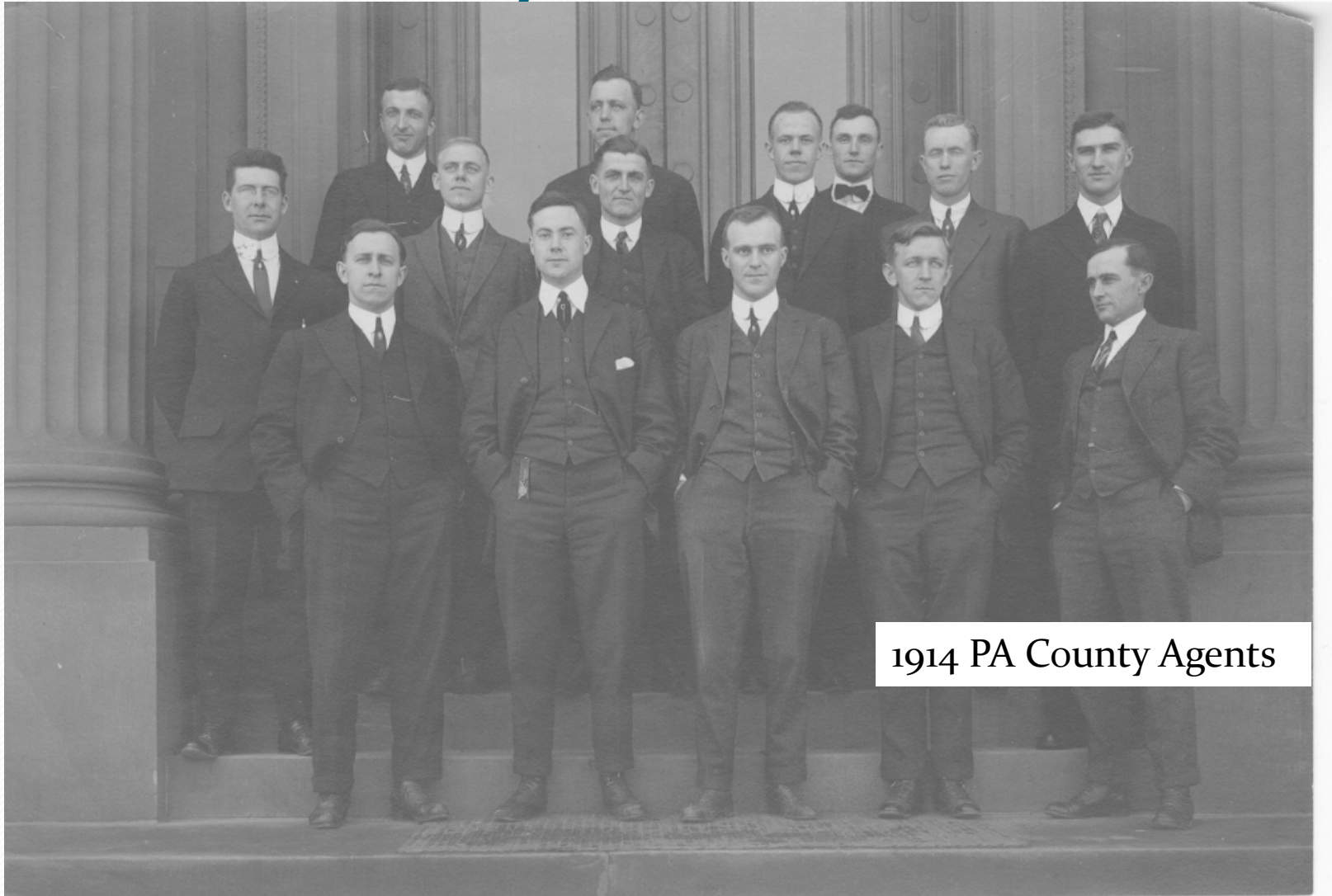


History of NACAA



1914 PA County Agents

Purpose of the Organization

Edwin Bay, 35 years, Sangamon III

- From it's origins – Professional Improvement First!
- Exchange Ideas and Methods
- Establish and maintain high standards of agents
- Promote opportunities for additional training
- Increase potential for leadership and advancement
- Encourage high levels of accomplishment
- Encourage evaluation systems
- Hold high the banner of County Agents and Cooperative Extension work

