

HOME AGENTS WERE BUSY LAST MONTH

Miss Myrtle Swindell Assisted Negroes in Garden Campaign Work

BREAD MAKERS IN BERTIE TUTORED

The following reports have been issued by Miss Pauline Smith, district supervisor, of the demonstration work done in Hertford and Bertie counties during the month of April.

Hertford County

Miss Swindell of Hertford county is concentrating her efforts on clothing with the women; sport hats for girls and meal planning with the girls. Twenty dress forms have been ordered this month, and in one school twenty-one sport hats have been made. The negro garden campaign has been waged in all sections of the county. The meetings were arranged by the negro supervisor, and Miss Swindell explained the Campaign and gave out the folders and giving the gardening instructions.

Field days 21, office days 4, clubs visited 15, attendance 184, schools visited 12, attendance 1643, conferences 78, articles for publication 5, homes visited 8, letters sent 116, bulletins 396, miles auto 544, demonstrations 15.

Bertie County

Miss Harry of Bertie county closed her bread campaign the 28th. The Windsor paper says of it: "Grand Bread campaign and rally day a great success. County boys and girls invade the city! Forty-four schools represented. Saturday, April the 28th, marked the closing of Bertie County's first 'campaign for better bread'. And it was a success from every viewpoint, from attendance, from the exhibition of bread; and from the enthusiasm manifested by every one. Everybody seemed to understand that better bread means better health, less indigestion and happier homes. Therefore, never have we seen a finer collection or collection of biscuits. There were five hundred biscuits on exhibition; and after everybody who could, had inspected them and resisted the temptation of 'sampling,' they were carried to the inmates and prisoners.

"Prior to the 'Rally Day, Miss Harry, the efficient and energetic Home Demonstration Agent, had conducted a contest in every one of the forty-four white schools in the county. The winners in each one of these schools were announced last week. This contest decided the best biscuit-makers in the respective schools. Then these 'winners' in the various schools were pitted against one another in a contest to decide the best biscuit makers in the whole county. And to this end about five hundred biscuits, baking powder biscuits and soda biscuits, were brought to Windsor right fresh from the oven, and the Home Demonstration Agents from Washington and Edgecombe counties judged the best. The judging was no easy matter; for any biscuit among them would have been fit for the table of kings. However, the decision was made and we give below the successful contestants and the winners of the prizes."

Before the names of the successful ones were announced, a very interesting program was rendered.

Miss Wallace, Assistant State Agent, made a most excellent address and Mr. Mabey, of the Entomology Department, and Judge Winston also made speeches. From all reports the occasion was most successful in spite of a steady downpour of rain.

Field days 22, office days 2, clubs visited 21, attendance 471, schools visited 54, attendance 1537, total meetings held and attended 1243, conferences 407, number of articles for publication 10, homes visited 6, letters sent 144, circular letters 181, bulletins 50, miles auto 996, demonstrations 12.

MANY REPLANT COTTON

Due to the cold weather, which followed heavy rains, several cotton planters in this section have had to sow their crop of cotton again. The first seed rotted in the ground. The frosts of last week set the crop back several days, and in some cases as much as two weeks.

How To Space Cotton Told By Agricultural Specialist

(By R. Y. WINTERS)

Cultivated crops vary in their response to close and thin spacing. Certain crops produce more fruit when planted thick while others fail under thick spacing. If corn is planted thick it will suffer from lack of moisture and produce a poor yield while the yield of cotton and soy beans may be considerably increased by close spacing.

Cotton is a tap rooted plant which usually suffers more from wet weather than from drouth. Since an abundance of water is not so essential for the production of cotton it may be planted much thicker than corn.

When planted thinly (18 to 24 inches between hills) cotton plants send out large number of lateral branches. Under this condition the cotton plant is as broad as it is tall. The branches borne on such plants are known as vegetable branches, or "wood branches" because they do not bear fruit directly. They must send out spurs on which the fruit is borne. This large spreading growth shades the ground, protecting the fallen squares that have been punctured by the boll weevil. When these fallen squares are kept moist the boll grub can feed and reach maturity. The spreading plants therefore help to increase the reproduction of the boll weevil.

