

Drought Tightens Grip On Farming Land

Jackson Walnut Logs Help In Fighting War

By furnishing black walnut logs that can be made into gunstocks to carry the fight to Hitler and Hirohito, Western North Carolina farmers have found a new way to contribute to the war effort.

James Ray Orr, assistant farm agent in forestry for the State College Extension Service, reports that farmers in Jackson county have already cut and sold 131,879 board feet of black walnut logs for this purpose.

This record production was made between May 29 and September 25, and Orr believes that it will reach the 200,000 mark before Christmas. Their harvest has given the farmers a return of \$48,886, or an average of \$67.37 per thousand board feet for the logs they have already delivered.

The farmers cut the logs on their own land and delivered them at a central receiving point in Sylva where they were measured and purchased every Friday by the Wood-Mosaic Company. The logs were then cut into fitches by the local mill and shipped to a plant that cuts out the gunstocks.

Orr is helping the men in this work by visiting their farms, aiding them in selecting the trees of commercial size, and advising them as to how these logs should be cut to give the best quality of timber and the highest price.

The Wood-Mosaic Company has a local office in Asheville, and has established other walnut-purchasing yards at Hominny in Lenoir county, Gilkey in Rutherford county, Nebo in McDowell county, Bryson City in Swain county, Lenoir in Caldwell county, and North Wilkesboro in Wilkes county.

This Locality Is Ideal As Hub For Making Of Staves

Among the many enterprises for which Jackson county has been found ideal, there is one which has received little publicity, but which is important and far-reaching. That is the making of staves, cooper's supplies and equipment.

W. C. Hennessee, manager of the firm of Hennessee and Welch, with its plant one mile east of Sylva, says that, after inspecting many locations, he finds this point the perfect hub for cutting and fashioning staves. He explains that oak is the one wood that should be used, and that the oak of this section is right both as to quality and quantity.

Asked if his outfit's activities could in any wise be harmful to preservation of Western North Carolina forests, Mr. Hennessee smiled—as at The Herald reporter's ignorance.

"Harmful," he chuckled, "that's exactly what we are not." He went on to show how most of his cutting is on government forest service lands, and that only trees squaring 16 inches or upward are ever hewn. Every safeguard, said the stave man, is thrown around the present forest and that of the future, with mature growth the only stage considered.

"Harmful!" Mr. Hennessee laughed once more; "Man, that word sticks in my craw. Why, the average tree we use is 200 to 300 years old, though occasionally, when in reckless mood, we may take a century-old infant if it squares the right inch-measure and forest welfare seems to warrant the cutting."

Mr. Hennessee says that the acute metal shortage is drawing heavily upon his production for oil containers of oaken staves, supplanting the once popular metal drum. The utmost care is necessary, he explained, in choice of wood, especially for hogheads designed for penetrating liquids. The staves then must be not only oaken, but each one must be of the same species.

"Yes," he concluded, "we are busy now, trying to do our bit, trying to supply our regular customers as well as furnish wooden containers in place of steel and aluminum drums. Whatever the future holds for our industry, there will always be an insistent demand for the oaken stave, found at its best right here in our own mountains."

Mrs. Vernon Hoyle and little daughter, Betty Jean, visited her sister, Mrs. Roy Beck, last Thursday.

Bond Salesman



BENJAMIN CHAS. REESE, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Reese, sold \$20,875 in war bonds during the recent Third War Loan Drive. He was awarded a prize for his work. Mary Cole Stillwell was second. Both are students of the Sylva Elementary school. This school was first place in the school contest by selling \$56,388.25, an average of \$145.19 per student.

Bobby Hall Given Majority Vote As Student Senator

Sylva Boy Lands Legislature of Student Government, With Year-Book Editors, Are Chosen In Annual Ballot At Cullowhee.

In the annual election held Thursday, October 7th, five upperclassmen were chosen to serve on the staff of the Catamonit, Western Carolina Teachers College year book, and to offices in the student government.

Those elected were: Anne Blalock, Editor of Catamonit.

Doris Gormley, Business manager of Catamonit.

Hilda Brown and Bobby Hall, Senators from Senior Class.

Carolyn Blankenship, Senator from Sophomore class.

Anne Blalock, senior, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Blalock, of Kings Mountain. Graduated from Grover high school in 1940. Major in college. Business Education, minor, English. Clubs on campus, Business Education, I. R. C.

