



In all public schools last Thursday proved to be successful and beneficial to students, parents, and teachers alike. Entitled as a "Parent Orientation" time, opportunities were provided to talk with children's homeroom and regular classroom teachers, get class schedules, see new environment for pupils changing schools and have questions answered by school personnel concerning school curriculum and programs being offered. The typical scene (as pictured) was pretty much the same in all schools, as interested parents and children floated informally from one class to another and were welcomed by teachers and administration (top photo). Neil Manning (center), Holmes social studies teacher, and Harold Nichols (right) guidance counselor, assist Stacy Byrum (right center) in setting her schedule as parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wayland Byrum (left) show interest. (Center) Bill Mitchell (left) 7th grade Language Arts teacher at Chowan Junior High, goes over Robert Keeter's (center) schedule with the student and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Keeter. Young brother, John, appears to absorb all as the Junior High program is explained. (Bottom Photo) Principal John Guard (left) welcomes Mrs. Bill Underkoffler (center) and "Missy" (right) to Chowan Junior High as all enjoy refreshments provided by Chowan's P.T.A.

NORTH CAROLINA Farm Tips

From Wachovia Bank & Trust Co., N.A.

By Dr. J. W. Pou

"If we had sat back and done nothing, we could have suffered the same fate as Cuba, which lost 90 percent of its tobacco crop this year to blue mold," according to Furney A. Todd, extension plant pathology specialist at North Carolina State University.

Since tobacco is a billion-dollar farm commodity in the state, a 90 percent loss would have amounted to about \$900 million. This would have meant economic disaster for many thousands of Tar Heel farm families, related businesses, and the many counties where tobacco production is a major enterprise.

As Todd had predicted, blue mold fungus disease did strike on North Carolina tobacco farms again this year, hitting in both plant beds and fields. However, it appears that losses to the disease on flue-cured leaf farms in the state will be far less than the \$38 million setback sustained by growers in 1979.

"Blue mold was active this season in all flue-cured producing counties in North Carolina. At present, though, our estimate is that losses to the state's flue-cured crop will not exceed \$12 million—less than a third of last year's loss," Todd said.

The specialist said Tar Heel tobacco growers deserve a pat on the back for "an excellent job in fighting off a severe attack of field blue mold" that threatened the crop earlier. He also praised county agents of the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service for their "concern and quick action" in helping growers deal with the problem.

"There is hardly a field of tobacco in the state that hasn't received a control treatment of one type or another," he said.

The vicious 1979 epidemic of field blue mold was totally unexpected. It started on islands below Florida, moved to the U.S. mainland, spread north and west, and eventually reached Ontario. Losses exceeded \$250 million. Every type of tobacco grown in the United States was affected except Wisconsin Cigar Binder.

Heaviest losses in North Carolina were in burley producing counties in the mountains and western Piedmont. Some counties lost more than half their crop.

Even before the 1979 flue-cured and burley crops had been harvested, specialist Todd was busy making plans to help growers combat potential blue mold field outbreaks in 1980.

Tobacco disease scientists and specialists from throughout the United States and Canada were invited to meet on the N.C. State campus in Raleigh late last year. Approximately 125 attended.

Among other actions, the group voted to set up a blue mold warning system—a network to gather and disseminate information about blue mold outbreaks and recommend appropriate action to growers. A "Blue Mold Central" office was established at N.C. State with Todd as coordinator.

Recently Todd issued his 21st weekly statement on the blue mold situation in 1980. Treatment recommendations were given for areas where the disease was reported active.

As for other tobacco diseases, Todd said Granville wilt has appeared in North Carolina's eastern and southern counties. Losses to this disease, he said, may double those of last year, reaching \$6 million to \$7 million.

Black shank losses were low in mid-summer but were expected to increase late in the season. Losses to mosaic, a virus disease, appear to be somewhat smaller than in 1979.

NCDOT Slates Fall Clean-Up

RALEIGH — The N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will implement its fall clean-up litter campaign the week of September 8-12.

During that week NCDOT maintenance crews, with the help of local and county officials, private businesses and volunteer groups, will be picking up litter along highways across the state.

Sec. of Transportation Tom Bradshaw said, "Gov. Jim Hunt in support of our efforts to clean up roadside litter has proclaimed September 8-12 as 'Clean Up Litter Week in North Carolina'."

Secretary Bradshaw explained, "This concentrated effort to clear North Carolina's highways of litter is the second phase of a two-fold program conducted annually by the department. The first phase was implemented this spring.

"We are very pleased with the overwhelmingly positive results of our spring pick-up litter effort and expect the upcoming fall campaign to

be the most successful yet. We are currently in the process of contacting outside groups to work with us again. We are most appreciative of the organizations which have helped us in the past and are convinced their cooperation greatly contributed to the success of our campaign.

"In view of declining revenues for our highway program, litter clean-up cannot be given a top priority for routine maintenance. Our cooperative program has allowed us to provide a higher level of service than would be feasible without substantially increasing the department's annual cost for litter control," the secretary said.

Reports on the spring 1980 campaign to pick up roadside litter revealed that 340 maintenance crews were joined by more than 70 other organizations. As a result, 3,700 truckloads of 14,800

cubic yards of litter were picked up from more than 6,000 miles of state highway. These figures, when compared to those in the pilot program implemented in the fall of 1979, represent an increase of approximately 65 per cent in the amount of litter removed and an increase of over 20 per cent in the number of road miles cleaned.

Based on an estimated total cost to the transportation department of \$340,000, the average cost of cleaning up each road mile was approximately \$48. This is approximately eight dollars or 17 per cent less per road mile than the cost per mile during the pilot program.

While the reported number of organizations participating decreased from the number volunteering in the pilot program, the number of individuals increased by about 15 per cent.

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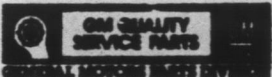
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