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FOREWORD

This publication reflects the two kinds of history used in its development: recorded history and oral history. I was not privileged to have been "on site" during the early years when some of the significant history of the National Institute for Farm Safety was being made. However, in 1949, as a teacher of vocational agriculture, I was conducting FFA corn picker campaigns and hazard hunts. From the mid-1950s onward, I worked with farmers, homemakers and 4-H clubs in the United States and in several foreign countries on a variety of farm safety programs. Although I did not join NIFS until the mid-1970s, I was privy to many discussions, stories and conversations that dealt with those early years. Several of the history makers were still around and from this unique group of individuals I was able to gain a sense of how things were and perhaps why they were that way. These pioneers were a veritable fountain of information and provided a wealth of oral history from which to draw for this text.

It is difficult to determine the point at which they observed or participated in while NIFS history was being made. This may make the text especially interesting and enjoyable for many readers since they indeed fit the classification of makers of history.

The author and others who assisted with portions of the text ask readers to be aware of the imperfections of human recall and memory as they relate to people, places and events. Any omission of individuals or groups and their contributions to the farm safety movement is regrettable but, I hope, understandable.

Clair W. Young

EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF FARM SAFETY

One would be remiss in not taking a brief historical look at the development of the farm safety movement in the United States as a backdrop for the development of the National Institute for Farm Safety. These early developmental activities helped delineate the severity of the farm safety problem and identified solutions to alleviate the pain and suffering associated with farm accidents.

Some safety efforts occurred in industry in the late 1800s because of high accident rates and consequent demands from the labor movement for a safer work environment. During this time, fire prevention programs arose after a few notable fires in which death tolls were high enough to cause an apathetic public to take action. Those in the political arena saw safety as an issue worthy of discussion, and legislation was passed creating workmen's laws and safer working environments for miners and railroaders. During this period, farm safety efforts were scattered and few.

In 1912 the First Cooperative Safety Congress met at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This event marked the beginning of organized safety on a national scale, provided a forum for the exchange of information, and formed a permanent body devoted to the promotion of safety among the nation's industries. The National Safety Council was created in the following year. More safety congresses followed, along with the publication and distribution of the *National Safety News*, safety pamphlets and films. Safety legislation continued with the creation of the Bureau of Labor Standards in 1934.

The first great impetus given to organized farm safety occurred with the formation of a farm program as a part of the 1937 National Safety Congress. The proceedings of that meeting noted that agriculture, the nation's oldest and largest industry, had yet to develop a safety program. Participants in this first farm safety conference called for the development of a program in agricultural accident prevention. Statistics at the time revealed that fatalities and disabling injuries in agriculture far outnumbered those in other industries.

Little had been done in the area of farm accident prevention before this time. The National Safety Council had published a few farm safety related articles but no pamphlets had been

issued. One farm machinery manufacturer had published an illustrated farm safety booklet and the Illinois Agricultural Association and the Red Cross had distributed farm accident prevention materials. The 1937 Safety Congress passed a resolution asking the National Safety Council to organize a national farm safety program and asking that a permanent Council division be established to promote farm safety.

In the five-year period following the 1937 Congress, a few influential agricultural leaders such as Harry Pontius, Ohio Farm Bureau, T.A. Erickson of General Mills in Minnesota, and Theo Brown of Deere & Company continued to urge the National Safety Council to create a farm division. This group of interested leaders operated as the Council's Farm Safety Committee during this period.

The first Farm and Home Safety Conference was held by the National Safety Council in 1942, and farm leaders met to develop a program. In 1943 the Council published the *Farm Safety Review*, and the Wisconsin Agricultural Extension Service appointed the first state farm safety specialist. A separate Farm Division of the National Safety Council was finally established in 1943, and Maynard H. Coe became its director the following year.

The growth of the U.S. farm safety movement with Coe heading the Council's newly established Farm Division is well documented. In the mid-1940s, more than 1,000 radio stations and 600 newspapers and farm publications promoted farm safety through announcements, articles and special programs. The list of state farm safety specialists grew to 13 in 10 years. Many pamphlets and films were developed in the interest of farm safety. Farm Safety Week was established and President Roosevelt signed the first proclamation. The Council recognized the home as a vital part of the farm safety movement and added women to the staff. Surveys were initiated and data were accumulated, facilitating a broad appraisal of the issue of farm and home accidents. Many states formed farm safety committees, which became the focal point in citing the need for, and in the hiring of, farm safety specialists in those crucial early years.

THE FORMATIVE YEARS FOR NIFS

1945–1949: Achieving Autonomy and a Name

As head of the Farm Division of the National Safety Council, Maynard Coe invited those individuals working as state farm safety specialists to come to Chicago in April 1945. The list at that time included just three individuals: Randall Swanson in Wisconsin who had been at that post since 1943, W.E. "Bill" Stuckey of Ohio, and Katherine Olmsted of New York. Swanson and Stuckey were both employed by their university extension services, and Olmsted was employed by the New York State Department of Health. The two-day meeting, listed as an "institute for farm safety specialists," was designed to bring inspiration and knowledge primarily to these three attendees. The program included a discussion of state activities, lectures on farm and home safety topics, and a half-day visit to the Underwriters' Laboratory.



The first Institute for Farm Safety Specialists was held in Chicago in 1945. Left to right: Randall Swanson, Wisconsin; Katherine Olmsted, New York; and W.E. Stuckey, Ohio.

A second Institute for Farm Safety Specialists was held in Chicago in 1946. Maynard Coe again sponsored the event and assisted in the development of the program. The 1946 meeting again included Swanson, Stuckey and Olmsted along with individuals from the National Safety Council. In addition, two new

state extension safety specialists had been added: F.R. Willsey of Indiana and Fred Roth of Michigan.



The second Institute for Farm Safety Specialists was held in Chicago in 1946. Left to right: F.R. Willsey, Indiana; W.E. Stuckey, Ohio; Katherine Olmsted, New York; Fred Roth, Michigan; and Randall Swanson, Wisconsin.

The third annual Institute was also held in 1947 in Chicago, still with the assistance of Maynard Coe. No firm record is available for this event but an educated guess, based on documents from 1946 and 1948, would indicate that those attending included Swanson, Stuckey, Roth, Olmsted and Willsey.

