith Again Guest Speaker

Following the first business session on the afternoon of September 29, the All Stars once again were impressed by a fine talk given by Dr. C. B. Smith in connection with the theme of the conference, "The Little Brown Church in the Vale." Dr. Smith presented a vivid talk on the spiritual side of rural life which he said had been dear to him for his seventy-five years. At this time, he emphatically appealed that we employ the teachings of Christ in building the peace. His inspiring statement of this subject is quoted below:

"Can we, we the sons of God, act like this man of the Cross—the man we learned about in the Church in the Wildwood—in our dealings with the nations we have conquered and who have unconditionally surrendered to us? Shall we practice justice and mercy and kindness with some forgiveness or shall we practice revenge, an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth? After six thousand years of wars of revenge we still have wars of revenge; we still have wars and more wars. May it not be desirable to try the Christlike way of doing unto others as we would be done by. Who knows how soon some other nation may develop a better atomic bomb and get the drop on us? The old way of revenge has always failed. Shall we not try for once the new way? It might work. It might save civilization and the world from utter destruction. With our new knowledge of the atom we must either follow the way of Christ or perish from the earth."

During the devotional period conducted at Vindabona on Sunday morning, a feeling of great responsibility hovered over the All Stars. Finally peace had come—just what could we do as a small portion of the world in holding and preserving the peace. In the hearts of the entire group the foremost thought was—never must we or any other group of peoples let it happen again. The second business meeting was principally taken up with the history discussion. At this time, two cover designs were presented to the group. After the treasury report was presented the meeting adjourned for luncheon with the announcement that the final session would begin promptly at 1:30 p.m.

All Star Postwar Problems

Immediately after Big Chief Beatrice Cissel opened the third and final meeting, the membership committee presented a list of forty-three nominees. The final list received a unanimous vote by the entire group. The Nominating Committee then made their recommendation for the officers to be at the helm for the coming year. The group received a unanimous vote by the All Stars present. It consisted of the same officers that had held the positions of Big Chief, Lesser Chief, and Scribe for the year 1944 to 1945. The new officials were John Chilcoat as Medicine Man and Charles Rathell as Scout. The next order of business was the selection of Margaret Ringler to act as chairman of a group to revise the application blanks. It was then announced that Beatrice Cissel, Imogene Ryan, Marion Linthicum, Robert Cissel and Doty Remsburg would attend the American Country Life Association meeting. Before the meeting adjourned Thelma Line conducted an informal discussion as to what we can do to build the peace. Thus, the All Stars were ready to meet the problems of the day whether it be peace, postwar building or a liberal turn to the right or to the left. The organization, at the close of this conference, appeared

in 1947 and 1948 this figure is considerably less than the seven hundred thirty-six tabulated in the last chapter of this book.

After forwarding the usual letter to home demonstration and county agents, the All Stars met on August 3, to hold their initial session of the first postwar Club Week. This was a long awaited meeting for many of the group. The members of the organization who were in the Armed Services, for the most part had returned and everyone was looking forward to the beginning of Club Week. It was an anxious meeting, for everyone wanted to be heard and to see what the postwar period would present.

Margaret Ringler Elected Big Chief

At the first meeting of the conference on October 3, the necessary committee appointments were made for the various All Star activities. Much of the time was just spent talking over the past and getting acquainted with the new members who were initiated during the years 1942 to 1945. The Membership Committee made three specific recommendations regarding the selection of honorary members. At this time they proposed to limit the selection of county agents or local leaders to nominations from the floor at any All Star conference. After appointing a committee to assist in editing and typing the History, the Nomination Committee submitted a report indicating their selections for the officers to head the organization for the coming year. A unanimous vote was cast in favor of Margaret Ringler as Big Chief, Donald McKnight as Lesser Chief, Peggy Ensor as Scribe, John Chilcoat as Medicine Man and Tom Lippincott as Scout.

The fourth All Star meeting during the 1946 Club Week was completely controlled by the Membership Committee. The list of 1946 nominations included fifty-seven boys and girls and for the first time tabulated the names of two candidates from Somerset County. Mr. Mylo Downey mentioned that there never had been an All Star selection from this County and proposed two additional names. Before closing, Scouts were appointed for the nominees not generally known to the group.

On Thursday afternoon following the usual devotional service the final vote was made on the nominees.

