



Barbara Biggs

**Mrs. Biggs Is Honored**

Barbara Biggs, credit manager of Chowan Medical Center, P.A., was presented a plaque honoring her as "Medical Assistant of the Year" at the annual AAMA-sponsored "Bosses Night Banquet" January 12, at the Edenton Restaurant.

She was awarded this accolade for the inspirational service and dedication she has shown the organization since becoming a charter member in 1975. Instrumental in founding the

Albemarle Area Chapter of the AAMA, she has served on numerous State and local committees, most notably as Hospitality Chairperson for the State AAMA Fall Seminar in October of 1978.

In 1979, she attended all of the State-sponsored seminars and the AAMA State Convention. She also served as chaplain for the local chapter for two years and as treasurer for the year 1979. She and her husband, Thomas Biggs, minister of Cape Colony Church of Christ, have four children and one grandchild.

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**Cleaning Is Profitable**

RALEIGH — North Carolina tobacco farmers could gain as much as forty cents per pound by cleaning tobacco prior to marketing it according to a recent study conducted by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture Office of Tobacco Affairs.

Results of the study, conducted during the 1978 and 1979 marketing seasons, revealed that tobacco farmers can get more money for much of their tobacco if they will pick out off colored leaves, suckers, dead tobacco, dirt, trash and other foreign material from cured tobacco before marketing.

"We are very enthused with this study and want to encourage tobacco farmers throughout North Carolina to pay closer attention to cleaning their tobacco before marketing it," said NCDA Tobacco Marketing Specialist Bobby Gentry, who conducted the study.

"We feel that trash, dirt and other matter which contributes to poor quality tobacco might be one of the reasons tobacco prices have not been what many producers have expected," Gentry said. "If farmers take the time to clean their leaf, they take much better quality leaf to market and what little is lost in poundage is easily made up in higher prices."

Gentry cited one incidence in which two sheets of tobacco, straight from the curing barn were sold in a regular auction sale. One of the sheets weighed 145 pounds and the other weighed 99 pounds. At sale, each one brought \$1.05 per pound.

As part of the project, sales were rejected and then the individual sheets of tobacco were carried through a thorough cleaning and picking process. After the process, the sheets weighed 130 pounds and 89 pounds, respectively. When the tobacco was resold, one sheet sold for \$1.45 per pound and the other for \$1.41 per pound.

The picking and cleaning process required three man-hours - approximately \$9 worth of labor. The net profit on the two sheets of clean tobacco amounted to \$48.79. The profit margin may not be as great as this example in all cases but cleaner leaf presents an overall better image of a sheet of tobacco and for that reason graders are apt to give it a higher

grade," Gentry said.

In test cases farmers gained from 10 to 40 cents per pound on the price just because of cleaning and picking the tobacco.

North Carolina Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham endorsed the results of the study and encouraged tobacco farmers to place a cleaner crop on the warehouse floor in '80 than they did in '79.

"With the recent lifting of economic sanctions on Rhodesia, North Carolina flue-cured tobacco farmers will have to floor a higher quality crop than in the past in order to maintain our current share of the foreign market," Graham said.

When economic sanctions were imposed in 1965, Rhodesia was producing about seven per cent of the world flue-cured tobacco and was providing about 22 per cent of estimated world flue-cured exports.

"The quality of flue-cured leaf coming out of Rhodesia is as close to U. S. quality as any other foreign country and if the United States - specifically North Carolina - is to continue to sell tobacco overseas we have to continue reaching higher standards of quality," Graham said.

Additional information on the results of the cleaning study for groups, clubs or individuals is available through Bobby R. Gentry, Office of Tobacco Affairs, North Carolina Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 27647, Raleigh, N.C. 27611, Telephone (919) 733-6152.

**Teen Dances Are Slated**

Although the cheek-to-cheek style of dancing is not necessarily today's "in thing," Close-Up dances with varied musical appeal have been scheduled in the county for the next two week-ends.

"Mellow Madness", alias Ervin Sessoms, will be turning the tables with everyone's favorite tunes at a Disco Dance, Friday at the D. F. Walker School Gym, from 8:30 to 11:30 P.M. students and their friends can do the Punk-Rock or the Flinstone for only 50 cents, stag or \$2 drag. For students retaining their ticket stubs from the ACES vs TARBORO basketball game at John A. Holmes that night, admission will just be seventy-five cents.

On February 9 at Chowan High School, a well-known popular group, the Avalanche, will hold a dance-concert from 8:30 to 11:30 P.M. Price of admission will be \$2.50 per person.

Both dances are being sponsored by the 13 local CLOSE-UP Club members who will participate in the National Close-Up program in Washington, D. C. in April.

**Death Claims Mrs. Asbell**

Mrs. Bertie Cobb Asbell, 81, Route 2, Edenton, died Saturday in Albemarle Hospital in Elizabeth City. She was a homemaker and the widow of Mr. John H. Asbell.

A native of Bertie County, Mrs. Asbell was the daughter of the late Thomas and Naomi Phelps Cobb.

Surviving is a son, John H. Asbell, Jr., of Nashville; a daughter, Mrs. Helen A. Elliott of Edenton; two sisters: Mrs. Margaret Rogister of Scotland Neck; and Mrs. Mary Dickens of Durham; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

She was a member of Edenton Baptist Church. Funeral services were held in Williford-Byrum Funeral Chapel at 2 P.M. Monday with Dr. John Allen officiating. Burial was in Beaver Hill Cemetery.

Pallbearers were: John Oliver, Louis Tarkington, Jimmy Partin, Harold Nickols, Paulette Lane and Bill Wells.

"A short absence is safest." Ovid



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