

Yam Association Launches "300 Bushel Club" Contest; Winners To Get Trip

Members of the North Carolina Yam Association gathered at Goldsboro last Thursday and allocated \$1500 for the development of a program to recognize growers with high yam yields in 1959. B. Alton Garrell, while not present at the Thursday meeting, is Vice President of the association.

Under the direction of Henry Covington, of North Carolina Department of Agriculture, the promotion will encourage yam growers in the Tar Heel State to strive for the "300 Bushel Per Acre Club." Members of the various county extension departments have been contacted and will work hand in hand with Mr. Covington and the Yam Association to get as many participants in the contest as possible.

The Eastern portion of the State that comprises the commercial growing yam section has been divided into three sections. County and area winners will be chosen and will then compete with the winners of other areas for the grand championship of the State.

All yam varieties now handled commercially in North Carolina will be eligible for the competition and the prizes.

Covington pointed out to the yam buyers that yields in North Carolina now are the highest of any State in the South growing the yam-type sweet potato but stressed the belief that North Carolina growers can still produce many more bushels per acre than are now being grown.

"We haven't even scratched the surface of our yield potential," Covington told the group. "We in North Carolina are within 500 air line miles of one half the population of the United States and have great opportunity to reach the yam consumer," Covington said.

The agricultural specialist also told the buyers that some farmers in North Carolina grossed \$1400 per acre on yams during 1958 and that there was no reason why the average grower shouldn't have been at least \$700 per acre.

"The soil, climate, know-how and geographical location is such that North Carolina has a tremendous advantage in the yam industry," he said.

He pointed out to the buyers that when farmers produce 300 bushels of yams per acre, they have only \$1.08 per bushel in their crop when it is sold on the market but when the yield is only 100 bushels per acre, they have \$1.92 in each bushel produced.

Covington said that a free trip to Northern yam markets would be awarded to the area winners in the "300 Bushel Club." The cost of the project will be underwritten by the N. C. Yam Association and the entire project will have the direction and cooperation of the N. C. Dept. of Agriculture.

As the meeting opened, President Howard Corbett, of Wilmington, told the members that the best supply of seed for this year's crop is available that has ever been known in the N. C. yam industry. He said that certified seed now in use is three times as great as a year ago.

The president called for the membership to stand in silence for ten second in memory of one of its leading members, Sam Godwin, of Benson, who was killed earlier this month in an automobile accident. Godwin was yam market manager at Benson at the time of his death.

President Corbett said that the N. C. Yam Association now is composed of about 95 percent of all the sweet potato growers in the State.

Dr. Dan Pope, of the N. C. State College experiment station in Raleigh, told the association that "farmers must get a high price or a high yield from their yam acreage in order to live and that the time has come when the grower can no longer make a living with yields of 75 to 100 bushels per acre."

Dr. Pope said the experiment station was happy that the yam association was becoming so active and then briefly outlined the merits of all sweet potato varieties being grown in the United States today. He discussed in some detail the work of the State Horticultural department, of which he is a member, and the efforts of the group to learn more and more about the yam.

Dr. L. W. Neilson, of the State Department of Horticulture at N. C. State College, emphasized the need for continued effort on the part of everyone to curtail scurf, black rot, internal cork and other diseases that plague the sweet potato industry everywhere.

"With continued good breeding practices we may eventually wash cork out of the sweet potato. One of the biggest complaints nowadays have with the yam today is the presence of internal cork," Dr. Neilson said.

President Corbett urged buyers to keep storage houses clean, machinery clean and to fumigate areas where potatoes are kept in an effort to retard the many diseases.

Lee Kushman, of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, told the group that a treatment for soft rot and black rot in both fresh and cured sweet potatoes had been tested and proven highly effective. The treatment, he said, would add ten days or more to the life of the yam even after heavy bruising.

The association went on record as opposing color-waxing of yams and voted to discontinue the practice immediately if other sweet potato growing states would stop the practice. However, the buyers pointed out that the color-waxing would individual labels of the members if other States use color-wax and if Northern brokers request such addition of color.

President Corbett urged the buyers to attend all county yam meetings at which farmers attended to hear more about the "300 Bushel Club" and to pass along to the growers as much information as possible as to what varieties they preferred to buy in 1959.

