

Tenant Farming At Lowest Level

Sharecroppers Drop From 776,278 In 1930 To 446,556 In 1945

One of the great changes in the structure of American agriculture in recent years—a change of deep social and economic significance to the nation at large as well as to agriculture itself—is the increase in farm ownership and the big decline in tenant farming.

Figures compiled by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture disclose that approximately 72 percent, or more than seven out of every ten, of all farm operators this year were owners, in full or in part.

At the same time, the number of tenant-operated farms declined to approximately 27 percent this year, the lowest such proportion since 1880.

These changes strengthen the basis of the nation's agriculture and, combined with other developments such as greater farm income and savings, indicate marked progress in the well-being and security of an increasing number of farm families.

One of the important factors in the decline in tenancy was the general prosperity in agriculture in recent years, a development which gave many tenants the financial means to buy farms of their own.

The peak in farm tenancy was established in 1935 when approximately 2.9 million farms, or 42 percent of all farms, were tenant-operated.

The highest number of sharecroppers on record was 776,278 in 1930. Fifteen years later, in 1945, the number had dropped to 446,556.

Returns Home After Long Stay In The Hospital

Mr. Edward Joyner who suffered a broken back in an accident at the plant of the North Carolina Pulp Company several weeks ago, left a Washington hospital last Friday and is now at home with his mother, Mrs. Evar Woolard and family in the Peel Apartments on North Houghton Street. He is getting along very well.

SCHEDULE

Attention is again called to the three-day Christmas holiday to be observed by business firms in Williamston and most other towns and cities in the state.

The schedule will not apply to the post office and federal agencies, but all county and state offices will be closed for the three-day period, ending December 27.

URGES PAY BOOST FOR PRESIDENT



URGING CONGRESS TO INCREASE the salary of the President, Herbert Hoover (left), former Chief Executive, outlines his proposals to Sen. Ralph E. Flanders (R-Vt.), head of the Senate Civil Service Committee, in Washington.

OPEN EVENINGS

Offering further accommodations for their patrons, local merchants are keeping their stores open evenings this week until about 9:00 o'clock.

Williamston business firms are offering complete stocks at prices in keeping with and actually below those existing in many shopping centers.

Farmers Killing Supply Of Meat

Delayed by unusually warm weather during the past several weeks, hog killings are now getting under way on a fairly large scale in this county.

Reports indicate that the county will kill and pack an ample supply of meat this season.

Gets Permanent Rating In Army

Major Oscar S. Anderson, Jr., son of Mr. O. S. Anderson of Williamston, was recently notified by the Department of the Air Force that he had been appointed permanent captain in the USAF, date of rank retroactive to July 1, 1948.

Major Anderson attended Campbell College and is entering the service in 1941 was president of the Anderson Construction Company in Birmingham, Alabama.

Minor Accident On County Road

Losing control of the 1941 Chevrolet he was driving George Edward Gardner ditched it on the Skewarkey Road leading from Route 64 to Route 17 last Friday midnight, causing damage estimated at about \$75 by Patrolman M. F. Powers.

Gardner, going from the scene of the accident for someone to pull the car out, was detained by Patrolman J. T. Rowe.

Court Drags To A Close Early Last

It Was Beginning To Appear Just Would Have To Hang Up Stocking Here

With very few cases on the criminal docket and only two or three minor civil actions on the calendar, the Martin County Superior Court on Monday of last week opened what was thought to be a two-day session.

Friday morning, only a speech to the jury by Attorney H. S. Ward and the judge's charge stood between the court and adjournment.

According to the evidence offered in the case, Williams bargained to buy a farm in Poplar Point the latter part of 1946.

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Father And Son In Corn Contest

O. W. Jones, Martin County Negro farmer of Oak City, Route 1, has convinced not only himself but also his son that it pays to use hybrid seed and plenty of fertilizer in producing corn.

According to R. M. Edwards, Negro county agent for the State College Extension Service, Jones attended a corn-soil demonstration project conducted in 1947 and decided then and there that he would use hybrid seed for his 1948 crop.

His 24-year-old son, Richard, however, remained doubtful. He just didn't like the idea of paying \$10.50 for a bushel of seed and spending a lot of money on fertilizer.