History of Extension

- 1851 – Illinois Farmer's meeting
 - Resolution – Common Man's Educational Bill of Right
 - Establish a university in IL for all industrial classes
- 1853 – Jonathan Baldwin Turner
 - Proposed land grant college in each state
- 1855 – Michigan – 1st Ag College in USA, Lansing
- 1857 – Congressman Justin Morrill, VT
 - Colleges of Ag and Mechanical Arts proposed
 - Vetoed by President James Buchanan

Limestone Burning



History of Extension

- 1862 – Morrill Act signed by President Abe Lincoln
 - Land Grant College Act
 - Grants of 30,000 acres of public land for establishment of colleges to teach Ag and Mechanical Arts
 - Iowa first to apply
 - Connecticut first state to qualify (1863)
- 1875 – First report of Farmer Institutes
 - Prior to Extension, at land grant colleges
- 1887 – Establishment of Experiment Stations



1911 Farmers Institute, Penn State

Dean Hunt H.P. Armsby

Farmers' Week, 1911

History of Extension

- 1894 – First mention of the word – “Extension”
 - In Proceedings of the Land Grant College Association
 - “The Attitude of the College toward University Extension”
 - Noted 6 lectures on crops, soils, feeding plants and animals
- 1900 – Cornell, NY – created Department of Extension
- 1901 - Illinois – Noted Extension staff in college
 - Education carried out thru Farmer Institutes
 - Included topics related to Homemaking



History of Extension

- 1902 – Seaman Knapp, USDA develops demonstration farms in the south
 - “What a man hears, he may doubt. What he sees he may possibly doubt. What he does himself, he can not doubt”
- 1903 Porter Community Demonstration Farm, Terrell, TX
 - Boll Weevil eradication
 - “Special Agents” to spread information
 - 24 hired within 1 year

History of Extension

- 1903/04 Iowa, Professor Perry G. Holden
 - Better Seed Corn selection demonstrations
 - Educational Train – 600 stops in Iowa towns to see seed corn exhibits
- 1906 Smith County TX provided county funds toward salary of WC Stallings, First County Agent???
- By 1908 reported 157 agents in 11 Southern States and first note of Boys and Girls Clubs

Champion Boy Corn Grower



CHAMPION BOY CORN-GROWER OF HIS COUNTY

- 1910 – AB Ross hired in Bedford PA
- 1911 – John Barron starts in Broome Co., NY
 - Farm Bureau local sponsoring agency
- 1911 – 4 Leaf Clover adopted by 4-H clubs
- 1912 – Sears/Roebuck Foundation offers \$1,000 to a county to employ county agents
 - \$60,000 donated

1916 Butler County, PA Field Day



History of Extension

- By 1912 farmers are demanding technically trained people for advisory and educational capacity
- 1914 Smith (GA)-Lever (SC) Act
 - Purpose – Rural Education
 - Foundation of hiring county agricultural advisors
 - Trinity of College, Experiment Station and Extension
- Can you imagine what agriculture was like 100 years ago?
- Appreciate the progress that has been made!

1918 PA Family Living Agents



NACAA – The Early Years

- Recognition that each state had special needs
- Concern that some states were lowering standards in order to meet increasing demand for County Agents
 - No higher institute education
 - Limited practical knowledge or experience
- Early leaders discussed need of own organization to maintain high standards and ethics



1918 PA County Agents

NACAA – The Early Years

- First Association on Record – IL, 1913
- 1914 Bill Eckhart, DeKalb, IL suggests group of agents from several mid-west states meet during International Livestock Expo in Chicago
 - Discuss common problems
 - Potential for a national association
 - 25 in attendance
 - Agreed to meet the following year