A 1948 Institute, officially listed as the Farm Safety Specialists Institute, was once again held in Chicago. Attending were extension safety specialists Swanson, Stuckey, Roth and Willsey from previous years' meetings. A fifth farm safety specialist, Norval Wardle from Iowa, joined the group along with Nan Matson, who apparently replaced Katherine Olmsted from the New York State Department of Health. Also listed as participants were C.L. Hamilton and Marvin Nicol from the National Safety Council.

The two-day 1948 Institute featured a lengthy program of activities, including reports and discussions from the various

state extension safety specialists in attendance. Swanson reported on his work with rural one-room schools and 4-H clubs in Wisconsin, Stuckey indicated the progress he was making in the development of county farm safety committees in Ohio, Willsey discussed a farm accident survey he was conducting in Indiana, Roth reviewed his efforts with 4-H and FFA groups in Michigan, and Wardle talked about the recently established Iowa Farm Safety Committee. Resource people on the program covered topics relevant to the job of safety specialist, and the group once again toured the Underwriters' Laboratory.

A 1949 Farm Safety Specialists Institute was held in Madison, Wisconsin. No program content is available for this meeting. All those extension farm safety specialists who had attended in the previous year were present. In addition, Glenn Prickett, newly appointed farm safety specialist for Minnesota, attended along with interested people from the National Safety Council. Sketchy correspondence indicates that a county extension agent, Ray Aune of Rochester, Minnesota, was invited to report on his successful county safety activities. Also in attendance were Farm Bureau representatives John A. Lake of Illinois, Grice Sexton of Kansas and W.A. Dickinson of Minnesota. A photo of the participants in the 1949 Institute also shows a farm machinery manufacturer and a representative from the Pennsylvania Department of Public Education in attendance. The U.S. Department of Agriculture representative appearing in the photo, according to those present at the time, was a casual observer and had no specific professional tie to farm safety.

The first day of the 1949 Institute was held at the University of Wisconsin, and the remainder of the event then moved to the American Baptist Assembly Grounds at Green Lake to accommodate the families present. This 1949 Institute represented a turning point in the organization and probably was the most significant encounter since the first one in 1945. It was the first institute to be held outside of Chicago, and it was the first time for a farm machinery manufacturer and representatives from the Farm Bureau to attend. This meeting, conducted away from the protective wing of the National Safety Council and planned by the extension safety specialists, indicated an intent to form an independent organization. It also recognized that the farm and home safety problem was of sufficient magnitude and complexity to warrant the inclusion of other shareholders in the

problem—mainly farm machinery manufacturers, state departments of health, and farm organizations. The experience from this meeting, with a new mix of participants, probably set the stage for the present-day makeup of the organization.



The 1949 Farm Safety Specialists Institute was held in Madison, Wisconsin. Left to right standing: Ray Aune, Minnesota; Randall Swanson, Wisconsin; John Lake, Illinois; F.R. Willsey, Indiana; C.L. Hamilton, National Safety Council; Samuel Horst, Pennsylvania; W.E. Stuckey, Ohio. Seated, left to right: Grice Sexton, Kansas; W.A. Dickinson, Minnesota; F.C. Walters, Deere & Company, Moline, Illinois; Charles F. Sarle, USDA, Washington D.C.; Maynard Coe, National Safety Council; and H.E. Hildreth, National Safety Council.

The first Institute set the pattern for many to follow, not only in content but also in name. A cutline from a 1945 news photo clearly identifies the event as an institute for farm safety specialists. News releases, reports and other communications on file from the period 1945 to 1951 indicate that all such gatherings were "institutes for farm safety specialists." In 1952 the word *national* appeared in the official program. The meetings were always called institutes.

The evolution of the name from 1945 to the present is as follows:

1945–47	Institute for Farm Safety Specialists
1948–51	Farm Safety Specialists Institute
1952	National Farm Safety Specialists Institute
1953–55	National Farm Safety Institute
1956–61	National Institute for Farm Safety
1962–	National Institute for Farm Safety, Inc.

A second point to consider in establishing the origin of the National Institute for Farm Safety deals with the important fac-

tor of autonomy. Ample credit must be given to the National Safety Council's Maynard Coe for instigating the first meeting and for nurturing the early development of the Farm Safety Institute movement. However, it is a matter of record, established through an exhaustive search of documents and letters and through interviews with some of those on the scene at the time, that from the first gathering, the group desired to be a separate entity and strived for this autonomy in the years that followed. The desired identity of the Farm Safety Institute and the independence that accompanied it were partially achieved in July 1949, when the fledgling group elected to leave Chicago and meet in Madison, Wisconsin. Complete autonomy was finally achieved when the National Institute for Farm Safety was officially incorporated in 1962.

1950–1962: Professional Growth and Organizational Maturity

The period from 1950 to 1962 is interesting in that the Institutes were no longer held in Chicago and the original group of safety specialists and educators had expanded to eight by 1949. The loosely formed organization was indeed now autonomous. National Safety Council personnel still attended but participated as equals in the discussion of farm safety problems and solutions. The addition of farm machinery manufacturers and Farm Bureau representatives in 1949 was significant. Issues could be approached from more than one perspective. Additional resources enriched the problem-solving process. Programs reflected a more professional approach to safety. Meeting locations included universities, signaling a closer tie to education and research.

Key resource people from a broad spectrum of safety interests were called on to share their expertise at the annual Institutes. Those attending shared ideas and program methods. Interested individuals working in farm and home safety seemed to be welcome as both contributors and participants in Institutes but the classification of "member" had yet to be defined. The safety educators included their families in the 1951 event, and spouses and children became a vital part of the summer Institute experience in the years that followed. The organization

was on the move but had yet to formulate a specific mission and clearly define its membership.

The following list identifies the location of each Institute and the first-time participation by states during the period from 1950 to 1962. General program content is also included. Those attending Institutes in the first five years included state extension safety specialists, safety educators from the Farm Bureau, state health and education departments, farm machinery manufacturers, and personnel from the National Safety Council's Farm Division. The list identifies only new participants beyond the core group noted here. Information about people and programs is incomplete in some years because of a lack of records. Enough data are available, however, to identify certain trends and reveal some interesting facts.

1950 – INDIANA: WEST LAFAYETTE, PURDUE UNIVERSITY

New States: Iowa

New Entities/People: Agricultural engineers

Program Elements: No records available for this Institute.

1951 – IOWA: AMES, IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

New States: None

New Entities/People: None

Program Elements: Tractor demonstrations and corn picker plant tour by Deere and Co., gas and kerosene demonstration by Standard Oil, state program reports, and sharing of ideas.

