

Multi-Million Dollar Produce Business Envisioned For Haywood County

Soldier Takes Anti-Aircraft Training In Germany

GERMANY — Army Pfc. R. Phillips, son of Roy Phillips, Route 3, Canton, participated with others of the Infantry Division's 47th Artillery Battalion in a field training exercise in Germany.

Phillips and his buddies carried out a tactical test under combat conditions in order to maintain efficiency and combat readiness.

Watson Completes Course At Benning

BENNING, Ga. — Pfc. Watson of Waynesville, completed the four-week Quarter-Master cutting course this month at Benning.

The 40-hour course includes instruction in the meat cutting and courses in repair and storage, tools and equipment, plant sanitation, production of beef, veal and pork, and administration.

The cutting course is one of the most activities at The Infantry Center.



SACKING BEANS at Lake Junaluska for use in the Ketner packing house are Carmen Arrington of Panther Creek (left) and R. M. Stiles of East Waynesville, employee of the Farmers Exchange. At the peak of the season, 350 bushels of beans were being picked each day.

Moisture, Soil Held Favorable

(Continued from page 1)

ing which he has proved, to his own satisfaction at least, that Haywood County produce can be grown profitably for sale on the south's big-city markets.

Haywood County has already established itself solidly as a leading Southeastern apple-growing center, and there's no reason why we can't do equally well with other produce, Shorty contends.

The present agricultural picture, as he sees it, is this: Farmers in states to the south of North Carolina have a distinct advantage over Tar Heels in the apple-raising industry—because of milder climate and cheaper farm land. (Haywood County land, as is well known, commands the second highest price in the United States.)

Farmers in Georgia, for instance, can get started raising cattle for the same amount that it costs Haywood countians to build barns and silos—which are not needed in the Deep South.

"We cannot compete with those people," Mr. Ketner remarked. However, he says, when it comes to raising produce, Haywood County is blessed with better soils, more rainfall, and "strategic nearness" to major metropolitan markets.

Using Henderson County as a basis for comparison, Shorty related that our neighbors to the southeast had only two packing houses 15 years ago but now have 30 and, in addition, two large auction houses—with buyers from the Army and major food distributors.

Its growth has been such that Henderson County now calls itself "The Mountain Fruit and Vegetable Capital," and realizes several million dollars each year from the sale of produce grown in Henderson and surrounding counties.

Comparing the two counties, Mr. Ketner says that while Henderson has more level ground, Haywood generally receives more moisture during the growing season.

Outlining his own farming operations, "Shorty" explained that he raises spinach, green onions, and radishes from the first of May until the middle of June and grows sweet corn and green beans from mid-June until fall.

Some of the land is his own; other acreage he utilizes on a "cash-rental basis." To prepare his crops for marketing, Mr. Ketner operates a small packing house near his Farmers Exchange on North Main St. He also buys considerable produce from other farmers for distribution in Atlanta and other Southern cities.

The solution, Mr. Ketner believes, is for the small farmer in Haywood County to convert to produce growing to realize a good profit instead of a "bare subsistence."

His recommendations, he says, are not for the large, well-established farms but only for the small operators and the newcomers to farming.

"As farms get smaller, more intensified farming is needed," he remarked. "I am not urging any radical changes," "Shorty" says, "but only asking that produce growing not be neglected."

As more farms grow produce, outside capital would be attracted and additional packing houses would be constructed to get food products on the big markets.

"We are not jealous of competition," Mr. Ketner asserted, "we are as big as we want to be."

Haywood County produce could, he opined, be marketed in such cities as Atlanta, Charlotte, Columbia, Nashville, New Orleans, Jacksonville, Charleston, Tampa, Louisville, and Cincinnati.

"The entire South and East are wide open. The produce business has been and is good. Why don't we take advantage of it?"