When cotton is planted thickly (6 to 8 inches between the hills, with one to two plants to the hill) the competition for light tends to make the plants grow upright without much spreading. Here we have a main stem with a large number of short fruiting branches rather than a main stem with a larger number of long branches. It takes the plant a shorter time to produce a main stem and short fruiting branches than is required to produce a main stem and several large branches. For this reason close spacing stimulates earliness. During the past three years the Experiment Station has conducted tests to determine the difference in yield and earliness when plants of cotton are given different distances between the hills. In these tests one lot of rows were left just as they came up without any thinning. Others were thinned 8, 12, 18 and 24 inches between the hills.

The results show that close spacing not only gives a heavier yield but earlier cotton. On account of the difficulty of keeping down the weeds and grass, it is not advisable to leave the cotton without any thinning but 8 to 10 inches, with one to two stalks to the hill will give much better results than the broader spacing. The space between the rows will depend upon the fertility of the soil and growth that is usually secured. In sections where cotton naturally makes a small growth the rows may be run closer together with profit.

Winton Commencement Was Good From Start To Finish

Winton, May 15.—The school commencement exercises passed off very successfully. The curtain arose on Friday night, May 4th when the grammar grades and primary department gave their splendid entertainment. Sunday night the Rev. Dr. James of Norfolk preached a very timely sermon to the graduating class.

The class exercises on Monday night were well planned and well executed.

Hon. H. S. Ward delivered a lengthy and instructive address. On Tuesday morning seven graduates received their diplomas. The music department gave a beautiful operetta on Tuesday night and the exercises closed on Wednesday night when the high school department presented in professional manner their play, "The Wren."

By request the high school play was presented at Chowan College on the night of May 15th.

GONE TO WASHINGTON

Ahoskie "Fresh Meat" left here Thursday morning for Washington, N. C., where they are treading the hot sands that lead to Shrinedom. The spring ceremonial took place Thursday. Among those who went from here were: J. N. Vann, R. H. Jernigan, Jas. I. Crawford, Dr. L. K. Walker, A. M. Browne, Roger Johnson, and T. W. Sears.

A. M. BROWNE WILL INSTALL COTTON GIN

A. M. Browne, who recently purchased the old home place of the R. J. Baker estate, will soon move his family to Ahoskie from Union, and himself become actively identified with local business and industry. He will soon begin the construction of a large cotton gin here.

He has already conferred with representatives of machinery houses, and has placed order for a part of it. He also definitely decided upon the installation of electric motor equipment with which to drive his gin. He will use municipal electric current, and has already secured signed contract from the town of Ahoskie, agreeing to furnish him power when the ginning season begins, and thereafter whenever he requires power.

Mr. Browne also states that he expects to add still further to his business. The cotton ginning season covers a comparatively short period of the year, and in the off season, he expects to utilize the motor and equipment for other purposes, the nature of which he has not yet definitely decided upon. It may develop to such proportions where he will demand electric current several months in the year.

The addition of another gin to Ahoskie will mean the bolstering up of the local cotton market, which has suffered in years past on account of farmers carrying cotton to other nearby towns for ginning. Ahoskie has had totally inadequate service, and for that reason, its cotton has been marketed at other points.

PREPARATIONS BEGIN FOR TOBACCO SEASON

Two Warehouses Will Be Operated By Same Proprietors As Last Year

With the opening of another tobacco season only three months off, preparations for the re-opening of Ahoskie's market have begun. Two local warehouses have already been leased for the year 1923, and will be operated by the same proprietors as last year. The Farmers Warehouse will again be in charge of C. H. Phaup, veteran tobacco man, who has been in Ahoskie several years. The Emerson Company will again operate the Old Basnight warehouse.

It is practically certain that the Tobacco Co-Operative Association will not operate a warehouse here this season. The association's tobacco will probably be sent to Windsor. The large brick warehouse, known as the Planters Warehouse, has not been rented for the season. It is now the property of the Bank of Ahoskie and is for rent by that institution.

H. S. Basnight has already contracted for the addition of a 20-foot driveway to his old warehouse, which is rented to Emerson & Co. Work on the addition will begin at once, and will be completed by the time the season opens.

The committee of the chamber of commerce on tobacco markets has under advisement plans for a campaign to boost the Ahoskie market. Just what steps it will take has not been worked out, although the members will co-operate with the tobacco warehousemen and business men in turning the eyes of tobacco farmers towards the Ahoskie market.

RETURN TO AHOSKIE

Mr. and Mrs. J. Roy Parker, recently married, returned to Ahoskie last Sunday night, after a bridal trip to Asheville and Tennessee. They are living in the former Ed Greene residence in East Ahoskie.

