

# Poor Show How It Is

## Federal, N.C. Service Officials See Conditions

By HOWARD COVINGTON  
In The Charlotte Observer

BATTLEBORO — Mrs. Annie Lee Wills had cleaned the cracked linoleum that covered the rough floor of her home, straightened the beds and made the paint-neglected shack appear as presentable as possible.

But no matter the skills Mrs. Wills has achieved as a domestic worker in someone else's home, she could not erase or cover the sights and smells of poverty in her own.

The odor of urine, damp wood and years of use came drifting through the four-room house on the edge of tobacco fields in Edgecombe County with each gust of the summer breeze.

Nonetheless, Mrs. Wills and several others like her had consented this past Thursday to talk with a group of strangers about their life in rural northeastern North Carolina.

It took courage for them to lay their problems in the open for these people, some of whom they knew controlled the life-sustaining programs that support families of the Mrs. Wills of North Carolina.

There was Louis O'Conner, the director of the state's welfare programs; John Kerr, the state director of the food stamp program; Pick Turner, the director of North Carolina's portion of the emergency food and medical program, and Ralph Eaton, the director of the state school lunch program.

The others in the crowd that gathered around homes in Edgecombe County carried no official government titles but Mrs. Wills didn't know that. She had only been told that 11 state and federal people wanted to talk to her.

There was Miss Jean Fairfax, the director of the community education service of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund; Miss Nancy Amidt, a representative of the U.S. Senate's Select Committee on Nutrition, and Dr. Don Madison of the UNC Medical School.

They had all been asked to Edgecombe by Mrs. Eva Clayton, the director of the Economic Development Corporation, a non-profit, non-partisan group organized in Warrenton a year and a half ago.

The EDC was formed as a poor peoples advocate before state and local agencies with an eye toward development of community awareness and a bootstraps business ventures. But it soon found that before there can be jobs and businesses there must first be an improvement in the people who would take those jobs.

"We were talking to people about black entrepreneurship and black ownership but we found first we had to take care of hunger," Mrs. Clayton said.

EDC begged and scraped enough money from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Office of Economic Opportunity and national church organizations to open 13 centers in Edgecombe, Wilson, Bertie and Warren counties where 1,000 children are being fed each day.

Madison and the UNC Medical School have supplied some medical aid and the program has some funds for dental bills if and when children need attention.

This past week was Mrs. Clayton's way of showing state officials and others what can be done to immediately attack hunger.

Thursday was the big day and it began at the Battleboro center. The visitors were shown through the center, fed the lunch that children had eaten that day — spaghetti, peaches, cole slaw and hushpuppies — and then they were taken to the homes.

This was the real punch, the doorsteps and rickety porches of peoples like Mrs. Wills.

Mrs. Wills stood outside the door of her home, dressed in her maid's whites, holding an 18-month-old grandson. Her daughter, the baby's mother, was in the fields "working tobacco." Two other children had gone the way of many young Negroes in eastern North Carolina. One now lives in Philadelphia and the other in Washington.

"As soon as they can earn the money, they make it," said Joe Lawson, a Rocky Mount school teacher and director of the EDC's summer program. "They are too smart to stay," he said.

Mrs. Wills has four other children in the program at the Battleboro center. She makes \$18 a week as a maid, deducts the regular bills from that and buys food and supports the family on the rest. She receives food stamps and pays no rent. Not far away Mrs. Eva Williams moved painfully onto

the porch of her home, far down a dirt road with holes and ruts deep enough to jolt a bulldozer. The home is in the city limits but the "good" road ends at the cotton gin.

Mrs. Williams was not long out of hospital, without regular income and had little success receiving aid from the local social services office. She is entitled to Medicaid because of her illness but no one had informed her of that.

Lunch Thursday for the five children in the home was collard greens and cornbread. Two of the children belong to her daughter who is also ill and two others are too old for the center.

The members of the group asked questions about her health, probing the woman's plight, and then turned to leave.