It was noted that the leading N. C. varieties are portorican, Copperskin Goldrush and the Kandee.

Near the conclusion of the meeting, Corbett appointed a committee to study the possibilities of adopting a label for all members of the association to be used in conjunction with the individual labels of the members.

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VOLUME XIII, NUMBER 26

TABOR CITY, NORTH CAROLINA WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1959

5c PER COPY—\$2.00 PER YEAR

Williams HS Faculty Names Most Outstanding Seniors



Two popular Williams Township High School students have been named the "most outstanding" members of the senior class.

Joann Beck and Johnny Grainger received the honor at a recent meeting of the school faculty.

Joan is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Beck. She is active in many school clubs and because of her academic record she has won awards in science, math, English, social studies and home economics.

Johnny is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Grainger. In addition to being one of the leading basketball stars in the county he is a member of the monogram and bus clubs. As a freshman and sophomore he won the Columbus County band award.

Both students plan to enroll in college next fall.



ADD ANOTHER HONOR — Joann Beck and Johnny Grainger were named "most outstanding members of the senior class" this week by the Williams Township High School faculty. Both are former recipients of many school honors.

County Schools Will Get Driver Training Course

Many Columbus County automobile owners were wondering today what happened to the extra dollar that was being paid for license tags.

It marks the second year the additional one dollar fee has been collected.

Actually the extra buck is earmarked for driver education classes in every county of North Carolina.

Dr. Ross Williamson, chairman of the Columbus County Board of Education, shed some light on the subject today when he revealed that plans called for setting up driver training classes throughout the county next year.

The county received \$14,000 as its share of the added dollar license fee in 1958. They will receive approximately the same amount from the 1959 tag sales.

"We didn't feel that the original appropriation was sufficient to establish these driving training courses throughout the county. When the additional money is received from this year's tag sales we will make provisions for introducing the driver training courses countywide next year," said Dr. Williamson.

There are 13 schools, 10 white and 3 colored, that will benefit from the program next year.

Dr. Williamson pointed out that establishing the program would require the purchase of four automobiles and hiring certified, experienced driver training teachers to carry out the course.



WILMA GORE TROPHY — Carolyn Fipps, right, and Annie Ruth Deever, co-captains of the Nakina High School basketball team, smile at the prospects of being a candidate for the coveted Wilma Gore trophy that goes to the outstanding center in honor of a student who died suddenly several years ago. (Staff photo)

Trophy Honors Memory Of Nakina Student And Leader

One of the most coveted trophies presented each year at Nakina High School goes to the most valuable basketball player.

What makes it so coveted is the fact that it is dedicated in memory of a former student who died unexpectedly.

Wilma Jewell Gore died suddenly on July 31, 1953. She had been one of the most outstanding students at Nakina, and was a member of the first student body as well as the original basketball team.

She was a Christian, scholar and athlete. She had all the fine qualities a young person could have without a single flaw in her personality. She was kind, considerate and understanding of her fellowman at all times.

Principal M. M. Jones, principal at Nakina High School.

The trophy itself was presented to the school by its first basketball coach P. K. Weatherly.

Jewell died of spinal meningitis only a few short years after she had graduated from high school.

Members of the male cage squad who have been honored are Boyd Register, 1952-53; Charles Long, 1954-55; Odell Chestnut, 1956-57; and J. D. Gore, 1957-58.

Presentation of the trophy is made at the annual athletic banquet by the coach.

Principal Jones says that the students get quite interested in the award preceding the presentation. Many of them are aware of it throughout their high school athletic career and it is partially this incentive that brings forth from them their best effort.

The school has been flooded with basketball trophies during its brief history of seven years. The trophies adorn a table in the office but there are hopes for a trophy case in the near future. When it materializes one of the choice spots in it will be occupied by the Wilma Gore trophy.

Waccamaw AA Will Meet At Bladenboro

The Winter meeting of the Waccamaw Athletic Association will be held at Bladenboro High School on Wednesday, Jan. 28.

President Bruce Hill of Elizabethtown announced that the dinner meeting would begin promptly at 7 p. m. After a meal, at which Bladenboro officials will be hosts, a business session is scheduled. Arrangement of 1959 baseball schedules, final plans for the WAA basketball tournament at Chadbourn in February, and other business will probably come before the representatives at that time.

