



Personnel manager
 Mark Collins has been named the Plant Personnel Manager for the Burlington Menswear Dyeing Plant. He joined Burlington in 1980 at the Central Falls Plant following graduation from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a B.S. degree in Industrial Relations and a B.A. degree in Psychology. He has served in various personnel functions at the Caroleen Plant and the Clarksville Finishing Plant prior to his present position.



Completes 20 years
 Bobby F. Collier has completed 20 years unbroken service at the Raeford Plant of Burlington Industries. Since his employment with the company he has worked in various Spinning Department positions. His present job is Spinning P.M. Technician Assistant in the Spinning Department. He was presented a pearl pin, certificate and a gift by plant management to commemorate the achievement.

Poison ivy is out

By Clay Williams
 N.C. Academy of Family Physicians

The information I read about poison ivy in preparation of this article said -- "the best way to get rid of it is to cut it out, roots and all." Further investigation, however, revealed that the dog-gone stuff will get you one way or another until it is rotted and becomes part of the earth. People have been known to get a poison ivy rash even from the fur of pets.

Seems you can get the rash without directly touching poison ivy with your skin. If you touch something that has poison ivy oil on it, such as clothing or shoes, you can get the rash. The oil can be carried in the smoke and cause serious burning of the inner surfaces of the lungs. Getting the oil in your eyes, either through smoke or by rubbing the oil indirectly, can cause scarring and some loss of sight. Of course, if it is eaten by a child, it can result in serious burning of whatever part of the digestive system it comes in contact with.

The first thing is to recognize this vicious-looking specimen of plant life. The poison ivy plant

grows in the central and southern United States in three forms -- as a small plant, a bush and a vine that climbs trees.

It is the oil in the poison ivy plant that causes trouble. Young plants usually have three leaves with pointed edges. Often the leaves will shine because of the oil in them. The leaves appear to get rounder and smoother as they get older. Older leaves normally do not shine with the oil. But you must remember that all forms of the plant and all parts -- including the roots -- are still loaded with the oil.

According to Dr. Robert Townsend, a Raeford family physician, the skin rash usually appears a day after exposure to poison ivy. The oil causes swelling, burning and itching. He said rashes occur in different parts of the body at different times -- depending upon the thickness and tenderness of the skin.

If equal amounts of the oil get on the body, the tender areas (the face, chest, stomach, arms) are apt to break out first. Once the oil is washed off, only the areas which it touched can break out. The family physician said some people are highly allergic to poison ivy.

Social Events



Sharon Elaine Floyd
 Floyd - Lerner



Melanie Caroline Patton
 Patton - Ray

Mr. and Mrs. Billy Earl Floyd of Rose Hill announce the engagement of their daughter, Sharon Elaine, to Stephen Carl Lerner of El Paso, Texas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Max Lerner of Asheville. Sharon is the granddaughter of Mrs. Herbert Polston and Mr. and Mrs. Earl G. Floyd of Raeford. A September 2 wedding is planned.

Mr. and Mrs. Ilon Lionell Patton, of Belleville, Arkansas, announce the engagement of their daughter, Melanie Caroline, of North Little Rock, to James Gary Ray, of Rogers. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Calvin Ray of Fayetteville and the grandson of Mrs. Leslie Ray and the late Daniel Max Ray of Raeford.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Arkansas College of Technology and is employed as a computer programmer. The prospective bridegroom is a graduate of Seventy-First High School and attended Little Rock Technical School and Fayetteville Technical Institute. He is employed as a machinist for Research Armourment Industries. The wedding is planned for July 7 at Ranger Free Will Baptist Church in Danville.

Mandy Kinlaw has birthday party

Mandy Kinlaw, of Clarksville, Virginia and formerly of Raeford, celebrated her 17th birthday Saturday with a pool party for 25 guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Coley. Stephanie Stone and Eric Coley hosted the party.

Glaucoma leading cause of blindness

By Debbie Hamrick

Glaucoma is one of the leading causes of preventable blindness in the United States. An estimated 2 million Americans have the disease, and in 1978 an estimated 62,000 were blind because of it.

