



Tomatoes Boost County Income \$4,611,901 In Five Years

\$2,375.89 Average Per Acre During Past 5 Years

INCREASE IN AUTO LICENSE SALES REPORTED

Mrs. Margaret Ramsey, local automobile license clerk, stated this week that this year's auto and truck license sales were larger than at this time last year.

As of January 13, this year's sales were numbered at 1,154. At the same time last year, 1,074 tags had been sold.

Mrs. Ramsey expressed appreciation at the fine response and urged motorists to purchase their tags as soon as possible to avoid the last-minute rush. Deadline for purchasing licenses is February 15.

Office hours here are from 9:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m. except from 1:00-2:00 for lunch. On Saturdays the local office, located on Lower Bridge Street, is open from 9:00 a. m. to 12:00 noon.

Jan Peerce, Tenor, To Sing Sunday In Asheville

One of the world's most popular opera stars — tenor Jan Peerce — will appear in Asheville on Sunday evening, January 19, with the Asheville Symphony Orchestra instead of Saturday evening, January 18 as scheduled. Single admission and memberships are available through the Symphony Office or may be gotten at the City Auditorium box office one hour before concert time at eight fifteen o'clock Sunday evening. The City Auditorium box office will be open from 10:00 to 5:00 on Friday, January 17 for the Jan Peerce concert.

THE ANSWER

If you have a problem to solve, remember that hard work is the best solvent of all.

Courthouse Offices To Start Closing On Saturdays Soon

TO SIGN FOR MARS HILL GRID SQUAD

Kenny Sherrill, All District 7AA center at West Wilkes High in North Wilkesboro, has been signed to an athletic grant-in-aid at Mars Hill College. Sheriff is the first grinder to sign with the rebuilding Lions for the coming year. Mars Hill College was without football this past year and is re-entering the program under the direction of Dal Shealy as head coach.

"We are pleased to have Kenny join us at Mars Hill," stated Shealy. "With our program just getting under way again we feel he will have ample opportunity to develop his great potential as an offensive center. There is always room for a boy who is fundamentally sound as Kenny."

Kenny, whose father is the Rev. Charles G. Sherrill, lettered all four years in high school and has been a starter for three years. He is also an outstanding defensive tackle, making him doubly valuable as a 5', 205, lineman.

"Kenny is only the first of what we hope will prove to be several players from the area to sign with the Lions," continued Shealy. "I don't believe there is another school in the country that can offer a determined athlete a better opportunity to play college football today than Mars Hill College."

\$2,000,000.00 Per Year Is Prospect If Potential Growers Produced

By HARRY G. SILVER, County Extension Agent

Production and marketing of trilled tomatoes has added \$4,611,901.00 to the economy of Madison County during the past five years. Farmers during this five year period received \$3,057,770.00 as net sales for their tomatoes. Madison tomato growers sold 300 acres of tomatoes during the 1968 season for a gross value of \$1,202,230.00 before marketing charges. Net checks to the growers equaled \$830,808.00, an average of \$2,769.36 per acre.

Outlook for fresh tomatoes is good in 1969. A greater portion of the money spent for tomatoes by American consumers could come to Madison County farmers. Madison farmers have averaged taking home \$2,375.89 for each acre of tomatoes they produced during the past five years. Production and marketing of tomatoes vary each year with the season and demand. The 1964 season resulted in a low per acre income of \$1,671.20 and the 1966 season in comparison yielded \$3,341.70.

Many farm families of Madison County have an excellent opportunity to increase their income. A family that has time which is not being utilized, a willingness to work, and a desire to do better should consider tomato production. A SUPERIOR job in tomatoes will yield a farm family \$1,000 for 3/10 acre of tomatoes almost any year!

There is no allotment on vine-ripened tomatoes in Madison County. There is no membership fees to any tomato marketing facility in the county. There is room for you. Madison farmers could be receiving \$2,000,000 per year for tomatoes if the 1,200 potential growers were all producing tomatoes.

Any farmer interested in tomato production is urged to visit the County Extension Office in Marshall.

