

# Complete Renovations Have Modernized Lea Warehouse

Extensive Renovations Have Been Effected At The Lea Warehouse During Past Year

**HUNTER Y. LEA AGAIN WILL OPERATE HOUSE**

Few Changes Made In The Force Which Will Be Found At Lea House; Louie Love Will Auctioneer

HUNTER Y. LEA



Extensive renovations throughout Lea's Warehouse here since the last tobacco season have modernized the building throughout, putting it in better shape than at the opening of any previous tobacco season.

The house operated by Hunter Y. Lea is one of the two largest in Whiteville, having an immense floor space and a tremendous daily selling capacity. One of the outstanding additions to the house during the past winter was the improvement of the Walter Street entrance, which was effected at the northeast corner of the building. Attractive and appropriate signs in neon and otherwise have been placed at this entrance, heretofore without specific designation.

Mr. Lea, who this year begins his third year in the operation of the Lea Warehouse, is backed up by sixteen years experience as conductor of tobacco sales, has practically the same working personnel which he had last season.

Louie Love, veteran tobacco auctioneer of Danville, who has auctioned on the Whiteville market in past seasons, and who has become widely recognized throughout this section, replaces Bill Whitley as auctioneer at the Lea Warehouse.

The Lea Warehouse wouldn't look right without the familiar face of George Blair about, so farmers will not be disappointed this year. Mr. Blair will be back at his post as floor manager for the warehouse, as he has been for the past ten or fifteen years.

He will be forcibly aided and abetted in these duties by Jud Hooks, of Whiteville, who com-

bines his duties as assistant floor manager with the more or less serious business of raising one of the best crops of tobacco in Columbus county.

Walter Pierce and Joe Pruitt both will be back on hand to render the same efficient and courteous service that has characterized their connection with the warehouse in previous years, and this year will bring a new tobaccoist to the force of the warehouse. L. B. Hester, who during the past ten years has operated warehouses in both Clarkton and Sanford, has joined the Lea force, and will be on hand from the very outset of the market to help the farmers get the most for their tobacco.

No change has been made in the office force at the Lea warehouse the past year. Fred Holderby, who has been a part of the Whiteville tobacco market almost ever since there's been a market here will be bookkeeper again, and he will again have for his assistant, Mrs. Lila Heard, of

Danville. Lester Powell another veteran of the Whiteville market, who has contributed much to its advancement, and Steve McDaniel, who's been on the market for a number of years also, constitute the same force of efficient clerks that have rendered Lea's warehouse one of the best known in the state.

Thurston Lennon, native Columbus countian, who has been one of the weigh masters at the warehouse for the past several years, this year finds himself at a new post of utility man, and the weighing will be in the capable hands of Willard Bjrd and Woodrow Britt, both Whiteville products.

### Better Methods In Curing And Harvesting of Tobacco Net More Profit To Grower

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should be a pale yellow. This last raise will toughen the tobacco so that it will stand higher heat. Hold this temperature until the tips of the leaves begin to dry, then raise the temperature 4 to 6 degrees each hour until 135 to 140 degrees Fahrenheit has been reached. Hold this temperature until the leaf tissues are dry. During this period, the color will be fixed. As soon as the leaf is dry, raise the temperature from 5 to 10 degrees each hour until 180 to 190 degrees Fahrenheit has been reached. This heat may be held until the leaf is dry in all parts of the barn. The time required to cure a barn varies from 84 to 96 hours.

This outline for curing is general and should be variously modified as good judgment dictates. Weather conditions, the amount of sap in the tobacco, and other factors may necessitate prolonging or shortening any one of the stages. Approximately 4,000 to 5,000 pounds of moisture or sap must be removed during each curing of green tobacco. During the first stages of curing, the humidity in the barn is high and ample ventilation must be provided. If the humidity gets very high during the yellowing stage, the ventilators should be opened enough to let the excess moisture escape. When the leaf drying stage has been reached, the ventilators, both bottom and top, should be open. "Sponging" will result if the moisture is not removed as fast as it is given off. If the temperature is raised too

high, while the humidity is very high, a greenish brown to greenish black color will develop, known as "scalding", and the leaf tissue adjoining the main stem and the stem becomes a mottled brown to dark brown color. When a temperature of from 165 to 170 degrees Fahrenheit has been reached the humidity should be low and the ventilators closed. Sometimes it may be necessary to raise the temperature above 140 degrees to make the leaf dry as it should.

A condition known as "run" may develop during the latter part of the leaf drying stage if the temperature is allowed to drop several degrees.

