

Berry Sale Plan Meeting Subject

Some 125 strawberry farmers said last night they had rather market their berries by the auction method than the "set off" method.

Farmers from strawberry growing sections of the county met at the Chadbourn high school cafeteria by request of the Chadbourn Merchant's association for a called meeting.

During the discussion it was brought out that the county furnishes one-half of the marketable berries from this state that go

into the prominent New York market. County Agent Charles Raper said there are approximately 400 acres of strawberries grown in the county. This compares to 4,500 acres grown here in past years.

The question of whether to have an auction system, as has operated at the Chadbourn market for the past several years, or change to the "set off" method, was put squarely to farmers. They were told that their decision would determine the kind of market they

would have.

It was explained that in the so called "set off" system, growers sign an agreement with an agent that he will grow and then sell all of his berries with the agent. For this service, the agent usually charges 10 per cent of net proceeds.

Lester Lowe, former Chadbourn resident, led the discussion. He called the "set off" procedure a good proposition for the agent because of little risk and little capital invested. He said that the farmers are paid after the berries are sold, usually about a week after the sale is made.

Lowe said he did not know how binding the agreement between agent and grower would be. He added that he suspected that both parties could back out of the agreement.

The Chadbourn strawberry market will note its 65th anniversary when it opens around April 15.

Nearly completed by the Chadbourn Marketing company is a pre-cooling facility that is expected to be a great help to growers that pick their berries after the field heat has entered them, or at any other time, to aid in retaining freshness.

Lowe announced that the Chadbourn Marketing company would operate under either system, auction or "set off," that the growers should choose. He said the company offers the proposition of selling for a five per cent commission plus the cost of government grading and also the cost of pre-cooling. The company made a guarantee that the total cost would not exceed eight per cent.

Lowe said the company would further agree to open its books to a five-man committee or any auditor for an inspection to satisfy all that a cost of not more than eight per cent had been charged. These conditions were presented in case growers decided upon the "set off" system.

In the auction method, growers do not have to pay for pre-cooling and are paid immediately upon purchase by buyers on the market.

C. Lacy Tate, president of the Waccamaw Bank and Trust company and a Chadbourn resident, stated that he preferred "cash on the barrel head" auction method. He compared it to the tobacco

Southport Noses Bolivia Friday In Double Overtime

Southport's Dolphin boys scored a thrilling 79-77, double overtime Brunswick County cage victory over Bolivia's Bears here, Friday night, on the strength of Frankie Rogers' field goal in the final two seconds.

The boys' win enabled Southport to sweep a doubleheader, as the Lady Dolphins had earlier captured a 54-35 win over the Bolivia girls. Frances Smith had 24 points and Jean Cochran 22 for the winning lasses, while Aveline Skipper of Bolivia was high for the girls' game with 27.

The boys' game wound up in a 63-63 knot at regulation finish, with C. E. Murphy's field goal, Clive Doshier had a fielder in the first overtime to send it into the second overtime, then Rogers' basket with just two seconds left in the second three-minute period produced a Dolphin triumph.

A pair of free throws by Jerry Spencer had knotted the count with only 15 seconds remaining in the regulation game. Also lending a hand in the spine-tingling victory was a perfect feeder pass from little Don Hardee to Rogers to set up the play; and the all-around play of Freshman Ed Harper during the extra sessions. Not only did he hit for 6 points during this crucial time, but he blocked at least a half-dozen shots by Bolivia players as he turned in his best performance of the year.

Doshier had 21 points, Rodney

Fellowship In Regular Meeting

Members of St. James Church and their guests recently held another meeting of their Fellowship Service. The meeting was well attended with members of all churches of the community present.

James H. Frink, chairman of the Board of Trustees, welcomed everyone. The devotion was held in the sanctuary, after which everyone was seated in the dining area for discussion of "The importance of regular church and Sunday school attendance." Expressions from various ones were interesting and to the point.

This organization promises to be worked up as a community project.

Group singing was led by B. T. McLeod. Timely remarks were made by the pastor, The Rev. G. F. Burney and by Mr. Frink. Refreshments were sponsored by the Stewardess Board No. 1, and the men's choral group. The menu consisted of chicken salad with all the trimmings. The next meeting will be held March 5, at 7:30 o'clock. Sponsors will be Stewardess Board No. 2 and the Board of Stewards.

members of his family.

