

County Farm Land Higher Than Average In Nation

(Special to The Mountaineer)

NEW YORK — Acre for acre, farms in Haywood County command higher prices than do those in most other parts of the nation. This is one of several encouraging aspects of the local farm problem revealed in the Census Bureau's new Census of Agriculture.

The results of the survey are being issued in preliminary form for each of the 3,067 counties in the United States. It is the first thorough study of the kind since 1950.

It shows that the average value of farms (land plus buildings only) in Haywood County is \$233.34 an acre, an increase over the 1950 figure, \$152.73 and acre.

This is more than farmers can get for their property in most parts of the country. The average price is \$84.37 an acre. The local figure is better, also than that for the Southern States as a whole, \$76.40 an acre.

In terms of total dollars per farm, values also rose locally since the last census. The average value in the county, excluding machinery and equipment but including land and buildings, has climbed to \$12,940 per farm, according to the current census. It had been \$9,201 per farm in 1950.

The downward drift of agricultural prices, which has become a matter of major concern to the entire nation, has meant an overall decline in net farm income.

Its effect, according to the Agriculture Department, has been somewhat cushioned by the fact that there has been a large drop in farm population. The farm income, therefore, on a per capita basis, has declined to a smaller degree.

Some measure of relief is expected through enactment by Congress of the President's soil bank plan, which contemplates the retirement of roughly ten percent of farm land now planted to crops.

This would mean, according to the census data, the retirement of up to 1,996 acres in Haywood County where there were 19,961 acres normally planted to crops.

A postwar shortage of rice in the Far East has increased wheat consumption there.



Robert Tharp Is Taking Course In Stone Setting

Robert F. Tharp, Jr. left Friday for a special course in jewelry repair, diamond and stone setting, at Bowman Technical School, Lancaster, Pa.

The course will take from four to six weeks, Tharp said. The watchmaker has been here for the past four years, and is associated with Kurt Gans.

He is a graduate of the Southern College of Watchmaking, Memphis, and worked in Wadesboro, and Rock Hill before coming to Waynesville.

A native of Brevard, he plans to become a specialist in the jewelry repair, and mounting of precious stones, as well as watchmaking.

Familiar Site

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. (AP) — When Raymond K. Begley, accompanied his son, Ray, Jr., into the latter's classroom at Central Junior High School, he thought a desk in the center of the third row looked familiar.

Lifting the lid, he found his own initials RKB where he'd carved them 25 years ago.

GE Executive Tells Club Importance Of Modernized Community Relations Plan

"Both a company and community have responsibilities," J. T. Bailey, general manager of the Outdoor Lighting Department of General Electric Company, Hendersonville, told Rotarians here Friday, as he talked on "Community Relations at General Electric."

Bailey said that until about ten years ago General Electric confined its thinking relative to management functions, primarily to four basic areas — engineering, manufacturing, marketing and finance.

"In the past ten years, however, we have added a fifth area which is proving to be equally important — Employee and Plant Community Relations. It is our feeling that before one can have good community relations, one must first have good employee relations.

Each employee is an ambassador of his company — either good or bad — and his neighbors tend to believe him rather than others.

with whom they come in contact," he said.

Continuing, Bailey pointed out, "More and more in recent years, we have concerned ourselves with what our neighbors think beyond our plant walls.

"In the past, many major companies felt secure in the knowledge that, measured against accepted standards, they ranked high as good employers. Wages compared favorably with comparable jobs in local industry. Working conditions generally rated in the same top group. Employee benefit programs were well established and were the forerunners of today's practices.

"Our company had always believed in practicing good citizenship and in accepting a citizen's responsibility in all of the cities where our plants were located. Local management and employees were encouraged to take part in worthwhile community activities.

In spite of all these efforts, something was lacking.

"Beyond these accepted activities in which we were engaged we realized that we had to assume and accept responsibility by doing our part in encouraging businessmen, the clergy, educators, and other segments of the community to become more familiar with our problems in serving and retaining our customers and in providing maximum work for our employees and, after paying all of our bills, to earn a fair profit for our shareholders.

"We realize that we must get our community neighbors to: (1) understand that a profitable business is good for our community neighbors; (2) benefits resulting from a profitable industry cannot last unless the citizens understand the system which makes these benefits possible; (3) fully appreciate that good paying jobs depend upon the success of local

businesses, including General Electric.

"It was obvious," Bailey said, "that we must prepare a carefully planned community relations program. It was necessary to realize that our employees in our various communities are a product of the environment and climate in each community in which we operate.

"In assessing community responsibilities, there is one most important fact that must be clearly understood — that both the company and the community have responsibilities. Neither can hope for even a degree of advantage at the other's disadvantage. There must be 'give' as well as 'take'.

We also believe that each of our communities, in which we operate plants, has a right to know who we are and what we are doing there. We need good community-wide understanding and approval of our activities.

"At the time of our move to Hendersonville, the Employee and Plant Community Relations section set up headquarters there prior to the move of the personnel.

Orientation meetings were held with all new employees, discussing our philosophies and management in the areas of wages, working conditions, job security, and personnel practices. We developed a community mailing list which started with all members of the Chamber of Commerce and to this we added thought leaders in the community. Information letters, reporting on our progress, were mailed to these people. Copies of our plant publications are still mailed to these people.

"We have encouraged our management representatives to take part in civic activities, and they are now engaged in some 150 different activities around town.

"On November 5th we will hold an Open House at which time we

will invite the entire community to visit us at our plant and to learn of our aims and objectives.

"We must realize that harmony in our working relations does not just happen — it is the end result of positive efforts to produce it — because there are too many factors inherent in our working environment which tend to produce the opposite result.

"We need enough foresight and understanding to put our best efforts forward and enough faith in our people and our neighbors to know that the seeds that we sow with them will one day blossom into strong trees and bear fruit which will nourish us as we go about the job of building successful business," he concluded.

The new turnpike bridge over the Delaware River near Edgely, Pa., required 20,204 tons of steel and 25,000 barrels of cement.

KURT GANS — "The Store of Fine Diamonds"



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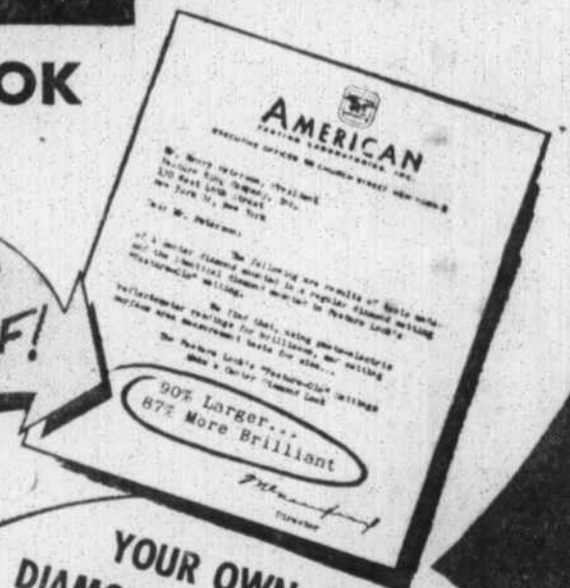
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