

## Rough Ginning Of Cotton May Reduce Income To Farmers

### Overman Points Out Importance To Obtain Greencard Class

Chowan county cotton farmers who want to keep up with the marketing picture can receive the market news service and official classing of their cotton again this year from the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Cotton Branch, C. W. Overman, county agent for the State College Extension Service, said this week.

"Growers," he declared, "will find it to their advantage to get an official government classing on each bale as it is ginned. The USDA 'green card' classing not only shows the grade and staple length of each bale, but tells both ginner and producer when a bale has been reduced in grade because of rough ginning preparation."

Turning again to the problem of rough ginning preparation, County Agent Overman pointed out that it may result from either hauling excessively damp, wet, or green seed cotton to the gin, or to improper operation of ginning machinery. Roughly ginned cotton, he said, may reduce the market value of a bale as much as from \$15 to \$35.

The county agent pointed out that the higher the prices for average qualities of cotton, the greater premiums the higher grades and longer staple lengths should bring. Farmers who have their samples classed, he explained, should be in a favorable bargaining position when marketing their cotton, since they will know the official grade and staple length of each bale, and—with markets news service—how much it should bring.

With the high prices prevailing this season, farmers are selling much of their cotton soon after ginning. However, Mr. Overman pointed out, farmers will find it to their advantage to obtain an official government class on each bale, even though they sell it immediately after it is ginned—first, to serve as a check on each sale made, and second, to give them an official record on each bale.

Pointing out the value and importance of USDA's "green card" classing, County Agent Overman explained that the official classing record will show the grower how uniform his staple lengths are, thus giving him a check on the performance of his planting seed. When staple lengths of any of the usual varieties grown in Chowan County fall below one inch, it's an indication that planting seed need to be replaced, he pointed out.

The chief function of USDA's classing and market news service, he declared, is to assist farmers in obtaining the full market value of their cotton.

#### BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Hobbs, Jr., announce the birth of a son, John Courtenay, born Sunday, September 24th, at Chowan Hospital.

#### Pirates In Petticoats

(Continued From Page Five) jugation, and she would brook no interference with anyone she felt affection for. In her own words she says, "When love enters the breast, it stirs the heart up to the most noble actions."

At this time, Captain Woodes Rogers was sent out to New Providence Island, in the Bahamas, to offer a Royal Pardon to any and all pirates who would give up piracy and

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## GOOD HEALTH



#### Answer to Question No. 1:

1. It's high blood pressure and is most often due to hardening of the arteries. Old rules of thumb for determining whether your pressure is high, low or normal (for instance, that normal pressure should equal age plus 100) don't mean anything. Let your physician decide whether yours is normal or not.

#### Answer to Question No. 2:

2. One set of twins is born in about every 87 births. If there is a history of twins in your family your chances go up slightly. About three-fourths of all twins

are "fraternal." They may be boy and girl or of the same sex and may or may not resemble each other. "Identical" twins are nearly alike in appearance and are always of the same sex.

#### Answer to Question No. 3:

3. Overweight of 25 per cent or more raises the death rate in every adult age group by 74 per cent. Doctors and nutritionists generally agree that overeating and eating the wrong foods, rather than heredity or glandular troubles are by far the most frequent causes of overweight. Consult your doctor about what to eat and what not to eat.

lead an honest life. Captain Rackham and his crew accepted the Royal Pardon, but finding it hard to settle down they soon took to sea again, Mary and Anne with them.

While serving with Captain Rackham, Mary and Anne learned well the art of handling a sword and pistol, and earned a reputation for ruthlessness. Mary was the less cruel of the two women; Anne the most sanguinary. Mary would have preferred the domesticity of a life ashore; Anne loved the life of a freebooter.

The "big four" among Carolina pirates were Edward Teach or Blackbeard; Stede Bonnet, the pseudo-seaman but excellent swordsman; Mary Read and Anne Bonney. Anne was at one time closely associated with Stede Bonnet, but whether the alliance had permanent developments, history does not definitely relate.