Fifty-eight new members were to be selected from the group at the Consecration Service. This was the largest delegation ever to be taken into the All Stars in any one year.

Meet At Vindabona Tenth Time

Big Chief Margaret Ringler's letter to the All Stars announcing the Fall Conference stated that all new members shall be initiated, particularly the 1946 group and any other individuals chosen during the past two years who had been unable to attend an All Star meeting. The 1946 conference was to be held at Vindabona Hotel, Braddock Heights, Maryland. This made the tenth

that the 1947 Initiation Service would be held following Consecration Service at Club Week.

On August 2, the All Stars gathered for the first meeting of the 1947 Club Week. As usual, the Big Chief appointed the many committees and once again there were the many duties of Club Week. The major achievement of the meeting was the final voting on the four changes in the Constitution. At the second meeting of this conference the publishing of the History started to become a reality, for after a complete report was given by Turner Timberlake on the scope, purpose and make-up of the book, Merle Howes was appointed chairman of a committee to investigate ways and means of raising money for its printing. Before closing the meeting, a motion was made and passed that the Fall All Star Conference be held at Hotel Rigbie, Betterton, Maryland. At the third meeting of the group during Club Week, forty-three Scouts were appointed to observe the candidates.

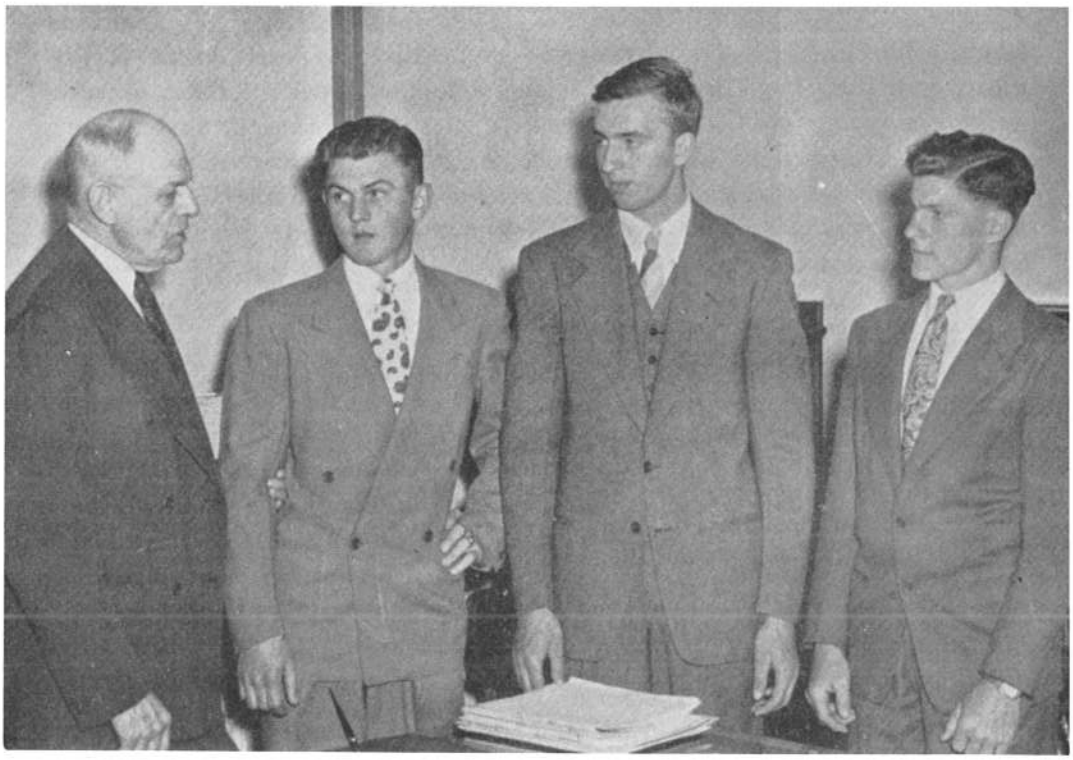
History Fund Begins

At the August 6 meeting of the group, it was decided that each county would have a certain quota of the funds to raise towards printing the history. The History Committee drew up a form letter to be forwarded to all County All Star groups in an effort to get the funds available as soon as possible. The preliminary vote on the forty-three candidates proposed by the group was cast.

At the meeting of August 7 following the devotional service, the final vote was taken on the new candidates. During this vote thirty-eight of the forty-three individuals scouted were concurred in by the group.