The day began to be a repetition as mothers — no fathers were around — related their lives. Some were defensive and appeared intimidated by the large crowd which surrounded them.

One mother stood at the top of the steps of the old weathered home she owns and said, "Now what do you want me to do?"

She seemed perturbed that this crowd of well-dressed strangers should pry into her affairs.

"That took a lot of guts to stand up there and tell your problems to a bunch of strangers," said Mike Street later in the day.

Street is a tall, lanky, young Negro who has one more year of law school. This summer he is Mrs. Clayton's administrative assistant.

The tour was nothing new to him and many of the group said they had been to the "field" before. Mrs. Clayton knew that but she had asked them to come anyhow.

"We're sensitizing some state agencies, we're sensitizing some of those who talk about 'hunger' they are seeing that these aren't statistics but real human beings," she said.

"I don't expect immediate reaction... but at least they should be able to come," she said.

"This is something we can do something about now. There is plenty of food. There is no reason for anyone to go hungry," Mrs. Clayton said.

She said the EDC hopes that five of the 13 centers can remain open during the school year and serve as day-care centers.

Then mothers can be relieved of staying at home and can go to find jobs. Some of that has been possible this summer, but tobacco work is only seasonal

and pays little.

Even the children have been contracted for field work. A boy can make \$10 to \$12 a day in the fields and \$7 to \$8 working in the tobacco shed.

One center dropped from an attendance of about 100 to 30 when tobacco cutting time rolled around. In an attempt to keep them on a steady diet the center offered to take meals to the fields but the farmer declined.

In the school months the children can take advantage of free school lunch programs which are offered in most counties.

Thursday night, the visitors and people from the Tarboro areas met at a high school for the "poor families dinner" of fried chicken, potatoes, beans and bread.

Just before the state officials and others rose to speak, however, Mike Street talked about programs and those who design programs to help the poor. It's ivory tower stuff, he said, and it leaves him cold. But in EDC he has found something different.

To Mike Street, feeding hungry children "is real. It's doing something right now and not just talking about it. And that's why I dig it."

## About 8,000 Families Receiving Aid On Nutritional Problems From NCSU

About 8,300 families in North Carolina are now receiving personal, in-the-home educational help on nutrition problems from the Agricultural Extension Service of North Carolina State University.

Dr. George Hyatt, Jr., director of the Extension Service, said that 83 percent of the families earn less than \$3,000 a year.

Extension started the "Expanded Nutrition Program" in December 1968 as part of a federally financed national effort to improve the diets of disadvantaged people. Sixty five counties in North Carolina now participate.

The program is carried out by 175 especially trained aides who work under the supervision of county extension home economists. Mrs. Minnie Brown state home economics agent, and Mrs. Marjorie Donnelly, in charge of extension nutrition programs, supervise the program at the state level.

The aides visit needy families and offer personalized help on buying, preparing, conserving and storing food, and on basic nutrition, meal planning and sanitation. They work

mainly in the kitchen of the homemakers, using whatever foods and utensils she might have.

In addition to working with individual homemakers, the aides have succeeded in enrolling over 5,400 of the children in special 4-H group activities designed to teach better nutrition.

Families are encouraged to take advantage of donated foods and the food stamp program if they are eligible, and they are encouraged to plant a garden if practical.

About 40 percent of the families are on the donated food program. Another 25 percent receive food stamps. Three-fourths of the families live in rural areas and 63 percent are black.

Dr. Hyatt believes the biggest impact of the program so far has been in getting families to increase their consumption of vegetables, fruits and dairy products.

Surveys have shown that these foods, and not meat as commonly supposed, are the foods most likely to be missing from the diets of the disadvantaged in North Carolina.

Aides can cite numerous ex-

amples of how better nutrition has improved many aspects of life for the participating families. However, no one is claiming that the program is a cure for all of the problems of the disadvantaged.