Masons To Meet Saturday Evening

French Broad Masonic Lodge will hold an Emergent Communication on Saturday, January 18, for the purpose of conferring the Master Mason Degree.

The Lodge will open at 6:00 p. m., and confer the first section; a Buffet Supper will be served at 6:30 p. m., and the second section will follow the supper.

LET OTHERS TALK

Those who have the ability to do things well can afford to let others do the talking.

RED CROSS AREA MEETING HERE ON JANUARY 28

The Madison County-Asheville Area Chapter, American Red Cross, will meet at 3:00 p. m. January 28, at the REA Building in Marshall, to hold its annual business meeting. In addition to the treasurer's report and adoption of the 1969 budget, there will be short reports from the various Red Cross services.

Mr. Ellis Fysal of the Asheville Area Chapter will address the meeting.

The public is invited to attend.

IRS Urges Use Of Preaddressed Form

Greensboro — Taxpayers who received a 1968 Form 1040A or a Form 1040 with a preaddressed label on it are urged to file that form if it fits their needs and they are eligible to use it.

J. E. Wall, District Director of Internal Revenue for North Carolina, said today that substantial savings will be realized if the form provided is used because fewer key-punch operations are necessary to process the return. "It also helps us utilize the full capabilities for which the Automatic Data Processing system was designed," he said.

If your name or address has changed, make the necessary corrections and strike through lightly the preprinted information. If you have a refund due, this will help insure delivery of the check to the correct address.

Taxpayers should also verify that their correct social security number is entered on the return they file.

The filing deadline for 1968 tax returns is April 15, 1969.

SAM QUEEN, 80, SQUARE DANCE KING IS SLAIN

Man He Befriended Being Held; Rites Held Monday

Dancing man Sam L. Queen Sr., 80, Haywood County's most colorful citizen, died early Saturday afternoon after being shot about 12:15 a. m. during a robbery allegedly by a man he had befriended and taken into his home.

Queen, known as "King of the Square Dancers" and one of the last of an old-time breed, died at 6:50 p. m., in an Asheville hospital after being shot in the left eye in his Dellwood home bedroom while trying to disarm a man who sought to rob him and his wife.

In Haywood County jail is Johnson Locust, 23, a native of Cherokee, who has been charged with murder, armed robbery, auto theft and assault by pointing a gun, according to Haywood County Sheriff Jack Arrington.

Locust was arrested in the Birdtown section of Cherokee after a flight across Soco Mountain and a chase involving numerous law officers and bloodhounds, Arrington said.

Queen operated a dude ranch and motel, in addition to Queen Farm in the Dellwood section. Swain County Sheriff Vincent Gasaway said that Queen bailed Locust out of jail there last week and put him to work at his place in Dellwood.

Gasaway said Locust had been jailed on charges of auto theft and assault.

Queen danced away a fortune before he learned that square dancing was nothing more than fun.

The crowning point in his career was a command performance for a king and his queen — the (Continued to Last Page)

S. A. RAMSEY, 92, PASSES; RITES IN WALNUT SAT.

Operated Walnut Supply Company For 56 Years; Bank Director

Sherman A. Ramsey, 92, of Walnut, died at 2 a. m., Wednesday, January 15, 1969 at the home of his nurse in West Asheville, after a brief illness.

Mr. Ramsey, a lifelong resident of Madison County, operated the Walnut Supply Co. for 56 years until his retirement. He was a member of the board of Citizens Bank of Marshall and Planters Tobacco Warehouse of Greenville, Tenn. He attended the old Weaver College at Weaverville.

Surviving are a sister, Mrs. Grover C. Brown of Weaverville; and several nieces and nephews.

Services will be held at 10:30 a. m., Saturday in Walnut Presbyterian Church.

The Rev. William Diehl, the Rev. George Moore, the Rev. Joseph Reeves and the Rev. H. B. Dendy will officiate. Burial will be in Bowman-Rector Cemetery.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a. m., Saturday in Walnut Presbyterian Church.

Friends will be received by the family from 7 to 9 o'clock Friday night at the funeral home.

