

Find Large Onions Club Members Enter New Money Crop 4-H Health Contest

The soil covers of Avery County, North Carolina reach market early. Large onions farmer of the mountain in this county and keep the climatic conditions favorable for the crop.

County farm agent C. B. Baird believes the new crop of onions is the best yet raised in this county when he interested in buying nine bushels of the Ebenezer variety, which he planted at State College. The average yield of these nine bushels was not quite one acre of onions. However, 6,000 pounds of onions were produced by the nine bushels and were sold for three cents per pound.

This past spring, 40 Avery farmers planted 20 bushels of onion sets with an expectation of harvesting 50,000 pounds this fall.

Last year, 1931, Avery farmers harvested 25,000 pounds or 450 bushels which they received \$1.25 a bushel. A local mutual exchange sold 12,000 pounds to a state institution in Asheville and the remaining 13,000 pounds was sold to hucksters. Later in the year, Avery farmers had a chance to bid on 42,000 pounds of onions.

Nisewonger says the onions produced in Avery are grown on the rich soil of the creek and river bottom lands. Usually the crop is planted in a companion crop to mountain cabbage with the cabbage plants being between the rows of onions during the latter part of June. Both crops are well fertilized with a 7-5-5 grade. The onions are harvested August leaving the cabbage to mature as a second crop from the same ground.

The Ebenezer seems to be the best variety adapted to North Carolina mountain conditions. It matures in field without decaying, keeps well, has a mild flavor, and is well colored, says Nisewonger.

Health contests in which thousands of 4-H club members are competing and being examined by competent authorities in nearly every county where home and farm agents are employed will end during the annual short course to be held at State College, July 25 to 30 when the King and Queen of Health, among the 34,000 club members of North Carolina will be selected.

According to agricultural extension authorities, these health contests are attracting as much attention and interest as any other one feature of 4-H club work. Usually, the home and farm agents carefully select the healthiest boy and girl in a local club and these are entered in a county contest from which the girl and boy making the highest score are sent to one of the four district contests. The winners here are entered in the State contest held during the final days of the club short course.

In some counties, the county agents have the fullest cooperation of the health authorities and every 4-H club member in the county is examined by a physician. In other counties where it is not practical to do this, the county nurse assists the home and farm agents to select the healthiest candidates in a club and these are further examined at the county seat by a competent health officer. Some of the agents say where they have examined a group of children for the second consecutive year, a vast improvement in the health habits of the club members has been observed.

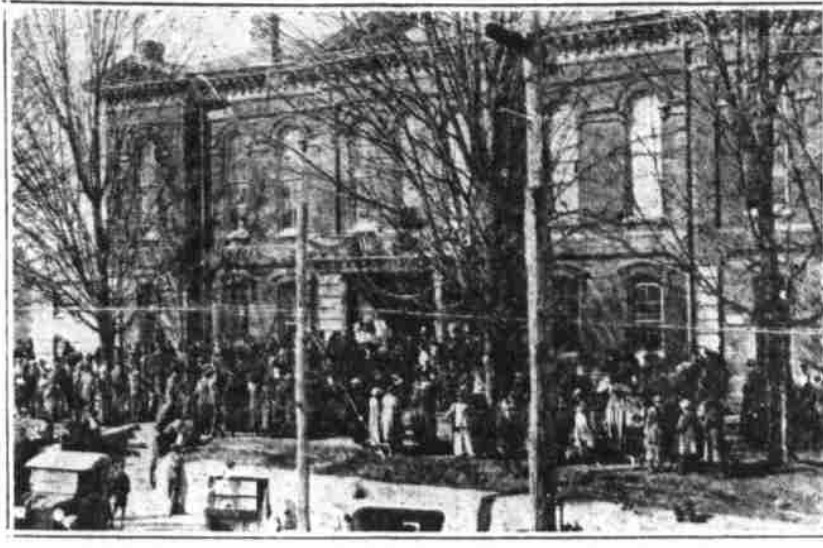
When the district winners are sent to the short course at State College, the health contest becomes one of the major items on the program and the honor of being crowned King and Queen of Health is one of the most eagerly sought awards. This excitement follows a health pageant in which the principles of good health are demonstrated by the club members, taking part.

Soil Bacteria Needed For Growth of Legumes

North Carolina farmers are well acquainted with the fact that legumes add nitrogen to the soil under favorable conditions. Many of them do not know, however, that this nitrogen is gathered by bacteria which find a particular legume a host plant and causes nodules to form on the roots. The bacteria live in the nodules, gather nitrogen from the air and transform it into compounds which may be used by a plant.

"However, the bacteria which cause nodules on one legume may not be suitable for another legume," says P. H. Kime, plant breeder at State College. "Usually the soil of a field which has never grown alfalfa or soy-

THE OLD COURT HOUSE



Above is a scene taken of the throng that attended the dedication of the new court house several years ago. The picture was made from the site of The Mountaineer building.

Durable Floors are Placed In Building Juniors To Meet In Asheville, June 30

In the new court house will be found one of the most durable floors yet placed on the market, according to those that have tested the Hanotile Flooring for years. The job was under the supervision of C. R. Howard of Charlotte.

All the floors except the main court room and corridors are laid with this asphalt flooring, in brown and mahogany, which makes a colorful combination, and one that is not easy to detect dirt. This flooring is easy to clean and water does not affect it in any way. The longer the floor is used the harder it seals to the concrete floor on which it is placed. It is said that the rooms can be filled with water before the floor will leak through to the concrete.

One example of what the floor will stand was told by Mr. Howard. The Western Union Company at Charlotte has been using this brand of flooring for years and given it the hardest of tests, for in their office, which is the clearing office for the two Carolinas, the office boys go from desk to desk on skates. There are 14 pairs of skates 18 hours a day on this floor and to date it looks as good as the day it was placed in the building.

hours probably does not contain the kind of bacteria needed by these two crops to extract nitrogen from the soil. The same type of bacteria will not inoculate all legumes."

Mr. Kime says the desired type of bacteria may be introduced into the soil of a given field by applying soil from a field which has previously grown the crop or by applying artificial cultures to the soil before planting.

The five ways to inoculate for any legume are to drill or broadcast 200 to 500 pounds of soil per acre; apply one to two quarts of sifted soil to a bushel of dampened seed; mix equal parts by weight of seed and soil; dampen the seed with pure cultures secured from state or federal laboratories, or buy commercial inoculants prepared by private concerns.

Kime says the various legumes fall into different groups which require the same bacteria or strain of bacteria for best results. The first group is inoculated by alfalfa bacteria; the second, by red clover; the third, by vetch; the fourth by garden and navy bean; the fifth, by lupine; the sixth by cowpea, and the seventh by soybean bacteria.

Reports from county farm agents in the grain growing section of Piedmont Carolina indicate that the crop this season is not up to standard. Excellent yields of clover hay are being harvested, however.

land; Fourth, John L. Nelson, Mor-this meeting and to see and hear their ganton and Fifth, H. L. Toms, Shelby, state and national officers. The meeting. Every member of the order is ex-will be informal and open to all tended a cordial invitation to attend.

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