

# THE MOORE COUNTY NEWS

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\$2.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE

## WALL TELLS OF THE FAMOUS DEWBERRY

### County Agent Gives a Record of its Struggles and Achievements also of How to Successfully Grow Them in Sandhills

(By M. W. Wall, County Agent)

I will endeavor to discuss the growing of dewberries in Moore county as given out by some of the leading dewberry farmers of this section together with my personal observations.

There has been much said in recent years concerning the culture of dewberries and this article will serve as a guide to those who may be interested in the future as it is the best information we have concerning the crop.

The soil best suited to this crop is the Norfolk sand and the Hoffman sandy loam, which we usually classify as the sandy or sandy-loam soil. In beginning the crop the land should be in a good state of cultivation. Of the several varieties of dewberries the one most commonly used in this section is the Lucretia, which sells on the market as a large-size commercial blackberry. It is very superior to the blackberry in flavor, carries well and demands a very good price. This variety has been successfully grown in Moore county since 1890.

The plants are usually set in March, although can be set in fall. A crop is not realized until the following year. The plants should be set in rows five feet wide and in the drill five feet apart. This making a check of five feet square. After growth begins the land should be barred off about eight inches from the plant; then barred cross-wise making a little square around the plant. If possible about a handful of staple manure should be applied to each hill or a heavy application of cotton seed meal. Remember now that this staple manure is applied only the first year in the spring and in the fall of the following years, if available, as results have proven that where staple manure is applied after the first year, in the spring, the berries do not ship well. After the fertilizer or manure is applied then back furrow with turn plow to cover fertilizer. Flat cultivate across beds during the year using no other crop in intertilling. However, some of the growers have used cow peas planted broad-cast at last cultivation. Care should be taken to turn vines until the growth becomes so long that it is not practical.

Don't cut new plants first year, allowing them to run during the fall and winter and then stake in February, using a good substantial stake about six feet long, driving twelve or eighteen inches in ground. Some of the planters use wire stretched over the plants and allowing the plants to be tied up to this. But practice has proven that the stakes are really better. It usually requires about 1750 stakes when placed five feet each way per acre. Wrap vines four or five times around the stake up to the top and then clip the vines back at the top of the stake. It usually requires about two trips to the stake.

The cultivation will have to be done with a very short single-tree, care being taken to strike the vines or up you should master in the sandhill stakes. After the vines have been tied up you should then bar off one way then cross-bar off using about four furrows to the middle. This will practically clear the field of any weeds or grass that accumulated during the early spring.

It is suggested that a fertilizer analyzing about 6 per cent. Phosphoric Acid, 2 per cent. Ammonia and 6 per cent. Potash, will give very good results the second year, using about 600 pounds per acre and applying on both sides, which will have to be dropped by hand. Then throw one furrow back on fertilizer and continue to cross cultivate as before until about the beginning of the second picking.

The second year, which by the way, is the first year-picking, should yield about 100 crates—of 32 quarts—per acre. But the general average is about 65 crates per acre, yet we have some records of as much as 125 crates.

Second year should increase and yield of about 125 crates should be expected, yet it is not impossible to make 200 crates per acre. The third, fourth, fifth and sixth years should yield about 200 crates, then the berries have a tendency to grow

backward. The plant will last twenty years if not diseased, and will bring good results if properly managed.

The vines should be cut just as soon as possible after picking and should be cut even with the ground each year and all old vines piled and burned. After burning vines scrape around the plants with a hoe before they start budding out and then bar off and cultivate as often as possible until runners get too long. Don't turn runners after the first year. 600 to 800 pounds of cottonseed meal, or a fertilizer very rich in ammonia should be used in the late summer, this makes a total of 1200 or 1400 pounds of fertilizer per year per acre.

#### Picking

The average hand can pick about 100 quarts per day and this is usually paid for by the quart, ranging from one to two cents, depending upon conditions. The packers usually pack about 100 crates per day and too much attention cannot be given to this important work as the least bruise on the berry will cause them to mould or become "frosty" before they reach the market. The average cost of crates, including cups, for the past several years, is about 45 cents, the price ranging from 22 cents to as high as 80 cents per crate.

Observation has shown us that berries usually begin blossoming about the 15th of April and the shipments begin about the first of June. The markets that have given the best price are New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, although good prices have been received from Cincinnati, Buffalo, and Baltimore. Just as soon as more new markets are created the dewberry industry will increase in Moore county. In the past years the prices have ranged from .04 to .42 per quart. The yield per acre varies considerably. The highest being as much as eight quarts per vine; but the general average will not exceed four quarts per vine.