Note: State program reports and sharing of ideas were a vital part of NIFS meetings. The author vividly remembers his first NIFS meeting, the dynamic exchange of ideas and the impact it had on programs throughout the United States and Canada. The rule in sharing a program idea at NIFS was that you expected and welcomed its use by co-workers.

The following guidelines were set forth in 1951 for the idea exchange session:

- What organizations or agencies have been helpful with safety programs in your state?
- What types of educational materials have been effective in your program?
- What media or publicity have you found effective and who prepares the materials?

- How have you used visual aids?
- What is the policy concerning funding programs in your state?

1952 – OHIO: COLUMBUS, THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, AND ZALESKI, LAKE HOPE STATE PARK

New States: California

New Entities/People: None

Program Elements: Safety programs in 4-H and FFA, development of state and county safety committees, use of power company resources, work with the Farm Bureau, the Grange and women's groups.

1953 – MINNESOTA: ST. PAUL, INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

New States: Arkansas

New Entities/People: Insurance companies

Program Elements: Home safety, farm safety in schools, farm machinery safety, farm safety programs with rural organizations, farm tractor safety on the highway.

1954 – PENNSYLVANIA: UNIVERSITY PARK, PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY, AND HARRISBURG, HERSHEY, LANCASTER

New States: Missouri, Alabama, Nebraska

New Entities/People: State industrial commission

Program Elements: Highway safety, farm machinery safety, electric safety, fire safety, farm safety research, use of visual aids.

1955 – MICHIGAN: EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

New States: South Carolina, Mississippi

New Entities/People: None

Program Elements: Lighting farm equipment, rural safety councils, 4-H club safety programs, insurance company safety programs, FFA and FFA programs, traffic safety and driver education, field trip to farm machinery research center.

1956 – WASHINGTON, D.C.

New States: Montana, Kentucky

New Entities/People: USDA

Program Elements: Accident study, visual aids, program promotion, Farm Safety Week, highway safety, fire preven-

tion, school bus safety, tractor safety, county safety program committees.

1957 – KANSAS: MANHATTAN, KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

New States: Washington, Tennessee, Utah

New Entities/People: None

Program Elements: Safety research, youth programs, safety field day, radio promotion of safety, state safety committees, traffic safety, falls, safety poster contests.

Observations: The program at this Institute placed special emphasis on safety studies and included discussion of methods and findings. The studies and research helped keep track of farm accidents and served as a guide to how, when and why accidents happen.

This Institute, for the first time, cited specific safety program targets or areas of emphasis for coming years. Example: 1958 – harvest and fire; 1959 – tractor and electrical. The selection of areas of emphasis is noted in future proceedings, where target program themes are usually set for the two-year period to come. In practice, these selections served only as suggestions for states to follow. Some states adopted the areas of emphasis while others worked on areas more representative of their own safety needs.

Some of those safety professionals who normally attended the summer Institute programs also participated in the Farm Conference in Chicago each year. (The Farm Conference, sponsored by the Farm Division and started in 1946, featured farm safety deliberations and ran concurrently with the Safety Congress.) This provided an opportunity for Institute planners to meet and develop programs for the coming summer meetings and to discuss future directions. No records have been found relating to the content of these meetings, but records do indicate that this planning committee first met in 1959.

1958 – MISSISSIPPI: BILOXI, EDGEWATER GULF HOTEL

New States: None

New Entities/People: None

Program Elements: Accident surveys, workshops on tractor and electrical safety, exhibits and field days, preview tractor stability, films, farm safety week, FFA corn picker campaign, electric fence code.

Observations: This Institute introduced special half-day workshops in which participant groups were assigned to discuss selected farm safety problems. The goal was to develop complete and acceptable educational programs or campaigns that could subsequently be used by all in attendance. This method of getting vital educational information and methods relating to current problems into the hands of large numbers of safety educators became a part of future Institutes.

1959 – ILLINOIS: ALLERTON PARK, MONTICELLO

New States: New Jersey, North Carolina, Puerto Rico

New Entities/People: Agricultural chemicals, farm supply, Auto Safety Foundation

Program Elements: Communication process, effective writing and photography, corn picker campaign, safety with chemicals, and recreation safety.

Observations: Recreation safety was discussed in depth for the first time. International participation was also marked by the attendance of a Puerto Rican. The Farm Division instituted monthly mailings of program helps. Tractor stability demonstration kits with toy tractors were available for use in state programs. The 1959 Institute featured technical sessions that provided in-depth instruction on selected safety topics.

A safety workshop was also conducted at two levels: (1) improving personal communication and teaching skills, and (2) using communication and teaching skills to develop an in-depth education program in agricultural chemical safety. This Institute program was the most comprehensive to be held to date. The 1959 state reports also revealed the most ambitious programs yet to be reported. The Institute was indeed coming of age!

1960 – WISCONSIN: RHINELANDER

New States: Florida, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Ontario (Canada)

New Entities/People: Agricultural journalist

Program Elements: Workshops on highway safety and farm machinery

Observations: Herman Brockhaus, a journalism specialist, was the main resource person at this Institute. His presentation, entitled "Threads of Technical Procedures," covered methods

and procedures for conducting surveys and reaching people. He stimulated participants to the extent that he was brought back for the next two Institutes.

1961 – ARKANSAS: CRYSTAL SPRINGS

New States: Louisiana, Colorado, Virginia, Oregon, North Dakota, North Carolina

New Entities/People: Safety products

Program Elements: Lightning protection, fire safety, safety studies, workshops on accident reporting and falls, electric fences.

Observations: Attendance at this Institute was the largest to date: 51 program participants and nine guests, including the governor of the state of Arkansas.

1962 – FLORIDA: SARASOTA

New States: None

New Entities/People: Chemical company

Program Elements: Tractor tipping demonstration techniques, 4-H tractor program, chemical safety, rural defense, slow-moving vehicle emblem research.

Observations: It was at the 1962 meeting that the final decision was made to incorporate the National Institute for Farm Safety.

