

Find Limited Supply Of Potatoes for Seed

Farmers Urged To Place Orders For Seed Immediately

Discuss Sweet Potato Market At Farm Bureau Meeting Friday Evening

A limited supply of certified sweet potato seed has been located and will be made available to Martin County farmers on a first-come, first-served basis, it was learned at a meeting of the Martin Farm Bureau sweet potato committee in the office of the farm agent Monday afternoon.

Approximately 500 bushels of certified Porto Rican sweet potato seed of the Louisiana strain were located during a two-day search conducted by Committee Members Heman U. Peel, Henry Peel and M. M. Levin. The potatoes may be had for \$4 a bushel plus trucking charges which will run between 10 and 15 cents a bushel.

The Farm Bureau committee made arrangements with the office of the farm agent to accept orders. A deposit of \$1 will be asked when the order is received and payment of the remainder on delivery the latter part of March or early April.

It was pointed out that orders must be placed immediately, a member of the committee explaining that the dealer would make no definite promises, but tentatively agreed not to make any commitment before the latter part of this week.

There is a marked shortage of certified seed in this part of the country, reports stating that much of the crop will have to be planted from seed not certified.

The 500 bushels of seed potatoes inspected by members of the Farm Bureau committee are in excellent shape and are of the best quality. And the price is the lowest listed. It is estimated that the same type of seed would cost \$6 a bushel delivered direct from Louisiana.

Farmers interested in producing potatoes and supporting an established market are asked to contact the office of the county agent without delay and place their orders.

Plans are still going forward for the establishment of a recognized market in the county. The project will be discussed more in detail at a meeting of the Martin County Farm Bureau to be held in the courthouse on Friday evening of this week at 7:30 o'clock. All farmers whether Farm Bureau members or not, are urged to attend the meeting.

Unemployment Is Gaining In State

The Employment Security Commission in North Carolina is enlarging its staff considerably in order to handle more efficiently the tremendous increase in job applications and claims for unemployment benefits.

That the officials of this agency are of the opinion the present wave of unemployment is temporary is shown by the fact that the additional help is being employed on a month-to-month basis.

However, officials of ESC refuse to predict how long the unemployment trend will continue. They only know they are "flooded with claims" for benefits and that their work is approximately 100 percent greater than six months ago.

Bear Grass Ruritans To Stage Big Minstrel

The Bear Grass Ruritan Club members are presenting the Black Diamond Minstrel Revue in the school auditorium there Friday evening of this week. The biggest entertainment feature ever offered, the show features a two-act comedy with specialties.

General Assembly Labors And Brings Forth Tiny Mouse

House Kills Inspection Law As First Tangible Act In Six Weeks

After laboring for six weeks the lower house of the North Carolina General Assembly last week brought forth a tiny mouse in the form of a voice vote against the motor vehicle inspection law. While the particular law was dealt a severe if not a killing blow, it is yet to face action in the upper chamber, and until action is taken there the law continues in effect. Reports from Raleigh state that while many of the legislators admit privately the law is a good one they turned and voted to kill it.

While the present trend points to eventual death of the inspection law, there is still some talk that the present law will be retained in altered form.

Other legislative activities covered by Greenwood's Raleigh Round-up:

A subcommittee of the two Finance Committees has been appointed to look into the matter of putting a tax on cooperatives similar to that collected from corporations. The Department of Tax Research has made a thorough study of cooperatives—as instructed to do—during the past two years. Its opinion is that a tax on cooperatives would not yield over \$50,000 per year in revenue to the State. However, it is apparent that cooperatives do not want any new form of taxation whatever. Willard L. Dowell, executive vice president and secretary of the N. C. Merchants Association and a constant thorn in the flesh of the co-ops, pointed out in a private hearing before the sub-committee last week that his organization has no fight whatever with marketing cooperatives or with any cooperative which is not selling merchandise in competition with regular merchants. The merchants merely want those cooperatives which sell the same type of merchandise the merchants sell to pay the same taxes they are paying. They want that and nothing more.