After the Consecration and Initiation Services on the following night, the Executive Committee, acting as the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate: Big Chief Margaret Ringler to be retained, Tom Lippincott as Lesser Chief, Peggy Ensor, the Scribe, to be retained, John Chilcoat the Medicine Man to be retained and Earl Crouse as Scout. The election of Earl Crouse as an officer was a significant development. For later, Earl was to be chosen Big Chief, and under his leadership the accomplishments made on preparing the history far exceeded the efforts made by any other individual or group.

For the first time in the history of the chapter a conference was conducted at an Eastern Shore location. The Fall Conference of 1947 opened on September 27 at the Hotel Rigbie, Betterton, Maryland, with one hundred and thirteen members present. At this time, three counties reported that they had met their quota for the history fund. New committees were appointed to handle the membership and constitution functions. At the banquet that night, Rufus King, a former Big Chief and member of the staff of Bridgewater College, Virginia, presented an unusual talk entitled, "He ain't heavy, Mister—He's ma' brother."



Left to Right: Dr. T. B. Symons, William Curry, James Moxley and Allen Hill

Maryland 4-H Club All Stars who represented the United States at the International Dairy Judging Contest at the 1948 Royal Show in England. Dr. T. B. Symons is shown congratulating the members of the team prior to their departure.

At the second meeting held in the lounge of the new armory the Scouts were selected to observe the fifty-one nominees. Before the meeting closed, a motion was made and passed that the All Stars contribute one hundred dollars to help finance Ruth Akehurst's trip to Denmark as Maryland's Rural Youth Exchangee. The following evening, at the third meeting, the nomination list of new members was accepted without any additions or corrections.

At a special meeting on Thursday it was decided that the Fall Conference would be held at Vindabona Hotel in September. Also at this session a special report was submitted on the history, urging the group to support the idea and get behind the counties to contribute to the fund.

Earl Crouse Elected Big Chief

On Wednesday afternoon the Nominating Committee recommended the following as officers for the coming year: Big Chief, Earl Crouse; Lesser Chief, Betty Beachy; Scribe, Roxie Lee Montgomery; Medicine Man, Carl Feucht; and

given in more detail, for from the very start of the mid-year meetings the All Stars have had dances at their conferences. A semi-formal dance may have followed the banquet or at other times it may have been informal. As the All Stars usually come from farm families, the folk games and square dances have been part of their conference. Many have been the nights that they set up the phonograph after the orchestra had gone, and continued until the "wee" hours of the morning with square dancing and singing. This is the type of fellowship that gives that "added something" to the All Star organization.

Every conference included a Vesper Service in the evening of the first day. When it was at all possible, the vespers were held in the great out-of-doors that All Stars love so well. With a beautiful sunset as a lifting breeze was rustling the leaves of the trees and the blades of the grass were slowly shifting to and fro, the All Stars gained their inspiration from God and Nature.

The Sunday morning services, whether held in a church or on the lawn near the conference rooms, have been a vital part of the All Star program. Many times one county group would have charge of the entire service; at other times various All Stars from the different counties spontaneously contributed something to the service. It did not matter how the service was conducted, for the feelings of solemnness and good will always pervaded the atmosphere.

The many hours of just chatting with old friends, the memories of previous conferences, and the beginnings of new friendships are always to be found at any All Star Conference. This was the beginning of the many ideas that the different All Stars have had to offer which invariably made the next conference better than the last and is so vividly described by Miss Dorothy Emerson below:

"The more an idea approaches the place where each individual is free to interpret it individually, the more true meaning the idea will have for that individual. No one ever bothers to make the All Stars, in itself, anything particular. It just drifts along, sometimes with a good Chief—sometimes with a poor one. It does not matter. Because all the ideals are not set up in material language and symbols and reiterated constantly like a meaningless chant—the All Stars becomes an ideal in the heart of each person who belongs, or who considers it from an outside viewpoint. Like one of our Negro men agents who said to 4-H'ers, 'You bring your vesper with you in your own heart'. So—you bring your All Stars with you—each member—and it means one's own idealism—one's own withinness.

"If we should ever try to make the All Stars mean the same thing to all by formalizing its regular meetings, soon it would become an empty material shell losing its function of existing as a symbol of an idea (or ideas) essentially spiritual."