INCORPORATION

A review of the growth and development of the National Institute for Farm Safety from 1945 until 1962, as outlined in the previous section of this text, indicates that the time for change had arrived. Membership, though not clearly defined, had increased from the original three participants to the more than 60 attending the 1961 Institute. States joining the farm safety effort had increased from three in 1945 to a total of 25 in 1962. In addition, two foreign countries were represented. The participant mix was unique in that it included many entities and individuals with a vested interest in farm and home safety working cooperatively to resolve a critical problem. The selflessness of

those attending Institutes and sharing program successes and failures was, in itself, unique for a group of professional educators. An acceptable meeting pattern had finally been established along with a format for Institute proceedings and agendas for professional improvement programs. By 1962 the National Institute for Farm Safety was a recognized force in farm and home safety. A firm foundation had been established. Incorporation was the next logical step toward achieving a greater degree of professionalism.

Incorporation had been discussed on several occasions in the past but the final decision was made at the Florida meeting in July 1962. At the Florida meeting, eight or ten of the older members in years of experience and tenure, sat down and made plans for the formal organization. Randall Swanson of Wisconsin and Edward Adams of Iowa were designated to develop a preliminary draft of the constitution. They did this over a period of many weeks and eventually sent the proposed constitution out to 17 of the farm safety specialists and leaders who had five or more years of tenure in the organization. Every article and item was accompanied by a blank sheet to be used for suggested changes. Everyone used this method, and the final draft represented a majority opinion of the recipients of the proposed document. The amount of dues, classes of membership, voting rights, size of the board, and the remainder of the items were all decided by majority opinion.

THE MEMBERSHIP

The categories of membership in NIFS arose from the desire of the founders to develop and maintain a professional image for the organization. It was the intent of the incorporators and the consensus of the people associated with the group in 1962 that the NIFS should be a professional organization with policies, programs and goals being determined by professional farm safety workers. Maintaining this professional status over time dictated the necessity of classifying the membership and spelling out eligibility guidelines in the Institute bylaws. A review of membership categories reveals this intent.

By use of proxies, the organization was formalized and the items transacted at the Florida meeting were made a part of the official action, with the understanding that some changes would be necessary and logical as the organization developed. Incorporation requirements were completed and the NIFS was duly registered in the state of Wisconsin on August 26, 1962. Charter members were accepted up to September 1, 1963, some with lesser experience and tenure than is now required of new members. This was done not to gain more members but to meet any criticism that a select group was keeping others with farm safety experience from joining. The original constitution is still the governing instrument of this corporation, and only a few minor changes have been made since the original was approved.

The organization is also identified as nonprofit and holds a 501(c)(3) classification under the Internal Revenue Code. This classification was approved in the fall of 1964 after several months of negotiation with the Internal Revenue Service. The newly incorporated organization had no startup funds. In the same spirit in which the safety movement had developed, Swanson and Adams each contributed \$100 from personal funds to start the organization's first checking account.

The process of developing and approving the constitution and bylaws was, in itself, a learning process for NIFS members at that time. The organization had 17 years of experience to draw on in addition to a core group of leaders that had been with the movement since its inception in 1945. These factors resulted in a dynamic start for NIFS and account for its resolution of purpose and clearly defined mission and goals.

NIFS CHARTER MEMBERS

Edward S. Adams	John L. Marks
Orville L. Asper	James J. McAlister
Orville Barbee	J.J. Messerschmitt
Orrin I. Berge	Ralph Patterson
Herbert T. Bogert	A.M. Pettis
Wendell Bowers	Glenn Prickett
James E. Burns	Hugh E. Rhodes
George A. Cappe	John D. Rush
U.W. Caves	Rollin E. Schnieder
Maynard H. Coe	Grice E. Sexton
Ward Cross	Joe I. Smetana
Carroll E. DeLoach	Willis E. Smith
Emil Dietz	Clarence E. Stevens Jr.
Delbert L. Ekart	W.E. Stuckey
Raymond W. Forsythe	Randall C. Swanson
Russell E. Heston	Raymond C. Talbott
Thomas F. Hippler	Edwin W. Tanquary
Ordie L. Hogsett	Norval L. Wardle
Robert Holmes	James L. Williams
Allen Humphrey	FR. Willsey
Donald V. Jensen	Daryll S. Wilson
E. Cullen Johnson	Hal Wright
Eugene B. Lemon	Carlton L. Zink

Early Partners

The Farm Bureau

The Farm Bureau was and still remains a vital force in rural America. A history of the Farm Bureau would show this organization working on a broad base of rural problems and issues. Farm and home safety was one of these problems and accounts for the Farm Bureau's early and continuing affiliation in NIFS and the farm safety movement.

Insurance Companies

Selected insurance companies, in the early years, were also making a concerted effort to reduce farm fatalities as a part of their loss prevention strategies. Their affiliation with the farm safety movement was a logical decision and some of their early participation is a matter of historical record. Their original contributions were of great value and have continued to be so. Companies involved in NIFS in the early years included Iowa Farm Bureau Mutual, Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance, Kansas Farm Bureau Insurance Company, Texas Farm Bureau Insurance Company, Ohio Farm Bureau Insurance Company, Southern Farm Bureau Casualty, and Country Companies.

Farm Machinery Manufacturers and Agricultural Engineers

Farm machinery has always been a major culprit in farm accidents. Manufacturers were not blind to this fact and became involved in the farm safety movement in the early stages of the Farm Safety Institute's development. This original linkage was through their affiliation with the National Safety Council. Agricultural engineers, representing both industry and universities, became key participants in safety technology and education due to their training and expertise. Many extension safety specialists were agricultural engineers because of their farm machinery connection and their immediate accessibility to the universities.

THE YEARS FOLLOWING INCORPORATION

A study of the Farm Safety Institute movement reveals noticeable changes in function and operation after 1962, but the purpose or reason for being remained essentially the same. With incorporation came a need for a greater degree of financial accountability, dues structure, election of officers and other factors related to charter and incorporation. Permanent committees were formed and membership categories were expanded.

Organizational Considerations

Meeting Pattern Changed

As indicated in previous sections of this text, the original pattern for meetings was a summer session, usually held in the home state of one of the participants. In 1959 and the period thereafter, some planning meetings were held by Institute planners while attending the Farm Conference in Chicago. After NIFS was incorporated in 1962, what was termed the annual membership meeting was held each year in Chicago in conjunction with the Farm Conference and the Safety Congress. Institute business was considered a vital part of this meeting, and time was also reserved for professional improvement. What had been the summer meetings in the past were continued but with major emphasis on professional improvement.