Our records show since 1916, that dewberries have been shipped from May 26th to as late as July the 5th, and the prices have varied from \$2.06 per crate in 1916 to as high as \$7.10 per crate in 1920. The general average being about \$4.00 per crate for the past seven years. The best plants are those of the first year's growth; and one should get about 1500 to 2000 plants per acre. The tips of the runners are usually covered with a little dirt just after frost or the proper time may be shown when the tips turn downward.

There is still some excellent dewberry land available. However, this crop is not planted as extensively as peaches and in almost every instance it is run in connection with general farming. The crop is a specialized one and offers a great inducement in this section.

#### DEWBERRIES BRING \$6.50

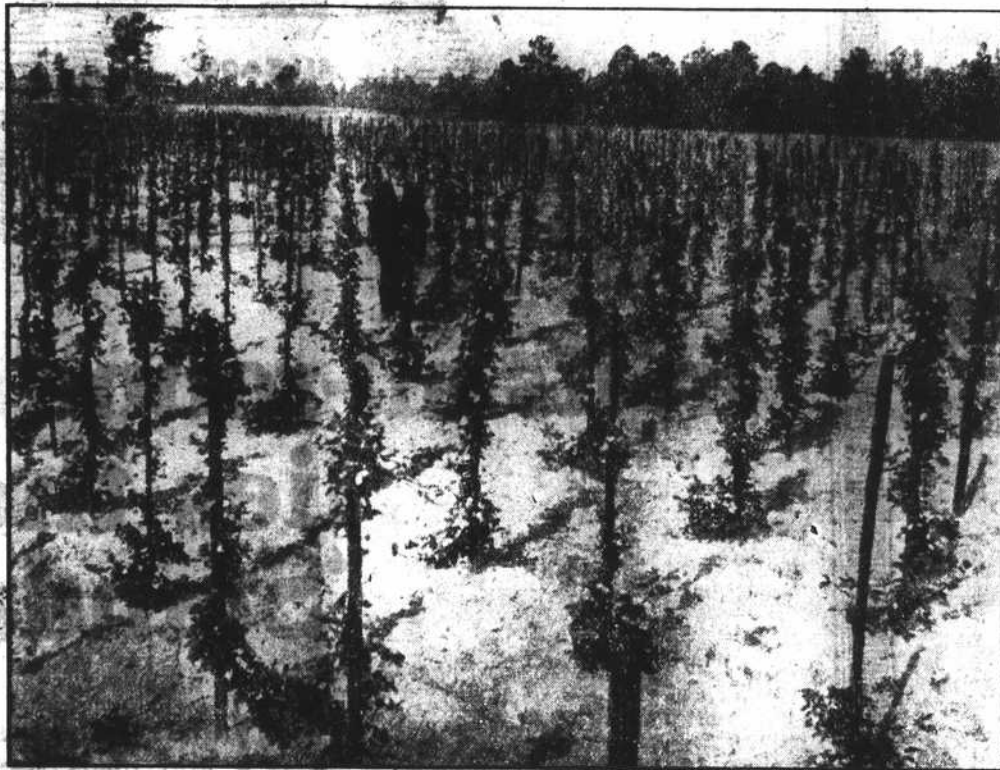
Duncan Cameron, at Southern Pines, sent away the first dewberries from that section, and Sunday received a check for \$6.50 a crate for his first shipments. He was well satisfied with the price, and says the commission man wrote him that the outlook for berries this summer is good.

Early peaches are also going out in considerable quantities now, and bringing around four to six dollars. Last week something over 300 crates went out, and more will go this week.

#### REV. WILLIAM CURRIE TO BE AT CARTHAGE

Carthage people will be pleased to learn that Rev. William Currie will preach at the Methodist church Sunday morning at 11:00 o'clock. He is a preacher of note and has made a fine record in his calling. He is a graduate of Davidson college; also of the Richmond Theological Seminary, and spent one year in the White Bible school in New York city. Everybody is invited-out to hear this distinguished young Carthage boy with a brilliant future.

## Dewberry Field at Cameron



## BIG NEW HOTEL FOR PINEHURST

Leonard Bliss and Adam Rochmont Will Rebuild Lexington.

Arrangements have been made for the building of a modern big 60-room hotel 75 by 110 feet in dimensions at Pinehurst, on the site of the present Lexington hotel. Leonard Bliss and Adam de Rochmont are the projectors. Work will be commenced at once. The old house will be torn down, and in its place will rise one of the most modern establishments that money and skill can create. The building will be three stories with an attic that will practically give rooms enough to make it a four-story house, and the plans are so drawn that a further unit of another hundred feet can be added at any time the business demands. Mr. Blake, of Southern Pines, will do the work.

