

Agricultural Knowledge

Basic, Needed . . . Harvill

By Richard A. Harvill

The University of Arizona extends a cordial welcome to new students entering the College of Agriculture this fall.

You have chosen an area basic to your country and to this University. Agriculture was the first field of training offered by this institution, as well as the first program in higher education offered in Arizona Territory.

Since then the College of Agriculture and School of Home Economics have graduated many young people who have gone on to positions of leadership in this state and in the nation.

Morrill Act Was Important

This is a Land-Grant University, established pursuant to the Morrill Act passed by the United States Congress in 1862. That historic piece of legislation gave major impetus to the technological revolution which has transformed our country during the past century. Institutions established under this system did not minimize the importance of liberal studies. However they extended higher education into the vast and neglected fields of agriculture, engineering and related areas. Equally important, the Land-Grant system extended opportunities for higher education to students of modest means.

The fact that The University of Arizona is a Land-Grant institution is very important to us and to you. There is only one Land-Grant University in each state, and special federal funds are available to these institutions for research, teaching and extension activities.

This College Is Special

There are other things which set this College of Agriculture apart. For one thing, the factors that are special

Dr. Harvill is president of The University of Arizona. Progressive Agriculture is privileged to have this contribution, suitably at this season as students turn their footsteps toward this campus.

about this state and its agriculture make our kind of teaching and research important to all the world. The desert climate, water scarcity and salinity, irrigation techniques, the crops grown in this area, are not typical of the great "breadbasket" Midwest of America, but of the hungry areas of Latin America, Africa and Asia, where an improved agriculture is desperately needed.

That is why, in this College of Agriculture, you will find students from scores of nations around the world, all interested in the same knowledge you seek. The cultural stimulation of associating with these young people from other lands is one of the dividends you will receive here.

Medicine, Agriculture Go Together

Another thing important to you and your learning is the establishment here of a College of Medicine. There is a significant relationship between the fields of agriculture and of medicine. The lessons learned with animals and plants are important to human health, and have been a great contribution to medical science. Information about nutrition and physiology, findings regarding pharmaceutical plants and toxic plants, the science of genetics itself—all these have gone from agriculture to medicine, and medicine has benefited therefrom. We will expect our new Col-

lege of Medicine and our established College of Agriculture to have a happy and mutually beneficial relationship.

Opportunities in agriculture today are unlimited. America's growing population and our continually improved standards of living provide a market for agriculture that will increase as time goes on. Greater efficiency, new techniques and improved knowledge — much of it coming from our Land-Grant universities in America — make it possible to provide a greater bounty of agricultural produce than ever before. Despite occasional surpluses in this country of a few products, there is a world-wide need for increased agricultural production and know-how.

Throughout the world there are whole continents of hungry people, whole nations where diet deficiencies and hunger-induced human lethargy and lack of vitality are endemic. The problem is one of poor distribution, of populations which have outrun their food supply, of nations where the techniques of America are needed.

Extending Needed Knowledge

One of the great tasks in the world today — and it still will be there when you go forth from this University — is extending the agricultural knowledge of America, the research and extension techniques of the Land-Grant university, so that the developing nations can help themselves.

Feeding the world is the most important, basic task of mankind, yesterday, today and tomorrow. Americans in the past have done a good job of it, but your generation will do it better. It is a career to test your best abilities and your greatest enthusiasm.

WASHINGTON and ARIZONA are closely linked in the business of agricultural research and extension, for the cooperation between each state's Land-Grant University and the U. S. Department of Agriculture was spelled out in the Morrill Act, over a century ago. Here, conferring in Tucson, are (left to right) U of A President Richard A. Harvill, Congressman Morris K. Udall, Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman, and U of A Dean of Agriculture Harold E. Myers. (See cover).

