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Is a Paper Devoted to the Upbuilding of the Sandhill Territory of North Carolina

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CLASS WORK AT FARM LIFE

Smith-Hughes Plan For Agricultural Instruction

Under the Smith Hughes plan for Agricultural instruction, the organized evening classes for adults form a definite part of the program. The Smith Hughes teacher of Agriculture not only instructs the high school boys during the regular school hours but devotes a considerable time to community activities and adult evening classes.

It will be interesting to the friends of the Sandhill Farm Life school to know something of the work accomplished through these evening classes during the past few years. The evening classes were first organized during the winter months of 1922. After the teacher of Agriculture had discussed the status of the agriculture of the community with members of the class, it was decided that the cooperative purchase of fertilizers and raw materials was the most urgent community problem. During the spring of 1922, the farmers of the community bought cooperatively five car loads of raw materials, approximately one hundred and twenty tons, and through the home mixing of these materials were able to save \$800.00. This \$800.00 was estimated as the difference between the cash price from local dealers and the cash price of the raw materials. Since the majority of the farmers were buying on time paying in the fall, the real saving was much larger than indicated. The farmers were able to borrow money to pay for the raw materials from the local banks at 6 percent interest, while the time price on fertilizers in 1922 amounted to about 26 percent interest.

The farmers were so pleased with the results obtained from the home mixed fertilizers and the amount saved by paying cash for raw materials that cooperative orders have been received every year since, and none of the members of the evening classes seem to desire any change from this system. During the four years that the home mixing has been practiced, the community around the Sandhill Farm Life School has saved approximately \$4,500.00; this amount being the difference in the cash price for raw materials and the cash price charged by local dealers for mixed goods. Since it costs the farmer no more than \$1.50 per ton for home mixing this saving is exceedingly worth while.

The next cooperative work undertaken by the adult farmers of the community through the organized evening classes was a standardization of the cotton grown in the community. The farmers thought that it would be wise for the home community to standardize on Cleveland Big Boll cotton and buy every year from a reputable seed breeder sufficient new seed for a seed plant. This plan has been followed for the past three years and the farmers are now convinced that fresh seed from a breeder each year means increased yields. In addition to the increased yields, the farmers of the community have marketed cooperatively over one thousand bushels of pure bred seed. The selling price of pure bred seed, as compared with the price of seed at the gin for meal, has amounted to a difference of about one dollar per bushel, in favor of the pure bred seed. Since a bale of seed cotton turns out about thirty bushels of seed, it is readily seen that the allowance for pure bred seed adds about \$30.00 per bale to the profit. The farmers have bought cooperatively a re-cleaning machine and have been careful to put well-graded and tested seed on the market each year. They have found no trouble in disposing of surplus seed.

Each year the adults in their evening class work have desired to tackle some community project and to thus develop a community type of farming which is well diversified and also well

adapted to the section. Among new practices instituted through the evening classes may be named: First, the treatment of tobacco seed to prevent tobacco diseases. Second, furnishing capons, roasters, and broilers to the Southern Pines and Pinehurst market. Third, a community hatchery, and fourth, carload shipments of swine.

It is believed by those in close touch with the situation that the community around the Sandhill Farm Life School will ere long be developed into a splendid poultry community, handling cooperatively a large volume of poultry products. Between eight and a dozen farmers have decided to go into poultry raising upon a comparatively large scale and to make poultry one of the money crops of the section. Cooperative sales of poultry during the winter of 1926-1927 will amount to around \$1200.00 in the community.

The community hatchery will enable the farmers of the community to get into the poultry business with a minimum outlay of capital. The incubator has a capacity of only 400 eggs, but this is of sufficient size to establish a poultry business in the community. The hatchery is not intended as a commercial project.

The community is becoming more and more interested in feeding out hogs for the northern markets. It is predicted that we will be shipping several car loads per year within a short time.

The adults of the community are now discussing and considering the advisability of increasing the dairy cows on each farm leading to a cream route and cooperative shipments of sweet cream. They feel that the dairy cow will bring additional revenue.

(Please turn to page 8)

LOCAL BUSINESS OUTLOOK GOOD

Figures Show That This Season Is Better Than Previous Years

More or less talk is heard from time to time regarding business conditions this winter in the Sandhills, but the figures, which are the only test, tell that no year has ever seen so much business. The postoffice at Southern Pines surpassed its record of a year ago, and stores like Patch, Thrower, and others report a decided increase in the volume of business.

Many new houses were built during the year, but renting has been right satisfactory, while a number of families live in their own houses this year who did not a year ago. The cars that line the streets are a right good index of what is going on in the towns, and a number of new stores point to an increasing volume of business.