"We find that nutrition problems can be extremely complicated," Dr. Hyatt said. "They can involve such things as alcoholism, child abuse, poor health and old age. As a result we try to work closely with other government and community agencies. They refer families to us and we refer families to them."

### Court

(Continued from page 1)

der, Robert B. Davis, M. V. Edwards, Randolph Hawkins, E. G. Hecht, Jr., Howard M. Jones, A. L. Lynch, C. P. Rooker, Calvin Gardner Young, L. A. Meador, Mrs. Ida S. Darnell.

Ridgeway — Richard John Bender, Phillip Jones, James L. Miller.

Manson — Minnie May Boyd, Robert L. Epps, Mary Evans Hendricks, Thomas Twisdale. Macon — Mollie Adcock Hallock, French Johnson, Jr., Myrtle D. Overby.

Henderson, Route 2 — Willie Short.

### Grand Jury

Members of the Grand Jury are Virginia Mae Hawkins, R. J. Liles, B. G. White, Robert M. Davis, Mrs. Irvin R. Davis and Eugene Hicks, all of Warrenton; Russell E. Shearin of Littleton, C. W. Hilliard of Macon, and F. F. Ingle of Ridgeway.

### Reaches Goal

Careful planning over a period of years helped the Cleveland Pettigrew family, Cleveland County, reach a long-time goal.

According to Thelma E. McVea, home economics extension agent, "the Pettigrews started making improvements in their home more than six years ago. The last improvement, which included additional kitchen storage, has just been completed."

Pettigrew, a laborer, is retirement age. His wife is a few years younger.

"It has taken us a long time to get our house the way we want it," Mrs. Pettigrew said, "but we are glad to get it done without going into a big debt at our age."

Through her participation in extension workshops and club meetings, Mrs. Pettigrew gained knowledge in how to manage the family's income and other resources, the agent points out.

One of the most popular house furnishings color combinations in 1971 will be brown with black. Other significant combinations will be bright blue with yellow green, yellows with gold, deep orange with blue, gray with brown, and saffron pink or lavender with blue.

# First Aid For Ailing Windows

If neglected windows are what's ailing your decor, there's a new remedy on the market that offers prompt relief.

It's a do-it-yourself shade laminating kit that puts window wizardry at your fingertips. Designed to make it easy to manufacture your own decorative fabric shades, the kit includes adhesive shade cloth, roller, slat, pull, mounting brackets, and screws.

If you can iron, measure, and cut reasonably well, you'll have shades fit to be hung in a few hours' time.

In selecting a fabric to iron onto the adhesive shade cloth, choose a firmly woven cotton for best results. Pick one that matches or contrasts with walls, repeats a chair or couch cover, or supplies a major color point in tone and texture.

To determine yardage needed, add six inches to the height of the window opening and one inch to the width of the shade. Before beginning the laminating process, install mounting brackets at window. Cut roller to size and cap it, then insert into brackets to be sure it fits properly. Set roller aside for later use when trimming shade to exact width.

For a clean-lined look, make "reverse roll" shades—with the roller side facing towards the window. Here's how:

(1) Square off one end of your fabric so the edge is straight and even. Press with a dry iron to remove any wrinkles or creases, and mark fabric center top and bottom with tailor's chalk. Set aside. Cut adhesive shade cloth 18" longer than your window height and 2" wider than the finished shade. From this cut piece, cut

2" and 8" strips for slat and roller attachments and set aside. (2) Now place shade cloth adhesive-side up on a large flat surface like a floor or table. Remove liner paper and save for use as a pressing cloth. Measure down 2" from top of adhesive shade cloth and draw a line across the entire width. Mark center.

(3) Place squared edge of fabric on this marked line, aligning center marks at top and bottom and securing corners. Set iron at temperature suited to your fabric, and press fabric onto shade cloth—working from center to edges with a slow, even pressure. Use liner paper as a pressing cloth and check frequently to be sure you're not ironing any wrinkles into the fabric. If wrinkles do appear, pull the fabric loose and re-iron. Allow shade to cool to room temperature for a secure bond.