Committee Structure

Program committees became a regular part of NIFS meetings and were established at some point after incorporation. (Before the advent of the NIFS program committee, half-day workshops had been held at summer Institutes on safety problems and issues of sufficient scope and importance to warrant discussion time.) The original program committees covered the following topic areas: tractor and farm machinery, fire and electricity, farm chemicals, rural traffic and emergency preparedness. Every member of NIFS was expected to serve on one of these program committees. These committees have been restructured somewhat over time to meet the changing needs of farm and home safety. The results of program committee discussion and subsequent recommendations were distributed in

written form as a means of providing pertinent and timely safety program information to NIFS members.

New Member Orientation

New members of NIFS were invited to attend a special breakfast program at their first summer Institute. The purpose of this program was to give an official welcome to the new member and to provide an overview of the organization of NIFS, its mission and programs. New members were also given a member handbook containing orientation information and a brief history of the organization. This breakfast is still a vital part of new member orientation.

Recognition Program – The Maynard Coe Award

To encourage professionalism in farm and home safety, NIFS presents an achievement award in recognition of the important role played by Maynard Coe in the early years of the organization. Coe served as director of the Farm Division of the National Safety Council for 20 years, and in that capacity he enlisted the help of dedicated people in universities, farm organizations and agricultural industry in establishing farm safety as a recognized profession. From the beginning he was an inspiration to farm safety specialists and educators, giving them advice and encouragement. Later, when numbers increased, he urged them to form their own professional organization.



Maynard Coe

To encourage professionalism among farm safety leaders, Coe offered the directors of NIFS a \$100 cash award for professional educational achievement in farm safety. The award was to be made annually if a worthy entry was presented. This award concept was adopted and NIFS assumed responsibility for selecting recipients and for payment of the award.

Between 1967 and 1994, the Maynard Coe award was presented to four individuals:

- 1967 – Gary Erisman, Illinois
- 1971 – Orville L. "Pat" Asper, Illinois
- 1980 – Robert A. Aherin, Minnesota
- 1981 – Dennis Murphy, Pennsylvania

Membership Reports

NIFS members were kept informed through reports that included important meeting discussions, committee deliberations and decisions, and other meeting items of timely interest. The member reports also provided a channel of information relating to current issues, trends, and legislative matters in farm and home safety.

Professional Affiliations

The Farm Machinery and FIEI Affiliation

In March 1966 NIFS and the Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute cosponsored a seminar that brought together the professional farm safety workers and the engineers representing all of the major agricultural machinery manufacturers. The seminar did much to acquaint each of these groups with the problems and goals of the other. The specific purpose of this seminar was to pool the available information on the status of power takeoff guarding and rollover protection so that practical progress goals could be agreed on and established. FIEI continues to have an affiliation with NIFS, thus providing coordination of joint program efforts and providing a forum for discussion of current and future issues of mutual concern.

Cooperative Standards Program

Over the years, NIFS has recognized the value of the Cooperative Standards Program sponsored by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers. From its inception, NIFS has continued to make a contribution to the program.

American Society of Agricultural Engineers

Many members of NIFS are agricultural engineers and thus hold membership in the ASAE. This dual membership had led to a fine relationship, and cooperation between the two organizations has been evident on a variety of projects, activities and events. The technical engineering aspects of ASAE brought a new and different professional dimension into NIFS. The link between NIFS and farm machinery manufacturers became stronger because many of the engineers coming into the organization were representing these interests and facilitated network-

ing on a variety of issues. In planning the dates of summer meetings for both organizations, a special effort was made to set dates that permitted those holding dual membership to attend both sessions. This scheduling courtesy has continued to the present time.

Accomplishments

Slow-Moving Vehicle Emblem

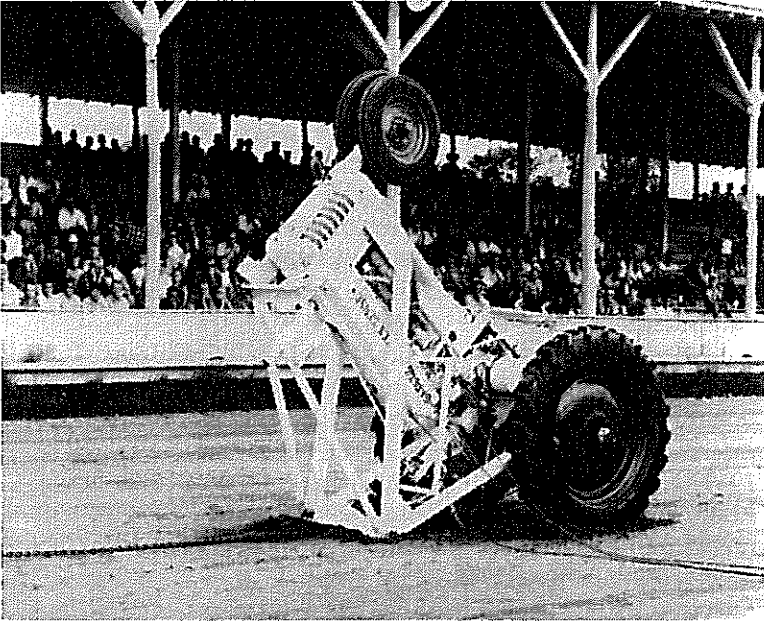
The need for an identification of slow-moving vehicles on public roadways originated with the safety specialists and was discussed at the 1964 summer meeting. Representatives of the Automotive Safety Foundation participated in the discussion and agreed to provide a research grant to study the problem—the first in-depth research project undertaken by NIFS. The Ohio State University was selected to carry out the research, which included a detailed study of how slow-moving vehicle accidents occur. The University also developed and field tested the SMV emblem prior to its national and international distribution and use. The farm safety specialists provided guidance for the study as did representatives from industry. NIFS was the first organization to endorse the SMV emblem nationwide. It is also listed as an OSHA standard.

Hand Signals

Hand signals for agricultural purposes were first given serious consideration at the Institute meeting in 1969. Following a panel discussion that included farm operators, Willsey of Indiana conducted a study on hand signals. Subsequently, a committee headed by NIFS member John Egging, a farm machinery dealer from Nebraska, came up with 16 signals derived from water skiers, Army, Navy and other sources. Egging was well prepared for this responsibility through his service in the Army Signal Corps. One year later, at the meeting in Lincoln, the 16 signals were presented and discussed. The original list of 16 was eventually reduced to 11. After an extensive review, the hand signals were accepted by ASAE and are identified as ASAE Standard S351. The hand signals are also recognized by OSHA.

