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Opening Day Burley Sales Set Records

Opening day sales broke several records as burley tobacco auctions began Monday in Asheville, Boone, West Jefferson and Greenville, Tenn. Sales were reported heavy in all markets. Officials reported total sales reached the maximum allowed for one day in all markets.

Asheville markets reported an opening day average price of \$1.85 per pound. Boone also reported average prices of \$1.85 while Boone reported an average sale price of \$1.80. Warehouse men in Greenville reported an average sale price of \$1.90 per pound.

One Asheville warehouse said very little tobacco was going into the stabilization program. One auctioneer said he was surprised at the high prices being paid on the opening day of the sales. The summer's drought reduced what was thought to be a small crop, prompting the increased demand for top quality tobacco.

One buyer told The News Record, "We'll pay top dollar for tobacco that's prepared for market this year." As was the case last year, buyers were bidding on both bales

and tobacco tied in bundles. "We don't really care how it set on the floor, so long as its been properly cured", the buyer said.

Charles Day of Day's Warehouse said, "I've never seen such high prices. I'm completely delighted for the farmer. They deserve a good year." Those sentiments were repeated by Monk Owen, owner of the Dixie Big Burley Warehouse in Asheville. "I've never seen farmers so happy" he said.

Asheville markets reported sales of 983,237 pounds on opening day for a total sale price of \$1,823,517.49. Boone reported sales of 402,013 pounds and total sales of \$745,737.47. West Jefferson reported sales of 35,060 pounds for \$606,074.16. Complete figures for sales at Greenville warehouses were unavailable.

The warehouses will remain open through Wednesday, with sales closed Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving Day holiday. Auction sales will resume next Monday morning.

Total burley production for this year is projected at 543 million pounds, well below last year.



WAREHOUSEMEN EXAMINE Planter's Warehouse in Asheville stacks of burley tobacco at Monday morning.

Madison Farmers Eligible For Emergency Loans

Madison County farmers may receive emergency loans for farm-related expenses from the Farmers Home Administration. Madison was one of 25 North Carolina counties recently designated natural disaster areas by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture John R. Brock. Earlier, Brock had designated 55 North Carolina counties eligible as a result of crop losses brought about by the summer drought. Counties designated natural disaster areas suffered at least a 30 percent loss of crop production.

According to Larry Godwin,

state director of the USDA's Farmers Home Administration, the designation makes the county's farmers eligible for FmHA emergency loans to minimize the effects of the crop losses.

Godwin said, "Farmers who are interested in receiving an emergency loan should get their applications in to FmHA as soon as possible after they have completed harvesting their crops. We intend to respond as quickly as possible to all applications and hopefully can avoid backlogs and delays of applications that come in early."

The emergency loan funds may be used for essential farm-related expenses such as cash operating expenses, critical term loan payments, family living expenses and similar uses that will insure the continuance of the farm's operation on a sound and profitable basis.

Applications for the disaster emergency loans are filed in county FmHA offices. The Madison County office is located on Main Street in Marshall.

Small Business Loans Available

Madison County is also one of 25 North Carolina counties eligible for Economic Injury Disaster Loans from the federal Small Business Administration (SBA). The announcement was made last week in Charlotte by Larry Cherry, district director for the SBA.

The disaster loans are available to eligible small business concerns adversely affected by the impact of farm income losses due to the summer's drought.

The SBA loans will have an interest rate of eight percent and may have a maturity of up to 30 years. The deadline for filing for the loan is April 27, 1984. More information on the loans may be obtained by contacting the SBA Disaster Relief Office at 75 Spring St. SW, Suite 822, Atlanta, Ga. or by calling the office at (404) 221-5854.

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House Approves Wilderness Bill

By a vote of 398-21, the House of Representatives has approved legislation sponsored by Congressman James McClure Clarke and the entire N. C. delegation which would create an additional 68,750 acres of new wilderness in four national forests in North Carolina. The legislation, which now goes to the Senate for consideration, also sets aside 25,816 acres as designated wilderness study areas and releases 114,000 acres for multiple use, which allows for timber cutting under Forest Service supervision.

"I am very pleased that the North Carolina Wilderness Act of 1983 passed the House," Clarke said. "It represents a compromise reached by many people including the representatives of the timber industry and environmental groups."

"The bill is a real bipartisan team effort which was cosponsored by every Member of the

North Carolina House delegation, and I am deeply grateful for their support."

Everyone involved felt that the time had come to end the debate over the wilderness issue and to take definitive action. The bill assures the timber industry of protection from lawsuits filed as a result of a 1982 federal court decision, while protecting other areas for future generations. It also clarifies the management decisions for the United States Forest Service and relieves the Forest Service from the expensive and time consuming task of an unnecessary RAKE III study.

"All of us in the North Carolina House delegation feel that this bill is a positive step forward for our State."

