

### Industry-Wide Committee Volunteers Working To Improve Tobacco Variety

There is a good chance that future tobacco varieties will be less controversial than those grown in the past. At least this is the hope of the

new 12-man variety Advisory Committee, headed by Dr. Guy Jones of North Carolina State.

The Advisory Committee was organized this year to examine new tobacco and to make recommendations concerning their release for grower planting.

In addition to Dr. Jones, committee membership is composed of three tobacco company representatives, two representatives from public agencies, three private seed breeders, two farmers and one tobacco exporter.

All flue-cured tobacco breeders, both private and public, have agreed to abide by recommendations of the committee. The breeders also have agreed to a set of quality standards that the committee will use in evaluating new tobaccos and a testing program to insure that the standards are met.

Creation of the Variety Advisory Committee has been hailed as one of the brightest spots in the frequently cloudy tobacco picture. Some of the major ills of the tobacco industry in recent years have been blamed on the planting of varieties that have failed to gain trade acceptance.

Despite this criticism, however, never before has an industry-wide

group been able to agree on the characteristics that a tobacco variety should have.

Many tobacco leaders say that the adoption of the quality standards and testing program will assure acceptable quality for future leaf varieties and give U. S. tobacco a boost in world markets.

Here briefly, according to Dr. Jones, is how new tobaccos will be handled:

Each new tobacco must be distinguishable from existing varieties in one or more characteristics. It must have reached the point of genetic stability, or the stage of development where it will "breed true."

Hicks Broadleaf and NC-95 will be used as quality standards in evaluating the new variety. Chemically, it must be within 15 per cent (either plus or minus) of these two varieties.

The new variety must also compare favorably with Hicks and NC-95 in color, body, texture, moisture equilibrium, filling value, flavor and aroma.

When a seed breeder has a line of tobacco that he thinks will meet the above requirements, he can enter it in regional tests conducted by land grant colleges in the flue-cured producing states.

Two years of testing will be required. The first year, the new tobacco will be tested in small plots. At least three small plot tests will be located in North Carolina, and at least one each in Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

Data will be taken on such things as yield, leaf number, plant height, days to flower, suckers per plant, description of leaf size and shape, and estimation of disease resistance. The tobacco also will be tested under code for its chemical content, manufacturing properties and smoking qualities.

Tobaccos that measure up to the standards in the small plot tests will be eligible to enter regional farm tests the following year. Here the tobacco is grown under actual farm conditions. At least 12 such tests will be conducted in the five flue-cured states, six of which will be in North Carolina.

At the end of the second year of testing, the Variety Advisory Committee will study all of the information available on the new variety and make a recommendation on whether it should be released for farmer planting. Plant breeders have made a "gentleman's agreement" to abide by the committee's recommendation.

No agency or private breeder can place more than five entries a year in the small plot tests, and no more

than two entries a year in the regional farm tests. This means that no tobacco breeder in the future will have more than two new varieties to release annually.

Also, since two years of testing are required under the new program, no new varieties will be released this year for farmer planting next year. Some of the tobaccos being tested in 1963 and 1964 could be ready for planting in 1965, however.

Regardless of when the first varieties will be ready, Dr. Jones is optimistic about their acceptance. "With the efforts that the members of the Advisory Committee are putting forth and the cooperation we are receiving from all segments of the tobacco industry, this volunteer program is bound to help our var-

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U. S. FORCES, KOREA - Army  
Sgt. Diamond Gore, son of Mrs. Maggie Gore, Route 4, Mount Olive, N. C., is a member of the 1st Cavalry Division which this month commemorates its 20th year of service in the Far East.  
The division is stationed along the demilitarized zone separating South

Korea from North Korea. The unit departed the U. S. in July, 1943, for the Pacific. During World War II, the division was the first to enter Manila and the first to enter Tokyo. Later, during the Korean War the division was the first to enter

Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea.  
Sergeant Gore is an armorer in Company D, 2d Battle Group of the 1st Cavalry Division.  
He entered the Army in 1956 and

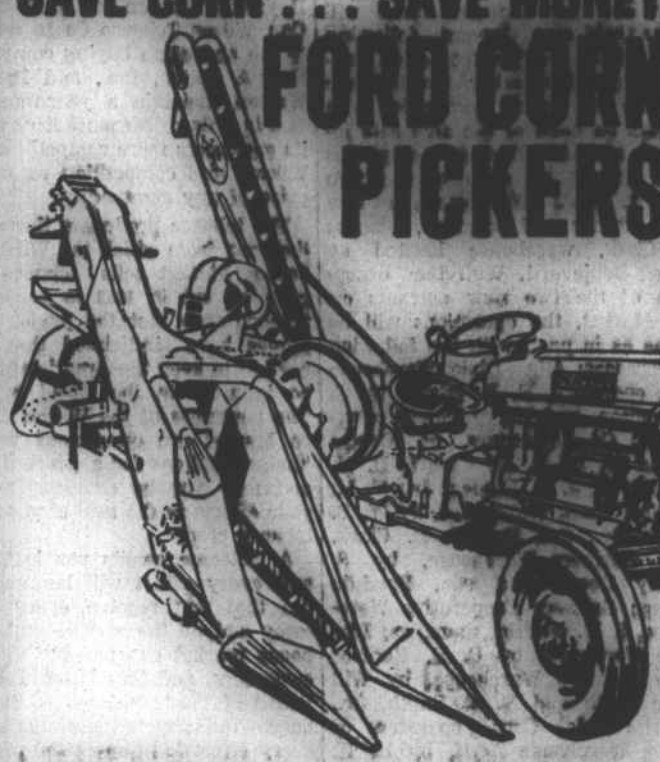
division's 5th Cavalry in Korea, arrived overseas on this tour of duty in February 1962.  
The sergeant attended Carver High School in Mount Olive.

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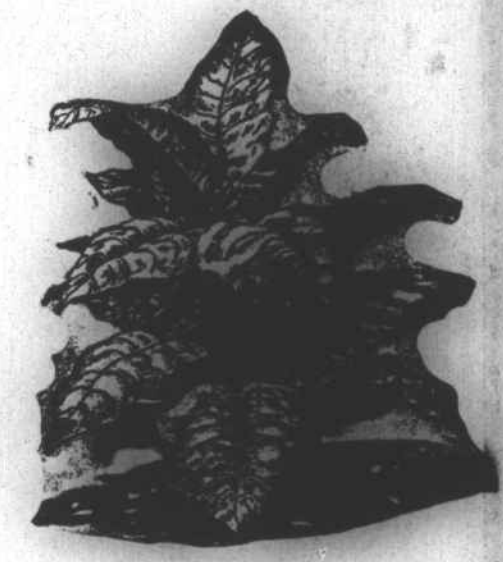
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