

# DISTRICT COUNTY AND HOME AGENTS HOLD WORKERS' CONFERENCE IN E. CITY

## Purpose to Bring All Workers Up to Date In Methods

County and home agents of 16 counties of the Eastern District met in an Extension Workers' Conference in Elizabeth City last week which was highlighted by information, inspiration and fellowship and an intensified approach to Extension work explained. The conference was held at the Virginia Dure Hotel.

"The purpose of the conference is to bring you up to date on Extension methods," said District Home Agent Mary Harris, who introduced Dr. Bruce Hatchford, Assistant Extension Director.

Dr. Hatchford spoke on "The Farm and Home Development Method." This farm and home method is not something new but a concentrated approach to working with farm families," said Dr. Hatchford, pointing out that in two counties of this district additional agents have been employed to concentrate on the farm and home development method with farm families.

In the other 14 counties of the district the agents are to apply this method in working with one or more families in each community. Dr. Hatchford suggested, briefly, the plan is to work with a family as a unit. The family determines its needs and desires. With the county assistance, the family then makes inventory of the present farming system. Plans are made for adjusting and improving the farming system to provide increased income. Plans for attaining the family's needs and desires are set up over a period of years. The family is provided with the latest farm and home recommended practices.

This involves working very close with farm families. Mrs. J. C. Pessenden gave some excellent suggestions on how to work with people more effectively.

The district groups of the County Agents Association and the Home Agents Association met on Tuesday night. In this County Agents' meeting the four agents who attended the National Agricultural County Agents Association annual meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, gave reports and associated business matters were taken care of.

At a group breakfast on Wednesday morning Assistant Director Hugh Shofer presided and service men and workers having 10 and 20 years of service.

Wednesday morning, Assistant Director Shofer discussed many personal matters pertaining to Extension workers.

Farm families now come under social security. This was explained

by farm management specialist, Bill Turner.

"Research enables us to find successful new varieties and practices," stated Dr. E. T. York, Jr., in charge of the Agronomy Department at State College. "Research is most important but its value is accomplished through education. The Extension Service is the educational arm of Agricultural Research." Dr. York gave some valuable information.

Wednesday's hour and a half lunch period was spent on a sight cruise down the beautiful Pamlico River. Luncheon prepared by the hotel were distributed as the group went aboard the boat. This was a very enjoyable trip even though the clouds sprinkled a path through the clouds sprinkled a path through the clouds sprinkled a path through the clouds.

On meeting schedules, Miss Maude Schaub discussed features of annual report preparation. Miss Schaub emphasized the importance of annual reports being sent on time.

Wayne Committee, Agricultural Agent of the Wachovia Bank and Trust Company, presented each county agent with a board copy of recommended farm practices.

"Enriched our minds, a unity in the health of our people," Miss Schaub said. She urged all agents to encourage every farmer to reach out and assist in trying to get the General Assembly to make enriched corn meal a law.

Dr. E. R. Collins discussed diverting of acres under the 1955 farm program. He also pointed out the availability of TVA ammunition grants for demonstration work.

Livestock Specialist Jack Kelley advised how more good laying-egg and pasture fit into livestock production. "This is an excellent use for some of our diverted acres," Mr. Kelley said.

"All of this adds up to better farm family living," says County Agent C. W. Overman. "The research and educational program is for farm people. It is to help people on the extent to which farm people use the planning and practices into use on their farms and in their homes. It is not our purpose to tell farm people what to do but rather to give the people the information and assist them in using it."

### FRENCH CLUB ORGANIZED

A new club, the French Club, was recently organized in the Edenton Junior-Senior High School, the members, including students who are studying French.

At the initial meeting of the club officers were elected as follows: President, Stuart Holland; vice president, Maxy McCullough; secretary, Lillian Whitmore; treasurer, Faye Twiddy; Sgt.-at-Arms, Tom Bass.



NOBODY WALKS in a tank outfit—not even the band. Musically in high gear, the First Armored Division's unique jeep-mounted band parades at Fort Hood, Texas. First Army unit of its kind, its members' uniforms complete with its music for attention. Headdress, gloves, scarves, shoulder fencibles and shoe laces are bright yellow, the traditional color worn by dashing cavalrymen.

### This is the Law



BY CHARLES W. DANIEL (For the N. C. Bar Association)

### The Insanity Problem

The growing incidence of insanity and especially unmanageable and violent mental patients in county jails of North Carolina's toughest social problems. Chiefly in the middle of this almost intolerable situation are the Clerks of Superior Court in the State's 100 counties. They have been saddled by law with the unenviable task of committing to State institutions persons suffering from serious mental disorders and whose financial conditions still do not permit private care.

