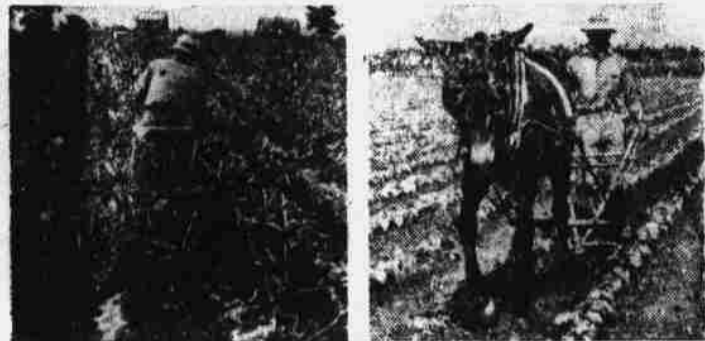


Southerners Speak

Black and White on the Farm



TWO WAYS OF FARMING—The man and his mule has long been typical of southern farming. Recently, however, as labor moved to the cities, the tractor has been taking over.

(Second of Six Articles) By BEM PRICE

AP Newsfeatures

ROBERTA, Ga. — Jasper Harbuck and Allen Lyons live in Crawford County. Both have worked almost unbelievably hard. Harbuck is white, Lyons a Negro.

Harbuck has 200 acres of good land which he inherited from his father, 100 hogs, 20 head of cattle, a dozen chickens, two cats and a tractor.

Lyons has 340 acres, one hog, one mule, two cows, six chickens and two cats. He began working as a tenant farmer 45 years ago.

Though they have lived in the county all their lives, and the area embraces only 200,000 acres containing 7,128 people, neither has to his knowledge seen the other.

But both, in terms of white man and Negro, are aware of the other's presence. Harbuck is uncomfortable about the so-called Negro problem and would leave it if he could.

Lyons just goes his humble, hat-tipping way with the remark "When I see a white man coming down the road I knows is gonna give me trouble, ef'n he'll just gimme time, I'll git to one side and he can have all de road."

When Harbuck was asked about the Negro problem, he replied, "I've got a sister over on a mountain in Alabama. They've never had Negroes there. They've never learned to have Negroes wait on 'em, bring 'em in the field. No, sir, they do everything for themselves over there and if I was a younger man that's where I'd go."

What about the treatment of Negroes?

"We get blamed for a lot of trouble down here which ain't our fault," says Harbuck. "If a Negro had any sense we might get along, but they'll tear up your machinery, and if you ain't there to watch 'em, they won't work."

Lyons just observes, "I gits along tolerable well with white folks. Ain't never had no trouble." Maybe education is the answer to the problem of the "machinery-wrecking, lazy Negro?"

"Well, maybe so, I don't know," answered Harbuck, "but in a county as poor as this one how you gonna build enough schools? There's 4,000 Negroes in the county and 3,000 whites—and lots of these Negroes have 15 children apiece."

Said Lyons, "I never went to school more'n eight-days hand-annin' in my life. Now, Hattie (his wife), how far'd these chillun get?"

Hattie, who gave birth to nine children, two of them while working in the fields, replied, "the oldest—that's 'John—got to the ninth grade. That's all the school. Them others was somewhere twixt."

The county has a fine consolidated school for white children. The Negro school for Hattie's children is a two-room, frame building. Neither room is over 18 feet square, but there are white-ruffed curtains at the windows.

How about voting? "I ain't never voted in my life," said Lyons. Hattie said: "That's for white folks." Said Harbuck: "Right now I'm

against Negroes voting—and a good many white folks for that matter. I figure a man ought to pay taxes before he can vote; gives him a stake in government. But you take the average run of country Negroes. Why he'd sell his vote for less'n \$5. So would some white people I know."

The one word which separates the worlds of Harbuck and Lyons, both of which are fictional names, is "education." Harbuck had two years of college at an agricultural institute.

About eight years ago the trend toward mechanization hit the county. Wartime construction jobs drew Negroes out of the area by the hundreds.

"They were getting \$5 to \$6 a day," said Harbuck, "and I couldn't compete with wages like that. I had about 10 Negro families on the place and I wasn't making any money on them anyhow. So I got myself a tractor."

"I'd been raising row crops—cotton, corn, peanuts. Some peaches."

