

Check Out Phone Pitch

North Carolina Agriculture Commissioner James A. Graham has warned farmers and other users of pesticides to beware of telephone calls from the "herbicide hookers".

"Every year," said Graham, "we receive reports of calls made by fast talking pesticide salesmen to prospective customers across the state. Most of the callers promote their products, usually weed killers, by making false claims for their effectiveness and safety and by offering temptingly low prices."

Graham gave an account of a recent incident: A North Carolina grain and hog farmer bought 10 gallons of herbicide by phone after being told it would kill weeds around hog pens for up to two years. After paying \$160, he received the product and read the label for the first time. No claims of two-year effectiveness were made, and, worse, the label warned of toxicity to misses the opportunity to personally review the product label or to obtain the service and instructions available from local licensed dealers."

"Often," he continued, "the low prices quoted by these hucksters are for much weaker products than the public is accustomed to buying. Often the farmer is led to believe that the product is concentrated formula to be fur-

ther diluted. Upon receipt he learns the product has already been diluted and is to be used straight from the container, making the pesticide much less of a bargain."

Prosecution of suspected firms has been difficult, according to N.C. Department of Agriculture pesticide administrator Bill Buffalo. "It's hard to build a case based on telephone conversations. But the State Pesticide Board can initiate action when

evidence is sufficient. Buffalo suggested that pesticide buyers make it unmistakably clear to any telephone huckster that they are not interested and will not pay for such products. Sometimes wavering buyers have been shipped the pesticides C.O.D.

Graham added, "The vast majority of pesticide producers and dealers condemn these unethical actions on the part of dishonest few."

Big Ivy Club Plans 2nd Bluegrass Show

The Big Ivy Community Development Club of Barnardsville will sponsor the second annual "Bluegrass, Big Ivy" Saturday, Aug. 16 at the community center. The event will begin at 12 noon and end at 12 midnight.

Bluegrass entertainment will be provided by The Mark Pruett Band, the Carolina Cut-Ups, Phil and Gaye Johnson, the Freeman Family and Luke Smathers's String Band. The Southern Appalachian Cloggers will also be on hand to perform.

Admission to the 12-hour event is \$5 per person or \$10 per family. All proceeds will

go to replacing the recreation building which burned three years ago.

Food will be served throughout the day, and "parking lot pickers" are welcomed to bring along their instruments for impromptu jam sessions.

Although Europe is about the same size as Canada, its population is greater than North and South America combined, according to National Geographic.



SAUERKRAUT SUPPLIES should be plentiful at the Sam Lane home in Hazelwood. Lane's pride and joy is this huge cabbage head, which measures almost 14

inches across. "I'm sure it's not a record," he said, "but it's the biggest one I've ever seen." (Mountaineer Photo by Paylor)

On Social Security

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program has a number of features that distinguish it from the other cash benefit programs administered by the Social Security Administration according to Tom Johnson, Field Representative of the Asheville Social Security Office.

Unlike the social security retirement, survivors, and disability insurance programs, SSI is based in large measure on financial need. The income and resources of aged, blind, and disabled persons are taken into account in deciding whether they are eligible for payments.

No such consideration applies to social security claimants. While there are limits on earnings — as, for example, in the case of retired workers — income as such is not a disqualifying factor.

Another difference between SSI and the social security cash benefits programs is that SSI payments come from the Government's general funds, social security payments are made from the various social security trust funds and are based on work covered by the social security program.

The test of financial need does not mean that a person must be penniless in order to qualify for SSI. In fact, an individual may have resources of up to \$1,500 — a couple up to \$2,250 — and still be eligible for payments. Moreover, some items that ordinarily would be considered resources are not included in deciding SSI eligibility.

For example, a home and the land around it are not counted, regardless of their value. Personal effects or household goods with a total equity value of \$2,000 or less are also not counted. If their value is greater than \$2,000, only the excess is counted.

Furthermore, only the por-

tion of the market value of a car that exceeds \$4,500 is counted as a resource; the value of one car is not counted at all if it is used by members of the household for transportation to a job, to go for treatment for a specific medical problem, or if it has been modified for use by a handicapped person.

Other resources not counted in determining eligibility for SSI payments are life insurance policies with a total face value of no more than \$1,500 per person, property essential to self-support, and certain community stocks held by natives of Alaska.

In regard to income, individuals with countable incomes of less than \$238 a month are eligible for some SSI payments; the corresponding figure for couples is \$357. In some states people who have incomes above these

levels may qualify for a state supplement.

The rationale for providing assistance before a person is destitute is a desire to maintain the personal dignity and self-respect of the recipients. For the same reason, Federal law does not require relatives to support persons eligible for SSI. It is assumed, however, that a husband and wife who live together share their income and resources and that a child shares in the income and resources of parents.

Persons who believe they may be eligible for SSI payments should apply at the Social Security Office located at 400 Executive Park, Asheville, N.C. or telephone the office at 252-8773 — if long distance, ask operator WX 3500. Since payments cannot be made for months before applying, an application should be filed without delay.

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Customers of Carolina Power & Light Co. reached a new peak in their demand for electricity Thursday (July 31) as usage rose to 5,955,000 kilowatts between 4 and 5 p.m.

It surpassed the previous high peak demand on the CP&L system of 5,918,000 kilowatts set July 17. Before July, the record peak demand was 5,807,000 kilowatts which occurred on August 9, 1979.

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