

Potential Danger Of Black Root Important

JACKSON — "It's the potential danger that we're worried about, not the present danger," commented Northampton Agricultural Extension Chairman B. H. Harrell about Black Root Rot found in the county. "Apparently we'll have to breed resistance in the plants rather than treat them with chemicals," Harrell continued. "It's similar to the black shank in tobacco which was conquered by breeding resistance."

"Black Root Rot hits at unexpected times and places and shows no preference to soil types. It's totally unpredictable. It's bad but not a real serious problem yet except for some people. We've found it throughout the county but there are still lots of fields with spots of Black Root that we don't know about."

Congressman Fountain To Visit Northampton

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Congressman L. H. Fountain, who will be visiting each county in the Second Congressional District August 20-25, will be in Northampton County Wednesday, August 22. Fountain's schedule for Northampton includes the following: Rich Square, Post Office, 11 a.m.; Woodland, downtown, 11:45 a.m.; Conway Post Office, 12:30 p.m.; Garysburg, Joyner's, 2 p.m.; visit courthouse and downtown Jackson, 2:30 p.m.; Lasker, Valley Pines Country Club, 3:30-5 p.m.

Northeast Academy Announces Staff

LASKER — Northeast Academy Headmaster Arthur Dempsey has announced the staff for the coming school year.

Teachers will report August 27 and students will report for their first day August 28. Staff members include Jimmy G. Blythe, math; E. Carl Witt, social studies; Cedric (Dave) W. Davis, health and physical education; Emily W. Vinson, English; Douglas L. Matson, French and English. Other academy staff members are Frances Jordan, business; Jenny N. D. Heartsill, science; Sylvia Lassiter, home economics and librarian; Joseph H. Jernigan, eighth grade; Anna Burgwyn, seventh grade; Anne L. Emory, sixth grade; Mrs. Jack P. Morgan, sixth grade; Ruth L. Vaughan, fifth grade; Barbara H. Edwards, fifth grade; and Nancy G. Daughtry, fourth grade. Appointed to teach the third grade is Margaret M. Womble, Sara R. Warmack to teach the second grade and Rebecca L. Copeland to teach the first grade. Other academy personnel include Patsy Parker, aide, Annie L. Tudor, secretary and James Calvin Daughtry, maintenance supervisor.

8 Wrecks Total \$4425 In Damage

WELDON — Eight wrecks in Northampton County left \$4425 worth of damages to 10 cars with six of the accidents involving only one car. Interstate 95: Saturday, August 4, 11:30 a.m., north of Gaston. A 1973 Chevrolet driven by Donald Eugene Phauls, 21, of Mount Olive, was forced off the road, lost control and skidded into the side of a 1973 Mack driven by Nathan Ronald Todd, 37, of Roanoke Rapids. Damage came to \$600 to the Chevrolet and \$200 to the Mack. No charges were brought by the investigating officer, Trooper J. C. Wood. US 258: Friday, August 3, 4 p.m., John Harris, 51, of Seaboard, 1964 Buick, \$600 damage, charged with failure to decrease speed by Trooper J. W. Narron. Friday, August 3, 4:30 p.m., Howard Glenn Robinson of Fayetteville, 1967 Chevrolet, \$750 damage, no charges brought by Trooper L. J. Pitula. Friday, August 3, 4:30 p.m., Jessie Lewis Lassiter of Rich Square, 1969 Chevrolet, \$175, no charges brought by Trooper R. E. Worley. Friday, August 3, 11 p.m., Timothy E. Gard of Camp LeJeune, 1965 Volkswagon collided with Mable Sexton of Rich Square, 1968 Ford. \$700 to Volkswagon and \$600 to Ford. Investigating officer was Trooper R. W. Worley. US 158: Friday, August 3, 4:50 p.m., Sidney Mark

(See WRECKS, Page 12)



BLACK ROOT rot has infested Reuben Turner's peanut fields near Garysburg. Turner points to wilted and dried plants that have been affected by the mysterious plant disease that has sporadically appeared throughout Northampton. Turner said last year the disease caused him to lose \$150 per acre of peanuts harvested.