WEIGHING AND CHECKING PRODUCE at the Farmers Exchange packing house is J. R. Higgs of Waynesville (right). Looking on are Claude Bolick of Waynesville (holding basket of peppers) and Lynn Chambers of East Pigeon. On the scales are two bags of beans. (Mountaineer Photo.)

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History Shows Haywood Areas Began To Develop In Early Part Of 1800

By W. C. MEDFORD Chapter 6

As stated heretofore, several settlements had been made in this part of original Buncombe County, now Haywood, by the year 1798—at Mt. Prospect and on Richland Creek, Ford of Pigeon and "The Gardens" and at "Shooks", now Clyde. They had also been made at Crabtree, Jonathan Creek, Beaverdam Creek and Fines Creek, Bethel section and on Raccoon Creek.

In The 1830's We have seen how these settlements grew and were gradually extended—and how others sprang up. Also mention was made of the system of crude roads—roads that were cut out and made passable (for sled and wagon teams of oxen and horses) connecting up with these various settlements.

By 1835 we find such settlements had been made in almost every section of what is now Haywood county. Those not mentioned heretofore are Allen's creek and Platt creek, Panther creek, East Fork, Iron Duff and Upper Hominy, Cata-loochee, Big creek, Cecil, White Oak and Hurricane come later.

At that time Macon county had been cut off; so that left Haywood with only one school of any importance, Green Hill Academy. The meager state "free school" system with county tax-supplement had not yet been put into operation, but the bill authorizing it had been passed in December 1839. (More about this later.)

The Baptists had their three or four places of worship, mentioned heretofore. The Methodists had also been here since about the fall of 1810, when Francis Asbury first preached at the "Shook house". They had about the same number of mission-preaching places in the county.

The "Yarb Doctors" There were no physicians in our county in 1835, licensed or unlicensed. During nearly all the years we have been considering, the pioneers made out with their local "yarb" (herb) doctors. These self-certified "doctors" diagnosed, prescribed, compounded and treated for such diseases as the hives, cramp colic, "miserics," "aigers and fever" (ague and fever), "rheumatics," etc. They also did some surgery, such as blood-letting, lancing "bils" (boils) and dressing wounds; and they often pulled teeth—with crude home-made pliers. Also, for those who believed in witchcraft, there was probably a witch doctor within reach.

These old herb doctors, compounded their remedies of slippery elm bark, bone set leaves, ginseng and sassafras roots, dock, shingle-haw, may apple, mullein, cherry bark and other roots and herbs. Sounds strange today, doesn't it? But such was medicine and surgery here, as regards both members of the "profession" and their practice, in those days—and even later. In case of childbirth there was,

of course, a mid-wife handy in most communities. The midwives had a fairly lucrative practice here long after the medical doctors made their advent, not disappearing entirely until well into the present century.

Real Estate and Land Holders During the latter part of this period, in the 1830's, there was much activity in the sale of real estate. It seems that some were proving up on their claims and were getting either deeds or bonds for title, while others, of course, were buying outright these tracts of land for homes and for speculation purposes.

The Loves (Col. Robert and Jas. R.), Thos. Lenoir of East Fork, John and Chas. McDowell, John Dobson and the Smatherses of Beaverdam and Clyde, Joseph McCracken and Thos. Ferguson of Crabtree, Henry Platt, Waynesville, Joshua and Jesse Kinsland of Upper Pigeon and W. G. B. Garrett of Jonathan's Creek about this time (in the 1830's) probably owned a quarter of all the land in what is now Haywood county.

John Strother, at one time (1797-1808) the biggest landowner of all by far, had passed away his holdings mostly passing to the Loves.

Phil Burford was the first county recorder or register. He was followed in 1811 by Holoman Battle who served until March 1815. Battle was succeeded by William Welch who served for 20 years —

when Baxter Turner came "in, Welch then becoming Clerk of Court, Samuel Fitzgerald also was Clerk along then.

Note: According to plan, The Pioneer Period (up to 1840) will be concluded with our next chapter.

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