

SCS And State Sign Agreement To Speed Soil Survey In N. C.

The Soil Conservation Service and North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development have signed an agreement that will utilize state-employed soil scientists to speed completion of the National Cooperative Soil Survey in North Carolina.

Secretary Howard N. Lee signed the agreement for the state and Jesse L. Hicks, state conservationist, for the SCS.

Secretary Lee commented that "This Federal-State cooperation is going to greatly help farmers, developers, homeowners and local government officials plan for better land utilization in this state. Most counties who do not yet have a modern soil survey are seeking one."

First In Nation State conservationist Hicks added that the agreement is one of the first of this kind in the nation, and praised "both the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development and the North Carolina General Assembly for their support of a needed program."

The legislators appropriated \$400,000 for a two-year period in support of soil surveys. The Soil Conservation Service put

approximately \$700,000 a year into the survey program. In addition, county governments have been providing local funds to accelerate surveys for several years.

Modern soil surveys have been completed in 25 North Carolina counties, and work is now underway in 27 additional counties. With State assistance, it is hoped all 100 counties can be mapped by 1990, 12 years ahead of the previous target date of 2002.

Under the agreement, additional soil scientists will be employed by the state of North Carolina and will work under SCS supervision in counties that are providing local funds for the survey.

Technical Leadership
The Soil Conservation Service will continue to provide technical supervision and leadership in the soil survey, as provided in Public Law 46 of the 74th Congress. SCS will also provide field training, equipment — including trucks — and supplies for soil scientists employed for the program.

The Department of Natural Resources and Community Development will assist SCS with technical support and leadership, help with review of field work,

soil descriptions, and preparation of descriptive material and soil maps.

In addition to the two agencies in the newly signed agreement, the soil survey in North Carolina also involves the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station and the North Carolina Extension Service.

All agencies concerned will constitute a newly established Administrative Review Committee which will provide administrative direction to the survey.

Entire County Covered
Soil surveys in North Carolina normally cover an entire county, although smaller surveys are sometimes made for an industrial park, residential development or for other purposes. A current survey, for example, will map the entire Fort Bragg Military Reservation.

Original beneficiaries of soil surveys were farmers, who used the data to determine which land should be used for crops, which in forest or pasture. But today the scientific data provided by a survey can be used for urban planning, best land use, whether or not an area is suitable for housing — and for septic tanks — or for a sanitary landfill.

Some areas are best used for business or industry, homes, schools, or perhaps even a new municipal park. The soil survey provides scientific data for any land use decision. Some tax appraisers even use them for their work.

Benefits of soil surveys, like all programs and services of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, are available to everyone without regard to race, creed, color, sex or national origin.

Employment opportunities for soil scientists utilized in the expanded North Carolina soil survey will be made on an equal opportunity basis.

4-H'ers Meet

By DENISE BULLOCK

The Youth Achievement 4-H Club monthly meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Burnette with Carmen Burnette presiding.

New and old business was discussed among the members. The club decided to go to the residence of older persons, singing carols and giving them a basket of fruit, on Dec. 21.

For the recreational period, the members exchanged gifts. Then refreshments were served by the Burnettes.

Shop To Save At Sales

By EMILY BALLINGER

Home Extension Agent You can really save money by shopping at post-holiday sales. Or you can lose money, by not shopping carefully.

For example, those year-end clothing sales usually have prices lowered 25 to 50 percent.

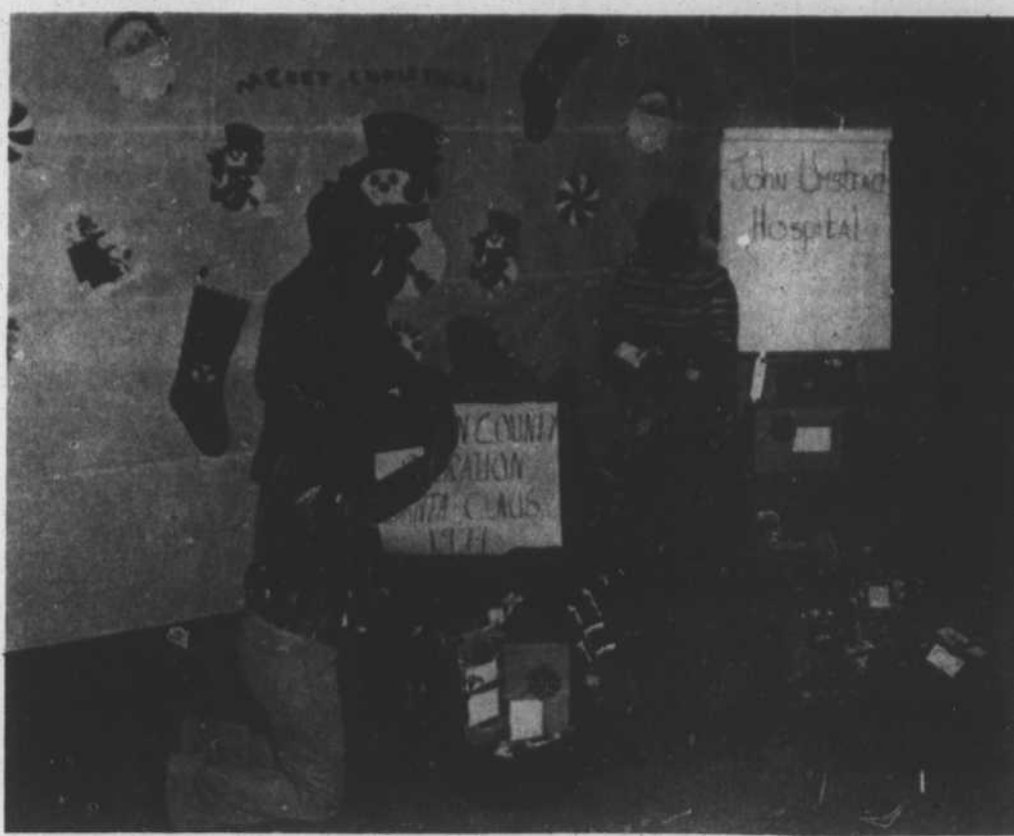
You can get good buys on classic garments — like sweaters, blouses, and slacks — that will be worn often in the future.

