

AROUND THE FARMS IN CHOWAN COUNTY

By C. W. OVERMAN, Chowan County Agent

Mechanical Sweet Potato Harvester Gets Job Done. Wilbur M. Hare of Cross Roads Community has developed a mechanical sweet potato harvester which gets the job done. In good potatoes the machine will harvest 500 bushels per day.

Mr. Hare was having difficulty getting labor to do the back-breaking work of sweet potatoes by the old method. In addition, he was getting lots of bruised potatoes by rough handling in harvesting. Now, the same work is done by riding on the machine.

A point runs under the potatoes in the row. As the potatoes move up the slotted chain, much of the soil falls through the conveyor chain extends on across about a ten foot platform. The chain is convenient height for the pickers to stand or sit on.

There are four pickers on each side of the conveyor chain. The potatoes are picked off by hand and placed in the baskets. One man services the pickers by giving them empty baskets and removing the full ones. He places the lid on the baskets and stacks them on a carrying platform which will hold 40 to 50 baskets. At the end of the row the baskets are removed to a truck which hauls them to the curing house.

Ten to eleven workers can harvest 500 to 600 bushels of potatoes in a day and place them in the storage house. The operation is convenient to every worker. The carriage bars on the conveyor chain are either of rounded wood or are rubber padding to prevent bruising potatoes. The containers are at a convenient location so that workers place the potatoes rather than throw and bruise them.

Mr. Hare's 1959 crop of sweet potatoes have cured and stored nicely. The quality is very good with practically no bruises. Mr. Hare says that it is easy to get labor to work on the machine. The machine is getting the job done.

A Sweet Potato Growers' Meeting was held at Advance Community Building last Thursday night. Henry M. Covington, our Extension Sweet Potato Specialist from N. C. State College, conducted an excellent program using illustrated slides.

Mr. Covington outlined definite steps in good sweet potato production. Use good seed freed of disease. Select seed carefully each year, especially for the seed production plot. Fumigate bedding soil at least two weeks in advance of bedding. Grade seed potatoes to two of three sizes for uniform coverage. Treat seed, one minute, with Semesan Bel at rate of one pound to seven and one-half gallons of water, before bedding. Place potatoes in the bed one to two inches apart. Cover seed with one and one-half to two inches of soil. Bed, March 15-25.

Fumigate field, broadcast treatment, at least two weeks before setting plants. Apply two pounds of actual Aldrin broadcast to control soil-insects. Fertilize the row with 350 lbs. of 6-12-6 fertilizer per acre. Grade out the weak plants and discard before setting. Use 36 to 42 inch rows. Set the plants eight inches apart in the row up to May 20, then 8 to 10 inches up to June 10, and then 10

to 12 inches. Cultivate shallow, keeping a high row. Lay by when runners are six to eight inches long. At last cultivation, side-dress with 400 pounds of 8-0-24 top-dresser per acre.

Harvest when you can get the most U. S. No. 1 size. Determine when to harvest by digging several hills scattered over the field. Grade out the jumbos and number twos at harvest time. Store only the No. 1's unless you know it will be profitable to store the others.

Mr. Covington says that by following these practices on good soil the yield should be 300 bushels or more of U. S. No. 1 grade per acre. Many growers made such yields in 1959.

Getting Schooled In Communicating is my job this week. I am going back to college for a week. I just ought to be the communicatingest person you ever saw when I get back, if I can take it. Squire Harry Venters will be your County Agent this week and I know he will be an excellent one.

Harry is doing an excellent job in Extension Work with us. We are just delighted to have him fill the place vacated by our esteemed friend, the honorable R. S. Marsh, esquire. Harry may not have as many jokes as Bob but I think the folks are falling in love with him and giving him fine cooperation. I'll see you as soon as I get communicated.