Pinehurst is the most complete index of conditions, for every night Pinehurst has a balance sheet of the day's business. This year has been the best known there, and it was better in starting off earlier and in maintaining its speed continuously. It is true that January in the entire district is like all other Januarys, for after the holidays always comes a slump. But that is not new for this season, but is the regular winter experience. Folks get home for the midwinter season, and stay there for a period before venturing out again. But the holiday season has ended, and the crowds are increasing at the villages, and the prospect for the rest of the season is excellent from the bookings of the hotels.

With the work on the new hotel and golf links labor has been well employed, and the spring will open with a good demand for hands, and building gives indications of one of the most active years the region has ever known. A more pretentious type of houses is steadily arising, and in both Pinehurst and Southern Pines the plans are preparing for the usual number of new jobs. All signs point to 1927 being a good year.

ENDEAVOR UNION TO MEET SUNDAY

The Christian Endeavor Society of Pinehurst Will Act Host

The first rally of the Moore County Christian Endeavor Union will be held next Sunday, February 6, at the Pinehurst Community Hall, Pinehurst, N. C.

The Christian Endeavor Society of the Presbyterian church of Pinehurst will act as host to the Moore County Christian Endeavor Union.

The program committee have a wonderful program planned. The District President, Herbert Warlick, of Monroe, N. C., is expected to be there, also The State Monthly Service Program Superintendent, Miss Hester Steele, of Mooresville, N. C. Several other District Officers are on the program.

J. B. Turner, of Burlington, N. C., an evangelist singer will have charge of the music.

The first session of the Rally begins at 3:00 p. m. with registration of delegates, free registration for everybody.

Buffet supper served free to all at 6:00 p. m.

Evening session starts at 7:00 p. m.

Full program is as follows:

3:00 Registration of delegates.

3:30 Opening Song Service led by J. B. Turner.

3:45 Opening prayer and address by Rev. W. M. MacLeod.

4:00 County work, organization and efficiency by Herbert Warlick.

4:15 Intermediate societies or teen age work, by Mrs. C. L. Shamburger, district intermediate superintendent.

4:30 Need of Junior Societies and Junior Workers, by Rev. E. A. Tuck.

5:00 Stewardship Raymond B. Wicker, district twelfth legion and mission superintendent.

6:00 Buffet supper.

7:00 Model Christian endeavor meeting, led by W. G. Sugg.

7:45 Song service, led by J. B. Turner.

8:00 Reports, etc.

8:10 Rally sermon, by Rev. W. M. MacLeod, county union president.

The general public is very cordially invited to attend these services.

Don't forget to come next Sunday, February 6, at 3:00 p. m. in the Pinehurst Community Hall, Pinehurst, N. C.

HANDLING THE FIRE PROBLEM

Sandhills Folks Are Burning the Inflammable Grass

For many years a decided controversy has arisen in the Sandhill country every winter as to the wisdom of burning the grass in the woods, and while the old settlers insisted in burning the material during January or February the newcomers took the ground that all fires should be suppressed, and they were backed by the state Forestry department, and finally to burn the grass deliberately became an outlawed practice. Nevertheless the old settler continued to fire the wire grass along in the winter when he could hold the fire in check, and when the trees are dormant and not so likely to damage.

Dr. J. A. Holmes, of the Forestry service at Chapel Hill and Raleigh came frequently to Moore county to talk about the damage done by forest fires and always the old timers insisted that the greatest damage was done by forest fires and always the old timers insisted that the greatest damage was done by fire—that came at an unexpected moment and found vast amounts of material to feed on, and less ability to hold the fire in control than when the stuff

was burned at suitable times when men were on hand to take all precautions. Finally a year or so ago D. C. Lemons, fire warden for the Southern Pines section secured from Dr. Holmes a tentative recognition of the wisdom of disposing of the inflammable grass by burning it in the winter, and on the Weymouth estate which Mr. Lemons has in charge much of the territory has been burned in the last two or three weeks. The grass was burned on quiet evenings when no wind was likely to carry flames beyond control, and this step has made the big property safe from damages for another two or three years. Neighbors in the vicinity have followed the example of Mr. Lemons, and less apprehension is felt now about forest fires in that vicinity.

It has been argued that to burn the grass damages the trees and the soil, but the old settlers point to the fine growth of trees coming where the grass has been burned from time to time when conditions were right for burning with safety, and they also point with equal positiveness to those areas that were burned in summer time, or in late spring when winds carried fire into territory that had not been burned for many years, and where complete destruction followed because at such times the fires could not be controlled.

As more clearings are made and the farm acreage is extended the wire grass is rapidly decreasing in its extent, and the danger is all the time lessening. But the old timers still insist that the way to make their woods safe is to burn what grass they have at a time when they can control any fires, and then it will not burn at an inopportune time and really inflict harm, and possibly get from any control.