But the selection may be limited — in terms of color, style and size.

New 4-H Officers Named At Vaughan

By KATHLEEN SELLERS

Joyce Vick was elected president of the Northern Vaughan 4-H Club at the monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. Mable Richardson on Dec. 13 at 7 p. m. Michael Brown was named vice - president; Tracy Brown, secretary; Kathleen Sellers, assistant secretary; Ben Sellers, reporter; James Brown, recreation; and Barbara Johnson, song leader. The



Warren County Operation Santa Claus chairman, Mrs. Mabel Davis, delivers gifts for Warren County patients at John Umstead Hospital. Shown left to right are Mrs. Annie Garrett of the Volunteer Service Department, Mrs. Mabel Davis of Wise, Miss Eleanor Wright of Warrenton and Miss Clara Simon, Director of Volunteers at Umstead. Gifts brought by Mrs. Davis will be given to the patients early Christmas morning.

Operation Santa Helps Needy

By BERTHA FORTE

Home Extension Agent Through "Operation Santa Claus," some of our Warren County churches have made it possible for the 13 needy residents at Murdoch Center in Butner to have a joyous Christmas.

As chairman for "Operation Santa Claus" (Murdoch Center) in Warren County, I want to thank the following church, Sunday Schools and classes, missionaries, ushers, and pastors for support of this project: Norlina Baptist (Fidlus Class), the Rev. G. Elton Cooke;

Brown's Baptist, the Rev. Dudley Neal; Reedy Creek Baptist, Mrs. Patricia Forester, project chairman;

North Warrenton Baptist, the Rev. T. C. Currie; Vaughan Chapel, the Rev. Alex Brown; Wesley Memorial Methodist, the Rev. Wayne Young; Coley Spring Baptist, Mrs. Marie Thomas, project chairman; Cook Chapel Baptist (Usher Board), Sam Lewis, project chairman; Warrenton Baptist, the Rev. Bill Crouch; and Burchette Chapel, the Rev. R. D. Bullock, Jr.

Supporters for "Operation

Santa Claus" were solicited through the Warren County Ministerial Association and individual contacts.

Mrs. T. C. Currie of Norlina accompanied Mrs. Forte to Murdoch to carry the gifts and to attend the Annual Christmas Pageant given by the residents. The theme for the pageant was "A Lot Like Christmas."

There were many beautiful scenes, costumes, acts, and carols. The program was well attended and enjoyed by all. A craft show and social hour with refreshments followed the pageant.



Agriculturally Speaking

By L. B. HARDAGE
County Extension Chairman

The driveway to your home serves as a major link between your family and the world beyond. It is a very important feature of the yard landscape. Lucky is the family that builds a home and can give careful thought to the location of the driveway: some are not so lucky and have inherited a driveway that is ill-planned and inconvenient.

Whenever possible, a family will benefit from living in a house for four weeks before the drive and walks are paved. After that time, the logical, convenient, and

appropriate location of the paving will have become obvious. After a month, the "world will have made a

pathway to your door."

In locating the driveway keep these points in mind: —Locate trees and large shrubs at the drive entrance, back far enough from the street or highway so the plants will not obstruct the view in either direction.

If the drive is a long one, plan a "turn around" near the house or garage — so you always will head out toward the streets, rather than backing into a busy street or highway. Such a "turn around" is a handy place for parking extra cars in case of company.