Rich Square Store Taken Off Food Stamp Program

RICH SQUARE — A Northampton County food store has been disqualified from the federal food stamp program, the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service reports. The store, D. A. Clarke Grocery, was disqualified for six months after being charged with selling ineligible items for USDA food stamp coupons. The store is located two miles south of Rich Square on U. S. 258. Among the items sold were clothing, paper products, cleaning products, washubs and a straw hat, the FNS reports. Katie B. Clark is the store's proprietor. A regional FNS official explained that the store will not be allowed to accept food stamp coupons during the (See STORE, Page 12)

Citizen's Arrest Made In Grocery Store Robbery

JACKSON — A Norfolk, Va., man is being held in Northampton County jail on two charges following an incident near here Monday. Sidney Cornell Wilkins, 26, was turned over to State Highway Patrolman John Wood following a "citizen's arrest" by Johnny Davis of Conway. Wood then contacted Northampton County Sheriff Frank Outland. Tavern area. Davis then approached the man and made a "citizen's arrest." According to Sheriff Outland, Wilkins was arrested and charged with the robbery of the W. F. Davis Grocery at Faison's Old Tavern yesterday. He also was charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill. Wilkins is alleged to have entered the grocery around 3:30 p.m. and assaulted Mrs. W. F. Davis by beating her about the body and head with a soft drink bottle. He was reported to have taken all the money from the cash drawer and fled in a red 1973 Vega stationwagon. Investigating officers searched a nearby wooded area where \$918 was recovered. No bond was set for Wilkins who is to be arraigned in Northampton District Court.

2 Rich Square Groceries Robbed

RICH SQUARE — Two grocery stores were robbed August 9 in Rich Square and the police have no leads at the present according to Police Chief Willie Wayne Connor. Trailer's Grocery Store on Main Street was broken into and the cash register containing \$100 cash and old bills was taken and a bubble gum machine full of dimes. A. T. Joyner's Grocery Store on east Jackson Street was robbed of one radio and a small amount of change in the register.

Gaston Takes Steps For Annexation

GASTON — Gaston town commissioners Tuesday night took initial steps toward the first annexation attempt in the 24-year history of the town. The commissioners voted to write the North Carolina League of Municipalities seeking assistance in drafting legislation that would extend the corporate limits westward on N. C. 46 and eastward along N. C. 46 and 48. Property owners along the two highways have informally requested inclusion in the corporate limits and a number of persons have informed the commissioners they will sign petitions to seek annexation. Mayor Firman Myrick stated that special local legislation will be requested in the 1974 General Assembly. In other action, the commissioners: —Voted to solicit bids from car dealers on removing junked and abandoned cars from the town. According to the town clerk, there are 50 to 60 junked cars in the corporate limits that need to be moved. The town will bear the expense of removing the cars. The deadline for submitting bids is Aug. 31 at 5 p.m. —Ordered a letter drafted to Northampton School Supt. Roy Lowry regarding the conduct and driving ability of bus drivers hired to operate school buses. The commissioners have received numerous complaints about reckless driving on the part of school bus drivers and the board is seeking closer supervision of drivers by school officials. The board noted that a child was struck by a bus last year because of neglect on the part of two bus drivers. —Voted to erect no parking signs on Reid Street in front of Gaston High School and requested the county schools provide a parking lot for students who will no longer be able to park on the streetside. —Approved construction of an additional drive at the clinic building adjacent to the new Town Hall and agreed to correct wiring problems in the building. —Adopted an ordinance calling for a 45 mph speed limit on N. C. 48 through the corporate limits. The present speed limit is 55 mph. The speed change is subject to approval of the state Department of Transportation.

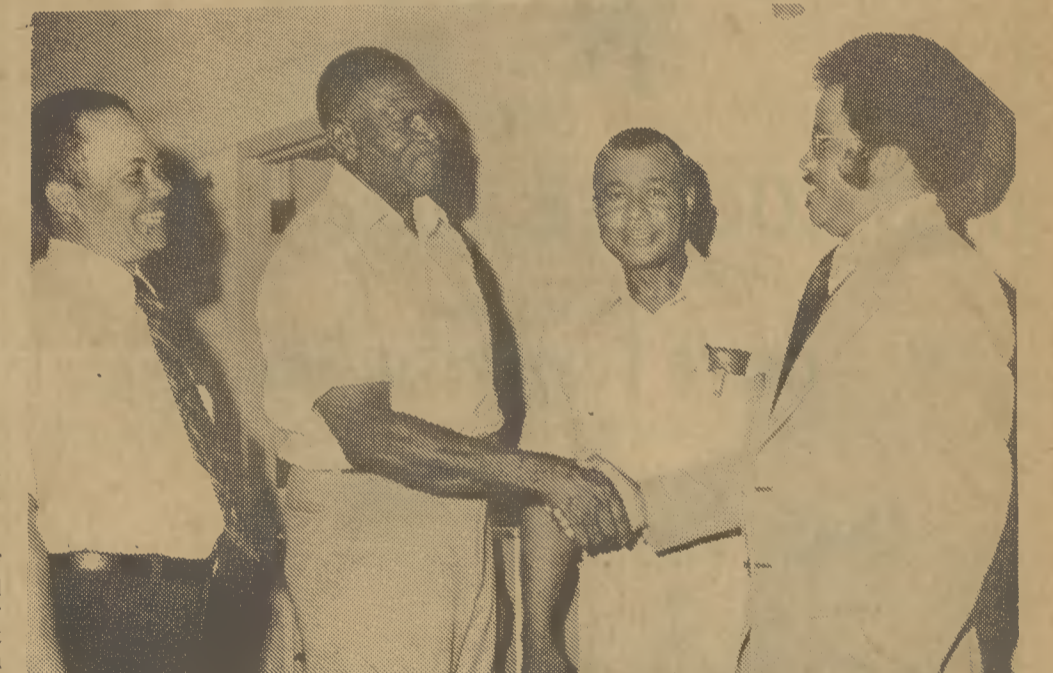
\$688 Million Allotted For 1973-74 Education

