

MORE ABOUT Chinese

(Continued from Page One) ed a doctor of philosophy degree from Chicago, said he was confident he would obtain much useful information during his study of welfare activities in this state. He has already visited Craven, Beaufort, Rowan, Mecklenberg and Buncombe systems.

HER FISH STORY GOOD

WEATHERFORD, Tex. (UP)—Mrs. Clarence Grogan can match fish stories with the best of them. She caught a 45-pound catfish on a perch hook and a small test line.

BABY SKUNKS GET BREAK

BOYD, Tex. (UP)—A mother cat here turned nursemaid to three little "stinkers" but they were all friendly. They were a trio of skunks whose mother was killed when hit by a car.

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Apple Harvest In Haywood County May Reach 300,000 Bushels This Season



Pictured above is a typical scene depicting the apple harvest season in Haywood county, where mountain orchards are pouring out the red and golden fruit, a crop valued at half a million dollars.



Shown above is a portion of the expected 300,000 bushels of apples for commercial production. The crew of pickers have just finished filling the crates ready for market. Haywood apple trees yielded about 200,000 bushels in 1947, which was an income of about \$250,000 for the growers.

MORE ABOUT Apples

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County is the contention of Richard Barber, Jr. It manages Barber's Orchard on Balsam Road. It is said to be the state's biggest producing orchard, owned by Richard Barber, Sr.

Elevation of Haywood County orchards, which stretch from fertile valleys to mountain slopes, accounts for the fact that their apples excel in flavor and color, Cor-

pening asserts. It takes high altitude, cool nights, and sunny days to grow firm apples of fine texture and with thin skin. It was pointed out that poor air drainage in low altitudes and the hot sun tend to burn the skin of the apple, making it tough and thick. Picking of local apples began around the last of August this year. Grimes Golden were the first ready to harvest in many orchards. The harvesting season is expected to reach its peak during the month from October 1 to November 1. Varieties in heaviest production during that period are Stasman Winesap, Rome Beauties, and Black Twigs.

While the harvest is in full swing, National Apple Week will be observed in the county under sponsorship of the Smoky Mountain Apple Growers Association. The special week, inaugurated in 1947 as an annual event, is an effort on the part of the growers to promote eating of home grown apples. Apple Week will also focus attention on apple growing as an industry in Haywood County.

Farm Agent Corpening says that the county has made more progress in apple production during the last 10 years than ever before. "Better orchard management and more interest in apple production are responsible," he added. A step forward was taken by the county orchardists last year when they organized the Smoky Mountain Apple Growers Association. The group, composed of commercial orchardmen, has put on a sales campaign which includes the advertising of Haywood County apples in newspapers over a 300 mile radius. It has also prepared a map showing the location of the county orchards, and designating what particular varieties of apples can be found at these orchards. These have been distributed to service stations throughout this area.

The association, Mr. Corpening stated, plans to work toward securing a central packing and grading plant, and a growers' co-operative for marketing apples of smaller producers. Henry Francis of Francis Cove is association president. Other officers are R. H. Boone of Waynesville, vice-president, and Charles Edwards of Lake Junaluska, secretary.

Approximately 50 varieties of ap-

ples are grown in the orchards of the county but most commercial orchards grow about four to six varieties. The larger orchards include those owned by Bolling Hall, Saunook; Henry Francis, Francis Cove; Charles Edwards, Lake Junaluska; H. L. Morgan, Canton; Hugh Massey, Francis Cove; Zack Massey, Delwood Road; Ira Cogburn, Crusoe; L. A. Cogburn, Crusoe; and Bob McRacken, Pigeon.

The grower who views the apple as a business might wonder if the spirit of old Apple-Seed John is best. Character who spent his days planting trees for future generations hasn't visited these mountain side and valley orchards this fall. For the harvest looks as if fortune had smiled.

Inquiry, however, discloses that it takes years of hard work and plenty of money, as well as fortune, to make an apple orchard bloom. It takes a lot more to make it bear fruit. The first planting of trees in the mammoth Barber Orchard was in 1905. More than 20,000 trees now stand on the 300 acres contained in the orchard.

Planting of an orchard is a continuous thing, however, for many of those trees planted in 1905 now have about seen their best days. Apple trees come into normal production when they are about 10 years of age, depending on the variety, authorities say. Forty years is considered the normal life span of an apple tree. This age, too, depends on the variety of tree, its care, and management of the soil.

Once the tree is grown, the constant fight begins to protect it and its fruit from disease and insect pests.

