

# I'll Farm Where Salome Danced

by Wilson E. Nolan\*

I have had a life-long ambition to be a farmer. And, now as I am about to earn my master's degree in agronomy I will be a partner in a cotton farm at Salome, Arizona.

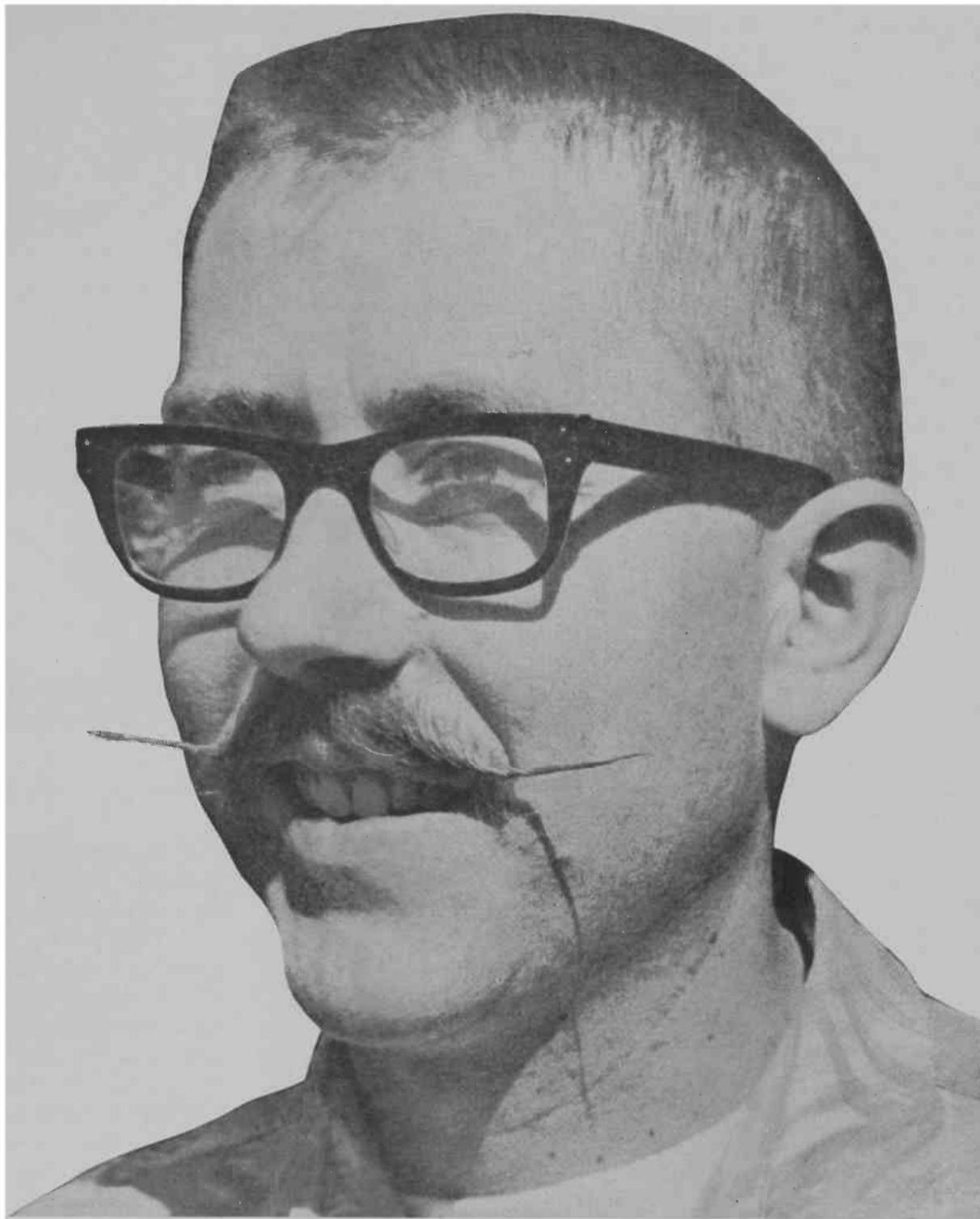
When I started out I wasn't too sure of myself. My grades in Palos Verdes High School at Palos Verdes, California, were less than noteworthy. In fact, I was required to take a makeup senior English class after leaving high school.