Bobby Hall, son of Mrs. David Hall of Sylva. Graduated from Sylva high school in 1940. Major, English; minor, History. Clubs on campus, Secretary of W. C. Players, English, Marshalls Club and is in "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities. Getting a B. degree and finishing at end of fall quarter. Is in Naval Reserve, with training base as yet unassigned.

Hilda Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Brown of Clyde. Graduated from Clyde high school where she was salutatorian in 1940. Major, Grammar grade. Clubs on campus: A. C. E., B. T. U., Council and Journalism. She is a senior.

Carolyn Blankenship, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Blankenship of Fairview. Graduated from Fairview high school in 1942, where she was valedictorian. College clubs: Alpha Phi Sigma, Secretary and treasurer W. A. A., and Business Education, secretary and treasurer sophomore class. Major, Business Education; minor, history.

Doris Gormley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Gormley, of Robbinsville. Graduated from Robbinsville high school in 1940. College clubs: secretary and treasurer English club, Business Education club, Journalism club (typist), Baptist choir, Asst. in Business Education Department. Major, Business Education; minor, English.

Cline C. Stewart, Jackson county lad attached to a Virginia army unit, has just been made first class private.

Son of Mrs. Pearl Stewart, of Erastus, Pfc. Stewart also has four sisters living in this community. Mrs. Orville Henderson, Mrs. H. L. Stewart, Miss Lucille and Blanche Stewart.

Florida Resident Is Killed When Car Leaves Road

Three Others Are Injured At Point Near Cashiers; Mrs. W. E. Martin Dies On Way To Harris Hospital.

Plunging off the highway last Thursday at a point about two miles east of Cashiers, a motor car left the road over a low embankment, carrying Mrs. W. E. (Mattie) Martin, of Winter Green, Fla., to her death, and injuring three other occupants, Mrs. Mattie Story, also of Winter Green, and Mrs. Alma Dovell and Miss Julia Chapman, both of Orlando, Fla.

Mrs. Martin, who was rushed to Sylva, died before reaching Harris Hospital, and her companions were carried to Transylvania Hospital, Brevard, where Mrs. Story was said to have received a leg fracture and dislocation of the shoulder. Mrs. Dovell and Miss Chapman were reported as suffering from bruises and shock.

Mrs. Martin was found to have received a head injury, though it was thought, by Sylva physicians, who made the necessary examinations at Moody Funeral Home, that the cause of death was internal injury.

Jackson county officers, who hastened to the scene of the accident, reported that a bus had just met the death car; that the driver, glancing into his rear-view mirror, noted its sudden disappearance from the highway; stopped his vehicle, and investigated.

The car had not overturned and the cause of its leaving the concrete roadway could not be definitely established, as there were no actual witnesses to the tragedy. Passengers on the bus said that it was properly driven, with no emergency braking at the time of meeting. They, the county patrolmen, fully exonerated the bus driver.

The occupants of the car were said to have been visiting in Black Mountain.

The body of Mrs. Martin, who was a widow of 68, was sent last Saturday morning to Orlando, Fla., to be cremated.

4-H Clubs Gather With Agents For Routine Sessions

Twelve recent meetings of the 4-H clubs have been announced, as showing a degree of interest highly pleasing to County Farm Agent G. R. Lackey and Miss Margaret Martin, home demonstration agent.

The topic of each gathering was the same, "Why 4-H boys and girls should buy war bonds and stamps," and the discussions were said to be both intelligent and thorough.

Mr. Lackey said that all the club groups are permitted to function as much as possible on their own. Each boy and girl president is notified in advance, as is also the principal of the respective school, and the executives sit in largely in advisory capacity. The results, declared Mr. Lackey have fully justified such procedure.

Following treatment of the war bond topic, the farm agent led a discussion with the boys on poultry-culling, while Miss Martin and the girls held a session on keeping of records.

Meetings were held at Qualla, Wilmont, Barkers Creek, Savannah, Webster, Beta, Cullowhee, John's Creek, Tuckaseegee, Oak Ridge, East La Porte, and Glenview.

Service Boy From Webster Finishes Training For Air

Herbert T. Vance, son of Mrs. R. O. Vance, of Webster, has completed his course of studies as an aviation mechanic at Amarillo, Texas, the Army Air Force Technical Training Command.

His graduation from this technical school now fits him for airplane maintenance and he will be sent to some air base where he will assist in keeping America's Flying Fortresses in the air for Allied victory.