Rollover Protective Structure

In the later 1940s and early 1950s, several states had some type of tractor overturn program in progress. Knapp at Cornell had developed a tractor with an outrigger device. Nebraska was the site of much of the early rollover testing and experi-



Under the leadership of safety educators, large numbers of farm people at county fair grandstands had the opportunity to see demonstrations of tractor tipping under a variety of improper hitching procedures and operational practices.

mentation. Hurlbut and Larson at Nebraska put a rollover bar on a Cub Cadet. Later they put a protective frame on a John Deere B and used it for demonstrations and testing. This tractor was overturned more than 250 times in the next six or seven years. An Allis Chalmers WC provided by a farm implement company survived approximately 450 overturns and was finally retired to a museum. Schnieder, in the role of both safety educator and engineer, was involved in these early programs at Nebraska. In addition, Wardle from Iowa, Pfister from Michigan, Swanson from Wisconsin, Sexton from the Kansas Farm Bureau, Prickett from Minnesota, and Durland and Hofman from South Dakota all had programs related to tractor overturns during this early period.

In this development period, farm safety educators in many states, in conjunction with agricultural engineers, were conducting a wide variety of tractor-tipping demonstrations. These demonstrations helped to sell the idea of rollover protection and also demonstrated proper hitching procedures and safe operational practices. Demonstrations were conducted in classrooms with toy tractors on sandpaper inclines. Other tests in both indoor and outdoor settings were conducted with small demonstrator units modified from garden or lawn tractors or with children's large-scale toy tractors rigged with motors. Rollover demonstrations at fairs and field days were conducted before large audiences with full-scale tractors equipped with remote control devices. These contrived educational experiences were both innovative and timely and were a major factor in convincing tractor operators of the potential danger of their equipment.

Manufacturers followed slowly. Deere & Company announced their first roll bar in the spring of 1966, and International Harvester came out with a roll bar in 1967. By 1970 all manufacturers had some form of roll bar for selected models. In 1969 J.I. Case announced that it had developed a protective cab. Rollover protection was adopted as part of the OSHA agricultural standards in 1976.

Surveys and Research

Surveys and research became a vital part of the farm safety movement at both the state and national levels. The National Safety Council deserves major credit for early efforts in this area. NIFS has played a cooperating or leadership role in this movement, depending on the time period and issues involved. The collection of farm accident statistics goes back to 1931 when the National Safety Council included such data for the first time in its publication *Accident Facts*. This source of data for farm safety educators continued for many years.

In the interim, the early extension farm safety specialists, with the help of their university resources, were starting to conduct safety surveys of their own in an attempt to identify farm accidents and their causes. Swanson in Wisconsin, Wardle in Iowa, and Stuckey in Ohio are notable examples. Through interviews with accident victims or observers, Swanson conducted an in-depth study of power takeoff accidents and tractor upsets.

This study was part of a total farm fatality study that continued over a 10-year period and also served as the basis for a joint NIFS/FIEI meeting. At the same time, Wardle was conducting a corn picker accident study. The corn picker study was far-reaching and covered all types of corn picker injuries and fatalities. Stuckey in Ohio had initiated a comprehensive farm tractor fatality study that continued for many years. Cases studied were identified through a news clip service and information was collected through interviews with families of victims. These studies set the stage for many others to follow.

Similar efforts were soon instigated by Farm Bureau safety educators in some states. Methods included identifying and classifying accidents and victims through news clippings, hospital records, death certificates, survey questionnaires and victim or survivor interviews. Communities cooperated and rural organizations such as the Farm Bureau, Extension Homemakers Clubs, the Grange, 4-H clubs and FFA chapters assisted in data collection.

Of special note in the 1960s is the NIFS-supported Ohio-Michigan accident study. This study was important because of its design, which featured techniques that permitted data comparison. Since these early efforts, NIFS has supported surveys and research efforts and provided forums for sharing successes and failures.

Development and Sharing of Visual Materials

NIFS has long encouraged its members to develop and share educational materials. Through the organization's program area committees, slide sets and scripts have been developed on many safety topics, including fire, electricity, traffic, chemicals, farm machinery, recreation, livestock and home safety. Safety films were also developed and distributed to NIFS members. In recent years, videos have been used increasingly to publicize safety information.

Influencing Machinery Design

Positive changes in design of farm machinery and equipment can be attributed to many factors, including recognition of causes as well as a desire to reduce loss of life and limb. Although NIFS has played an active role in some of these changes, it should be noted that the industry itself generally

took steps to make sure that its products were as safe as they could be at any particular point in time. It should also be remembered that before the surge in the organized farm safety movement in the mid-1940s there was not what could clearly be identified as a public conscience related to farm deaths and injuries. Safety educators helped people become more aware of the fact that many of these deaths and injuries could be prevented through changes in their own behavior.

With this new public awareness, manufacturers also strove to develop, promote and sell a safer product in a competitive market. They developed safety departments and gave design engineers the challenge to develop a safer product. Industry cooperation on safety matters was manifested by an agreement to share design and manufacturing aspects of safety devices that previously had been protected by patents. Networking was also occurring among all those interested in farm safety through affiliation with NIFS, ASAE and FIEL. If any one event can be cited as influencing this cooperation, it would be the NIFS and FIEL joint meeting to discuss tractor rollover and power takeoff accidents. This meeting signaled the beginning of a strong relationship and mutual respect between the two organizations. Safety educators in farm organizations, insurance companies and universities, through dialogue with industry representatives, experimentation and sharing, collectively and individually, did indeed influence machinery design.

Other Items of Historical Interest

NIFS Role in Civil Defense and Emergency Preparedness

In the 1950s, during the arms buildup between the United States and the Soviet Union, there was a perceived threat of nuclear attack. This threat resulted in funds being appropriated for educational and informational programs and procedures to prepare the public for such a disaster. The USDA, with its vast network of personnel and offices, was selected as an agency to promote the program. Additional personnel were hired to assist with the development and dissemination of information. Safety educators found themselves having to become knowledgeable in unusual and unique subject matter areas. Preparedness programs were developed to include plans for building bomb shel-

ters and for stockpiling water and food supplies in underground areas of public buildings.

NIFS was involved in all phases of the emergency preparedness program because all extension safety specialists were expected to provide leadership in their respective states. Farm and suburban families were equally involved in survival planning, but rural areas faced the additional need to deal with the potential contamination of livestock feed and vegetable crops and the resulting contamination of meat, milk and food.

