

Lost Students? -- A Myth!

One error in popular thinking is the assumption that only in small colleges can a student receive personal attention. This club has been wielded unfairly at larger universities in recent years.

In this University of Arizona, in this College of Agriculture no student is ever "lost"! Or forgotten! Or treated as a number.

Our Director of Resident Instruction, Dr. Darrel S. Metcalfe, plans long and earnestly before the fall semester opens. Meetings with advisors are held giving detailed instructions on helping students — especially new students — find their way on this campus.

When school opens, freshmen and other new students meet with advisors. Hear upper classmen give short informal talks to ease the atmosphere of newness. Sample remark they will hear is *We want you to enjoy your stay here, and you will. But, your first job is to do well in classes for you came here to get an education. So, hit the books!*

After the first general meetings ad-

visors and students confer in private, a personal get-acquainted session. Director Metcalfe chooses advisors from fields in which the student has an interest.

If a student does poorly in class, the advisor is informed. He counsels the boy or girl trying to find the source of the problem and a remedy for it. If failure continues parents are notified and invited to talk with the director and advisor. Students on probation are given every possible help. *Is the load too heavy? Then drop a course. Make it up next year, or in summer school. Are there too many social diversions? Let's ask dad to keep the car at home.*

Ironically, many young people find it more difficult to talk openly and freely with their parents than to other adults as our advisors know. *Money problems? Rocky Shoals on the sea of romance? Frictions within student groups? Concern about the draft, or a job, or obligations to family?* Our advisors have heard them all and call upon their own youthful memories as well as adult judgment to help soothe the wounds. Advisors are urged to *Hear the student out. Let him get it off his chest*, and a conference with an advisee takes precedence over most other duties.

What starts as a student-advisor relationship often grows into a warm personal friendship. Dividends for student are mostly assurance of a sympathetic ear — *some one to talk to* — that Someone has a warm inter-

est and a knowledge needed to be helpful.

The advisor's dividends? Perhaps he is the first to know when a pretty feminine advisee gets her diamond. A young rancher remembers his advisor in the College of Agriculture when wedding announcements are sent out. Or there may be a continuing search for advice: *My dad wants me to stay on the farm, but because I majored in entomology this chemical company has offered me . . . What should I do?*

The advisor gets a cigar when that first baby is born. At homecoming many advisors get their first opportunity to admire the toddlers of a new generation, in person, or in bill-fold photos. Not dividends you can bank. But, richly worthwhile.

The *Lost in a large school* myth is just that — A MYTH. In our area Darrel S. Metcalfe has made it so.

Harold E. Myers

Dean
College of Agriculture and
School of Home Economics



MAY

2 — Arizona Cattle Feeders' Day: morning session, Animal Science Feedmill and Feedlot. Casa Grande Highway Farm; afternoon session will follow lunch at Campbell Avenue Farm, Tucson.

21-22 — Gila County Cattle Growers' Association Cattle Sale at Globe Auction Sale Yard, Globe.

JUNE

3-7 — Annual Town and Country Life Conference, University of Arizona campus, Tucson.

10-14 — State 4-H Junior Leader Laboratory, Shadow Valley Ranch, Prescott.

23-28 — 4-H Citizenship Short Course, Washington, D.C.

JULY

29-31 — State 4-H Roundup, University of Arizona campus, Tucson.

In this issue.

	Page
Editorial	2
Bring Top 5	3
Clothing Construction	4
Make Soils	8
Field Crop Farms	10
Boyce Thompson Arboretum	12
DDT in Alfalfa	14
Arimar Barley	16
Commercial Vegetables	17
Extraterrestrial Soils	18
Outdoor Recreation	20
Wily Weed Bermuda	21
Stew Hens Disappear	22
Homemakers Meet	23
Diagnosis & Poultrymen	24

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