The new building is to be ready for opening about the middle of December. It will be kept in commission all the year round, as Pinehurst is drawing such a summer trade that increased facilities for handling it are imperative. The type of construction will be what is known as electric stone, similar to that of which the Bank of Pinehurst is built, which makes an attractive building. The hotel will have a bath room connected with every guest room, telephone in every room, and all the conveniences that make a hotel modern. It will conform to every known sanitary design, the window and door trim being of metal or cement construction, floors of cement wherever possible and every detail conforming to the latest suggestion of proper hotel construction.

The hotel will be built and operated by the owners, who have bought the Lexington from Pinehurst, Incorporated. It is purely a private venture, built by men who are well enough acquainted with Pinehurst that they are attracted by an opening for such an institution, for they have been familiar with the village and the hotels there for years.

A Pinehurst man, familiar with the workings of the business over there said to the News, "A new hotel of this type is one of the best things that could happen at Pinehurst. In the busy season of the winter it is necessary to decline several thousand requests for rooms, and it will be the case until more hotel room is provided. Then in summer the number of persons coming to Pinehurst is growing year by year, and it will not be much longer until more hotels than one will have to be continued throughout the year. The summer patronage of the hotels in summer will grow as business with Pinehurst increases and as the orchards are expanded and as other affairs continue to draw more people. The new house that Mr. Bliss and Mr. de Rochmont are starting is only a beginning of what is bound to follow to meet the all the year requirements of this community."

Pinehurst has some other building projects under consideration which will add further to the activity already announced for the summer, and it is likely that the estimate of a quarter of a million dollars for the

## HARRY GOLDSMITH AND HIS FARM

He is Successful Grower of Many Fruits and Varieties of Garden Stuff.

One of the most progressive and thrifty farms of Moore county belongs to Harry Goldsmith, a young fellow who came to North Carolina when a youngster with his family, who located in Southern Pines about twenty years ago. W. H. Goldsmith, his father, owned and operated one of the large truck and garden farms of New Jersey, consequently was a man of experience in that kind of work, and raised only strictly high class stuff which was offered to the fastidious trade of the New York markets. On the northern farm all kinds of garden vegetables and fruits were raised with care and knowledge of how to make only the best that any market would later offer to customers brought top-notch food articles. So when a farm was bought and developed in Moore county the same kind of high grade work was carried on, by a young man who had experience making a farm that is not only productive; but one that is turning out material that is a credit to any farmer.

On his farm strawberries have been picked now for several weeks, and sold to the trade in Southern Pines. They are of such excellence that nothing ever offered in any local market around in this section will compare with them. They are large and sweet, the latter being the only virtue to a strawberry. As high as 16 crates a day were picked from this one patch of an acre, and the returns were most gratifying. The public was willing to pay what those berries were worth.

Apples are satisfactorily raised and while not on a large scale, they provide the family consumption and add their share of the general income. The grapes that ripen in the fall are as fine as anything grown in the lake regions of northern New York state, and hang in heavy bunches from vines that are known to be good producers and are well taken care of. Peach trees are also numbered among the income producers, with an abundance of poultry, that materialize into meat and eggs, milk and butter of the same high standard as other things are developed on this farm, it means nothing less than a substantial satisfaction for the young people who harvest the crop. Harry Goldsmith's farm proves what can be raised in Sandhill land, and anybody else can have the same things if they go about it with some degree of intelligence and a knowledge of what they want.

#### PREACHING THIRD SUNDAY

The News is requested to announce that there will be preaching at Ephesus church near White Hill on the Third Sunday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by the new pastor, Rev. Mr. Hare.

Subscribe to the News today.

The News is destined to give the half million mark a chase if the schedule con-

## BUILDING ON THE KNOOLWOOD HILL

Three New Modern Houses Are in Course of Construction.

At three different locations on the hill at Knoolwood village building crews are actively at work on new houses, and every house of a modern and expensive type. Last winter Richard Tufts started on a house on the lot at the corner of the Midlands roads and the Crest road, but other things demanded the labor and material, and it was impossible to push the work in time to get the house ready for the past winter. But at last work has started there again, and unless labor shortage interferes it will go forward rapidly to a finish. This house will be a brick veneer building, two stories and attic, of a most interesting design, and a fit building for the commanding locations it occupies. From its first floor a view is given over the whole golf course and out over the Weymouth hills, which cannot be surpassed in the county. The framing is under way on this house, and unless the men are called back to Pinehurst to help along with the work under way there the body of the structure will show in a short time what a fine building it is to be.