If the cooperative leaders were smart, they would submit to—in fact, request—that a tax be placed on them. It would not cost them over \$50,000. This would be an excellent public relations move. It would to a great extent remove the shroud of suspicion which now lies over the cooperatives. If this is not done, the controversy will continue through this Legislature and into succeeding Legislatures.

Larry Moore of Wilson and Grady Rankin of Gastonia, chairman of the House and Senate Finance Committees, said last week their groups are waiting for Governor Scott to send forth bills to increase taxes with which to carry out his "go forward" program. On Friday afternoon, Governor Scott said it is up to the legislators to draw up the tax bills. However, they feel this way about it:

The Advisory Budget filed a balanced budget with the General Assembly calling for a 20 percent increase in salaries for all personnel, including school teachers. This is all the more so since it can be had from funds on hand and revenue expected to come into the State Treasury within the next two years. Any further increases will have to come from new taxes.

Since not one member of the Legislature was elected on a platform (Continued on page eight)

To Receive Bids For Car In Post Office

Proposals will be received at the office of the postmaster, Williamston, until March 1, 1949, for the hire of a motor vehicle without driver on an hourly basis for use in collecting, delivering and relaying mail during the quarter ending June 30, 1949.

The owner of the vehicle will be required to keep it in satisfactory condition at all times and to bear all necessary expense in connection with the operation and maintenance of same.

Blank on which to submit proposals will be furnished on application to the postmaster.

Epileptic Bound As Hog In Home, No Room In Asylum

While North Carolina's premium legislature feuds and fusses in Raleigh, subjects fit for treatment in the asylums are still being bound as hogs in Martin County, according to reports reaching here last week-end. And those legislators who were going to do something about the shameful conditions surrounding the care or lack of care for the mentally ill have come forth with the insulting proposition to allow the counties \$2 a day for the keep of the mentally ill. Those legislators who were going to Raleigh and set the place on fire have now been home several week-ends for more matches and up until this minute they have not kindled a small fire. Disgusting!

The unfortunate soul in this county is subject to epileptic attacks. When he has those attacks, and he has them frequently, he would be bound and tied as one

would tie a hog. That manner of treatment was provided until his old daddy died two or three weeks ago. His mother tried to continue the treatment, barbaric as it was, but she fell victim of a stroke. No word has been received from the application for admittance to a State institution.

There was talk about relieving the condition by occupying Camp Sutton near Monroe. That died aborning and the pressure was never relieved. Now, the good legislators are talking about using Camp Butler to relieve the pressure. There's too everlastingly much talk and not enough action. More than one person has vowed he'll work with all his power and might against any and all candidates for re-election another year unless something is done to help wipe the shame and disgrace from the face of the great State of North Carolina.

Urge Growers To Promote Cigaret Quality Tobacco

Bright Color and Uniform Leaf Will Compete Better In Foreign Markets

The Tobacco Associates Report for January has pointed out that fine-cured growers should give more attention to the production of cigarette quality tobacco "if we are to capitalize on advantages we now have in taste and aroma and to meet the domestic and foreign demand for U. S. tobacco that will make good uniform cigarettes."

"Farmers have a much larger stake in the production of cigarette quality (tobacco) than is generally realized," the report continued.

"Talks with representatives of domestic manufacturers and the foreign trade reveal that they want a tobacco that carries these properties: (1) low nicotine content; (2) high sugar content; (3) light body; (4) bright color; (5) porous and fluffy texture, and (6) a clean and merchantable product."

J. B. Hutson, Tobacco Associates President, in a statement from Paris, France—one of his stops during a just-completed survey of the European tobacco situation—outlined estimates by the Organization for European Economic Co-operation of dollar requirements under the European Recovery Program for the year beginning July 1, 1949, and ending June 30, 1950.