(4) To trim shade to proper width, center your pre-cut roller at top of shade. Mark a line on the fabric one-fourth of an inch from the inside of each end of metal caps on the roller. (Measurements must be accurate if shade is to roll properly.) Use a yardstick to draw vertical lines down each side of the shade, outlining the width. Be sure vertical lines are the same distance apart at top, center, and bottom of shade. Use sharp scissors to cut along these lines for the finished shade edges.

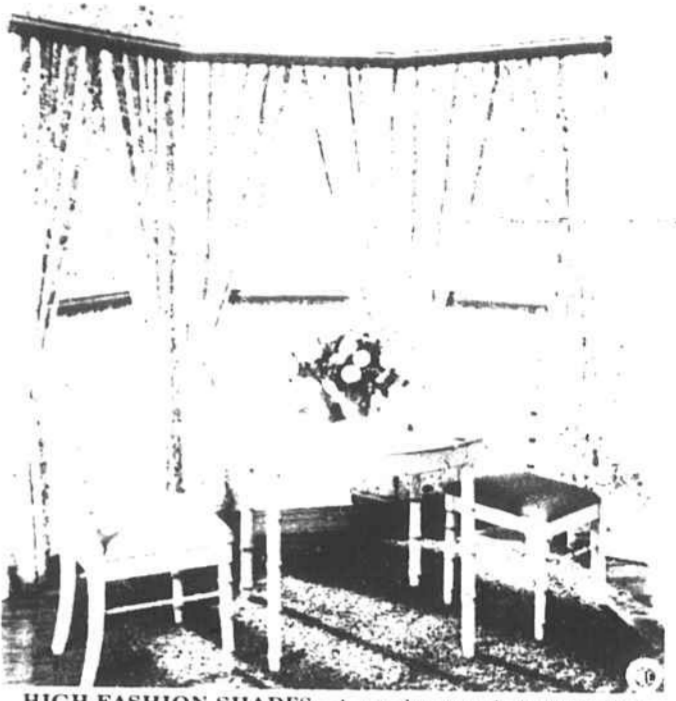
(5) For the slat pocket, fold a 1 1/2" strip at bottom of shade over to the back. Now lightly press the 2" strip of shade cloth you cut off earlier (adhesive-side down) to the folded-back strip. (One inch will extend beyond each side edge and a small margin above hem

edge.) Insert slat with its lower edge flush to inside fold of hem and press firmly along upper edge of slat. Allow to cool and then trim.

(6) Before attaching shade to roller, place 8" strip of shade cloth adhesive-side down on the exposed 2" strip left at top of shade—with lower edge of shade cloth strip meeting top edge of fabric. Press together, holding upper edge of shade cloth strip away from work surface. Allow to cool and trim.

Remeasure top edge of shade cloth to be sure it is straight and parallel with upper edge of fabric.

(7) Place upper edge of shade cloth strip along blue line on roller and press just enough to anchor this edge to roller. Wind shade over roller surface, constantly pressing to obtain a complete bond. Continue to roll and press until you reach the end of the adhesive. Now your shade is completed and ready to hang.



**HIGH FASHION SHADES**—A new boon to do-it-yourselfers is a shade laminating kit that provides first aid for ailing windows. Here it's used to create cotton fabric shades that match curtains and wallpaper. The kit includes tinting adhesive shade cloth, roller, slat, pull, mounting brackets and screws. It's by Stauffer Chemical Company.

## Chance Seen To Reduce Pesticides On Tobacco

A stalk shredder at the end of harvest, not pesticides, is the best remedy for tobacco hornworms, reports R. L. Robertson, extension entomology specialist at North Carolina State University.

Robertson said that hornworm numbers appeared "to increase slightly" in the state this year. Infestation of the pests generally remained very low, however, in comparison to the days before farmers used sucker control chemicals.

