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FAR FLUNG CRIES GOING UP FOR BERRY PICKERS

Columbus County Berry Growers in Throes of Labor Shortage and Are Scouring the Country for Help---Chadbourn Will Ship Two Hundred Cars This Week --- Tabor Market Doing Well.

Chadbourn, May 7.—The old days when Chadbourn was in its glory, as the largest strawberry market in the world have come again, or you will find if you will come and stand on the corner at the Bank of Chadbourn some evening and see the number of wagons, each more than a mile in length, which are waiting their turn at the berry sheds and the tickets that mean a count of money to the thousands of berry growers of Columbus.

All night long on the roads of Columbus and adjoining counties can be heard the rumbling of the trucks of berry growers who are out in search of berry pickers. If there is anyone willing to come and pick berries distance is apparently no handicap, the trucks go after them and bring them in and carry them back at night if the distance is short. If they live afar they come for the week or two weeks and pitch camp in any sort of a shelter. Almost by sunrise they are dotting the berry fields; sometimes in bunches of five or ten sometimes by hundreds, according to the size of the field and the ability of the growers to get pickers. Small children get two to three dollars per day. Experienced pickers come nearer averaging five, all make good money, all are happy with their work. To many of them it savors of an old fashioned camp meeting.

The Bank of Chadbourn is in the throes, so to speak, handling the stream of growers that pour in with checks to be cashed or for deposit, is a problem for a dozen men. Many thousands of dollars are being paid out hourly during sale hours and every employee of the bank is kept at a pay window for hours on end. Efficiency is all that enables them to take care of the never ending calls for cash and deposit slips.

A sort of summary of the weeks activities, day by day, may be the best way to handling this story and the balance of it will be written accordingly.

Saturday: Previous to today only 8 cars had been purchased at Chadbourn, prices had hung around six dollars as most of the fruit had been of inferior quality owing to frosts early in the season. Today started with a rush and eighteen car loads were purchased at prices running from \$5 to \$9.50 per crate. The berries were of good quality and holding grew lively late in the afternoon—growers were looking ahead to Monday with considerable alarm and fears that they would not have enough labor to take care of the rapidly ripening crop. Saturday night and even on Sunday many growers scoured surrounding counties in trucks in search of pickers for work during the coming week.

Monday: Warm dry weather Sunday had an almost summer temperature today turned the berry fields into what might be described as a slumber of ripened fruit. Growers found themselves with a totally inadequate supply of labor and no prospects of relief for the situation, unless the elements were to be depended upon for rain or cooler weather which would check up the ripening process. Twenty-eight standard car loads of berries were marketed at Chadbourn today and Tabor reported ten cars. At times during the afternoon at Chadbourn there were two lines of wagons, automobiles and trucks a mile in length. Many growers had to wait in one or the other of these lines for hours while it slowly moved along until they could take their turn under the

marketing shed. Prices were somewhat off, due to a great amount of overripe fruit. Quite a bit of berries sold as low as \$2.50 per crate on account of the berries being too ripe for good shipping. Good berries brought \$5, \$6 and \$7 per crate. Hundreds of growers reported they did not get more than half over their fields on account of labor shortage—much fruit accordingly went to waste—Brown Brothers purchased 15 out of the 27 cars, balance by other buyers—81 cars of berries on yard awaiting re-icing and shipping at 7 p. m.—hundreds of women and children berry pickers quartered in all manner of outbuildings on farms and in the town.

Tuesday: Hauling brisk today and starting early in the morning there was less congestion than occurred on Monday. Wagons were not kept so long in line. Prices were slightly higher and quality of the fruit was better as pickers had passed by the overripe fruit. \$5.00 per crate was given by one buyer as the average for the day. Twenty-two cars bought and shipped tonight. Labor conditions seem a little better. A slight fall in temperature and partially cloudy weather brought encouragement to all. Growers are hoping for rain.

Wednesday: Little improvement in prices marked today's sales despite the fact that many well informed folks had been saying the price would go up. Twenty car loads were bought an average price of about five dollars per crate. A couple of crates sold for \$15.00 each. The berries were generally good in quality and the wagons and vehicles passed under the buying shed at the rate of about three per minute, the waiting lines from the north and south were never more than a quarter of a mile in length.