Half way between this house and the home of Judge Way Mr. Tufts has begun work on another house. Material is coming on the ground. The excavation is nearly ready for the masons, and here is another characteristic building, which will be in harmony with the surrounding. It has a fine outlook over the club grounds and the entire valley, as the other one has. These houses will cost around fifteen thousand or more, and will be ready for the fall season. It is the intention of Mr. Tufts to build two or three more houses at Knoolwood just as fast as it is possible to get to the work, but labor conditions have been aggravating for the past several months, and it is hard now to get help and material as fast as it is needed. This may hold back some of the projected work not only at Knoolwood but at some of the other places in the county.

Farther south Major Nettleton has E. O. Howard busy with another house of about the same prominence as those started by Mr. Tufts. Mr. Howard has a force at work, and a cellar 42 by 55 feet has been completed and masons are well along with the brick foundations walls. This house stands on the brow of the hill overlooking fairway No. 15, and here is also a romantic picture of the grounds and the valley and the hills of Southern Pines across the stream. Major Nettleton is a little in advance of the development, being some 1500 feet from Judge Way's home. The location is one that will not leave him long without neighbors, for the rim of the hill north and south of the new houses is so well adapted for desirable homes that it is an easy guess that some other Pittsburgers will follow these two pioneers into the delectable mountain.

The Nettleton house will be a bungalow in general principle, but with

## H. P. BILYEU, THE DEWBERRY MAN

Southern Pines Pioneer Who Has Influenced Industry In This Section.

When the men who have made the Sandhills are counted prominent among the number will be H. P. Bilyeu, the dewberry man. Bilyeu does not get out much in public meeting nor in the newspaper, but wherever you hear the name of Lucretia dewberry it is a chance that Bilyeu is fairly well known. He has probably supplied more dewberry plants than any other man in the South, and helped to put out more dewberry vineyards.

Mr. Bilyeu came to North Carolina from New Jersey, or up that way somewhere and in his earlier days in this section he planted peaches. He and his brother originated the Bilyeu peach, which was a prominent variety in the North a few years ago. But Mr. Bilyeu did not meet with the success in peaches that he looked for, several causes accounting for his disappointment. He was among the first to plant peaches in the Sandhills, and along with the other pioneers he was caught by the disease that first bothered the orchard men. At that time the varieties that are now making the Sandhills famous had not become familiar to the orchard men. Neither had the orchard practices of the present been introduced. Mr. Bilyeu it not the only man who started with peaches and quit. Of the early orchards, those that gave Moore county its start in peach growing, the van Lindley is about the only one that came through all the storms, and it has been cut into small holdings and considerable of it abandoned.

Mr. Bilyeu worked with peaches until he concluded that he could do something better, and then he took up the Lucretia dewberry, which is the only one that seems to be worth considering, and he established a vineyard that is the source of plants for vineyards all over the Sandhill country and in many other parts of the state and the country. He has a close knowledge of the fruit and the plant, and for years he has had a crop on his farm near Pinehurst, and he has shown others how to raise dewberries until if information is wanted on the subject the majority of people turn to Bilyeu, and his association with this one crop is so widely fixed in the minds of the planter that he stands practically alone in his position. Bilyeu and dewberries are as firmly linked together as east and west are in talking about direction.

Mr. Bilyeu has a large farm near Pinehurst and Knoolwood Village, chief among its products being dewberries, and this season as well as every season he has a big output to go to the early markets, and he gets his stuff in, in time to get the first prices. He paid some attention to grapes, but his principal interest is in dewberries and in supplying plants to those who want to set out vineyards.

He still goes on electioneering for the dewberry, and for plants, and it will be a long cold day when Mr. Bilyeu is not spreading the gospel of this fine berry. He has learned how to bring it to perfection and how to make plants that make the fruit. He is familiar with the various products of the dewberry, for it is fit for canning, for making preserves, and for cooking as well as to eat raw. It is largely a new comer among farm products, and not widely acquired as to its many virtues, and this leaves Mr. Bilyeu's field still an open one which he will find plenty of room for his coming days.

#### CARTHAGE SCHOOL CLOSES

The Carthage Graded school closed Tuesday morning with exercises by the graduating class. The annual sermon was preached in the Methodist church Sunday morning by Rev. W. C. Barrett, of Gastonia. His was strong sermon and greatly appreciated by a large congregation in attendance. On Tuesday morning Hon. Robt. N. Page delivered a stirring and very inspirational address to the graduating class. His theme was education.

Following are the names of the graduating students composing the graduating class this year: Ollie Muse, Mary Robert Seawell, Annie Reid Yow, Norman McKeithen, Frances McKeithen, Gladys Watson, Dwight Currie, Paul Fields, and Temple Dalrymple.