Inevitably though, the road of piracy leads to death by the sword or pistol ball, or apprehension by the authorities and imprisonment or death by hanging. And it was inevitable that Calico Jack Rackham would eventually reach the end of his rope. Rackham's ship was taken by a British sloop sent out by the Governor of Jamaica, and Rackham, Mary and Anne and all who were not killed were taken to Jago de la Vega in irons, there to await trial. Some historians maintain that they were taken to England for trial, but on this point they are a little obscure.

An incident in the taking of Rackham's ship exemplifies the courage and determination of Mary Read and Anne Bonney. When attacked, the crew, including Rackham, ran below decks and refused to fight, Mary and Anne, snatching cutlasses, rushed to the hatchways and shouted to the craven pirates to come up and repel boarders and help to defend the ship. But their brave attempt to rally the crew proved futile.

Later, when Rackham was standing in the dock awaiting his sentence to death, Anne remarked, "If he had

fought like a man, he would not now be waiting to be hung like a dog."

Although this remark has some justification in fact, it is a revealing commentary on Anne Bonney's true character. Where Mary's was warm, Anne's was cold. Anne was cruel and ruthless by nature and had nothing but utter contempt for cowardice. She could not retain her loyalty, even for her husband, when he displayed this trait and joined his crew in ignominious flight. Mary Read would have remained loyal, and stood by him, come what may.

Calico Jack Rackham, Mary Read and Anne Bonney were all three found guilty of piracy and sentenced to death by hanging. They were convicted on November 23, 1720, but Mary died of fever soon after her con-

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viction, induced probably by her imprisonment. Anne Bonney, such are the vagaries of justice, was later relieved and finally pardoned. From that moment, Anne Bonney disappeared from the piratical scene, the last of the great women pirates.

Anne Bonney was born in Cork, Ireland, the illegitimate daughter of a lawyer. When she was quite young her father immigrated to Carolina. There, on a plantation, Anne Bonney spent her childhood. She was a fiery-tempered, impetuous, beautiful girl. Her uncontrollable temper got her into many a scrape, but her beauty got her into worse ones. When still a very young girl, Anne married a sailor, but her father who had a temper too, violently disapproved and turned her out of doors. The fiery-tempered Anne followed her husband to sea, where they eventually arrived at New Providence. By this time, she was tired of her humdrum, commonplace husband, and yearned for one more romantic and glamorous. At New Providence, where colorful and daring pirates collected, Anne found what she was looking for. She met the dashing, and handsome Captain Rackham, one of the most famous and notorious of the pirates who frequented New Providence.

The affection of Anne for Rackham was mutual. Anne deserted her sailor husband and promptly married the more attractive Rackham. She donned male attire, strapped on a cutlass and pistol, and sailed away with her new husband on his piratical forays.

It was then Anne met Mary Read. From that point on, insofar as it pertains to piracy, Anne Bonney's

life coincided with Mary Read.

A story of North Carolina's petticoat pirates would be incomplete without mentioning, at least, the pert and saucy Mary Ann Blythe. Mary Ann was not as well known as Mary Read and Anne Bonney, but she was contemporary with them, and at one time a consort of the famous, or infamous, Blackbeard.

Mary Ann, if she lived in the present century, would be known as the "strip-tease" pirate; for she staged an 18th century version of the "fan dance" on the deck of her ship when approaching her quarry, in the approved Gypsy Rose Lee style.

With this strip-technique, Mary Ann lured many a ship to its destruction. When the ogling sailors awoke to reality, they had sailed closer to Mary Ann's pirate craft than discretion would warrant; and before they were aware, her guns were blazing, boarding lines thrown out, and they found themselves captive of the audacious Mary Ann. Caught in this siren trap few ships escaped.

But Mary Ann did not always remain a pirate, having brains as well as beauty. She amassed a fortune, quit the pirate business, and settled down to the life of a housewife with a Spanish sailor, whom she had married. And she must have lived happily ever after, for that was the last that was ever heard of Mary Ann Blythe.

ly ever after, for that was the last that was ever heard of Mary Ann Blythe.

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