Notes

While it has never been expected that this year's crop would bring the big prices that last years did, growers cannot restrain disappointment at the extreme low market, although they are making money at present prices. It is still believed that the market will advance, and cold weather Wednesday and today are doing much to encourage growers. Chadbourn had only a slight fall of rain Wednesday, not enough to do any good. The growers around Whiteville apparently had plenty of rain.

An unusually large amount of berries are going by express to Columbia and Charleston, S. C., and other points. Express shipments are generally made up of berries too ripe to go in the regulation cars for long hauls to distant markets.

Labor shortage and unsatisfactory prices for berries will cause a great amount of fruit to go to waste this season. The pickers could not get around to them until after they were too ripe for ordinary shipping.

The advertising columns of a newspaper often contain news that is just as valuable to the average deep thinking person as is the local, social and general news that may be found over in the next columns. The advertising matter in a newspaper is the very best index to the prosperity and progress of the county in which the paper is published. This paper is proud of the advertising news that it carries each week. It shows readers, wherever it goes, that Columbus is a live-wide-awake county, full of progressive people.

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Tar Heel Preacher Fights Vice in Virginia

North Carolina Preacher Turns Crusader in Virginia City and Makes Some Astonishing Discoveries—

Richmond, Va., May 4.—Preaching before a vast audience in the city auditorium this evening, with "Shall We Fiddle While Rome Burns?" as his topic, the Rev. Dr. Carter Ashton Jenkins, Jr., pastor of Calvary Baptist church, and son of a Baptist minister of Clayton, N. C., declared that if the citizens of Richmond and the law enforcing bodies are not able to make of Richmond a very different city from the present cess pool of vice the next thing in order is the Ku Klux Klan. Dr. Jenkins recently launched a campaign here against blind tigers and other forms of vice, visiting many dens of iniquity disguised as a "rube" from the slushes of Hanover, and gathering evidence against them.

Churchmen Frightened.

"Within the past two weeks," he said, "I have had no difficulty locating 47 places in which hundreds of citizens are buying liquor at their will daily. During my campaign, the police department has rendered me every possible assistance, supplying a squad of plainclothes men to aid me in the work. With the assistance of the police a number of bootleggers have been located and arrested. Yesterday a bootlegger was arrested in the morning, and after being jailed, was found later in the day plying his trade as before."

A tour of the blind tigers, he said, had disclosed that fully 90 per cent of people encountered in them are church members.

"There are two few preachers in Richmond who are willing to make an open, clean-cut fight on moral issues," he went on. "Their members can live any sort of a low life and seldom is any discipline exercised in their churches. The preachers are very busy raising money, organizing their churches, vying with each other as to who has the largest Sunday schools and the membership with the most perfect harmony and while they are playing their fiddles Rome is burning to the ground and Richmond is on her way to hell."

"Hundreds of citizens have expressed to me their appreciation of the work I am doing, but to this hour only one preacher has expressed any concern in any way. And why is it that these preachers are so num? Because they know that if they took the position that I do their churches would be smashed in twain and their salaries discontinued. But I had rather do my duty and warn my fellow men, and if necessary beg my daily bread, than to be an ecclesiastical coward."

Preachers Criticize Him

"In my fight for righteousness in Richmond, my greatest critics have been preachers. In my investigations I have already run across several Baptist deacons who are patronizing these hell holes, and one or two prominent church members who are renting places that are being used for this illegal business."

In company with the police, Dr. Jenkins made a special effort last night to catch a certain Baptist deacon bootlegging liquor, but the deacon smelled a rat, as it were, and eluded the trap set for him. This man operates a small store, Dr. Jenkins explained, but it is generally known that his principal business is selling liquor, the store being used as a blind for this traffic.

Whiteville people are looking forward with interest to the debate that is to be held tonight in the Methodist church on the subject of law and order. The debate will be between Paul P. Kelsner and John W. Langley, both prohibition workers of national note. It is understood that the speaking will commence at eight o'clock and the public is cordially invited. Admission will be free.