The additional areas to be included as wilderness are, in the Croatan National Forest: Cattfish Lake South, Pocosin, Pond Pine, and Sheep Ridge. In the Nantahala National

Forest the areas are: Ellicott Rock Additions, Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Addition, and Southern Nantahala. Wilderness designations in Pisgah National Forest are: Linville Gorge Additions, Middle Prong, and Shining Rock Addition. Also to be designated as wilderness in the Uwharrie National Forest is Birkhead Mountains.

The legislation also includes as congressionally designated wilderness study areas: Harper Creek, Lost Cove, and Craggy Mountain Extension in Pisgah National Forest, and the Overflow and Snowbird areas in Nantahala.

The bill was considered in the House Interior and Insular Affairs Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks on Oct. 28. The full committee approved the bill on Nov. 2. The measure now goes to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry for action.



WITH THANKSGIVING just around the corner, who could blame this gobbler for being nervous. Tom would make a fine feast, but his owner, Raymond Wyatt of Grapevine, says he'll spare the plump bird.

Water Project Funds Cut

Federal funding for the planned Madison County Waters project has been reduced. The announcement of the cutback was made at a public meeting held Monday night at the Madison County Courthouse.

Mike Bradley of the county health department explained that funding from the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will result in additional costs being borne by residents served by the proposed project.

The \$519,000 project calls for installing septic systems in homes in the Metcalf Creek, Grapevine, East Fork, Upper Shut-In, Foster Creek, Revere and Spring Creek sections of Madison County.

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Community Development Awards To Be Presented Saturday

The 34th annual awards luncheon of the Western North Carolina Community Development Program will be held at noon Saturday, Dec. 3 at the Inn On The Plaza in Asheville. An estimated 600 rural and civic leaders and local officials are expected to attend.

Highlight of the event will be the announcement of winners in one of the nation's oldest self-help community improvement programs.

Among those scheduled to present awards or make brief remarks are N. C. Commissioner of Agriculture James A. Graham, Dr. Chester D. Black, director of the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service, and Congressman James McClure Clarke. A special multi-media slide presentation highlighting community and rural development in Western North Carolina will be premiered.

According to former Congressman Roy A. Taylor, president of the Western North Carolina Development Association, which sponsors the program in cooperation with the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service in the 18 western counties, area awards totaling \$10,000 are being presented this year. Approximately \$20,000 in local county awards have already been presented.

Mrs. Cary Owen of Asheville is program chairman for the awards event.

The luncheon is open to the public. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Cost is \$4.50 per person and tickets are available at the Agricultural Extension Office in Marshall and at the WNC Development Association, Room 420 in the Asheville City Building.

Awards will be presented to

rural and suburban areas in Western North Carolina selected as having made the most improvements during the past year. Awards will also be made to the communities with outstanding youth programs and to youth groups with outstanding service projects. Special recognition will be made of the "Man and Woman of the Year" in community development from each county and the area winners.

The winners of a Senior Citizens Awards Program will also be announced.

A special "Calico Cat" award will go to the organized community club selected as having done the most outstanding job of improving and beautifying and existing community center during the year. A record number of areas have been entered.

Winners of the community

club division of a special mobile home improvement and safety contest will also be announced. These will go to the communities which have done the best job of promoting mobile home improvement during the year. Individual winners were named earlier.

The Community Development Program was started 34 years ago. It has encouraged folks to organize and work together throughout the area and to build community centers, recreation areas, start volunteer fire departments, organize beautification projects and work on a multitude of improvement projects.

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Shuttle Astronaut Visits Weaverville

By ELIZABETH SQUIRE
"Your patches have traveled over 18,000 miles an hour with me in space," Commander Daniel C. Brandenstein, a NASA astronaut, told workers at A-B Emblem last Thursday as he gave the Weaverville company a display of emblems made here that were used in the eight space shuttle missions. The display includes signatures of crews on the flights.

Brandenstein was pilot for the third flight of the orbiter Challenger that was the first night launch and landing of the space shuttle last summer. He toured the plant in Weaverville last Thursday to shake hands with such plant personnel as Allie Robinson of Weaverville and Ken Harding of Marshall and to learn how A-B Emblem makes those space-patches — many of which are based on designs by the astronauts themselves.

E. Henry Conrad, chairman of A-B Emblem's parent company Conrad Industries, proudly showed Brandenstein the machine invented in 1916 in his native Plauen, south of Leipzig in what is now East Germany — a device that has been the backbone of the machine embroidery business ever since. The machine converts a design into a punched roll not unlike a player-piano roll. The punched roll makes embroidery machines repeat the design. Only now are computers taking over some of the process of making the design guides, explained Mr. Conrad, whose family have been in the embroidery business since the time of his grandfather.

"Girls, you have never seen an astronaut," said one supervisor. "This is the man who goes round and round."
"Yes," agreed Brandenstein, "around 18 times every 90 minutes."
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ASTRONAUT DANIEL BRANDENSTEIN, right, toured A-B Emblem plant Thursday

accompanied by E. Henry Conrad, chairman of Conrad Industries

TONY RICE escaped injury Monday afternoon when the car he was driving, shown above, collided

with a trailer being driven by Harold Shelton on N.C. 313. No charges were filed.