MRS. BARKER IMPROVING

Mrs. J. J. Barker, who has been under treatment at a Suffolk hospital, is improving. She will not undergo an operation. Rev. Mr. Barker visited her last Sunday.

CHAUTAQUA WILL COME NEXT WEEK

Guarantors Are Busy Pushing Ticket Selling Campaign For 1923 Event

PROGRAMS SAID TO BE THE BEST EVER

"Have you bought your Chautauqua ticket?" That is what the Ahoskie underwriters, their wives, and children, are asking every prospective purchaser these days. The trade territory for tickets to the chautauqua is not restricted to Ahoskie, either. Winton, Harrellsville, Colerain, Aulander, Powellsville, and the outlying districts are all expected to send their representatives here for the six days' entertainment.

On Friday, May 25th, just one week from the date of this issue, the initial program of entertainment will be staged in the big tent provided by the chautauqua organization. There will be two distinct programs given each day during the stay in Ahoskie, which includes five week days and Sunday.

This year thirty persons, men and women, have guaranteed to Ahoskie the return of Chautauqua, and upon them rests the burden of selling season tickets, the only source of revenue from which they derive any credit on the guarantee made to the association. Those who expect to attend the programs to be given by Chautauqua should bear that point in mind, and secure a season ticket, which enables them to attend every program for the sum of \$3.00, or at a cost of less than fifty per cent of what they would pay if tickets were bought on the grounds.

This is the fourth year of Swarthmore Chautauqua in Ahoskie, and it returns this year with three years' of universal approval stamped upon it by the patrons in Ahoskie, who have guaranteed its return by their faithful attendance. Each year, the guarantors have lost some money on the project and there is among them not one probably who does not anticipate a like experience this year. However, they believed it was good for the town, and believed it strong enough to agree to lose not more than \$10 each to bring it back here.

According to the managers of Swarthmore Chautauqua, the 1923 program is the very best ever put on by them. If it is, then Ahoskie persons will say it's a "humdinger." The following is an outline of the programs:

Friday, May 25—Concert by Margery Jane Gage Co., followed by Junior Chautauqua, in the afternoon; at night, concert by Margary Jane Gage Co., and lecture by Grove Herbert.

Saturday, May 26—Junior Chautauqua at nine o'clock in the morning. Lecture by superintendent and concert by Eekoff-Waterman-Ringgold Co., in the afternoon; concert by same company, followed by entertainment by Charles Ross Taggart, "The Old Country Fiddler," at night.

Sunday—Devotional exercises at hour to be determined.

Monday, May 28—Junior Chautauqua at nine in the morning; lecture by superintendent and concert by Narchetti's Swiss Yodlers, in the afternoon; concert by same company, and lecture by Frank Dixon, night.

Tuesday, May 29—Junior Chautauqua in morning; concert by Chamberlain Babcock Co., and entertainment by lecturer and cartoonist, Marion Ballou Fisk, in afternoon; concert by Chamberlain-Babcock Co., and lecture by Frank B. Pearson, at night.

Wednesday, May 30—Junior Chautauqua in the morning; junior pageant and entertainment by Esther Lois Schenkel, in afternoon; "Crossed Wires, Comedy Drama, at night.

All of the night programs will begin at eight o'clock.

Advertising signs, circulars, and descriptive matter giving high lights of the different programs have been distributed in Ahoskie and nearby towns; the big Chautauqua banner hangs over Main street, and every

NEW HEAD ELECTED FOR LOCAL RAILROAD

J. A. Pretlow, of Franklin, Va., has recently been elected general manager and superintendent of the Wellington & Powellville Railroad. He succeeds A. T. Baker, who has for some time held this position as well as manager of the Branning Manufacturing Company's plant here.

Mr. Pretlow is an experienced traffic man, having for years been connected in an official capacity with the Albemarle Steam Navigation Company. This company has for several years operated a boat line on the Chowan River.

Reports are also current that the Camp Manufacturing Company will take over the holdings of the Branning Manufacturing Company here, including the large lumber mill, and standing timber. The deal has not been closed between the two companies, although representatives of the Camp Manufacturing Company have been here for two weeks making a survey of the holdings of the Branning Company.

It has been definitely announced by A. T. Baker, president of the Branning Manufacturing Company, that the Wellington & Powellville Railroad will be made a standard gauge line from Ahoskie to Windsor.