Chadbourn School Finals Friday Night

Commencement Exercises Begin Tomorrow Night and Extend Through the Thirteenth; Program For the Several Dates

Chadbourn, May 7.—About all the preparations have been completed for the closing exercises of the present session of school and Friday night, May 9th will witness the beginning of the program.

For Friday night an operetta, Cinderella, will be presented in the auditorium at eight o'clock.

Monday morning, May 12th, the senior Class Day exercises will take place at 10:30 o'clock. Monday night at 8:15 a splendid comedy, The Arrival of Kitty, will be presented by the Senior Class.

Tuesday night at 8 o'clock the graduating exercises will be held in the auditorium.

The present session of school has been in every way gratifying in point of accomplishments and the principal and teachers are being very much commended for their work. The patrons and friends and the public, generally, are invited to attend the closing exercises.

J. K. Powell Joins Bank of Columbus

Member of Well Known Family With Wide Experience in Banking Comes to Local Institution About May 15th.

With the announcement that Junius K. Powell would assume active management of the Bank of Columbus, May 15th, a new period in the history of this well known Whiteville institution was forecasted yesterday.

Bringing to the local bank a broad knowledge of banking acquired in many years' experience with prominent bankers and a comprehensive idea of the particular requirements of the people of Columbus county in the way of co-operation in banking matters, Mr. Powell is fitted for the position which he has accepted.

Mr. Powell, while the possessor of wide experience in banking, still is a young man. He was born in Whiteville, then, is a return to scenes with which he is familiar, and to friends for former years.

For the past five years Mr. Powell has been the active head of the Bank of Warsaw, occupying the position of Vice President of that institution. He also has been President of the Bank of Kenansville since June, 1922, these positions he still retains and will not dispose of his interest there. Under his management both of these institutions have shown rapid, substantial growth, proof of the peculiar genius possessed by the new Vice President of the Bank of Columbus for giving the people the kind of banking service they want, and being ready to co-operate with them whenever the bank can be of help.

Loyalty to family traditions, friends of Mr. Powell said yesterday was partly responsible for his acceptance of the post in the Whiteville Bank. The desire to advance the prestige of the Bank of Columbus beyond any place it ever has reached, and to make it a real community asset, are inspiring motives in the make-up of the Vice President.

Some time ago when Mr. Fred P. Latham was in Whiteville in the interests of his candidacy for the office of Commissioner of Agriculture, this paper inadvertently stated that he was 72 years of age. Mr. Latham is in reality only 51 years of age and is a boy for all that. Mr. Latham is an all-round student of farming and knows and understands farming conditions. An idea of his own farming operations can be gathered from the fact that he has already shipped fifty thousand pounds of live pork to packing houses this year.

Soils Well Adapted for Asparagus Growing

Head of Big Fertilizer Company's Service Bureau Greatly Impressed With Possibilities in Columbus County

Dr. A. E. Graham, head of the agricultural service bureau of Va-Carolina Chemical Co spent first of this week in Columbus and in company with the local representative of the company, Mr. Robert J. Powell, he visited many sections of Columbus county.

Dr. Graham stated that he was greatly impressed with the agricultural possibilities of the county and he said the soils here were well adapted to almost any sort of a crop. He is very anxious that our farmers try asparagus as he thought both soil and climate well suited for this crop. During his stay he visited the strawberry sections and made examination of the different soils that the berries are grown on with a view of being able to give the growers valuable information on culture and fertilization.

Young Hallsboro Man Meets Horrible Death

Louis Sasser, Crushed Under Logging Train of North Carolina Lumber Company Tuesday Morning; Twenty-Five Years Old

Louis Sasser, 25-years old and son of Mr. and Mrs. John Sasser of Hallsboro, met a horrible death Tuesday morning when his body was frightfully mangled in some manner under a logging train of the North Carolina Lumber Company, of which he was an employee at Hallsboro. An effort was made to rush him to a hospital in Wilmington, but he died before reaching there and the body was prepared for burial and brought back to Hallsboro that evening.