Mason also said that if a farmer's gross receipts are over \$1,800 and his net profit is less than \$1,200 he may use the option of reporting \$1,200 as his net profit and obtain better social security insurance protection for himself and his family.

Quite a number of younger farmers have lost valuable in-

ness resulting in manslaughter was reduced to careless and reckless driving. Investigation did not bear out even the latter charge; there being no evidence that the car was being driven at unlawful speed, and Macarnay was fined \$10 and costs for failing to keep a proper lookout, with the fine remitted.

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until the investigation of the fatal accident was completed, and was tried Monday in Brunswick County Recorder's Court, where the original charge of careless-

sure that they may have qualified for.

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With The Men In Service

Army Sergeant First Class Perry J. Gore, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elijah B. Gore, Supply, is scheduled to participate with other personnel from the 9th Infantry in Exercise Great Bear, a joint U. S.-Canadian winter maneuver in Alaska, February 12-21. The exercise will test cold weather military doctrine and the ability of the two allied armies to work together as a fighting team. Exercise Great Bear will be conducted in the vicinity of Tana-cross and Eielson Air Force Base, one of the most rugged areas over which an Alaskan maneuver has ever been held. Principle terrain features in the 3,200 square-mile maneuver area are the heavily forested lowlands of the Tanana river valley and the mountains, which range as high as 4,000 feet, converging on both sides of the valley. Sergeant Gore, a squad leader in the infantry's Company B at Fort Wainwright, entered the Army in 1950 and arrived in Alaska on this tour of duty last June. The sergeant is a 1945 graduate of B. C. T. High School in Southport. His wife, Lillian, is with him at the fort.

auction system and called that very successful with only a few shortcomings.

Growers were asked for their comments. They said:

"I like the auction method, at least until I learn more of the consignment or 'set off' method."

"I like the auction system, but I would also welcome more buyers."

All comments appeared to be for the auction system with some growers expressing reservations on the "set off."

Growers were asked to stand "for" auction and about one-half present indicated that desire. When asked to stand "for" the "set off" there were no affirmative votes. Approximately one-half of those present did not vote.

Bill Bailey, manager of the Chadbourn marketing company, said that it was important not to have a "set off" market in the county in competition with an auction market. He said that the "set off" competition would force the auction system out of existence.

The American Food corporation with large berry holdings in Florida, has recently met in Tabor City with growers and have indicated they would like to run the "set off" system there.

Raper told growers that his main interest was not where they sold but that they sold quality berries. He read part of a letter from a New York produce firm that stated North Carolina berries could bring the same prices as those from California and other states if packaged well. The letter stated that Tar Heel berries are as good in quality as those from any other section of the country.

Raper said that quality begins with the plants and continues through the management, handling and fertilization, and to the picking and packing operations.

Even after the vote was taken and the auction system was in the affirmative it was indicated that the decision on the system to be utilized was not definite.

The final decision still rests with the growers. The Chadbourn Marketing company said they will have a market there which ever system growers finally decide upon.

Social Security Changes Listed

Some self-employed farmers believe that they do not have to file a federal income tax return if they do not owe any income tax.

Albert P. Mason of the Wilmington District Social Security Office, reminds farmers that this belief is incorrect. He emphasizes that if a farmer's net profit amounts to \$400 or more in a taxable year, the farmer must file a federal income tax return and pay the social security self-employment tax due on his net profit.

Some farmers in this area are failing to take advantage of optional methods of filing their tax returns, which are provided by the Internal Revenue Code and Social Security Act. If a farmer's net profit from his farm is less than \$400 for a taxable year and he has gross receipts from sale of farm products in amounts of from \$600 to \$1,800 he may elect to pay self-employment tax on two-thirds of the gross amount. He will thus obtain retirement and disability and survivors insurance for himself and eligible

Garner 17 and Murphy 11 for the winners; David Cook sank 27 for Bolivia, while Morrie Watkins followed with 14, Dick Rabon with 13 and Thurston Sullivan with 11.

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