Whiteville, Bladenboro, Tabor City, Shallotte, Chadbourn and Elizabethtown make up the Waccamaw Athletic Association.

Mrs. C. Fowler Funeral Today

Mrs. Cumia Fowler, who would have observed her 91st birthday March 11th died at her home here Tuesday about 6:30 a. m. after a long period of declining health. She had been in bed for four months.

Funeral services will be held this afternoon (Wednesday) at 3 p. m. in the Tabor City Baptist Church, of which she was a member, with the Rev. P. C. Gantt officiating. Burial will be in the Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Mrs. Fowler is survived by two sons, McCoy and Pink, both of Tabor City; two daughters, Mrs. Oda Fowler and Miss Nola Fowler, both of the home; one brother Dallis Fowler of Tabor City; 14 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

Cherry Grove Studies Program Of Development

A steering committee composed of 16 members of the Cherry Grove Community voted January 23, to investigate the possibilities of organizing Cherry Grove into a community organization. The meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Coleman.

J. A. Glazener, Program Planning Specialist from State College, was present to explain how community organization works.

Mr. Glazener showed colored slides which gave the group an idea of the activities of other communities in organized programs. At the end of Mrs. Glazener's explanation the group voted to hold a community-wide Festival this year and the overall committee must be named.

Eddings said that concrete proposals would be made concerning the credit bureau and community and they will decide the Association President Walter Soles and Directors Jimmy Dicus and Ruy Hewitt have already done a great deal of research and studied the plans for the bureau.

"I want to urge every merchant to be present at this Monday morning meeting. These decisions are pressing and we must make the decisions now," Eddings said.

In regard to the Yam Festival, Eddings noted that the overall committee chairmen have held the job for two years and have resigned. A new committee must be set up immediately if the annual October event is to be staged. He pointed out that a number of other communities are anxious to have a yam festival and would probably jump at the chance if the local community dropped the yam promotional event.

Important Meeting Set Monday A.M.

"One of the most important meetings of the Tabor City Merchants Association in a number of years will be held at the Ritz Theatre next Monday morning at 10:00 sharp. Tally Eddings, executive secretary, announced today.

"This meeting is being called to decide once and for all whether we set up a credit bureau and to outline the steps that must be followed if we do set it up. Also, we have to decide now whether we are going to have a Yam Festival this year and the overall committee must be named," Eddings said.

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RICHARD CAINES

ROBERT BASS

FURNIE HUGHES

Offer Special Course To County Farmers

Three young Columbus County farmers will attend a 12-day study session on the latest developments in farm technology at State College.

Ben L. Nesmith, Jr., vice-president of Waccamaw Bank and Trust Company, announced today that Furnie Hughes, Route 1, Tabor City, Richard Caines of Chadbourn, and Robert Bass of Route 1, Whiteville, had been selected to attend the special course.

Sponsorship of these three outstanding young farmers is an annual event for County Banks. Selection of the representatives is left at the discretion of school agriculture teachers in the respective areas.

All expenses of the young farmers will be paid by the banks. The course begins February 2 and ends February 14.

The success of the program has been largely due to a committee of 100 bankers, one in each of the State's counties, who are appointed "County Key Bankers" by the North Carolina Bankers Association. This year, Ben L. Nesmith, Jr., is the "Key Banker" for Columbus County.

When this year's course is completed more than 1,000 young North Carolina farmers will have attended the classes over a seven-year period. Records show that about 25% of the young farmers, after having attended the course, have changed their minds and decided to attend college to seek further agricultural education.



CREDIT WOMEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB members are heading the Mother's March of Dimes set for Friday, January 30, 6 to 7 p. m. Headquarters will be in the Tribune building with Mrs. Evelyn Leonard serving as zone chairman. Pictured above are Mrs. Blanche Britt, president; Mrs. Evelyn F. Bullock, treasurer; Mrs. Lou Sasser, vice president, and Miss Marilyn McKee, recording secretary. Miss Lila Earl Lancaster is corresponding secretary and Mrs. Louise Grainger and Miss Ila Pearl Lancaster head the program planning.