In addition to completion of the schedule of academic and practical studies as an aviation mechanic, he has been thoroughly drilled in military tactics and defense and a course of physical training that has conditioned him to meet all requirements of an American soldier.

Iron and Chrome Company Soon To Announce Plans

The Smoky Mountains' Iron and Chrome Co., a Pennsylvania Corp., which recently bought the Wilson property near Webster are now erecting a smelter for the extraction of nickel and chromium. The work is in its first stages of development and plans for future development of this property will be announced at an early date, J. J. Miller, general manager of the Corporation stated.

The company is also prospecting on the Fisher property at Addie to determine the advisability of the installation of another smelter at this point. This property is under option to Mr. Miller by R. U. Garrett, Dan Moore, Jas. Malleance and R. R. Fisher.

Sylva Mayor Asks That Local Women Answer Army Call

Issues Proclamation At Request of Governor Broughton, Relaying War Department Summons For 600,000 Applications For WAC Service.

In response to an urgent call from the war department, Governor J. Melville Broughton has addressed a letter to Mayor Herbert Gibson, asking that this community supply every available applicant for the Women's Army Corps, popularly called the "WAC's."

The army is making an intensive campaign for 600,000 women auxiliaries to be trained for various men of certain duties, thus making place for the latter in actual fighting assignments.

The N. C. Company will be sworn in by the Governor at the State Capitol, will go through basic training together, will carry the N. C. Flag as part of the color guard, will wear a N. C. insignia on the uniform. This group will train at historic Fort Oglethorpe, near Chattanooga.

Qualifications for enlistment: American women citizens between the ages of 20 and 50. Have two years high school education. Have no children under fourteen years of age. Be without dependents.

North Carolina wants three recruits from each county by October 15th.

MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION TO THE PEOPLE OF SYLVA:

It is with great pleasure that I, Herbert Gibson, Mayor of Sylva, heartily endorse this city's participation in the nation-wide all-states campaign for the Women's Army Corps' recruiting drive.

You doubtless know there is a tremendous need for WAC's. General Marshall stated recently: "Commanders to whom WAC's have been assigned have spoken in the highest terms of their efficiency and value—in 155 kinds of Army jobs." This statement is indicative of the excellent job the Women's Army Corps is doing.

However the present objective is to release more thousands of soldiers for combat training. In order to accomplish this, each state will participate in the campaign. Likewise each city and county. Our office of Civilian Defense has been designated by Governor Broughton as the recruiting agency in North Carolina.

Our city's participation in this nation-wide drive is needed to assure the success of this program. Our county has been selected to enlist three recruits by October 15. I feel sure that the people of Sylva will want Jackson County and North Carolina to lead all others in the nation-wide enlistment drive.

Hunter Announces Home Coming Date

President H. T. Hunter, of Western Carolina Teachers College, has announced that annual home-coming day exercises will be held on October 30th, and has appointed the following committee to arrange the program: Dr. H. P. Smith, Mrs. Addie Beam, Ralph Sutton and Mrs. C. C. Buchanan.

October 30 was chosen as the date of this event in view of the fact that many graduates who are now serving in the armed forces, indicated that date would suit them best.

Plumer Lowe, Jackson County Boy, Reported Prisoner Of Japanese

Japs' Prisoner



PLUMER LOWE, of Addie, reported missing nearly a year and a half ago, is now announced as prisoner of Japs.

Sylva Resident Receives Honor At Annual Meet

Mrs. R. U. Sutton Is Awarded Life Membership Grade By Parent-Teachers Association In Asheville Conference.

At the annual conference of District Number One of the North Carolina Congress of Parents and Teachers, held at the First Presbyterian Church in Asheville last Thursday, Mrs. R. U. Sutton, of Sylva, retiring district director, was presented with a life membership pin. The presentation was made by Mrs. E. N. Howell, of Swannanoa, state field representative, who expressed to Mrs. Sutton the appreciation of the congress for the outstanding work Mrs. Sutton has accomplished during the past four years as district director.

Mrs. T. Allen Luther was nominated to succeed Mrs. Sutton.

C. W. Phillips, of Greensboro, state president of the congress, was the principal speaker. He spoke on "P. T. A., 1943 Edition." In discussing the philosophy of the organization, he emphasized the importance of the local P. T. A., saying the movement is from the people up, not from the national officials down. He mentioned these aims for the P. T. A. organization this year: (1) increase in membership; (2) more education for members through studying the P. T. A. bulletin, magazine, and study course material; and (3) more fellowship at the meetings.