"Tobacco consumption for 1949-50 is estimated at 107 percent of that of the current 1948-49 year," Hutson reported. "From the dollar areas tobacco requirements are estimated at \$190,000,000 for 1949-50 as compared with \$115,000,000 for 1948-49. From non-dollar areas requirements are estimated at the equivalent of \$49,000,000 as compared with \$39,000,000 for the current year, making a total of \$239,000,000 for the coming year, as compared with \$204,000,000 for 1948-49."

"As has been pointed out previously, stocks of American tobacco in Europe will be low on July 1, 1949, because more tobacco is being used than is being imported this year."

In urging the production of more cigarette quality tobacco, Tobacco Associates emphasized that dealers advise growers to aim (Continued on page eight)

ROUND-UP

For the second time in a row there was little activity on the crime front in this county last week-end. Only five persons were arrested and detained in the county jail, three for being publicly drunk, one for drunken driving and one for non-support.

Two of the five were white and the ages of the group ranged from 29 to 38 years.

Officers were called to investigate a shooting in Dardens, but no arrests were made when it was learned the shooting was accidental.

Several Hurt In Series Of Wrecks In Past Few Days

Suffering Broken Leg. Victim Removed To Hospital For Treatment Saturday

Several persons were injured, one of them badly, in a series of automobile accidents on county highways and town streets over the week-end, according to information coming from members of the State Highway Patrol.

His right leg broken and suffering bruises and shock, Tom Mobley, 69-year-old white man of Robersonville Township, was removed to a Greenville hospital for treatment. Last reports stated he was responding to treatment. Mobley, a cripple, was walking along Robersonville's main street near the town limits on N. C. Highway 903 about 7:30 Saturday evening and reportedly stepped into the streets and in front of a car driven by a young colored man. Officers, investigating the accident were quoted as saying that the accident was unavoidable on the part of the driver.

The second in the series of accidents was reported at the big pine on the newly surfaced Smithwick's Creek and Griffins Township Road about 10:00 o'clock last Saturday night. Driving from Farm Life, Richard Eugene Rogers, said he emerged from a fog bank, that he was right on the big pine before he saw it. Running about 35 or 40 miles an hour, the 19-year-old University of North Carolina student home for the week-end, said he applied brakes and skidded about 25 feet into the tree, throwing his companion, Miss Mary Dean Hardison, into the dash board and windshield. Breaking the windshield with her head, Miss Hardison was painfully but not badly cut about the face and suffered bruises and shock. Mr. Rogers was not hurt. Miss Hardison was treated in the local hospital and was able to return to her work with an electric firm here yesterday morning.

The investigation was made by Patrolmen Simmons, Rowe and Powers, and damage to the 1948 sedan was estimated at \$200.

Driving his 1947 convertible Chevrolet from Oak City toward Bethel on N. C. Highway 11 about 6:45 Sunday evening, Ernest Purvis lost control and the machine turned over twice on a curve about six miles out of Oak City near Council's station. It was reported that the victim was unable to walk from the scene of the accident, but following treatment in the Ward clinic at Robersonville he recovered quickly from shock and appeared to be all right. Making the investigation, Patrolmen D. E. Perry of Bethel and R. P. Narron of Oak City estimated the damage to the car at \$300.

Boy Accidentally Shot At Dardens

The 15-year-old Cleophas Rogers was painfully but not critically hurt when he was accidentally shot by Roosevelt James, 26-year-old colored man, at Dardens late Sunday afternoon. Making an investigation, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck learned the shooting was accidental and no arrest was made.

James and the Rogers boy were trying to get a bullet out of a cheap pistol when the weapon accidentally fired. The bullet struck the boy in front and followed a rib partly around his body. The bullet was removed from the boy's side by a Plymouth doctor and the victim was able to return home.

The two were messing with the pistol in the little store of the Rogers boy's father.

