

Timber Demonstration Held On Greene Farm

By JOE MINOR
Democrat Staff Writer

A scheduled sawmill conference-demonstration on the Dudley Greene Tree Farm, near Bethel School, turned into a discussion on how to get more logs to the mill from Watauga County woodlands.

The demonstration, at which the sawmill operators were outnumbered by farmers, was arranged by County Agent L. E. Tucker, N. C. State College, and the Extension Service at Raleigh. Included on the program were talks on: Sawmill Power Requirements and Management Efficiency, by A. C. Barefoot Jr., of the School of Forestry at N. C. State College; Lost Time, by Gene Perkins, industrial forester with the N. C. State Forestry Service, Raleigh; R. A. Campbell, specialist with the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station, Asheville; E. A. Clevenger, Chattanooga, Tennessee, who is a saw mill manufacturer; and Fred Whitfield, Extension Forestry specialist.

Mr. Barefoot told the group that, according to the last official farm census in 1949, Watauga County had 70,000 acres of woodland from which farmers derived \$72,000 for timber sold that year. This was slightly more than a dollar per acre. He said that with proper forestry management, the land owners could easily expect ten dollars an acre per year from the same land or \$720,000.

Mr. Whitfield elaborated on how much income the farmer could get from his woodlands and pointed out several management practices which would help get the most marketable timber for their investments and time.

Preventing forest fires is of utmost importance, Mr. Whitfield said. He praised Watauga County for having very few forest fires, but stressed that every effort should be made to keep fires out of the woods. It takes years to grow timber; it takes only a short time to burn it down.

Farmers should prevent grazing on timberland. Cattle get very little nourishment from shrubs, and they tramp down and kill young timber as they seek shade and brush against the limbs to fight flies, Mr. Whitfield stated. He pointed out that one-third of Watauga's 70,000 acres is grazed, and causes about the same damage as fire would. Also, he explained, the cattle tramp and bruise the roots of the larger trees, causing decay which eventually gets into

the tree trunks. Fencing is recommended to remedy this problem. Culling in the forest will also raise the value of timber trees, according to Mr. Whitfield. Crooked, dead or injured trees should be removed. "Wolf trees"—trees that have no lumber value, such as beech—should also be cut. They "hog" the ground so that timber trees cannot grow.

Progressive thinning should be done until about 35 mature trees are left on each acre of land. Farmers should always be on the lookout for insect damage which may be caused by the southern pine beetle, saw fly larvae, and turpentine beetle. All damaged trees should be removed immediately upon discovery.

Mr. Whitfield recommended that a harvesting system be installed by farmers seeking to increase their income from trees. He suggested that the wooded acreage be divided in working plots. Each plot should be gulled and thinned as recommended before going on to the next plot. This might take several years, depending upon how much woodland a farmer has and how much time he has to spend on the project.

After each plot has been gone through, the same operation should be repeated until only the mature trees are left for growing and harvesting.

Mr. Perkins said that a recent study made in the TVA watershed revealed that only three-fourths of sawmilling time could be counted as productive time—i.e., in an eight-hour work-day sawmill workers are able to work only six hours because of operating problems.

He suggested that this could be remedied so that sawmill operators could expect maximum production if they would have their saws filed before operating time, keep an extra blade on hand, have edger so that the mill would not need to close down for edging of logs with circular saws, and keep the entire mill in good repair.

A demonstration was given, showing how to get the most good grade timber from a log. It was pointed out that the heart of a log contains the lowest grade lumber. In the demonstration a log was "squared" and planks sawed from

Bamboo Retains Baseball Lead

Mabel defeated West Jefferson and Millers Creek over the weekend to push Bamboo for the league leadership. Bamboo defeated Blowing Rock on Sunday to remain undefeated. West Jefferson broke in to the win column for the first time by defeating Lansing on Sunday. Many close games are being played each week and is resulting in an excellent league. Large crowds are attending and much interest is being shown from week to week.

Last weeks results:
Sat., June 11—Bamboo-Millers Creek (Rain); Mabel 17, West Jefferson 16; Lansing 12, Blowing Rock 7.

Sunday, June 12—Bamboo 3, Blowing Rock 2; Mabel 14, Millers Creek 13; West Jefferson 16, Lansing 7.