FIRST

The first automobile license plate for 1969 sold at the Motor Vehicles Building in Raleigh went to Ivey Lloyd Htyars, Route 2, Raleigh.

Opportunity Corp. Ouster Voted By Big Sandy Mush

OEO Questions Action; Says There Has Been Reversal

People of the Big Sandy Mush community have asked the Opportunity Corp. of Madison-Buncombe Counties to discontinue its program on their behalf and move out of the area.

"They used the community as a front to squander government funds and the people here got tired of it," said Thomas J. Brown of Leicester Rt. 2, president of the Big Sandy Mush Community Development Club.

Brown said Big Sandy Mush families voted by an approximately 4-1 margin to disassociate themselves from the Opportunity Corp.

He said the meeting was held in Sandy Mush School building with Opportunity Corp. officials, including executive Director, Hugh Lasseter, in attendance.

Brown charged that the Opportunity Corp., "came in here three years ago, made a lot of promises and never fulfilled any of them."

LASSETER STATEMENT

The executive director of the Opportunity Corporation of Madison-Buncombe Counties said Monday that he had been led to believe a Jan. 8 vote against anti-poverty program in the Big Sandy Mush community was the result of "considerable pressure upon residents to vote in opposition to the program."

R. Hugh Lasseter, who heads the two-county agency, said the 89-9 vote against the program was a reversal of a vote on the same question taken at a meeting Nov. 25 when 32 persons voted for the Opportunity Corporation to remain in the area and no vote was

cast in opposition.

Lasseter indicated there is a possibility that the question of coercion may be investigated by the Office of Economic Opportunity. He said he had not requested an investigation but had submitted a full report to the Regional Office in Washington and had been advised that it would be studied by the OEO legal counsel in an effort to determine whether there had been a violation.

Lasseter said that prior to the second meeting of Sandy Mush residents, he had received a number of telephone calls in which fear was expressed that the program would be discontinued and that undue pressure would be exerted to obtain a vote against the Opportunity Corporation's program.

He said he understood that "some of this pressure was brought to bear in regard to people being told they would lose their jobs and be forced to move from rented property unless they voted in opposition to the program."

Lasseter said he had not been able to "tie down whether there were threats of physical violence."

The Opportunity Corporation director said the situation in regard to the Big Sandy Mush program came to his attention when certain problems arose over joint use of the Sandy Mush school building.

Lasseter said the second meeting was held after Brown had stated in a meeting with Lasseter and T. C. Roberson, superintendent of Buncombe County schools, that the first meeting had not given a fair picture of what the community felt because some residents living outside the Old Mason agreement which would be

fair to all.

Lasseter said his efforts to follow this suggestion were unsuccessful and that Thomas J. Brown, president of the Community Development Club, had told him it was the desire of the people that the Opportunity Corporation move from the community and cease its operation.

Lasseter said he told Brown it was not the policy of the Opportunity Corporation to operate programs in communities where they were not desired since there were many neighborhoods which would be happy to receive the services being given Big Sandy Mush, but insisted that the people be given an opportunity to express their desire.

Lasseter quoted Brown as saying that "the people would not attend such a meeting and if they did, they would not express their opinions."

He said a meeting was held, however, in the Sandy Mush school building Nov. 26 and that 26 persons voted in favor of the program and none against it. He said that after Mrs. H. Q. Clark had stated that many of those present were not from Sandy Mush, a second vote was taken and that 32 persons voted for the Opportunity Corporation to stay and no one voted in opposition, although Brown was present at the meeting.

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Taylor Would Repeal New Ammunition Law

Says Bookkeeping, Time Involved For Sales Is Burden On Dealers

WASHINGTON — Congressman Roy A. Taylor Monday introduced a bill to repeal restrictions placed on ammunition sales and purchases by the Firearms Control Act of 1968.

The 11th District Congressman said he has received numerous complaints from ammunition purchasers and sellers alike who feel that the ammunition record keeping provisions are "unwise, unnecessary and burdensome."