Women Await Action Of Commissioners

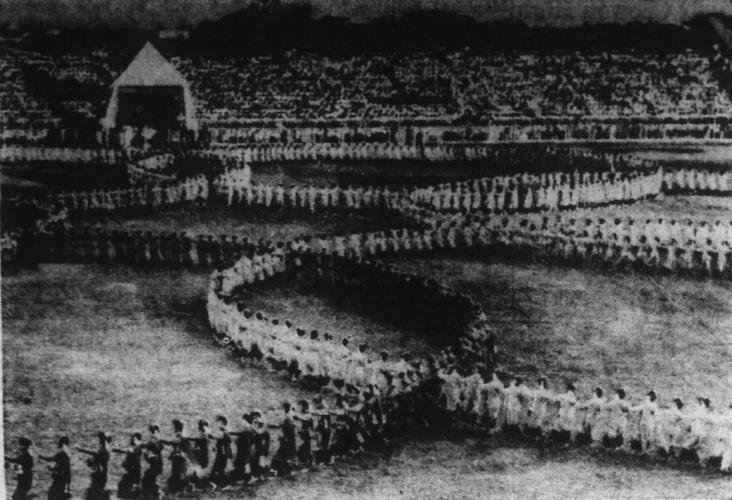
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of the plans and answered questions pertaining to the project. Each governing body was given a complete set of blueprints for further study and the planning committee was asked to secure estimates of the expenses involved.

Representatives of the Woman's Club presented to the Commissioners at their February, 1960, meeting the following:

a. That the Commissioners give permission to remove the Confederate monument from the Green.
b. That the Commissioners appropriate \$4,500, if possible, in their budget for 1960-61, for part of the funds needed to complete the project of beautifying and restoring the Green.

The overall cost of the whole project is between \$9,500 and \$10,000. This estimate covers the reconstruction and planting of both sites which have been recommended for beautification. The Woman's Club has already spent approximately \$500 in securing the plans and laying the initial ground work for the project. They are asking the town and the county to take these plans and proceed with the work accordingly. At no time would the sum needed for this work be in the hands of the Woman's Club or at their disposal for the improvement of this public property. However, the Woman's Club is contributing \$1,000 toward the project, if it becomes a reality, to lessen the expenses to the county and town.

Since 1949, the Woman's Club has contributed over \$10,000 for the preservation of the town and county's historical resources. Most of this has been derived from the five tours of Edenton



MONSTER CONGA LINE? — What seems to be the high point of an outdoor party is costumed girls performing a ritual called the "long finger dance." Scene was the opening of the SAEF (Southeast Asia Peninsula) games in Bangkok, Thailand.

and Countryside that the Woman's Club has sponsored. The Community Planning Committee was formed by the club because of their long-realizing the need for such an organ whereby persons interested in the community's historical background could meet and discuss suggestions and settle on some well-organized plan, with the advice of the best professional help possible, in an effort to contribute to the town's long-range beautification, restoration and preservation project. The committee consists of six Woman's Club members and seven other persons from the town and county.

The proposed work at the south end of Broad Street consists of moving the monument to this site, paving with brick a 60 x 30 ft. area around it, erecting four flagstays in the corners of this plaza and planting the 40 x 30 ft. grass plots at each end with a hedge of ilex compacta and four cherry laurels in the south end, which would be clipped low in order not to obstruct the view. All of these plants are hardy plants guaranteed to withstand all weather conditions. The flagpoles would carry the American flag, the North Carolina flag, the Confederate flag, and a regimental flag.

The Woman's Club feels there are definite advantages in this relocation of the monument. It would be seen the whole mile length of Broad Street and be a beacon for south-bound travelers. It would attract many people into the business district and the neighborhood of three historic shrines. The club feels that the monument would have greater dignity in a setting designed to show it to advantage, and the new parkway would greatly enhance the beauty of the waterfront and of the town.

The work of the Court House grounds and Green consists of grading the Green, building brick walks and steps and a small brick on sand plaza around the Hewes monument; replanting grass on the Green, planting trees to replace the 24 elms which have disappeared since 1932, and planting low shrubbery around the Hewes

monument and directly in front of the Court House. The plans call for no work on any building.

The Green would have to be cleared of all its present trees, (all are either diseased or damaged) and concrete walks. It would be graded to four terraced levels with slopes so slight that they would present no problems of washing or upkeep. Grass would be replanted at once. Along the central axis of the Green, brick steps would be built at each terrace. Brick walks would replace the present concrete walks. A small plaza would surround the Hewes monument with a seat-wall the height of a bench outlining the plaza for the benefit of those desiring to use them. Ten trees on each side of the Green would provide a frame for the view from either end. Sycamores have been recommended because of their fast growth, their immunity to blight and disease, their toughness in withstanding storms and the stiltiness of the trees which branch out when quite tall and would in no way obstruct the view of the water or residences who live around the Green.

