



THE \$100,000 EXPANSION AT THE BLOWING ROCK HORSE SHOW GROUNDS is moving along rapidly under the direction of the Board of Directors. Improvements this year will include new boxes, a new central stable of 36 stalls with

lounge room, tack room and other facilities. Two hundred permanent stalls are being constructed, as well as a new hunter ring. The grandstand will be covered. (Staff photo)

IRC Earnings Hit New High

Philadelphia—IRC, Inc. set another new earnings high in the first 15 weeks of 1966 by registering a 50% gain over the same 1965 period, which was also a record breaker.

The period's net of \$1,593,126 or \$1.06 per share bettered the entire year of 1963 and compared with last year's 15-week profit of \$1,047,637 or 70 cents per share. Per share figures are based on 1,501,932 shares outstanding.

Sales also grew again to new records, 1966 volume thus far amounting to \$14,027,155, a 25% increase over the \$11,067,332 of a year ago.

Wilson H. Oelkers, president of IRC, said, "This represents total team success, with every division and every department on target and all continuing the effort for more of the same."

450,000 Trees Are Planted In Area By WAMY Employees

Four hundred and fifty thousand trees have been planted in Watauga, Avery, Mitchell and Yancey counties in the last few months as a result of the Neighborhood Youth Corps Program of WAMY Community Action, Inc.

The WAMY reforestation project, which began in mid-January, has been operating at full steam during the last six weeks.

Ernest D. Eppley, executive director of WAMY, reports that he is extremely pleased with the work being carried out through the reforestation project. He pointed out two major objectives of the project: to provide work experience, counseling and remedial education to unemployed youths between

the ages of 16 and 22; and to provide an important public service in the soil conservation field.

Eppley stated that the trees are being planted on land which, in most cases, cannot be used for other agricultural purposes. Land owners must purchase their own trees and supervise the planting on their property. A 40-acre maximum is set for each land owner so that small farmers will have equal opportunity to take advantage of the project.

Eppley said that fire prevention and forestry control will be emphasized in the months to come and that the Neighborhood Youth Corps project will assist farmers in thinning out

and destroying useless "wolf" trees and underbrush. In many cases, land must be cleared before planting can begin.

Latest reports are that 212,000 trees have been planted in Mitchell County, 148,000 trees in Yancey County, 59,000 trees in Avery County and about 50,000 trees in Watauga County.

Introduces Oranges

Christopher Columbus introduced the orange into the western hemisphere when he established a settlement on the island of Hispaniola on Nov. 22, 1493, on his second expedition, bringing the seeds from the Canary Islands, according to the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

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