So the two engaged in a little friendly competition. The elder Jones bought a bushel of N. C. 27 hybrid seed and planted 7.5 acres. He used 16-inch spacing in 3.5-foot rows and followed recommended fertilizer practices.

When the corn was harvested, the father had a yield of 109.4 bushels per acre. The son produced only 47.6 bushels per acre.

Looking at his father's 7.5-acre field, young Jones said he had never seen so much corn on one piece of land. From now on, he plans to use hybrid seed and fertilizer according to recommendations.

Hold Funeral For Cpl. Newsome In

Young Colored Man Was Fatally Burned While Serving In Japan

Funeral services will be conducted Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock in the Barnabest Missionary Baptist Church near Williamston for Cpl. Thaddeus Newsome, III, Martin County young colored man who was fatally burned in a motor vehicle accident while serving in the army in Japan on March 5, 1946.

The body will be carried directly to the church from a Greenville funeral home.

The son of Thaddeus Newsome, II, and wife, he was born near Williamston on June 29, 1924, and spent most of his life on the farm. He was graduated from the local colored high school and before entering the service in 1944 he worked for eight months in the Norfolk Navy Yard.

Large Crowds At Special Program

The special Christmas programs attracted capacity congregations in the local Baptist and Christian Churches Sunday evening, the Baptists reporting that every seat in the large church was taken.

The Baptist choir will be heard over the amplifiers Wednesday evening of this week at 8:30 o'clock.

Injures Leg In Bike Accident

Rondell Beach, stepson of Mr. Kelly Davenport, suffered a painful leg injury Tuesday evening, December 14, as a result of a bicycle accident.

Riding his wheel in the alley behind Woolard's Furniture Store, he ran over a stump, throwing him from the wheel and wrenching the muscle in the back of his leg.

Bertie County To Get Hospital

A vote of almost three to one, Bertie County people last week voted a tax levy upon themselves to finance the construction of a \$600,000 fifty bed hospital.

A site has not been selected, but it is proposed to locate the hospital on the county farm between here and Windsor.

BERRIES IN DECEMBER

Nature came through with a rather unusual freak last Friday—a strawberry in December.

Mr. S. C. Ray was raking in his strawberry bed at his home here on Beech Street and raked out a full-grown strawberry. The berry was well developed and ripe.

Tax List-Takers Are Named for New Year

To Start Listing Properties Early Part of January

M. Luther Peel Appointed To Supervise Listings For Next Year

Tentative arrangements for handling the listings of both real and personal property for 1949 taxation in this county have been completed and final instructions will be issued on the 28th of this month when the list-takers and tax supervisor meet in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

M. Luther Peel has been reappointed tax supervisor and he will be in charge of the listings for 1949.

The following list-takers have been named for the ten townships: O. W. Hamilton, Jamesville. Chas. L. Daniel, Williams. W. Tom Roberson, Griffins.

The commissioners in their December meeting ruled that there would be no revaluation of real estate for the new year, but they did order a horizontal increase in all real property listings.

A schedule for listing property will be announced, immediately after the December 28 meeting, and property owners will find it to their advantage and convenience not to wait too long in listing their holdings.

Goes All Out For Friendship Train

Advised of the need existing among victims of war in foreign lands, Will Little, colored farmer living near Robersonville, went all out to do his bit toward loading the Friendship Train.

After giving Ben Everett, the canvasser, a portion of corn, Little took his car and trailer and carried the appeal to his friends and neighbors.

While the movement did not create the excitement the first Friendship Train created, Martin County, at the bidding of faithful workers and canvassers, met the challenge all right.

Plows Into Car On Highway 64

Driving west on U. S. 64 last Wednesday evening, James D. Bullock, RFD 1, Stokes, slowed down to allow a car in front of him to make a left turn into the Prison Camp Road and Carlos D. Crowe, of Newton, plowed into the rear of Bullock's 1947 Ford.

Investigating the minor accident, Patrolman M. F. Powers said that very little damage was done to the Ford, that repairs on the Dodge coupe driven by Crowe would cost \$100 or more.

TOBACCO CARDS

The office of the county agent this week issued a call for tobacco marketing cards, explaining that the farmers' card is to be checked against the warrants issued at the warehouse.