Suffers Broken Hip In Fall Friday Morning

Mrs. Sam Lilley suffered a broken hip and other injuries, possibly a fractured shoulder, in a fall on a porch at her home in Griffins Township last Friday morning. She was removed to a Washington hospital in a Biggs ambulance soon after first aid treatment was administered. Late reports stated she was getting along as well as could be expected.

ALMOST

Williamston's squatty new four-room school house is almost ready for occupancy, but a definite moving date has not been mentioned.

Tentatively scheduled for early last fall, occupancy was delayed for one reason or another month after month and then the radiators went astray between Buffalo and here, again delaying the opening of the building. The radiators reached here last week and workmen immediately started the installation job.

\$10,000 Barn Fire Near Here Friday

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed the large two-story packhouse and stables belonging to James Aaron Hassell, colored farmer, near here on the old Williamston-Bear Grass road early last Friday night. The loss was estimated at \$10,000 or \$12,000 with less than \$1,000 insurance in force.

Members of the family had already retired for the night, but one of them happened to glance out the window and see the reflection of the fire light. At that time the fire was burning at a corner, but by the time Hassell and others of the family could get to the barn the fire had spread to every corner, blocking all attempts to save the two \$400 mules, \$400 worth of fertilizer, 200 barrels of corn, 300 bales of hay, and a complete set of farming implements, including plows, peanut digger and various tools.

It is possible that the building was fired, but not certain, Hassell would not comment on that score.

Last Payday For Legislators Near

Those members of the General Assembly who have been receiving their pay at the end of each day's session will find themselves on the State payroll a week from Saturday.

North Carolina legislators are paid \$600 for the term, as provided by the State Constitution. However, many of them are being forced this year to take advantage of an enabling act which permits any member who wishes to draw \$10.00 at the end of the day's work. The Legislature will end its 60 days on March 5. Thus, technically, the solons will receive no pay after that day. The Constitution provides that members of the Legislature will receive the \$600 and whether they stay in session for two days or two years makes not the slightest difference.

Some of the members, and this is particularly true in the Senate, wait until adjournment of the session before receiving their pay.

Enters Durham Hospital Last Week For Treatment

Suffering severe headaches for several days, Mr. Bill Spivey left last week-end for Duke Hospital after his condition became aggravated Thursday night.

Open \$100,000 Feed Mill Here This Week

SPECIAL DAYS-WEEKS

According to the U. S. Department of Commerce's reference service, we are now in the middle of Brotherhood Week, but with all the wrangling in Washington and Raleigh, and other places, too, it would appear to be a week without brotherhood. Today, some few are observing George Washington's birthday, stressing the holiday feature.

There's little activity of a special nature scheduled for the remainder of the week, but a big one is in the offing with Red Cross Sunday scheduled for the first day.

Preliminary Test Made At \$100,000 Plant Last Week

Business Owned And Operated by W. O. Abbutt and W. W. Gurganus

Nearly two years in the building, the \$100,000 Martin Feed Mill was placed in operation by the owners, W. O. Abbutt and William W. Gurganus this week just out of Williamston in West End. Preliminary tests were made a few days ago and final arrangements were completed for scheduled activities yesterday.

House in a three-story 40 by 100 foot building, the plant is one of the most modern in the country and has an eight-hour capacity of approximately 100 tons, Mr. Abbutt said.

Especially designed to fit into this section's agricultural picture, the plant is certain to figure in an expanded activity on the farm front in Martin and surrounding counties. It promises to be a main cog in the expansion of dairying activities in the section and will help support hog production and poultry raising on a larger scale.

In addition to manufacturing premium formula feeds for any needs, the plant will do custom mixing. Mr. Abbutt explained that the mill will grind the farmer's corn, peanut hay, soy beans, oats, corn, wheat or rye according to what the farmer wants. "If the farmer wants a ton of peanut hay ground into feed and mixed with molasses to make it palatable, we can do it for a nominal cost," the senior member of the firm said. He added that a farmer may deliver, say 1,300 pounds of corn in the truck, and have it mixed with proper concentrates to make a ton of premium feed at a nominal charge plus the actual cost of the ingredients furnished by the mill.