After the tobacco is thoroughly cured, the fires are out, and the temperature has gone down, the barn doors are opened in order that the tobacco may come in "order or case", so that the tobacco can be removed from the barn without breaking. Frequently, it is necessary to wet the floor of the barn in order to hasten the softening of the cured leaf. The barn is emptied and refilled each week during the rush of the curing season.

When the tobacco is removed from the barn, it is carried to the pack house and placed in long piles or windows where it is left for a few days. After this it is best to pack the tobacco in a square coop with all leaves turned inwardly and the butt of the leaves showing on the outside. Tobacco so cooped should have enough moisture in it so that it will straighten out nicely and undergo such changes as are necessary for the improving in color. On the other hand, if it is in too high order when packed, it may damage. Tobacco packed in this way may then be left until the grower is ready to grade and market it.

### WHITEVILLE MARKET HAD ITS BEGINNING FORTY YEARS AGO

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ated by the Nelson's, was consummated.

Two years later, in 1918, Walter Dednam, along with many others built the first brick warehouse on W. Main Street, and Harry G. Lea, who had come down from Danville, took it over as proprietor.

Mr. Lea finally bought the whole thing, and until his death

in 1936 successfully operated the house. Since that time, the house has been operated by Hunter Y. Lea, a cousin of the late Mr. Lea. The next warehouse to be built, that which is now operated by H. G. Tuggle, was erected in 1922. It was built by J. L. Powell and was first known as the Wilsson Warehouse.

The next step in Whiteville's march of progress as a tobacco market came eleven years later, or in 1933, when G. E. Crutchfield, Sr., veteran tobaccoist of Reidsville, purchased the Powell property on Main Street south of the railroad, and began construction of the Crutchfield warehouse. The first year, Mr. Crutchfield and Frank A. Hayes, who had been on the Whiteville market for a number of years as an auctioneer, operated the house, and since that time, Mr. Crutchfield's two sons Raymond and Gaither, have been holding forth at the Crutchfield house.

That same year, the Whiteville tobacco company added another decided asset to the Whiteville market, by the erection of Whiteville's first redrying plant, and that factory has been successfully operated here ever since.

But it remained for 1935 to become a banner year in the history of the market when two more warehouses built here gave the city the sum total of six. Seth L. Smith, prominent Whiteville business man, moved several houses which were in the way down on the southern outskirts of town, and began erection of what was to later be named the Farmers Warehouse, the house with the greatest amount of floor space of any in town. The first year the house was operated by L. R. Jackson and his son, Frank, and since that time has been jointly operated with Tuggle's warehouse.

Simultaneously, three forward looking gentlemen from Henderson, W. B. Daniel, Jr., and A. H. (Bert) Moore along with their partner, Mr. Young, came down to Whiteville and started erection of the Star Warehouse which is located on W. Walter Street. Early in 1938, Messrs. Moore and Daniel having already bought Mr. Young out, sold their right title and interest in the house to the Brooks Brothers, J. R. and C. E., who have been successfully operating a warehouse in Kinston for a long time, and the warehouse's

name was changed to Brooks Warehouse.

Such has been the constant, steady and healthy progress of the Whiteville tobacco market since its first inception forty years ago this summer, till its present position of prominence in the South Carolina Belt.

### Ace Auctioneers To Be On Local Market

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**MORGAN AT CRUTCHFIELDS**  
Raymond and Gaither Crutchfield selected one of the best in the business when they secured Jimmy Morgan, their auctioneer last year, to return to Whiteville. Jimmy hit them hard last year at Crutchfields and watch how that boy goes this year.

Everyone will agree that these auctioneers have no equal. They are in a class to themselves. Each one a topnotcher in his own name, with years of experience, yodeling for the high dollar, turning the golden weed into cash. Their chant is music to the thousands of anxious farmers who are waiting for good sales. Auctioneers take their work seriously for they realize they play the most important part in the auction sale of tobacco. They must be intelligent men with keen eyes, keen ears, quick thinking minds, agreeable, interested in the farmers welfare.

### FARM LIFE SEEN AS THE IDEAL

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who trust him, and neighbors who respect him, and who help out in time of sickness and disasters.

The farmer deals with elemental things. He knows the glories of a summer morning, the smell of the soil and of curing hay. He knows the heat of noon time and the chill of autumn frost and early winter as he husks out his corn. He has the satisfaction of expressing himself in the character of his home and farmstead, and the quality of the stock and crops he grows. The farmer is a real creator.

About 90 per cent of the fluid milk used in cities of the United States of over 100,000 people is pasteurized.

Official statistics indicate that in Japan the most common cause of insanity is the continued intermarriage between small groups.

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