Only a few hundred farmers in the county have not returned their cards so far, it was learned.

Minor Accident On County Road

No one was hurt and no great damage resulted when a truck and a car sideswiped each other near Holly Springs Methodist Church on Highway 64 last Thursday evening at 6:15 o'clock.

The truck, driven by Caesar Purvis and owned by the Williamston Peanut Company, was traveling toward Williamston, and the car, a 1946 Mercury owned by Oliver Peel of Dardens and driven by Romas Hiwatha Cordon, also of Dardens, was traveling toward Jamesville when they sideswiped.

Damage to the car was estimated at \$120 by Patrolman J. T. Rowe who made the investigation. Little or no damage was done to the truck.

Red Cross Busy Handling Cases

Although far removed from the sensationalism offered by storms, floods and other catastrophes, work of the Red Cross goes on behind the public scene right here in the Martin County Chapter.

Reviewing the work handled by the chapter last month, the newly elected chairman said that twenty-three cases involving service to war veterans and their families were cared for during the period along with aid extended nine servicemen and their families.

Financial assistance in the amount of \$261.71 was extended to a helpless group of migrant workers when their truck was wrecked and one of their number was killed and several others injured.

Unfortunately direct aid is necessarily limited to disabled veterans and their dependents, and dependents of deceased servicemen and veterans during the period pending adjudication of the first application to the Veterans' Administration for service-connected disability or service-connected death benefits.

Theatre To Award Bike At Show Friday Morning

The new Super DeLuxe bicycle which is being displayed in front of The Viccar Theatre will be awarded to some lucky boy or girl attending the special Christmas show for children only on Friday morning, December 24.

Doors will open at 9:30 a. m. and regular admission prices will be charged. There will be gifts and favors for everyone.

Officers Wreck Still In County On Friday

Declaring that business is slower than usual on the illicit liquor manufacturing front, ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck is finding stills few and far between. Raiding on a little island in Collier Swamp in Robersonville Township last Friday, the officer and his assistant, Deputy Roy Peel, wrecked a 30-gallon copper kettle and poured out 250 gallons of beer.

Load About 30,000 Pounds Of Foods

Brief Dedication Service Being Held at Railroad Station Tuesday

Approximately 30,000 pounds of foods and farm produce have been loaded in the Friendship Train car in this county and it will be dedicated at a special service Tuesday morning at 9:00 o'clock with the several ministers taking part.

The people of the county responded splendidly to the call, and the canvassers worked hard and succeeded in their task.

Complete figures of the loading could not be had immediately, but the deliveries include about 23,000 pounds of shelled corn, about a dozen 100-pound bags of shelled peanuts, five of which were donated by the Williamston Peanut Company.

Williamston firms and individuals contributed over \$300 in cash in addition to dozens of cases of canned milk and other foods.

All the townships in the county came across with liberal gifts, Poplar Point possibly leading with the largest poundage for the smaller districts.

Volunteers, although few in number, worked willingly in sorting, packing and loading the food Thursday and Friday nights.

The special train is moving out of Salisbury this week but the car in this county will be shipped by regular freight direct to the port in Norfolk for reshipment overseas.

Religious organizations will handle the distribution overseas with much of the food going to orphanages and agencies trying to hold bodies and souls of millions of war victims together.

The chairman, Messrs. Jesse Sumner and Mayo Little, did a splendid job in this county and they were ably aided by township volunteers and canvassers.

New School Units Almost Completed

Construction work on three new school units in this county is almost completed, but it is likely that occupancy will be delayed pending the delivery of radiators.

It was also learned that the plumbing work has not been completed, but the new units, one at Robersonville and one at Williamston, could be used if the radiators could be made ready.

Aside from the heating and plumbing, the contractors are applying the finishing touches to the structures.

The addition at Bear Grass is costing \$34,815; the one at Williamston is costing \$49,310, and the lunchroom at Robersonville is costing \$13,942 exclusive of plumbing, wiring and heating which the county is handling.

SUGGESTION

If anyone has exhausted his wits and worn his patience to a frazzle seeking a gift for a friend or a relative, the publishers suggest a subscription to The Enterprise as a year-long gift.