1919 Barn Meeting



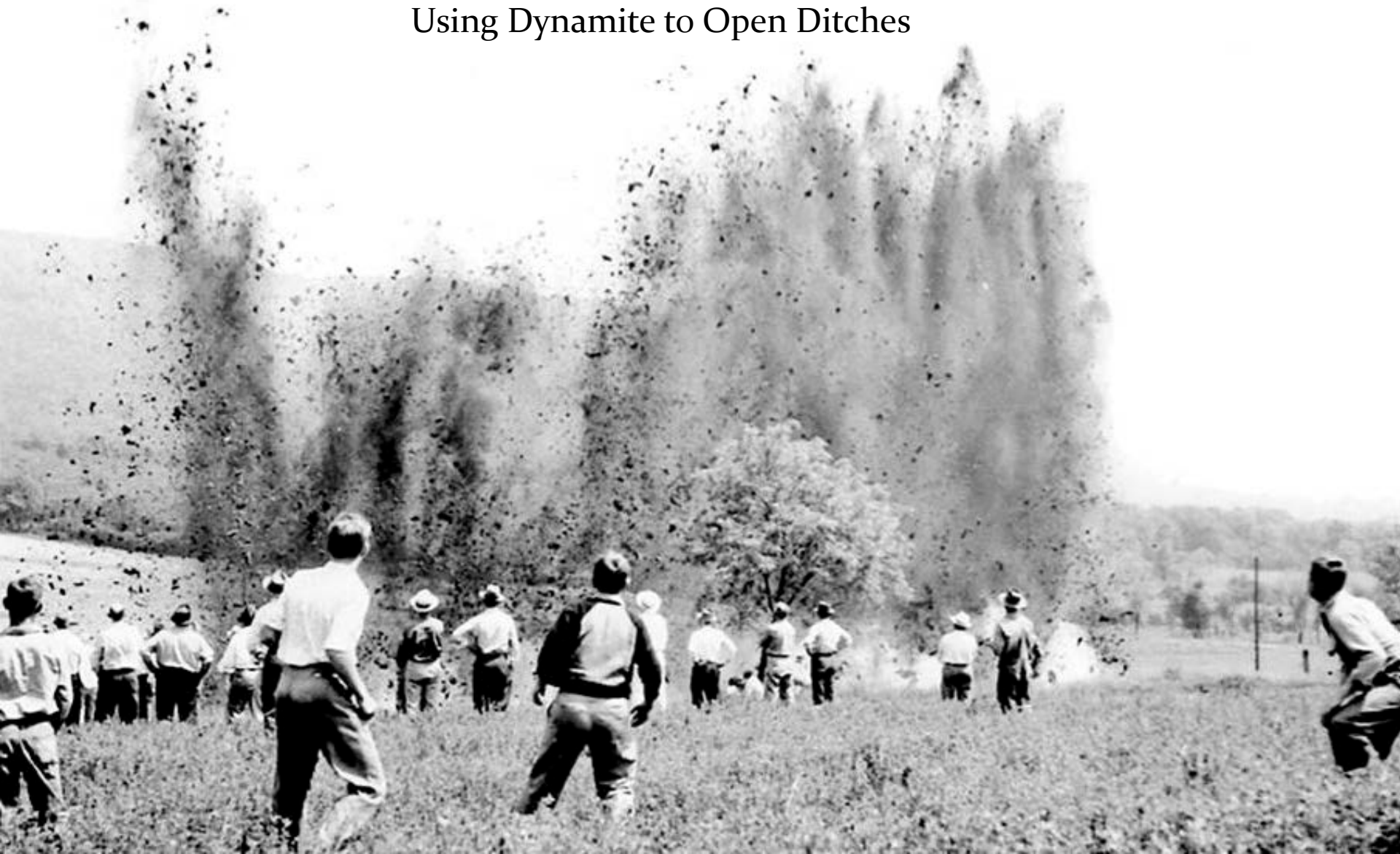
NACAA – The Early Years

- 1916 – 70 men in attendance in Chicago
 - Recognized as the first Annual Meeting of NACAA
 - Adopted constitution and bylaws
 - Purpose noted – a means to exchange constructive ideas in county agent work and establish high standards regarding qualifications and ability of men
 - Notes mention dislike of rules and USDA red tape
 - Ed Heaton elected first president

NACAA – The Early Years

- 1920 –
 - First recorded records
 - First committee report – Professional Improvement
 - First Annual Banquet
 - Dues - \$.50 increased to \$1.00
 - Minimum \$10.00 dues per state association
- 1921
 - 2 day annual meeting
 - 18 states represented

Using Dynamite to Open Ditches



NACAA – The Early Years

- 1931
 - 43 states with 1992 County Agents surveyed by USDA
 - 171 – no college training or degree of any kind
 - 329 – some college work
 - 1453 – Bachelors Degrees
 - 79 – Masters Degrees
 - Average tenure – 4.9 years, only 21 with 15 years or more
 - 25% remained in county less than 1 year
 - Low salaries identified as reason
 - 49% \$2 – \$3,000; 40% \$3 – \$4,000; 6% \$4 – \$5,000

1921 Auto Farm Tour



THE BEGINNING OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

One of the nation's earliest cooperative extension offices was established in 1910 in Schellsburg, Bedford County with A.B. Ross as county agent. The innovative program sought to educate farmers about agricultural science to increase their productivity. County Extension offices are now found throughout the US. Farmers and other citizens continue to benefit from agents' expertise on agriculture, 4-H programs, and family and consumer science.

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION 2014

