

Trial Balloon Soars Here From Minnesota

A test balloon which had been launched at Minneapolis, Minn., was picked up the other day on the farm of Mr. Blaine Moretz, Route 1, Boone, N. C.

The plastic balloon carried a folder which explained that the contrivance was used to test methods of sending honest news and information to the captive people behind the iron curtain by Free Europe Press.

The folder which contained a reply form said:

"This folder was dropped from a balloon flying at 24,000 feet. It was launched from Minneapolis, Minn., to test methods of sending honest news and information to the captive people behind the Iron Curtain by Free Europe Press. To

Best Potato Seed Advised

Gardeners who plan to plant Irish potatoes this spring should buy only Certified seedstock, says Henry M. Covington, extension horticulturist at North Carolina State College. Covington says Certified seed is your guarantee that the seedstock is true to the variety named, and it is for all practical purposes free from disease.

To be sure you are buying Certified seed, Covington says to look for the blue tag on the bag. He points out that this color has been adopted by all state certifying agencies. The tag will have a serial number, show the name of the variety, the producer's name, and the state certifying agency.

Potatoes have to meet rigid requirements before they can be Certified, says Covington. Growers plant foundation seed that has been tuber-indexed. The crop is inspected at least once during the growing season and again in storage, he adds.

Covington feels that buying non-Certified seedstock or regular tablestock potatoes is like buying a "pig in a poke." They may have diseases that you can't see, yet the crop produced from them may be greatly damaged both in yield and quality, he warns. Covington says, "You can't afford not to use Certified seedstock."

Sheep Program Is Expanded

Union county is expanding its sheep program. Last week farmers in that county purchased a carload (250) of western ewes and Thursday three farmers and Assistant County Agent S. K. Sain came to Watauga to buy some rams.

Nine purebred Hampshire yearling rams were purchased. Five were purchased from Norris Brothers, two from Joe Wilson and two from Chalmers Phillips.

Last year Watauga county farmers sold 28 rams to one man who placed them in flocks in Georgia.

Wrestlers

Continued from page one

only organized the team and arranged a season schedule, but volunteered to coach the team. Coach Gabriel was very pleased with the turnout for Appalachian High's first wrestling team, but was even more surprised at the end of the season when his charges emerged third in the state tournament after going through the season undefeated. This was the record of the opening year, and it seemed to set a pattern for the teams that were to follow.

In 1954 Coach Gabriel entered service, and Mr. Lawrence Obel-decker took over the coaching reins. The team this year was again undefeated and made another good showing at the state tournament.

The third season of wrestling at AHS found another new coach, David Johnson, but the old pattern was once again repeated; another undefeated season. That year the team won one first, one second, two thirds, and one fourth place trophies, continuing their goal of State Champions.

The 1956 season found Coach Gabriel out of service and back at AHS. The team thought this was the year for state championship, but even with the confidence gained by another undefeated season they were nosed out by the slender margin of one point by a very strong Greensboro High School team. In the tournament our boys claimed more championships than ever before including Harry Critcher, Sammy Critcher, J. W. Welborn, and Allan Van Dyke. Three other boys losing in the finals to take second place were Harold Hayes, Bobby Reynolds, and Wendell Crittler.

This year Mr. Gabriel's duties as coach were taken over by Hubert Dancy, former A.A.U. wrestling champion of ASTC. In a pre-season wrestling clinic, AHS won a dual meet made up of an all star state team. Coach Dancy arranged a harder schedule for the team in 1956-57, for he knew the boys had the desire to go to the State match and come back with the coveted cup, and he knew with proper conditioning and training they could do it. The team came through the season undefeated and primed for the State tournament.

High School Seniors Get National Credit

Two seniors at Appalachian High School have been commended by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation for distinguished performance in its nationwide search for students of unusual ability, according to Principal A. B. Crew.

The students honored are: Joanne Hardin and Joan Rosebalm. They have also been named North Carolina state runners-up in the 1957 Merit Scholarship competition.

"The seniors honored today are among the top one or two per cent in ability in the state," according to John M. Stalnaker, President of NMSC. "While they did not quite reach the finals of the 1957 Merit Scholarship competition, their unusual promise deserves recognition. Indeed, we want to encourage every one of them to make a special effort to obtain the best college education possible. Both student and country will profit."

As state runners-ups, the local students will be sent letters of recommendation by NMSC for use in applying to the colleges they wish to attend.

The National Merit Scholarship competition provides the largest system of privately financed scholarships offered in the United States. High schools may enter their most outstanding students in the annual competition. The first hurdle the students face is the "Scholarship Qualifying Test," a high level measurement of potential ability to benefit from a college education.

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Burley Growers Get \$895,983 In 1956

Tobacco growers of Watauga county received \$895,983.35 for 1,449,874 pounds produced on 732.14 acres on 1,515 farms in 1956, it was revealed this week by County ASC Chairman, Dwight Cable. In addition to this amount 10.69 acres were placed in the acreage reserve for \$4,482.05. The total amount received by tobacco farmers was \$899,365.40. Only 49.91 acres remained unplanted last year.

This return was the second highest in the history of tobacco production in the county. The highest amount received was \$935,000.00 in 1954. With all reductions made since that date, the farmer received a much larger return per acre than ever before.

The amount received shows the healthy condition of the program after suffering serious reductions, and indicates what control can do for the tobacco farmers in the county, Mr. Cable said, when cooperation is carried out to the fullest extent.

BALLISTIC MISSILES

The Commerce Department has announced it had given top priority for materials to contractors working on the ballistic missiles program. The Defense Department is spending \$1,500,000,000 on these weapons in the current fiscal year, and plans to step up spending to about \$2,000,000,000 next year.

Figures from the frozen food industry show that the frozen pumpkin and squash increased 8½ million pounds from 1953 to 1955.

Deadline Near On Burley Plan

Friday, March 1, is the final day for signing tobacco acreage reserve agreements. All farmers interested in placing their allotted acreage in the soil bank should contact the ASC office by that date. No agreements may be cancelled after that date.

BILLION-DOLLAR BANKS

There are now 21 banks in the nation with assets of \$1,000,000,000 or more each—one more than a year ago. Together, the assets of the 21 total \$62,750,000,000, a gain during the year of \$1,500,000,000. Nineteen of these banks also have deposits in excess of a million dollars. The West Coast's giant Bank of America, with its wide-flung branch system, leads, as it has for several years, with assets which total just under \$10,000,000,000.

Ashe Sheriff Quits

(Skyland Post)

Sheriff Kenneth Miller, (Republican) elected for a four-year term of office in Ashe county, November, 1954, over his opponent, (Democrat), Bill Todd, has resigned his office as of March 4, according to information received today from a county official.

Miller's resignation was mailed from Nevada, the official said. He left the county on Friday night, Feb. 1 without any notice to county officials and it was several days later the officials learned that he was in Nevada and communicated with him there.

It is understood that no reason of his leaving was given in his formal resignation.

Billy Brown, chief deputy, is carrying out the duties of the office until the commissioners elect a successor to Miller at the regular meeting, March 4.

ATOMIC TESTS

A new series of atomic tests, presumably to include such defense weapons as nuclear anti-aircraft missiles and artillery, has been announced by the Atomic Energy Commission. The tests will begin late in the spring at the Nevada Proving Grounds west of Las Vegas and will involve "low yield nuclear tests," according to the AEC announcement.

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AUTOMOBILE PRODUCTION

Automobile production in January showed some striking gains and some sharp cutbacks. Ford's output was up 25 per cent and Chrysler's 23 per cent from a year earlier. However, General Motors raised output by only 1.2 per cent.



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