The ground immediately in front of the Court House would be planted with small-leaved English ivy for a permanent cover. Along the retaining wall and across the foot of the Green would be planted a low hedge of ilex compacta. Around the seat-wall and by the steps would be clumps of willow-leaved ilex.

All of the proposed planting would be done according to the same specifications as those used at Tryon's Palace, the same fertilizing and mulching and staking, with the same guarantee of replacement for any plants or trees that die within a year in spite of adequate care.

The project fits into the program of the Chamber of Commerce who say in one of their bulletins,

"With Edenton's great potential, it is natural that your Chamber's second most active category is recreation and tourist development. Edenton's history and historical buildings can

be properly developed to become a major factor in our economic well-being—However, at the present time we do not have any outstanding attractions available to the public to pull a great number of tourists to Edenton. We propose to concentrate on this problem to make Edenton the goal of more tourists."

The Woman's Club hopes that everyone who approves the proposed plan will write or speak to their Commissioners and Councilmen, letting them know of their approval. The acceptance of this proposed plan depends only on the citizens of Chowan County. The Club says that they are the ones who will directly benefit. In presenting the plan, the club has worked only on the community level. No outside assistance has been sought except for employed professional advice, directly connected with the plans, the construction, planting and estimates of cost.

Members of the Woman's Club say that they strongly feel that "history pays in many ways. It pays in tourist dollars that can be counted, improved property values and finer living conditions. It pays off in nobler heritage and deeper respect for the great American past that we can leave for Americans yet to come."

Kickoff For 4-H Development Fund

The Chowan 4-H development organization met for supper Monday night at the Oak Grove Community Building. Four 4-H members and leaders barbecued chickens for the supper and 4-H girls served the group.

After the supper, Bristoe Perry called the meeting to order. Miss Catherine Aman, assistant home economics agent, briefly discussed the history of the North Carolina 4-H development fund and gave the four main objectives of this program. The 4-H development fund is set up to improve and broaden the 4-H Club work in North Carolina, primarily in the following phases:

- (1) Camping program. (2) Rec-

ognition and awards program. (3) Scholarships and (4) The international farm youth exchange program.

The Chowan County group has set as goal \$1,100. The drive for funds will be carried during National 4-H Club Week, March 5-12 by the development fund members. The Chowan 4-H development organization includes: Bristoe Perry, Dick Lowe, Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Perry, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bunch, Gilliam Wood, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Winborne, Mrs. E.

N. Elliott, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Cameron Boyce, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Priott, Edward Hare, Wallace Goodwin, Jr., Eugene Jordan, Mrs. A. D. Warr, Mrs. James Ward, Mrs. Van Snell, Billy Grey Leary and Mr. and Mrs. Lester T. Copeland.

Opportunity rarely knocks until you are ready. And few people have ever been really ready without receiving opportunity's call. —Channing Pollock.

A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool's back. —Proverb XXVI.

CARD OF THANKS

We want to thank our friends and neighbors for their many deeds of kindness and expressions of sympathy tendered us during the illness and death of our husband and father, William H. Parrish. These symbols of love helped us to carry our heavy burden and will always be remembered. W. H. PARRISH FAMILY



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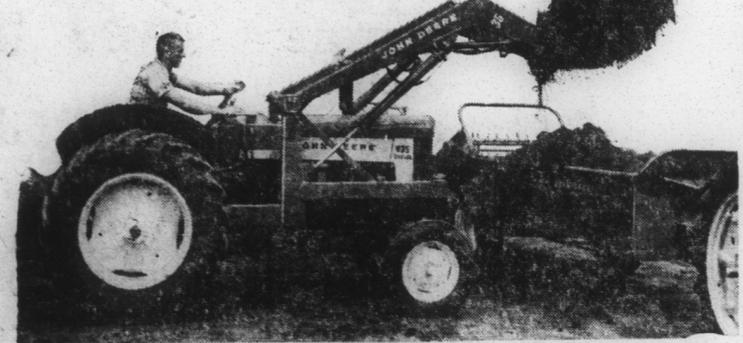
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