

Watauga Farmer Pulls Prosperity From Ashes

By JOE C. MINOR
Democrat Staff Writer

"Out of chaos is born opportunity." This appears to be the case of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Stanbery of Route 1, Boone.

However, the future for this young farm couple looked pretty bleak as they viewed the dying embers of what had been their home before the fire on a late afternoon in early spring of 1950.

Mr. Stanbery was not one to brood over his misfortune long. He knew he had to have a house for his family and set about getting one.

Financing was going to be a problem. He had only about seven acres of cleared land—enough for him to make a living—but not enough to live on and pay for a home at the same time. He knew it would take a long time to pay for what his family needed.

Private lenders let a lot of farmers have money, but they do not like to lend for as long a time as Mr. Stanbery was going to need. He then investigated his chances for a loan with the Farmers Home Administration, a U. S. Government agency with offices in Boone.

He learned that this agency is set up especially for farmers who need help, but because of various reasons can not get it from private sources. The county supervisor of FHA visited the Stanbery farm to see if a loan was justified. A survey was made of the farm and it was found that a loan could be made if more cropland and pasture were available.

The supervisor suggested that 15 acres be cleared, limed and fertilized for pasture. Mr. Stanbery was loaned money to do this as well as to rebuild his home. After the house was completed, the FHA made an operational loan to buy livestock. Five beef-type cows were purchased, a silo was built. Mr. Stanbery had his truck patches out, and it looked like he was in business again.

All went well until the price of cattle declined sharply. Mr. Stanbery was quick to realize he was going to have to do something else to help make a living. He decided to raise a laying flock. Then he needed a building to house them. With the aid of FHA he built a 40' x 48' block building—large enough to care for 500 hens.

The building has an aluminum roof, which Mr. Stanbery says is "the only thing for a chicken house," because it keeps the layers comfortable even when the sun is the hottest outside.

In the spring of 1954, with a loan secured from FHA, he bought

600 sexed chicks. Upon the advice of County Supervisor J. B. Robinson, he chose the Parmentor strain because it was bred for laying, and because of the body size, the bird brings a good price when sold for eating. The hens lay brown eggs, which Mr. Stanbery says are preferred by consumers in this section.

He has automatic waterers in the house and semi-automatic feeders which he fills every other day. Community-type nesting houses are preferred over the old-style single nest. The eggs are kept clean because the hen's feet are cleaned before the hen enters the nest. The eggs are laid on wood shavings and Mr. Stanbery gathers them three or four times a day. Each nest will accommodate about 50 hens.

Mr. Stanbery figures he gets an average of 75% production, and keeps his hens culled closely to keep this percentage up. He says his pullets begin laying at about the fifth or sixth month and can be expected to stay in peak production for about a year.

This means he has to keep a new crop of hens coming on. This year he remodeled his barn to house 1,200 chickens which he expects will be in production by mid-summer. He has culled his old hens so closely that he now averages only about 200 eggs a day, and he wants to increase this because the demand for his eggs has increased.

When this year's pullets get into production he will sell all his old hens. These pullets, by the way, are now eating about a ton of feed each week.

Mr. Stanbery stores his eggs in the basement of his home where he grades, candles, crates and labels them for market. He intends to make an "egg room" this summer so that his work may be easier when the 1,200 pullets begin laying.

Any time technical advice, or any other advice on running the farm is needed, Mr. Stanbery calls on Mr. Robinson, who always likes to help his tenants make a better living from their land. Mr. Robinson aids in keeping strict records of all activities on the farm and the records are analyzed each year to help Mr. Stanbery get the most for his efforts.

Mr. Stanbery has kept six cows and sells grade C milk. He also keeps two brood sows and raises beans and cabbage to help bring in income. He grows his own silage and oats for feeding.

This all sounds like a lot of work—and it would be for a family with less courage and ambition than the Stanberys have. Even with all this work they still find time

Drinkers Add To Road Toll

Under the heading "drivers condition" the Motor Vehicles Department summary of last year's fatal traffic accidents lists 328 drivers who had been drinking. Other drivers defects—eyesight, hearing, fatigue, illness, and sleepiness affected only 83 drivers involved in fatal accidents. In all there were 880 death dealing traffic mishaps which produced 991 fatalities during the year.

Child's Hour Is Slated Here

The Children's Hour, sponsored by the Recreation Department of Boone, will be conducted by Miss Taylor's college class. This will be a very valuable experience for your child. Please bring your children to the Elementary playground Monday at 3 o'clock.

to indulge in pleasant recreation. Mr. Stanbery has built a farm pond on his place which is stocked with bass and blue gill. He slips off to this between farm chores and enjoys fishing.

Mr. Robinson states that as soon as it appears FHA borrowers are able to, they are urged to refinance their building and farming loans with private lending agencies so that money may be released for other farmers who need help.

Teachers Doing Observations

This week approximately three hundred teachers from over the Southeast observed three sessions of demonstration which were directed by Miss Ruth Robinson in her classes in Education at Appalachian State Teachers College. Miss Robinson is supervisor of instruction in the Mecklenburg County Schools of North Carolina.

The demonstrations were given by seventeen elementary pupils from the Long Creek School in Mecklenburg County. The principal is Roy S. Coffey, formerly of Boone, and the teacher of the fourth grade pupils who participated is Mrs. Thelma Jackson.

The demonstration consisted of language arts and social studies. Individualized reading and composition were demonstrated. Spelling (including phonics), sentence structure, and punctuation were emphasized in the composition demonstration.

The children spoke with poise and fluency on history, geography, science, and biography. It was the consensus of the visiting observers that the children were far advanced beyond their grade level in speaking, reading comprehension, and composition.

The demonstration was of particular interest, in view of the wide-spread controversy which is

Sheep Dipping Vats Available

The Cove Creek PTA chapter has reconditioned their sheep-dipping vat and are asking sheepmen to let them know if they desire their sheep dipped.

Where possible, 50 or more sheep are needed at one point to set up dipping.

Those desiring sheep dipping service should contact R. G. Shipley, Vilas, so that a dipping schedule may be set up.

Italy will receive \$50,000,000 worth of surplus U. S. cotton, wheat and tobacco under an "extraordinary aid" agreement, signed in Rome recently, that will also provide long term loans for the development of depressed areas.

going on all over the country in the matter of reading and reading comprehension.

Mrs. Julie Coffey Taken By Death

Mrs. Julie Hayes Coffey, 79, of Vilas, Route 1, died June 18 in the Blowing Rock Hospital.

Funeral services were held at 2:30 p. m., Monday, June 20, at the Boone Fork Baptist Church, conducted by the Rev. Raymond Hendrix. Burial was in the White Springs cemetery.

She is survived by five sons, Horton, Banner, Elk, Lloyd, Boone, Route 3, Don, Vilas, Hayes, Conover, and Cecil, Hickory; three daughters, Mrs. Carl Hayes, Boone, Mrs. Harry Hayes, Greensboro, and Mrs. C. A. Crawford, Greensboro; a brother, Henry Hayes, Blowing Rock; two sisters, Mrs. Lettie Day and Mrs. Connie Williams, both of Boone, Route 3; 21 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

CALF EATS BALLOON

Chickasha, Okla.—One of Henry Cochran's calves spied a last-year looking morsel in the pasture and took a few bites. Mrs. Cochran round the calf dead and called for a veterinarian, who performed an

autopsy. He found the calf had swallowed several pieces of a Weather Bureau balloon. The small metal box, containing meteorological instruments, found near the calf, was sent to the Weather Bureau.

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