"I wasn't making a dime. So when I got the tractor and there wasn't work for those left, they gradually drifted off. I was glad to see 'em go. There was one Negro, though, been on the place about 30 years that stayed. We retired him on a little pension about two years ago."

"Anyhow," he related, "I went in for hogs and cattle. I can sow all this land in oats myself for the cattle. Haven't tried to make anything off them yet. I'm living off hogs mostly. Paid off all my mortgage but \$400."

"Of course, I'm still buying things. When I put in electricity down this way (REA) I got an ice box, a refrigerator, an iron, a deep freeze and some other stuff. That slowed up paying off the mortgage."

News from SMYRNA

Feb. 15 — Mrs. Bessie Jackson, of Jacksonville, Fla., who has been visiting her niece, Mrs. Hilda Gillikin, visited Mrs. Herbert Hancock, Mrs. V. A. Chadwick and Mrs. Hugh Willis here Friday morning.

Mrs. Robert Matthews and daughter, Peggy, of Rocky Mount, accompanied Mrs. W. D. Pake home Saturday night. All returned back to Rocky Mount Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Guion Simpson made a business visit to Washington, D. C. last week.

Captain and Mrs. H. C. Willis and daughter, Elsie, Mr. and Mrs. V. A. Chadwick, Mr. George Hancock, Mrs. William Tyler, Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Chadwick, Mr. George W. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Yeomans, Mrs. Hilda Gillikin and daughter, Mrs. Leon Lewis, all of Smyrna, attended the clam bake at Williston Saturday night.

Mrs. Prudie Willis, of Atlantic, was here a short time Saturday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Vivian Chadwick, Mrs. H. R. Chadwick, Sr. and Mrs. H. R. Chadwick, Jr. enjoyed a plea-

News from CEDAR ISLAND

Feb. 15 — Mr. Wes Tosto of Oriental, N. C., spent Sunday here with her mother, Mrs. Nina Lupton.

Mr. Warren F. Lupton, who is working at Oriental, spent Sunday here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Huga G. Tosto and girl friend, of Oriental, were visitors here Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Alton Lupton of New Bern spent the week end here with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Day took Mr. E. G. Daniels to Beaufort last Thursday to Dr. Salter, he had a carbuncle on his neck. He is much improved now.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Goodwin and daughter, Zelma were the guests of Mrs. Gladys Lupton Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Goodwin left Friday for their home in Tampa, Pa. after spending a week here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Goodwin.

Messrs. Earl Day and Woodrow Daniels attended the clam bake at Williston last Saturday night.

Mr. Earl Styron returned to Boone Inlet C. G. station last Friday after spending his leave here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Styron.

Mrs. Janet Daniels and daughter, Carolyn spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Daniels.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Goodwin and children spent Sunday afternoon with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Goodwin.

Mrs. Jane Ann Downing is still confined to her bed and is pretty sick at this writing.

Mr. Ervin Lupton is visiting his son, Clifton Lupton and wife at Newport a while.

Mrs. Eloise Adams of Morehead City spent Wednesday here with her parents.

Mrs. Leon Lewis, who has been living in Morehead City since November, has moved back to Smyrna or an indefinite time to be with her mother. Mr. Lewis has been transferred to Charleston, S. C. Chief Journalist Norman Gillikin, of Arlington, Va., after spending several days here, returned to his home Saturday.

News from RUSSELL'S CREEK

Feb. 15 — Rev. R. H. Walker, of Edward, N. C., will fill his regular appointment at Live Oak Grove church Sunday morning, February 20, at eleven o'clock and Sunday night. The public is invited to at-

tend. The Women's Home Demonstration club will meet Tuesday night, February 22, at seven-thirty. The demonstration will be "Take Time to be a Good Citizen." Each member is urged to attend.

Mrs. Chester Dunkle and little son returned home from the hospital last Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gillikin and Miss Jean Sprinkle attended a clam bake at Williston Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Russell attended a dance Friday night at the Yacht basin.

Mr. John Chaplain, of Beaufort spent a while here Sunday morning with Mr. Em Chaplain.

Mrs. W. W. Russell is spending a few days with her sister, Mrs. Clyde Mathais of Currituck.

Mrs. L. D. Springle and daughter, Miss Patsy Springle visited Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Morton Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. A. H. Tallman, Miss Bernice Tallman and Mrs. G. R. Russell attended the Methodist confer-

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