Under a mentally-ill person, (1) the clerk must actually see the patient in a public institution, it is a patient in person. Next comes the on very rare occasion that he can, painful question of "when shall the complete the admission within a des. commitment take place?" Usual-standby length of time. Why? All by, the family or friends, at the the beds are full, there are usual-end of their patience, request, im-ly long waiting lists, and facilities, immediate transfer. This being al-ly mental patients in county jails most always impossible, the clerk do not exist. The biggest prob, must advise that, if he accepts cus-mer now is with sane people, those tody of the patient, there is only al-ways mind have slipped because one place of temporary confine-ment: the county jail. Many po-titioners, understandably, take of-

Do Not Understand Friends and relations of the men- friends at the suggestion of confin-ment, usually do not under-stand why his case can not be. Their answer is usually "no". Their handled with dispatch.

Here is the usual sequence of a tortuous, home circumstance, events in an insanity case, stem- from the point when the imp- has concluded the pitiful situa- tion as it can.

Constitutional Provision The North Carolina Constitution says that the General Assembly shall provide for the insane.

They visit the clerk. He must, may provide care for the insane unless law, determine by dis- cretary who are, without means to care, competence and sanity (1) that the for themselves. This means that designated individual (1) in fact the State has no outright duty to mentally sick; (2) that there are no take in such unfortunate. But it private funds from which care has attempted to do so under com- could be provided; (3) that the position of Christian principles, family, for petitioners, actually. Our law provides that "any per- sons the patient committed, and, (4) may request of the clerk com-

mittment on sworn affidavit for a mentally-deferred person. The clerk may have the lunacy of such person determined by a jury of 12, after he has served notice of the request on the supposed mental defective or insane individual. Lunacy may also be determined by a 30-day observation period in a State institution. A guardian (or trustee) must be appointed for such person. If he is adjudged incompetent, he may appeal to the next term of Superior Court held in the county. His appeal must be heard ahead of all other cases.

This somewhat stringent, careful procedure is intended to prevent the "mail-ordering" of com- petent persons.

### How To Get Out

A person, adjudged incompetent and confined to a State institution, who regains his faculties, may re- claim his normal social position and his freedom by petition to the clerk of court and a finding by a six- man jury that he is again com- petent. If the finding of this jury is against him, he may appeal to the Superior Court and have his case heard anew by a full jury.

The law, of course, attempts to protect the rights of persons ad- judged insane.

For example, no divorce action may be brought against an insane person, even though the case be considered hopeless for a period of five years after an adjudication of insanity.

incompetence. Even then the law requires the spouse seeking the di- vorce to provide adequately for the insane mate.

Another safeguard for mental incompetents is found in the "lunacy docket" kept by the clerk of court. A Will purportedly made by a per- son while his name is on the lunacy docket has no effect. Further, if property, belonging to one whose name is on the lunacy docket, is sold during that time, the attorney checking the title to such property must be very careful to see that the sale is authorized and conducted according to the protective law in such cases. Otherwise, the buyer may later lose the property. This, of course, is as it should be. The rights and property of a person unable to manage his own affairs must be guarded with vigilance.

Mental incompetency is also a ground for annulment of marriage in North Carolina. This is true because the law generally requires that the obligations of matrimony be voluntarily assumed. But the right of annulment on ground of mental incapacity is available only to the person who, at the time of the supposed marriage, was mental- ly incompetent. A sane person who, for personal gain or other reason, attempts to marry an in- competent person cannot have the union annulled because of his mate's mental incapacity. It is the incompetent person's five years after an adjudication of insanity.

### Be Tolerant

Meanwhile, in respect to inade- quate public facilities for mental cases, it must be said in fairness to the legislative and executive branches of State government, that each is making an honest effort to meet and conquer the expensive and ever-increasing problem.

For families which must continue to cope with distressing cases at home the plea is: Be tolerant of the adversities under which the sheriff and clerk of court must operate in trying to meet their obliga- tions under the law.

Once Was Enough Mrs. Briggs—"Did you catch your husband flirting?" Mrs. Jiggs—"Yes, just once." Mrs. Briggs—"What did you do to him?" Mrs. Jiggs—"Married him."

HALSEY FEED STORE EGG WASH SEED

NOTICE! To Taxpayers 1954 TAXES ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE PAYMENTS DURING NOVEMBER, DECEMBER AND JANUARY AT PAR Penalty Goes Into Effect February 1, 1955 Town of Edenton ERNEST J. WARD, JR., Clerk

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