

Nat T. Frame



Nat T. Frame was the innovator of a unique country life program which had a profound influence on Rural West Virginia in the 1920's and which played an important role in the establishment of the American Country Life Association.

As State Agent and then Director of the West Virginia Agricultural Extension Service during the period 1914-1933. Mr. Frame was successful in the promotion of county, regional, and state-wide cooperation by individuals and groups for their educational, economic, and social advancement. He also supplied the initiative and guidance that led to the establishment of the State 4-H Camp at Jackson's Mill, as well as regional cultural centers such as Ogleby Institute in Wheeling.

Prior to joining the West Virginia Extension Service, Mr. Frame worked as County Agricultural Agent at Louisville, Kentucky, and as manager of commercial orchards in the Eastern Panhandle. After leaving the West Virginia Extension Service, he served as Educational Supervisor of the Civilian Conservation Corps, with headquarters in Columbus, Ohio (1933-37); as Director of Oglebay Institute, Wheeling (1937-39); and in the early 1940's was Farm Population and Land Use Specialist, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Of his many contributions to West Virginia Agriculture, one of the most important was his strong support of farmers' cooperatives and other organizations which enabled farmers to work with business enterprises for their mutual benefit. Mr. Frame laid a sound foundation from much of the work of recent years in agriculture, home economics, and youth programs. In addition, through a comprehensive land use and forestry program, he paved the way for a state-wide system of forests and parks basic to forest industries, tourism, and flood control.

Mr. Frame received many citations and awards for his accomplishments, including an honorary Doctor of Science degree awarded by Colgate University in 1928 and a citation by the American Country Life Association for his outstanding contributions to rural life in America. He served for several years as Field Secretary of the American Country Life Association and as its President.

Mr. Frame strongly believed that rural people had the ability to solve many of their own problems if given the needed information and incentives for cooperative group action. He was a man of vision and integrity. He had a tremendous ability to organize and plan and was completely dedicated to his work. One of his greatest attributes was the ability to inspire members of his staff, and others with whom he worked, to put forth their best efforts.