Standings:
Bamboo 5 0
Mabel 4 2
Millers Creek 3 3
Lansing 3 3
Blowing Rock 2 4
West Jefferson 1 6

This weeks schedule:
Saturday, June 18—Bamboo at Millers Creek (2:00 p. m.) make-up game; Bamboo at Lansing 8:00 p. m.; Blowing Rock at Mabel; Millers Creek at West Jefferson 8:00 p. m.

Sunday, June 19—Millers Creek at Blowing Rock; Lansing at Mabel; West Jefferson at Bamboo.

Reports Sought From Farmers

A performance report is due and requested on all farms which received assistance under the 1955 Agricultural Conservation Program, and on which no report has been made. Such farmers are expected to mail the blue copy of Form ACP-245 or bring it to the ASC office not later than June 30, 1955.

Steel output in May set 2-year high record.

two sides. Narrow planks were then sawed from the other sides. This left only the heart to be sold for low-grade lumber.

Mr. Clevenger showed the proper way to sharpen saws and explained sawmill equipment and its operation.

Seventh Of Harrell Family At A.S.T.C.

When Carol Harrell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Harrell of Bakersville, graduated from high school recently, and registered to attend Appalachian State Teachers College next year, she established a family record that is seldom equaled.

Carol is the seventh child of Mr. and Mrs. Harrell to attend Appalachian. Her father and mother are dairy farmers at Bakersville, maintaining a herd of thirty Holstein and Guernsey cattle, eighteen of which are milking cows. They also raise burley tobacco, silage, hay, and do truck farming.

Mr. and Mrs. Harrell were both reared in Mitchell county. They have always lived within a mile of each other, and at present live at Mr. Harrell's old home place which has been in the family for more than a hundred years. They are both of Irish descent, and say that they have had a hard struggle to educate all their children. But with the enrollment of Carol, their youngest child, in Appalachian, they have made a record of which any father and mother could well be proud.

First of the Harrell children to attend Appalachian was Helen, graduated in 1936, and now a teacher in the Ledger School in Mitchell county. Next was A. D., also graduated in 1938, who is farming and teaching at the Tipton Hill High School in Mitchell county. Mildred, next graduate, is director of religious education at one of the large Baltimore Presbyterian churches. Edna is teaching at the Jefferson High School in Ashe county. Juanita will be a senior at Appalachian State Teachers College next year, majoring in Home Economics. And Carol will be enrolling as a freshman.

Carol has made a record which carries on the fine family tradition. Mildred and Juanita were both valedictorians of their high school classes. Carol was the salutatorian of her class. She was editor of her high school annual, member of the Beta Club, varsity basketball player, and won a Betty Crocker cooking contest, although she was not taking Home Economics in high school. She plans to major in physical education at Appalachian.

Mr. and Mrs. Harrell, though

they did not go to college themselves, say that they are strong believers in education. They chose Appalachian for their children, with the children's full consent, because it was a North Carolina institution, and because they felt it was one of the best teachers colleges.

The officials at Appalachian say that they are proud that the college has had a part in the training of this fine family of young people for the teaching profession.

Masonic Meeting

A stated communication of Snow Lodge No. 363, AF & AM, will be held Friday, June 17, at 7:30 p. m. Work in the third degree. All members asked to attend. Visitors welcome. J. D. Shoemaker, Master.

Hollywood heads into musical film cycle.

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Singing Set At Hungry Mother

The East Virginia Singing Convention will be held all day Sunday June 19th at the Hungry Mother Park in Virginia, it is announced by Rev. Walter W. Johnson,

chairman. Choirs and ministers from North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and Kentucky will participate. Everyone is invited. Lung cancer is declared to have become epidemic.

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Here's a surprise for Dad on Father's Day that Junior can make. And Dad will appreciate it, too, for it's just about the kindest way to store hammers when not in use that's been devised. The main part is a narrow board of any suitable length, through which holes large enough to take the head of a hammer are bored with an auger bit. The narrow board is then nailed to mounting braces cut to the shape shown in the illustration. Dad can mount the hammer holder on the wall of his workshop with wood screws. It can be varnished or painted.
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