The threat was short-lived, as was the program. A positive result, however, is that safety educators eventually developed programs for all natural disasters, including fires, floods, blizzards, tornadoes and earthquakes.

NIFS and OSHA

When death and injury statistics relating to farm labor finally got the attention of legislators and regulators, agriculture was folded into the Occupational Safety and Health Act in early 1970. This had both positive and negative consequences for farm safety specialists. On the positive side, the safety educator had a chance at getting and holding the farmer's attention on matters relating to farm accidents. On the negative side, OSHA regulations directed toward agriculture were developed and promulgated without farmer input. These regulations were, in many instances, not applicable. Farming was considered by many to be the last bastion of free enterprise in the United States, and OSHA was viewed as an obvious invasion of the freedom and independence that had marked agriculture since the beginning of time. Holding a meeting with farmers on OSHA compliance represented one of the greatest challenges that a safety educator could face in those trying days. Eventually, most problems were resolved and farms with fewer than 10 employees were not considered to be under OSHA control. During the time that OSHA was causing concern, this topic was a part of every NIFS meeting. Forums, discussions and problem sharing were of great benefit in helping safety specialists deal with this unpopular issue.

Federal Funding for Safety Specialists

In 1976 the USDA Extension budget included a \$20,000 payment to each state to support safety education efforts. A safety

advisory committee was also appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture at this time to oversee and advise on the farm safety movement. States used this \$20,000 stipend by applying the money to the ongoing efforts of safety specialists or by appointing safety specialists if none existed at that time. Many of these were half-time positions filled by agricultural engineers. It should be noted that at this time, there were few if any institutions where one could prepare for a career in farm safety. Agricultural engineers were an obvious choice for this position based on their knowledge of farm machinery, which was one of the primary targets of the program.

More than 40 states initiated some form of farm and home safety programs as a result of this partial funding. After just a few years, the funding was becoming increasingly difficult to keep in the federal budget. States found themselves in a constant lobbying effort to get it restored. For NIFS, the federal funding brought a dramatic infusion of new talent, interests and personalities into the membership roster.

The USDA had shown an interest in the farm safety movement as early as 1949 when a representative attended the Wisconsin meeting. Although no specific records are available to verify the date, Sam Lyle, an agricultural engineer with the USDA, started attending meetings in the early 1950s. The 1956 meeting was held in Washington, D.C., with the USDA as the central focus. Both before and after the advent of federal funding in 1976, Robert Gilden, served as NIFS liaison and USDA safety coordinator until this post was abolished in about 1980. As the federal dollars for safety programs became more difficult to secure, a new USDA liaison program was developed. This program involved state farm safety specialists serving on special assignment for one- or two-year stints as USDA farm safety coordinators.

The Canadian Connection

Canadians first attended an Institute in 1960 in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. Since that time, Canadian Farm Safety Association representatives have attended regularly, and several Institutes have been held in Canada, starting in 1968 when the first Canadian summer meeting was held in Geneva Park, Ontario. Both the United States and Canada have profited from Canadian participation.

Adjusting to Changing Clientele

In the late 1960s and in the early 1970s, agricultural extension in the United States was undergoing a subtle change. The halcyon days of growth and easy budgets were slowly coming to an end. Farmers were dwindling in number. They were better prepared technically and had easy access to a myriad of reliable technical resources and services in addition to extension. Demographic shifts affecting clientele and political support were a stark reality. Practically every state was taking stock of its shrinking resources and thinning clientele. Administrators and advisory groups came up with the ultimate solution—seek new audiences and develop new programs to replace those that were being lost.

Extension safety specialists met the challenge by expanded and modified programs and innovative approaches for suburban audiences, for example, by focusing on lawn and garden equipment and the related chemicals. Other new audiences were reached in different places and in different ways. New educational media were used in conjunction with television as a dynamic teaching device. Home safety received additional emphasis as programs once designed only for farm situations took on a new look for the suburban setting. Leisure time and the activities and equipment that accompanied it were another focus.

Several innovative safety programs were developed and shared during these times. NIFS, as always, served as a clearinghouse for ideas and problems. One such effort that gained emphasis on a regional and national basis was farm rescue. As rural areas finally began to get coverage by emergency medical services, the training of emergency crews in farm rescue techniques was a natural activity for safety specialists. Schnieder of Nebraska had conducted demonstrations at field days. Young in Ohio, Fields in Indiana, and Baker in New York had developed teaching materials and techniques on farm rescue involving farm equipment, silos, farm chemicals, grain storage and liquid manure systems. Under the auspices of NIFS, these four safety specialists cooperatively authored an illustrated handbook for use in training emergency crews in farm rescue techniques. During this time, Murphy in Pennsylvania also produced a series of farm rescue training films.

Many new audiences were being reached, and state program reviews and idea exchanges at NIFS meetings took on a

new life. A unique audience for Fields of Indiana was and still is the disabled farmer, for whom the modification of equipment makes it possible to continue to work in farming. Many other examples of new audiences could be cited and many more will be noted in future years as innovative thinking continues in farm and home safety.

Coming of Age Professionally

The American Society of Agricultural Engineers recently began publishing a specialty journal entitled *Journal of Agricultural Safety and Health* for agricultural safety and health professionals. Its purpose is to provide an interdisciplinary forum for articles and commentary that bridge agricultural safety and health, engineering, occupational safety, industrial hygiene, ergonomics, public health, social psychology, education and public policy. The first manuscripts were accepted for peer review in 1994, and the first issue was published in February 1995. Several members of NIFS provide leadership for the journal, including Dennis Murphy, who is serving as editor, and Robert Aherin, Bill Fields, Bill Pependorf, and Paul Gunderson, who are associate editors. Several other members of NIFS serve on the editorial board or as technical reviewers. The journal provides an opportunity for NIFS members to develop professionally by publishing their research and educational efforts. A peer reviewed journal for agricultural safety and health has long been a goal of NIFS, and ASAE has provided the means to accomplish it. NIFS members will have an opportunity to play a key role in the journal's success in future years.

Role of Women in NIFS

Any discussion of the role of women in NIFS must be preceded by a few comments regarding the involvement of women in the farm safety movement. Census figures in recent years have shown an increase in the numbers of women assuming farm management and production roles. This change also resulted in women acquiring increasing responsibility in the agricultural health and safety movement. The dominant roles of men in this field historically are due in part to the emphasis on farm machinery. Women were involved in the related field of home safety, usually through extension programs in home economics or women's programs initiated by farm organizations.