STONE BUILDINGS SHOW UP WELL

New Stone House On Weymouth Heights Makes Fine Appearance

With the scaffoldings torn down the new stone buildings on Weymouth Heights in Southern Pines makes a fine appearance. The Pushee and Newcomb house is farther along, with the slate roof on and the walls completed, so that the entire effect is now apparent, and everybody who sees it is pleased with the handling of the material. Among the pines this house is one of the most interesting in the neighborhood.

Over at the Merrill building the roof is going on, and the scaffold has been taken away sufficiently to show the appearance of the walls, which stand out there on the hill top in bold contrast and harmony with all the surroundings. This building is seen from all directions and is very prominent on the high summit.

Mr. Yeoman, who has been the leader in the stone construction, is much pleased with the effects, and says he has hopes that other stone buildings will follow. The cost is substantial material, while the appearance not much different from other substance of the buildings is so much more solid and enduring, and the saving on frequent repairs and painting so great that it is believed stone construction will become common on the hill locations in the immediate future. Two or three other stone buildings are now in the talk stage, for everybody who sees these buildings is impressed with their attractive features and the decided character they give the vicinity where they stand. Persons interested in the use of stone can get information by talking with Mr. Yeomans at Southern Pines or Colin Spencer at Carthage.

Farmers of Catawba county shipped 151,000 pounds of poultry in cooperative shipments during 1926. This amount will be increased 50 per cent in 1927, states County Agent J. W. Hendricks.

TOBACCO GRADING SHORT COURSE

To Help Tobacco Growers Realize The Most From Their Crop

In order to help the tobacco growers realize the most from their tobacco crop this year State College is putting on a three-day short course to teach the farmers better methods of grading the tobacco that they grow this year.

In the three-day course in tobacco grading attention will be given to those factors the observance of which will afford growers net returns for the labor and expense which they put into the production of their tobacco crop. Growers, generally recognize that the better grades of their tobacco bring higher prices, but they are not always fully acquainted with the principal factors that determine grade and therefore frequently, through lack of this knowledge, grade and sell their tobacco for less than they might have received should they have graded better.

This would be a mighty good opportunity for farmers to learn tobacco grades at first hand from a government grader who will give instruction during a greater part of the three-day course.

Rooms and meals can be had at the college at very small cost.

For further information call at the office Saturday or drop me a card.

The program outlined is as follows:

Tuesday, February 8th.

9:00 to 9:30—Registration.

9:30 to 10:30—Explanation of U. S. tobacco grades, purpose and application in general marketing scheme.

10:30 to 11:30—Tobacco grading demonstration. Mr. Wilkerson, U. S. D. A., tobacco specialist.

11:30 to 12:30—Practice grading thin leaf tobacco. Mr. Wilkerson, U. S. D. A., tobacco specialist.

2:00 to 3:00—Practice grading thin leaf tobacco, Mr. Wilkerson, U. S. D. A., tobacco specialist.

3:00 to 4:00—Summary of experimental work in tobacco. Mr. Ross, Supt. Oxford Tobacco Station.

Wednesday, February 9th.

9:00 to 10:00—Use of standard grades in assorting tobacco. Mr. Wilkerson, U. S. D. A., tobacco specialist.

10:00 to 11:00—Description of heavy leaf grades. Mr. Wilkerson, U. S. D. A. specialist.

11:00 to 12:30—Practice grading heavy leaf tobacco. Mr. Wilkerson, U. S. D. A., tobacco specialist.

2:00 to 3:00—Practice grading wrappers. Mr. Wilkerson, U. S. D. A., tobacco specialist.

3:00 to 4:00—Improvement of tobacco by proper use of fertilizers, cultivation and handling, Mr. Floyd, N. C. Extension tobacco specialist.

Thursday, February 10th.

9:00 to 10:00—Use of standards as a basis for statistical improvements. Mr. Wilkerson, U. S. D. A., tobacco specialist.

10:00 to 11:00—Discussion of grading lugs. Mr. Wilkerson, U. S. D. A., tobacco specialist.

11:00 to 12:30—Practice grading lugs, Mr. Wilkerson, U. S. D. A., tobacco specialist.

2:00 to 4:00—Tobacco grading contest.

E. H. GARRISON, JR.,
County Agent.

About 700 progressive farmers attended the eight meetings held in Gaston county recently in the interest of better balanced farming. The Gastonia Chamber of Commerce donated \$25 towards the expenses of the campaign.

Twenty-two farmers of the Eureka community in Wayne county have treated their tobacco seed for leaf spot diseases.

Farmers in Henderson county have raised \$1,250 in cash and are now selling memberships in their farm bureau to retain the services of County Agent E. F. Arnold.