

David Baxter Fales

April 17, 1903 — September 15, 1974

David Baxter Fales's life was dedicated to family, community, and youth. His death in Ithaca on September 15, 1974, brought to an end a distinguished career in all aspects of youth development.

Professor Fales was reared on a dairy and crop farm in Gooding, Idaho. He graduated from the University of Idaho in 1926 and obtained a Master of Science degree from Cornell in 1944.

Professor Fales served as a county 4-H agent in Idaho and Oregon for four years prior to coming to New York State, where he held similar positions in Greene and Cortland counties until 1936, when he became a 4-H agent-at-large on the Cornell staff. In 1943 he joined the Cooperative Extension Administration staff, serving as assistant and associate state 4-H leader until his retirement in 1959. Upon his retirement he accepted an assignment as a rural youth adviser for 4-H in the Philippines under the auspices of the Agency for International Development. He later acted as a consultant for the Peace Corps and participated as a member of a youth program survey and assessment team in Vietnam for the Department of State.

As a 4-H agent-at-large, he was instrumental in establishing 4-H programs in several of the state's counties that did not have such programs. In addition, one of his great personal satisfactions was obtained from conducting the State 4-H Congress Program. This program brought thousands of young people from all over New York State to Cornell each June and gave them an introduction to the campus and resources of a great university.

A person concerned with conservation during a period when it was not as fashionable as it is today, Professor Fales's foresight and efforts led to the development of the State 4-H Conservation Camp at the University's Arnot Forest. He served as a director of this training camp for a number of years and was active in broadening the 4-H conservation program to include wildlife management and soil conservation, as well as forestry.

Professor Fales took a keen interest in creating awareness of opportunities for youth through 4-H. To accomplish this, he engaged in public information activities such as radio, news media, promotional leaflets, and exhibits. He made modifications in state fair programs, broadening their scope to increase participation by young people.

As a person concerned with his community, Professor Fales was an active Kiwanian for many years, serving as chairman of and a participant on the agricultural committee and as a member of the board of directors.

David B. Fales is survived by his wife, Stella, of Sarasota, Florida; a daughter, Mrs. Barbara Smith, of Ithaca; and a son, William, of Nappanee, Indiana.

David B. Fales was an innovative individual who never lost his interest in young people and their problems. His articulate emphasis on the dignity of work and the concept of the useful work project as a developmental tool in youth education were the hallmarks of his career.

George J. Broadwell, Fred E. Winch, Jr., Harold B. Sweet