It seems that young Sasser was in the employ of the lumber company but not a part of the regular train crew. Something went wrong with the train and he was called upon for assistance. From reports reaching here, he was working under or in front of the engine or cars when they started and he was badly crushed. It is reported that two members of the train crew were also injured but this report has not been confirmed here.

Many relatives and friends of Mr. Liston Elkins in Columbus and Bladen counties will be interested in the following clipping from the Davidson College publication of recent date. Mr. Elkins was born in Whiteville and has many relatives and friends in both counties: "The retiring editor-in-chief of the Davidsonian has left a record of which to be proud, to mark his four years at Davidson. Under his able direction, the Davidsonian has risen to where it is now one of the liveliest college weeklies in the South. Liston Elkins has excelled not only in journalistic lines, as he has taken part in two inter-collegiate debates, both of them proving a victory for Davidson, but also in literary and athletic attractions. He has made an impression upon the campus life by his manifold activities that will prove ineffaceable, and his mark in life is certain to be one of which he can well be proud."

Mr. F. R. Jordan, who moved from near Chadbourn to the Castle Hayne community near Wilmington three years ago, spent Sunday here with Mr. Eli Whitsett. Mr. Jordan is extensively engaged in bee culture and trucking at Castle Hayne. He says his lettuce crop is good this year and that his peach trees have all the fruit they will bear. He is president of the North Carolina Bee Keepers association and during his visit here he visited the apiaries of Mr. Whitsett, who has some five hundred colonies of the little workers.

Rattlesnake Bites Cat Tail Bay Man

Reptile With Eight Rattles Gets Fangs Into Fern Jones Who Nearly Died Before Medical Assistance Was Available

Yesterday morning at eight o'clock while Fern Jones and his son Sam, were cutting off a ditch bank and doing some ditching on their farm near Cat Tail Bay, 13 miles from town, a large rattlesnake with eight rattles bit the elder Jones above the ankle.

The younger man promptly killed the snake and rushed his father to the house and loaded him in a Ford. The thirteen mile trip to Whiteville was made in record time and during the journey the victim of the bite became deathly sick. He was promptly carried into Dr. Whitaker's office on arrival here and Dr. Whitaker and two other Doctors worked over him for several hours and managed to abate the poison although the victim of the bite is not yet entirely out of danger.

Farmers Organize Mercantile Company

New Concern Has Large Body of Stockholders and Will Cater Especially to Farmers; On the Co-Operative Basis

It is expected that a charter will be received from the Secretary of State for the Farmers Mercantile Corporation of Whiteville within the next few days. Stock in the concern has already been subscribed for and the business formerly conducted by J. B. Rogers and Company has been taken over along with a lease on the building that was occupied by the J. B. Rogers Company.

The company is capitalized at twenty-five thousand dollars. So far about fifty farmers and a few business men have taken stock in the concern and more is being sold daily. The manager of the store will be bonded for the full amount of the paid in capital and it is understood that a manager and other officers will be elected at the meeting that is scheduled for next Tuesday night.

Military Organization Gets Appropriation

Major R. J. Lamb Presents Cause of Local Military Organization to County and Gets Good Appropriation For Same

Representing the 117th Motor Transport Company, Major R. J. Lamb, well known citizen of Whiteville, went before the board of county commissioners Monday and spoke in behalf of the boys, giving in detail the importance of the company to the county, its necessity and the need of co-operation. Mr. Lamb closed by asking a liberal appropriation and he read a long list of counties that were making liberal yearly appropriations for similar National Guard Units.

Mr. Lamb asked for five hundred dollars for the local company and after some discussion the company was given four hundred, an appropriation that the boys appreciate very much. The board of education has already been donating the use of a building as an armory and the town has been furnishing lights without any request or arrangements having been made to that end. It is understood that the town will shortly be asked to make a donation in the same manner as the county and the paper believes that such an act will meet with the hearty approval of the citizens of the town.

The motor company is fast coming to be appreciated by both citizens of the town and the entire county. The personal is splendid and the boys are standing out for all that is good and desirable in a company.

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