Construct the drive so there is ample room to turn onto the highway. Be sure the culvert is long enough to

provide for a wide approach to the highway.

Plan the drive so there will be a level section (about 20 feet) before entering the highway. This is especially important if you are located on a busy street or highway.

A near-ideal driveway plan is to have a turn-around located near the garage and house. By such, cars can back and turn so as always to head to the street, rather than backing into traffic.

Diet and heart disease is the subject of "The Way to a Man's Heart" available free from the North Carolina Heart Association, 1 Heart Circle, Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514.



TARHEEL KITCHEN

By MISS E. YORK KIKER

By MISS E. YORK KIKER

N. C. Department of Agriculture The tradition of a gayly decorated fresh, fragrant Christmas tree is as much a part of the season as tempting holiday foods. It may come as a surprise that Christmas tree production in North Carolina is becoming increasingly important to our agriculture each year.

Approximately 850,000 high quality Christmas trees will be harvested commercially this year in the western mountain region of North Carolina. Even with this large number available, the demand is expected to exceed the supply. The North Carolina Christmas tree industry is strengthening and is geared for growth in future years.

In North Carolina, Frazer fir is the most prominent tree produced and grows at an elevation of 3,500 feet or higher. It has a natural Christmas-tree shape, glossy dark-green foliage, strong branches which easily support ornaments, pleasing aroma, and excellent needle retention.

Second in importance is the white pine which grows at 1,200 to 3,500 feet elevation. The white pine has a soft blue-green foliage, pleasing fragrance, and good needle retention. This pine is becoming more popular with consumers despite its tendency to wilt and its rather weak branches.

The traditional Red Cedar, Scotch Pine, and Douglas-fir are also produced in North Carolina.

Selecting the perfect Christmas tree is a highlight for many families. The first thing to keep in mind is to decide where and how the tree will be displayed and what size will be needed. Select a tree that is fresh, healthy, free from damage and well-trimmed. A smart shopper will ask for a North Carolina tree, usually cut within a month of Christmas. The commercially grown trees have taken 10 or more years to produce to marketable size. They have been carefully cultivated and trimmed to shape.

The Canadian trees offered for sale are generally harvested wild trees and could have been cut as early as August. You may like the old custom of cutting and bringing in the Yuletide tree, but you should beware of pilfering unless the tree belongs to you or you have permission to cut it.

If possible, place the Christmas tree in a container of water to help maintain freshness. Set up the tree securely away from fireplaces, radiators, or any other sources of heat. For extra safety, do not leave lights burning on the Christmas tree when you are away from home.

Trim your tree with your favorite ornaments and have a happy holiday season.

Navy Promotes Luther Williams

Marine Corporal Luther D. Williams, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Williams of Rt. 2, Box 10B, Warrenton, has been promoted to his present rank while serving with 3rd Marine Division on Okinawa. A 1975 graduate of John Graham High School, he joined the Marine Corps in August 1975.

Autumn Leaves Can Be Windfall

By MICHAEL MCKINNEY

Soil Conservationist Farmers in all parts of North Carolina know the value of crop residue — such as remnants of corn or small grain crops — to conserve moisture, increase infiltration, reduce soil losses and improve soil tilth.

But many city folks throw away — usually, get the trashman to haul away — valuable material from their home sites. The fallen leaves we see each autumn can be a valuable resource, either for mulching or for preparation of a compost heap, according to Conser-

vation Agronomist Foy Hendrix of the USDA-Soil Conservation Service.

It's fine to rake the leaves, and then either provide a healthy mulch around plants growing in the same yard, or place the leaves in a compost pile. This can easily be made: a little circle of chicken wire, or some scrap lumber nailed together, and then apply the leaves in six to 12-inch layers. Vegetable peelings, melon rinds and the like can also be added.

Over each layer of leaves apply lime, water and fertilizer. This will speed the process of decomposition. After the material turns uniformly brown and crumbly, usually about one year, the compost resulting makes an excellent plant fertilizer.


More information on mulching or compost piles can be obtained from the Soil Conservation Service office in the Agriculture Building or through the Warren Soil and Water Conservation District.

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Shop To Save At Sales

By EMILY BALLINGER
Home Extension Agent

These sales may serve as a way for stores to get rid of high fashion or fad items as well as discontinued or left-over styles. And some items may be shopworn — having been picked over by the holiday shoppers.

So before you buy — figure out whether you'll really be able to use the item — right away and during the same season next year.

If clothing is in need of alterations or repair — figure those costs into the price of the garment. That way, you can save money with those end-of-the-year buys.

officers will serve in 1978. Because of the absence of the president, Joyce Vick presided.

Tracy Brown read the minutes and called the roll. Eight members and three leaders were present.

The members planned another program at church and a community project for the new year.

Following the business, the meeting was adjourned by repeating the 4-H motto. Refreshments were served.

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By Leroy Tanner

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