An opponent of the 1968 gun law, Taylor wants the 91st Congress to delete all references to ammunition for shotguns and rifles from the new control law.

As it now stands, licensed dealers for each sale must record the following information: date, ammunition manufacturer, calibre or gauge, quantity, purchaser's name, address, date of birth and mode of identification (such as driver's license, social security card, etc.)

Taylor observed that in some mountain areas hunters sometimes purchase only three or four shotgun shells, rather than a full box.

"Obviously, the bookkeeping and time involved for ammunition sales, large or small, is a burden and hardship on both dealers and purchasers," declared Taylor.

"It is causing some rural store operators to cease selling ammunition entirely, thereby inconveniencing hunters and sportsmen," Taylor said.

PACE PROGRAM BENEFICIAL TO YOUNG PEOPLE

Local Students Earn \$7,046 During Past Season

Last summer, 13 college students from Madison County worked in local public or private non-profit agencies or organizations under the PACE-I.N.C. program. PACE-I.N.C. is an acronym for Plan Assuring College Education — in North Carolina. This program is administered by the Division of Special Services, North Carolina State Department of Public Welfare.

PACE is a coordinating effort between the local high school guidance counselor, the local student's individual college, the local agency working the student, and the local volunteer PACE coordinating committee which places the student. Through PACE, these young men and women were able to work and perform a service to this county in local agencies and earn a large portion of their expenses to begin or continue their higher education.

During the summer of 1968, through PACE, students of Madison County earned approximately \$7,046.00 towards their education. (Continued To Last Page)

Adult Basic Education Classes Here Jan. 23

No Charge For Five Courses; Materials Free; At MHS

Madison County Schools and Asheville-Buncombe Technical Institute jointly announce classes in Adult Basic Education for all adults who have not finished their high school education or would like refresher work.

Classes will begin at Marshall High School, Thursday, January 23 at 7:00 p. m., and will continue weekly on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

All classes are free of charge and all materials will be furnished. Classes are available in English, Math, Social Studies, Science and Beginning Reading & Writing.

"Your decision to continue and improve your education would be a wise decision, as education is continually becoming more important in the age in which we live," Mrs. S. L. Nix said.

Those desiring further information may contact Mrs. S. L. Nix or call Marshall 649-4476.

Redmon Fined

Fred Redmon of Alexander was fined \$3,000 and costs by Superior Court Judge P. C. Fromberger Tuesday, after a jury found him guilty of felonious assault on J. L. Pike Jr., on Nov. 4, 1967. A two-year sentence was suspended.

The \$3,000 is to be paid to Pike for his injuries, which included a broken arm and a cut across the abdomen which required 14 stitches.

The fight took place at a turkey shoot on Redmon's property. Pike intervened when Redmon was in an argument with another man. Redmon wielded his knife, then hit Pike with a shotgun. He pleaded self defense.

REFORM

Lots of girls would make better wives if they weren't trying to make better husbands.

SHELL FUNDS ARE AWARDED TO MARS HILL

The Shell Companies Foundation Inc., will contribute \$1,500 to Mars Hill College as part of a record 1969 budget announced Wednesday by the foundation.

In announcing the area school's participating in the \$2.96 million budget, O. W. Brauss, Charlotte district manager for Shell Oil Co., said Mars Hill College will receive a Shell assist and is one of seven institutions in North Carolina to be awarded Shell donations.

Brauss pointed out that the new budget is some \$300,000 more than the 1968 contributions. Once again, heavy emphasis is placed on aid to education. Continuing recognition of the foundation concern for developing highly qualified men and women is reflected in the \$1.88 million budgeted for this purpose.

Shell assists are budgeted for 200 privately controlled colleges at the undergraduate level. These \$1500 payments provide assistance to institutions for important "little things" for the professional development of college faculty members.

November Bond Sales In County Total \$11,683

Cash sales of Bonds and Freedom Shares in Madison County for November were \$11,683. January-November sales totaled \$148,161. This represents 71.8 percent of Madison County's goal of \$206,400, according to C. L. Riddell Jr., Madison County Chairman.