Principal worries of apple growers in the locality are the common diseases of scab and bitter rot. The codling moth which produces the worm in a "wormy" apple, is the chief insect bother.

Barber is one of the few orchards in the state which is equipped to protect its trees with a modern underground spraying system. Thus, the problem of transporting heavy equipment by trucks or wagons over rough mountain land is avoided.

The sulphur and copper solutions, or whatever is used for spraying at the moment, are mixed and pumped from one central location, similar to a city water sys-

tem, and are carried through underground pipes. Spraying against diseases and insects is a never-ending task beginning in early February or March when an oil spray is used to kill insects in the egg stage. Spraying for scab control begins in April when the bud is in the pink stage (just bursting) and before the bloom forms. The orchardist continues spraying until around August 1. Sometimes in September a retarding spray containing a hormone is used to hold apples on the tree from 10 days to two weeks longer than the normal picking period. This hormone stimulates growth action at the portion of the stem that starts separating from the fruit spur for the apple to drop.

Orchard men in this county reported practically no scab damage this year and less than one-tenth of one per cent damage by worms, Barber stated. Hail in June and a freeze in March did some damage but did not materially reduce the crop in most parts of the county, he said.

Use of smudge pots, to raise the

temperature in an effort to save the apple crops in event of late frosts or freezes, is prohibitive in this area because of the high cost of operation, apple growers say. Barber's Orchard has not used smudge pots in about 18 years.

There are just no years but what there is some freeze damage in this section, a survey discloses. Once the apples are bled through the bloom and growing stages, comes the job of picking the ripe fruit.

Barber's Orchard, which maintains a year round crew of about 35 men, hires an additional 100 to harvest the crop. The labor for the apple picking, as in other county orchards, comes chiefly from farms within a 25-mile radius.

Contrary to popular opinion, most orchard men say they would sell their apples as soon as they are harvested if the market could take them.

Barber said, "We don't intentionally keep them over until Christmas and New Year's. But we would have to about give them away to move them all straight from the

orchards." "With 120 million bushels of apples produced annually in the United States (approximately 2,500,000 bushels of them in North Carolina) the people can't eat that much apple pie during the two months of harvest time."

So the orchards are prepared to take care of their fruit until the market is ready for it. Barber's Orchard has a storage capacity for about 80,000 bushels, where apples are kept under a temperature of 31 degrees.

The amount of apples stored depends on the market now. The growers indicated, "The cold storage now is ready to receive, but to present the market is taking apples as soon as they are picked," Barber stated.

These mountain apple growers think that they are slowly progressing. But they feel that they have suffered sadly for want of an active state or federal operated experiment station to advise growers and to promote production and sales.

Orchardmen in the state have been given the encouragement and helping hand by the State Department of Agriculture, so far as production is concerned, as have the tobacco farmers and dairymen, Barber said. He expressed a hope that the need for such a service will soon be recognized and met.

Meantime, apple growing is a half a million dollar business in Haywood County. Johnny Apple-Seed would approve of the trees which bring blooms in the Spring and beautiful fruit in the Fall.

BIRTHDAYS TRIPPLICATED

BOSTON (UP)—Birthdays in the Tierney family are celebrated in triplicate. Grandpa Lawrence Tierney was born Sept. 1, 1889. Father Lawrence Tierney was born Sept. 1, 1921. Baby Lawrence Tierney was born Sept. 1, 1948.

ITCH

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LAFF-A-DAY A cartoon illustration of a woman in a dress and hat talking to a man in a suit who is holding a suitcase. The man is looking at the woman with a surprised expression. The woman is speaking. The man is listening. The scene is set in a doorway or a hallway. The cartoon is signed 'Red Carr'.

WELCOME to the FAIR 31st Annual Cherokee Indian Fair Tuesday Through Saturday OCTOBER 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, CHEROKEE, N.C. Reached By U. S. 19 and N. C. 107 or 28 On The Eastern Border of The Great Smoky Mountain National Entrance Gates Open At 7:30 A. M. Daily FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8th has been set aside as SCHOOL DAY. children attending school will be admitted FREE on this day. will include High School students. DAILY PROGRAM 8:30 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. Agricultural, Women's and Indian Arts and Crafts Exhibits. 10:00 A.M. Indian Dance. 10:30 A.M. Archery and Blowgun Contests. 2:00 P.M. Indian Dance. 3:00 P.M. Indian Ball Game. 8:00 P.M. Square Dancing and String Band Contest. ADMISSION RATES For each person over 12 years of age Children over five years and under 12 years Season tickets for persons over 12 years of age (All prices include Federal Tax) NIGHT RATES: Adults Children