Mr. Phillips predicted that the P. T. A. would be influential in increasing the school term from nine months to twelve months, with children beginning kindergarten at the age of three; enlarging the curriculum; and in providing school facilities that will allow for community recreation, thereby decreasing opportunities for delinquency.

Jackson County representatives attended from Sylva, Webster and Qualla Parent-Teacher organizations.

Baptist Minister Will Be Guest At Methodist Event

The Speedwell Methodist church will observe the unveiling of its plaque honoring the community boys in service on Sunday, October 17th at 2:30 o'clock. Rev. B. S. Hensley, pastor of Scotts Creek Baptist church, will be the speaker. The public is cordially invited.

Pvt. Frank W. Moody is now receiving training at Camp Barkley, Texas, where he will remain for three months.

Prior to induction into the Army, Pvt. Moody was employed by the Tennessee Valley Authority at Fontana Dam.

Mrs. Edward Dunn had as her week-end guests, her mother, Mrs. W. S. Hampton and Mrs. W. S. Hampton, Jr., of Leicester.

Potato Digging Is Problematical In Hardened Soil

Little Complaint Is Heard From Jackson Farmers, Who Are More Interested In Winning the War Than In Useless Lament.

Prolonged drought has Jackson county and its environs in a grip both hard and dry. "Just like a brick" is the description heard from farmers alluding to the soil in every section of the community. One planter tersely remarked that the frost could come, and welcome, as there is nothing left to bite.

Fortunately, the earlier crops were harvested before the present rainless season approached, but potatoes both sweet and Irish, are said to be dubious crops unless rain falls in sufficient volume to soften the ground for digging.

"It would take blasting powder to get at mine," was one man's comment, while another declared that he had no experience in mining and didn't know what to do about it.

Farm agent G. R. Lackey says that Jackson county is most fortunate that the early plantings received sufficient watering to bring them through, as late corn did not have a chance and autumn grazing for cattle was dried out some weeks ago. This, of course, means that additional feeding has become necessary much earlier than in normal weather.

About the middle of September a "million dollar rain" fell, but that was inadequate in view of the previous dearth of moisture. Most impressive is the attitude of practically every Jackson man who tends the soil. Of the many interviewed by the Herald reporter, none has seemed at all sorry for himself.

One farmer, who tills many acres, said: "Rain? Why, man, it's raining—abundant on these of my sons—right now, for all I know. What's a little dry spell compared with that?"

He even joked about his potatoes, and that is the position the majority hold. Winning this war is the uppermost thought.

The smell of apples is noted more and more frequently, as they pass through, often in trucks bound for points in Georgia and Alabama. Service men will have the preference from orchards of this vicinity, it is said, though this fruit will be available during the coming weeks in reasonably good quantities, considering the shortness of the apple crop.

Jarrett Is Still Unconscious As 5th Week Begins

Showing a degree of vitality both pleasing and amazing to his physicians, Robert P. Jarrett, still critically ill in Henry Grady Hospital, Atlanta, has entered the fifth week of unconsciousness, following a motor wreck in which he and his wife were injured.

It is said by the doctors that every day he thus gains is favorable to the former resident and native of Dillsboro, though the final outcome is as yet problematical.

Mrs. Jarrett, who was also reported in grave condition shortly after the wreck, and who received rib fractures, among other injuries, has steadily improved, having left the hospital over two weeks ago.

R. F. Jarrett, of Dillsboro, father of the wreck victim, is still in touch by phone with the Atlanta hospital, receiving news of his son's condition at least once a day.

Ground Limestone Is Available For Jackson Farmers

Farm agent G. R. Lackey has announced that ground limestone is now available to farmers of Jackson county.

Mr. Lackey, who was emphatic in expressing satisfaction that this product is now obtainable, said that this should be of vital interest to every person who tills the soil in this community, being one of the most important items in the AAA program, especially at this season.

The farm agent pointed out that ground limestone has to be brought here from Tennessee; that it is highly valuable in soil building, and that he earnestly desires every Jackson farmer to have all to which he is entitled.

Since ground limestone has to be allotted, he urges all who are interested to get in touch with him at his office in the court house.

Power House Club Has Monthly Meet

The Glenville Power House Home Demonstration club met Thursday, October 7, 1943 at the home of Mrs. Mary Waldroop.

Miss Margaret Martin, Home Demonstration Agent, demonstrated and discussed "Meat Canning."