I had no idea that I could compete in a college and therefore really wasn't giving it much consideration. So, I

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\* One of two sons of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Nolan, Hermosa Beach, Calif., he earned a B.S. in Agronomy last year and is completing M.S. this spring. His brother is a naval architecture student at University of Michigan.

Editor's note: Wilson has been a 1 student at the U of A and has received the following recognitions — in 1965-66, Merit Award in Mathematics and Science, California Junior College Man of Year, President of Alpha Gamma Sigma, Manager of Soccer Team; in 1967, National Science Foundation scholarship, Ralston-Purina Scholarship, Junior Scholarship Award, member of Alpha Zeta and Phi Kappa Phi; in 1968, U of A Scholarship Honors, The American Society of Agronomy Student Award, Silbowl for Scholastic Honors, member of Gamma Sigma Delta and is a candidate for a Rhodes Scholarship.



took on various jobs for a year and a half until I decided what I wanted to do.

My burning desire was to be a farmer. But, really didn't feel this would ever materialize.

Finally, I decided more education wouldn't hurt; might even help.

At first I enrolled at Palo Verde Community College in Blyth. As I did so I had all sorts of misgivings — could I measure up? I didn't know.

Once enrolled however I exerted a great deal of effort toward passing every class and much to my astonishment I did quite well. After three semesters I had accumulated 58 units and began thinking about going to a university.

I had become aware of the University of Arizona from my exposures to the Yuma County Agents — Stan

Heathman and Jim Hazlitt — who provided service and advice to the Hunter-Matthews farm on which I worked summers.

And, once I decided to go on to a university the U of A seemed to be the logical choice.

I went to Tucson to inspect the campus and to inquire about admission possibilities. While there I took several tests and visited with several of the agriculture faculty. Also, I spent some time with the director of resident instruction, Dr. D. S. Metcalfe and his secretary, Mrs. Margaret Bonnin.

These people impressed me. They immediately impart to you that the Ag College wants you, will work with you and will help you.

It's quite a feeling, believe me.  
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Principals in the 1969 College of Agriculture Student Honors Convocation are from left: Dr. Darrel S. Metcalfe, director of resident instruction for UA's agricultural college; Dr. Roy M. Kottman, dean of College of Agriculture and Home Economics, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, who delivered the featured talk starting on page 10; and Dr. Harold E. Myers, dean of College of Agriculture at the U of A.

## I'll Farm . . .

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They introduced me to my friendly advisor Dr. W. R. Kneebone, professor in agronomy. He spent considerable time helping me select and plan my courses.

My first semester in Tucson was a period of adjustment. I had only one friend who left after two weeks for the Air Force. And, I had doubts of being able to compete in a large university. For this reason I felt my only chance was to give it (study) all I had. And, I did.

At the end of the semester I was again amazed when I passed with flying colors. With more confidence I began taking more courses each semester and started to feel at home around the campus.

During my first summer I was lucky in receiving a National Science Foundation undergraduate research fellowship in soils. With this I had my first taste of research and liked it and therefore decided to make it my second choice goal. Farming was still uppermost in my mind.

As I was about to graduate and even though I had a good job offer I was convinced that I should go on to earn a master's degree. Now that I have a bachelor's degree it seems still somewhat unreal. And, I realize

that college graduates are human too — we still put our pants on one leg at a time.

My graduate advisor is Dr. R. T. Ramage, the man who developed the first hybrid barley, Hembar. I worked with him on this program and found the work fascinating.

But that nagging desire to be out there farming was still with me and I had to do something about it. So, I pushed my studies in order to speed up the program.

Now, soon, I shall graduate with

a M. S. degree — my work permit.

I am sure that my education will help me on my new job. After all education is to me a form of insurance which provides more flexibility.

For you see the things I have learned will help me on my new job. I'll be in farming partnership with Ben Matthews. He is one of the fellows I worked for at Salome.

It will be my job to farm 250 acres of cotton and I have just barely enough time to finish up here and start planting this year's crop.

PROGRESSIVE  
AGRICULTURE  
IN ARIZONA

Official Publication of the  
College of Agriculture and  
School of Home Economics  
The University of Arizona

*Harold E. Myers* Dean

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