It was also explained that the plant is prepared to handle any farm feed items and convert it into any type of finished product desired by the farmer for feed purposes. "We can crack the farmer's corn into scratch feed or we can mix it with concentrates to make broiler mash, starter mash, grower mash, laying mash, breeder mash."

Entering the regular market with the Martin Brand, the mill will offer premium feeds prepared in strict accordance with formulas prepared by Barker's laboratories in Philadelphia and those of Borden in New York and approved by the State Department of Agriculture.

Starting operations this week, the plant had in storage over 6,000 bushels of corn and large quantities of oats, wheat, rye, concentrates, including special vitamins and minerals. The mill will sack its feeds in special sacks of print cloth or in regular bags, or if the farmer when having custom mixing done may furnish his own bags and the additional \$7.50 per ton on his feed.

Modern in every detail, the plant, in addition to grinding and mixing feeds, cleans the feed before it is ground, storing the refuse in bags inside the building. (Continued on page eight)

Many Entries In Fat Hog Show Already Listed

Animals Do Not Have To Be Purebred Stock To Qualify For Prizes, and Sales

Nearly a dozen adult farmers in Martin County have listed about half a hundred hogs for entry in the fat hog show to be held here May 13 along with the 4-H fat stock show. Assistant County Agent D. W. Brady announced last week-end.

Mr. Brady pointed out that any fat hog which meets weight specifications can be entered in the show and sold during the sale that follows the show whether it is a purebred, mixed breed or cross-breed. He said that some farmers had gotten the idea that they could not enter their hogs in the show and offer them at the sale unless they were of purebred stock. There is no rule concerning breeding.

The weight groups for this show will be from 180 to 240 pounds and from 240 to 270 pounds. These weight limitations must be adhered to but hogs may be grouped and shown as follows in both weight groups: as an individual, as a pen of 3 hogs, as a pen of 5 hogs and as a pen of 10 hogs.

Prizes totaling \$338.00 will be offered and D. M. Roberson with whom plans for the show were worked out, has announced that he will be allowed to pay at least \$1.00 per hundred pounds above market price for all the hogs qualifying for the show and sale. Mr. Roberson would handle the hogs through Roberson's Slaughter House in Williamston, of which he is operator.

The Grand Champion hog will be the individual hog placing first and a prize of \$5.00 will be given for this animal. The Reserve Champion will be the individual hog that places second and a prize of \$3.00 will be awarded this winner.

An entrance fee of \$1.00 per hog will be charged each person entering hogs which will be used for prize money. In the event of only one entry in a class the eligibility of placement for prize will be left to the discretion of the judge. A screen test by competent authorities will determine the eligibility of all animals for entry in the show. The reason for this is to keep any animals from entering (Continued on page eight)

Debate Medical Insurance Plan

Dr. Morris Fishbein, editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association, Senator H. Alexander Smith of New Jersey, Federal Security Administrator Oscar Ewing and Walter Reuther, president of the United Automobile Workers, will debate the national compulsory health insurance plan on "America's Town Meeting of the Air" over the American Broadcasting Network tonight at 8:30 o'clock.

The topic is a timely one and, no doubt, will interest everyone.

Store To Honor Its Personnel

Colonial Stores, Inc., will honor the entire personnel of twenty-nine of its 367 stores in five states this week, celebrating the close of its \$20,000 "Best Performance Contest," it was announced by the company management here yesterday.

One of the twenty-four dinners planned by the firm will be held in the George Reynolds Hotel here tomorrow evening and will attract district officials, all local personnel and special guests.

The work of the personnel will be recognized in a message from Scott W. Allen, of Atlanta, president.