These chemicals keep down sucker growth even after harvest. Thus the food supply for overwintering hornworms is greatly reduced.

With the hornworm population so low, Robertson said that only a few tobacco fields should have been treated with insecticides. In fact, he urged growers to greatly curtail their use of pesticides on tobacco and do everything possible to produce a crop free of insecticide residues.

"Some visual insect damage can occur before the loss is great enough to offset the cost of an insecticide application," he explained. This is particularly true since allotments are now made on an acreage-poundage basis.

"Pesticide residues on tobacco are receiving closer and closer attention from countries receiving our exported flue-cured tobacco," he continued. West Germany, one of the largest users of U. S. tobacco, plans to reduce the level of accepted tolerance on DDT to one-tenth part per million by 1973. Most tobacco would not meet this standard today.

"However," Robertson stated, "I am convinced North Carolina growers can produce tobacco within accepted residue levels if they will follow a few simple fall cultural practices, and refrain from using pesticides when only a few insects are present."

Research has shown that most overwintering hornworms are produced after Aug. 15. The use of chemical sucker control and the shredding of old tobacco stalks immediately after harvest will cut the number of overwintering hornworms by at least 90 percent.

"I know how busy farmers are at the end of the harvesting season, trying to get their crop sold as soon as possible. But timing is of the utmost importance in getting rid of their old stalks. They must get rid of the hornworm food supply as quickly as possible if they are to cut down on the population next year," Robertson said.

Natural enemies — predators and parasites — of hornworms are in great abundance and are eliminating large numbers of hornworms which might otherwise damage the current crop or overwinter to attack the 1971 crop. The apparent increase in the natural enemies of hornworms is believed to be due to the re-

straint that farmers are already showing in using pesticides.

The main natural enemies of the tobacco hornworm are a small parasitic wasp called apanteles, large predatory wasps, and a tachina fly. Hornworms attacked by parasitic enemies can often be identified by white egg sacs attached to their body.

Robertson said that the early clean-up of old tobacco fields as outlined in operation R-6-P would not only reduce hornworms, but would sharply curtail five other insect and disease problems — nematodes, flea beetles, budworms, mosaic, and brown spot.

The man who claims he's boss in his own home will lie about other things, too.



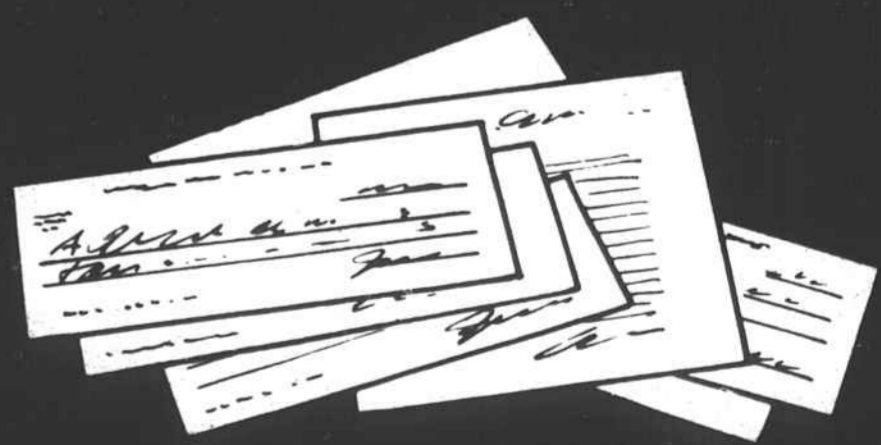
**GO-TOGETHERS**—Soft and supple cotton velour takes on sophisticated styling in coordinated sportswear. An intricately seamed tunic with brass closures is teamed with yoked trim fit pants by Korset of California.



**CASUAL**—Vivid colors contrast and complement each other in this easy-going three-piece of comfortable cotton knit. A figure-trimming tunic and long-sleeved body shirt top straight stem pants in a dot-in-dash jacquard pattern. By Korset of California.

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