RALEIGH — Public school education is big business in North Carolina. Representative J. Guy Revelle Sr., Democrat of Northampton County, noted on the eve of another school year. Included in the '73 education appropriation is \$5 million for occupational education in the middle grades of public schools and nearly \$16.5 million to provide free textbooks to all public school students. Textbooks have been provided free to elementary school children since 1937. The recent Assembly extended the privilege to include high school grades. Education is big business in North Carolina because of the size of the operation. Citing 1971-72 figures, 1,197,797 students were enrolled. There were 52,421 classroom teachers on the payroll in the 152 school administrative units in the state, teaching in 673 high schools and 1,983 elementary schools. More than half of the students rode buses to school. It required 10,430 buses to transport 722,714 students to school each day. School lunch rooms served more than 887,000 meals each day. Revelle said more than \$688 million in State tax dollars will be invested in the 1973-74 school year to provide a better education for elementary and secondary school students. Although the financial outlay in tax dollars is large, the funds are an important investment in future generations, the lawmaker said. A \$12.3 million appropriation to expand the kindergarten program is in funds for this year's operation of public schools. The funds will maintain the present 149 classes and add at least 698 new classes this fall. The additional classes will bring the total children in public kindergartens to nearly 16,000. Classes are scheduled for all five-year-olds by 1976. In other areas of education, funds were approved to reduce the size of classrooms (\$26 million); separate school buses for elementary and high school students were okayed (\$3 million); teachers, principals, superintendents

N'ampton Schools Open August 27

JACKSON — Students will report to Northampton County schools August 27 for a half day of classes. The buses will run but no lunch will be served. Tuesday, August 28, will be the first full day of classes. Teachers at Northeast Academy will report Monday, August 27, for work and students' first full day will be August 28.

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CREECY FARMERS — W. S. Creecy, principal of Creecy School, greets Dr. L. G. Horton (right) of the governor's office in Raleigh to the Creecy Adult Farm Class banquet held Wednesday in Rich Square. Looking on are L. J. Morris Jr. (left), vocational-agricultural instructor at Creecy, and David Odom, acting president of the farm class. Horton addressed the banquet.

Turner Explains Tax Break For Senior Citizens

JACKSON — Northampton County Tax Supervisor Turner Bradley has received tax change information of special interest to age 65 and older residents. Bradley stated, "The 1973 state legislature reviewed all Property Tax Acts and abolished some of them, changed some and passed new measures. "First, I will review the change that will be a boon to most 65 year olds. "If you are 65 during the list year and your income is less than \$5,000, excluding your social security income, you will be excluded a tax value of up to \$5,000 on both real and personal property used exclusively for personal purposes. "You must be a resident of North Carolina, and with respect to real property, you must own fee simple title, tenant by the entirety, tenants in common, joint tenancy or life estate. "You must apply for this exemption each year, preferably during January at list time. "You must answer two questions, your birthday and your adjusted income, not including social security. "You must apply for this tax relief by May 1 each year to qualify. The Tax Supervisor has no authority to grant it after this date. "Other properties that were exempt in the past are no longer excluded unless applied for during each list year. This will include churches, private educational institutions, charitable organizations, community buildings, Masonic Lodges and the like. "Someone in authority must apply for these exemptions each year or they will be taxed as other properties. "In 1974 and each year thereafter, during the regular listing period, the persons seeking relief shall file a request with the Tax Supervisor of the County in which the property would be subject to taxation, if taxable. If located in city or town he must file with municipal tax list also." Bradley added, "There are many more changes and I hope, in the near future, to be able to discuss them in future articles."



INVESTIGATING A FIRE two weeks ago at the Johnson Trailer Court in Rich Square are from left, Police Chief Willie Wayne Connor, Fire Chief Billy Ivey, and Deputy Sheriff Grover Parker.

The fire was caused by an overheated water heater. Last Saturday night, the same trailer, owned by Bobby Smith, caught fire at 1 a.m. and burned beyond livable conditions.