Usually hereditary and associated with aging, glaucoma threatens the vision of nearly 2% of all persons over the age of 35. Blindness can almost always be prevented, but often in the disease's early stages, symptoms are subtle and difficult to detect.

Dr. Daniel Hernandez, neurobiologist at North Carolina State University's School of Veterinary Medicine, is working to develop a new diagnostic test to detect early stages of glaucoma development before clinical symptoms appear.

He explained glaucoma is actually a complex of diseases which all have in common a chronic increase in inner eye pressure. The pressure buildup occurs in the aqueous humor -- the fluid that keeps the eye from collapsing.

Left unchecked, the pressure increase will eventually begin to degenerate the optic nerve which sends visual images from the eye to the brain.

As the damage to the optic nerve occurs, the victim begins to lose vision.

Because the loss is usually painless and begins with the side or peripheral sight, the victims rarely realize they have glaucoma.

All vision loss caused by the disease is irreversible.

That is why, Hernandez said, early diagnosis -- before any damage to optic nerve occurs -- is critical.

The diagnostic test Hernandez hopes to derive through research efforts at N.C. State and N.C. Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill would be based on studying a suspected person's level of a naturally occurring body chemical.

The chemical, Alpha-Melanocyte Stimulating Hormone (Alpha-MSH), he said, is one of 30 identified protein chains which our bodies produce. These protein chains, called peptides, act as chemical communicators between nerve endings.

Hernandez says Alpha-MSH plays a role in regulating inner eye pressure and causes a dramatic increase in pressure when it is administered into the eyes of laboratory animals.

At the NCSU School of Veterinary Medicine, he is studying the mechanisms by which the peptide controls inner eye pressure on a cellular level. Through these tests Hernandez said he hopes to uncover information valuable toward understanding the development of glaucoma.

"Research into the role of peptides in vision is new," he said. "Very few groups worldwide are studying them, but the work being done promises to generate a trend in that area. So far the results give us reason to believe peptides are exerting important functions in the eye and may play a role in ocular diseases."

Spurred by results in the laboratory at N.C. State, Hernandez extended his studies to Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill where he is studying the levels of Alpha-MSH in blood samples from diagnosed glaucoma patients and healthy volunteers.

Preliminary results from the studies indicate that the peptide is found in higher concentrations in the blood samples of glaucoma patients, he said.

The information Hernandez gathers will be used to determine normal levels of the peptide as well as levels which may indicate the development of glaucoma.

Because many types of glaucoma are hereditary, a person with a family history of the disease then could take advantage of the blood test and prevent any loss of vision by early treatment, he said.

As the studies progress, Hernandez will be able to determine whether there is a correlation between a glaucoma victim's age and his level of Alpha-MSH.

In addition to the direct implications of Hernandez's research on glaucoma diagnosis and a better understanding of pressure regulation within the eye, his laboratory experiments will be important to other researchers who are studying the disease.

"Previously glaucoma researchers have not had a satisfactory way to stimulate glaucoma conditions in the laboratory, but the animal model we are using to study the cellular physiology of Alpha-MSH may be used by others to

simulate glaucoma conditions," he said.

The preliminary results of Hernandez's work at N.C. State and Memorial Hospital were presented at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology and the American Association for the Advancement of Science meetings in May.

The studies are being funded by grants from the National Society to Prevent Blindness, the American Veterinary Medical Association Foundation and the Department of Ophthalmology, UNC-Chapel Hill.

Collaborating with Hernandez in the study are Dr. Kenneth B. Simons, chief resident of ophthalmology, Memorial Hospital; Dr. George A. Mason, neurobiologist, Biological Sciences Research Center, Chapel Hill; and Dr. Robert L. Peiffer Jr., ophthalmologist at the NCSU School of Veterinary Medicine and the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine.

Hernandez, who last July joined the faculty at N.C. State as a half-time member, has been associated with the UNC-Chapel Hill Biological Sciences Research Center for three and a half years.

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