BANK OF AHOSKIE NOW PLANNING A NEW HOME

Bid Submitted Wednesday Got Approval Of Committee Of Directors

Hertford County's oldest banking institution, The Bank of Ahoskie, has just about awakened from its lethargy of conservatism, at times almost bordering on ultra-conservatism, and in the face of heavy demands, has decided that it needs a new home in which to conduct its business.

Three years ago, the directors of the bank ordered plans and specifications drawn for a new structure, but tightening credit and the financial slump caused a cancellation of the plans. Nothing in the way of actions had been taken until the annual stockholders' meeting this year, when the directors ordered new plans and specifications submitted, and asked for bids.

Benton & Benton, architects of Wilson, drew the original plans and specifications. At that time, 1920, the lowest bid submitted was \$81,000. On Wednesday of this week, R. L. Graveley, of Whitakers, submitted a bid of \$41,000 on the same proposed structure.

The building committee met with Mr. Graveley Wednesday, listened to his bid, okehed them, and voted to call the stockholders to meet next Tuesday, at 1:30 o'clock in the Richard Theater, when they will be asked to ratify the action of the directors.

Letters have already been sent out to the stockholders for the meeting next Tuesday afternoon.

CURRENT SUPPLIED FULL TIME SCHEDULE

Electric power was turned on for the full 24-hour period beginning Tuesday morning. During the remainder of this month, the municipal plant will run continuously. The cost of operation will then be ascertained for the two periods, in an effort to determine the advantage or disadvantage of providing continuous service throughout the summer.

A few local establishments are making full use of the day service. Others await further word of permanency in day operation before substituting electric current for other motive power.

Other usual feature incident to the approach of the community entertainment period has been attended to by the guarantors.

BUYING FOR ROAD FORCES A BIG TASK

Competitive Bidders At Winton Monday Consumed Much of Board's Time

STEEL CULVERTS IN PLACE OF TERRA COTTA

When the Hertford County Road Board assumed the position of purchasing agent for the road forces under its charge, it reckoned not with the talking proclivities of the traveling salesman and the house representative, and consequently the regular sessions of the board have become so congested with competitive bidders for supplies and material that approving of bills and payrolls has almost been crowded off the calendar.

Last Monday when the board met in Winton for the regular bi-monthly session, there were representatives of culvert houses, hay and grain men, road machine men, and tractor men on hand to solicit the business of Hertford County. Before all of the bids from the various houses were considered thoroughly the afternoon was almost gone and the board had not touched its file. Only one contract was let and that was for two carloads of steel culverts.

Bids were received from two competitive houses, and it was mainly a question of the kind of culvert to be used. Terra Cotta has been used heretofore, with the result that many of the shallow drains have exposed the culvert which is so easily broken. The board was of the opinion that steel culvert can be more economically used in many places where terra cotta has been used.

The road machine men, tractor representatives, and bridge builders were all told to wait for further consideration of their propositions until the fourth Monday, when the board will meet again. With these out of the way, the board of road commissioners approved bills and payrolls until late Monday evening.

An interesting feature of the Monday meeting was the bids submitted for bridges. Included in the number was the bridge at Stoney Creek, Ahoskie Township. Two bidders were there to quote prices and submit plans, both of which specified steel construction and cement foundations. The bid of Mr. Barrow, which included all bridges in three townships, totaled about \$5,000 or \$25 per foot. The Austin Bridge Company, builders of all bridges in three townships, bid \$6,000 on the Stoney Creek bridge.

The county road from Ahoskie to Stoney Creek is now under construction, and the bridge will soon be let to contractors. Other bids may be opened at the next meeting and the contracts awarded, not only for this bridge but for others in the county.

PEANUT ASSOCIATION ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

At a meeting of the members of the Peanut Growers Association of Virginia and North Carolina, held in Norfolk, Wednesday, May 9th, addresses were made by F. S. Farrar of the Virginia State Department of Agriculture, and Ferdinand D. Sanford, of the office of Aaron Sapiro, of New York City.

Practically the only regular business engaging the attention of the members was the ratification of the election of new directors by district meetings previously held, on April 25, throughout the peanut belt. This was done with despatch, and the directors went into executive session.

H. J. Vann, Hertford County director, was again named to serve on the board, and will continue to help direct the activities of farmers organization.

During the meeting last week a telegram was received from the peanut growers of Georgia stating that their cooperative organization was assured, and adding that they believed it would be a success from the very beginning.

The organization of the new board of directors was postponed until Friday, May 18th.

The unscreened home swarms with danger of disease.