Gradually agribusiness health care providers and public health officials began promoting health and injury control for production agricultural workers and their families. These changes brought on a more diversified role for women in the farm safety movement. In the 1970s increasing numbers of women were noted serving in key roles as safety educators and leaders in farm organizations, public and private health agencies, and extension safety programs for both youth and adults.

Among the early agricultural safety professionals in the United States was one woman—Katherine Olmsted from the New York Public Health Service. Olmsted was one of three individuals present at the first meeting of farm safety professionals in 1945 in Chicago (see page 9). The years following 1945 included an extensive period in which NIFS was composed exclusively of men. During the mid-1980s women's attendance at NIFS meetings increased, and by 1990, there were 15 women members in the organization. In 1992 Barbara Lee of the National Farm Medicine Center in Marshfield, Wisconsin, became the first full voting woman member of NIFS and was generally acknowledged for shaking up the male tradition of the organization. The 1993–94 NIFS membership roster indicated that 14 percent of the members were women. By 1994 three women had assumed major roles in NIFS: Robin Thompson and Becky Ryles were selected to chair key committees, and Barbara Lee was elected to the board of directors. History is still being made in 1995; on its 50th anniversary, Barbara Lee will become the first woman president of NIFS. It is perhaps both ironic and fortuitous that in this 50-year period, Lee is the first woman since Katherine Olmsted in 1945 to assume a major role in the organization.

It is anticipated that the continued and expanded role of women in the agricultural safety and health movement will be simultaneously witnessed in leadership roles in NIFS, which will continue to serve as the primary professional organization for agricultural safety and health in this country.

The Role of Health in NIFS

It is difficult to separate agricultural health issues from safety issues because they are often interrelated. Major program emphasis in the past was usually directed toward safety. Health, as a subject for discussion, did receive attention in situa-

tions where it was difficult to ignore as a significant factor in farm accidents and farm safety problems. Although farm safety specialists did not have the word *health* in their titles, most job descriptions included health as one of the primary areas of program emphasis. Related rural youth and women's programs, including those of extension, vocational agriculture and farm organizations were labeled "health and safety" programs, designating equal emphasis on both subjects.

The relationship between health and safety has always been a reality. It has been only in recent years that health has achieved greater visibility and subsequent recognition in farm safety work. NIFS emphasis on health issues also has changed dramatically over the years because of this recognition. Of perhaps equal or greater importance has been the increase in numbers of health professionals and their inclusion in NIFS programs and activities.

A brief review of the growth of agricultural or rural health will assist readers in placing it in proper historical and professional perspective. One of the earliest rural health efforts of note was a technical paper in a 1939 medical journal. Dr. John Powers, a rural surgeon, described 10 years of farm injuries at the hospital in which he worked. Additional professional work in rural and agricultural health began at the University of Iowa. The Kellogg Foundation provided funds for an Institute of Agricultural Medicine in 1955 with Dr. Clyde Berry serving as the first director. The initial focus of the institute's work included zoonotic diseases, farm accidents, chemical toxicology and cultural anthropology. Subsequent funding from Kellogg and the state legislature increased both the size and scope of the institute's operation.

Rural health, as a program entity, continued to grow somewhat in proportion to the increasing numbers of health professionals and health institutions entering the field. In the early 1970s, Dr. Dean Emanuel and his co-workers at the Marshfield Clinic in Wisconsin evaluated farm dusts and their health consequences. The result was a landmark paper published in 1975 that discussed their observations and identified farmer's lung disease. Marshfield also initiated work on the problems of milk-er's knee and hearing loss.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Rollin Schneider, safety specialist at the University of Nebraska, was involved in studies

that looked at farmers' exposure to noise. These studies originally focused on farm tractor operators but later branched out to other types of equipment.

The link between health and safety eventually became clear to professionals working in both areas. Joint programs were initiated and professional networking provided positive results for both program areas. NIFS membership became a reality for health professionals, and their contributions enriched NIFS programs. History has a way of repeating itself. As in the past, the acceptance of new members with new interests and program emphases into the NIFS membership roster has given the organization a slightly different focus and thus a new vitality.

BE IT RESOLVED

An interesting and unique part of NIFS meeting procedure was that of resolutions being written by some of the more eloquent members and becoming a matter of record. This document would not be complete without such a resolution.

It is fitting and proper that we recognize the past and the future. Therefore be it resolved that we remain ever mindful of what has been developed in the realm of farm safety in the past 50 years. Be it further resolved that we acknowledge a debt of gratitude to those individuals and to the groups who with compassion and conviction felt that they could make a difference—and did so.

It has been said that the future belongs to those who grasp it. Let that be our theme. Therefore be it resolved that present members of NIFS and those who join our ranks in years to come be charged with the responsibility of uncovering new hazards, developing new solutions as needed and polishing old ones, accompanied by convincing methods of applying the same.

Carlton L. Zink
Charter Member, NIFS

NIFS PRESIDENTS

Norval J. Wardle	1962-63	Clair W. Young	1979-80
Randall C. Swanson	1963-64	David E. Baker	1980-81
Wilbur E. Stuckey	1964-65	Richard A. Beyer	1981-82
Edward S. Adams	1965-66	Robert A. Aherin	1982-83
Ward H. Cross	1966-67	Douglas C. Sommer	1983-84
Ordie I. Hogsett	1967-68	Glen Hetzel	1984-85
Rollin D. Schnieder	1968-69	Dennis Murphy	1985-86
Orrin I. Berge	1969-70	Gary L. Downey	1986-87
H.R. Willsey	1970-71	Thomas Bean	1987-88
Delbert L. Ekart	1971-72	Michael Blankenship	1988-89
Ordie L. Hogsett	1972-73	David Finney	1989-90
James L. Williams	1973-74	Gary Smith	1990-91
Gary Erisman	1974-75	Murray Madsen	1991-92
Thomas E. Richardson	1975-76	John Pollock	1992-93
Raymond W. Forsythe	1976-77	William Becker	1993-94
Marry D. Williams	1977-78	Bradley Rein	1994-95
Ben B. Bullard	1978-79		

NIFS SECRETARIES

Randall C. Swanson	1962-1969
Donald V. Jensen	1970-1984
David E. Baker	1984-Current