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Tomato Processing At Co-op

Farmers Find Trellis Tomatoes Yield Good Profit With New Co-op Facilities

Growing tomatoes can provide the answer to many North Carolina farmers whose low-income farming operation needs a boost! High yields of excellent quality tomatoes are possible if ALL recommended practices are followed. Growers who do follow recommended practices are producing 20 to 30 tons (600-1000 bushels) per acre. Some better producers have exceeded 50 tons (1500 bushels) an

acre. Gross returns after marketing expenses, range from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per acre. Mr. Lawrence Ray, winner of the 1969 Chamber of Commerce growers award, made \$3,000 on one-half acre. He has enlarged his acreage this year and plans to grow five acres in 1970. He has mechanized his operation to include a tractor sprayer, irrigation and a small garden-lawn type tractor to use in trellising,

suckering and picking. This reduces labor and makes growing tomatoes more interesting.

How can a farmer join this thriving tomato enterprise? Mr. E. L. Dillingham, Farm Agent can provide the answers to soil preparation, planting and care of trellised tomatoes. The Farmers Home Administration has provided the answer for processing and marketing services for the tomato crop and other farm crops.

May, 1968, the Farmers Home Administration extended a cooperative association loan to the Yancey County Producers Association to enable this association to provide Yancey County low-income rural families processing and marketing services for trellis tomatoes and other farm crops. This facility enables families who are unable to meet their needs individually to do so jointly.

The loan was made after many months of collecting data and comprehensive study of the needs for a processing plant in Yancey County, made by the Extension Service, Farmers Home Administration, N.C. Department of Agriculture and WAMY. At least two-thirds of the proposed members were in the low-income group.

A recent analysis of the records of the coop, which is in the second year of operation, reveals that 41 low-income families are participating in the facility. Of these 41 farmers there are approximately 20 acres of tomatoes which should normally increase their net family income \$40,000. In many cases this is an increase of fifty percent or more in annual income.

This income is available in July and August when most farmers are without cash income for essential needs such as food and school expenses.

Both acreage and price are up over last year. Quality is up and all grades, including ripe, are in demand. Twenty-pound cartons of number one tomatoes have brought up to \$4.00. Many present growers plan to enlarge their acreage next year, and many new people have indicated they plan to grow. Mr. Dillingham notes that "It is becoming the thing to do to grow tomatoes. It may be a little harder than growing some other crops, but you can make more money."

In addition to buying tomatoes, the market provides jobs

(cont'd on center page)

'Esquire' Names Yancey County

By Carolyn Yuziuk

What could possibly be more gratifying than to have Esquire Magazine, with a circulation in the millions, name my chosen home in an article dealing with what it takes to make a person happy.

One way to measure good fortune is by finding out how many people wish they were in our shoes. What we have that others want. We can all count our many blessings, name them one by one" as the hymn goes; but speaking for myself, it satisfies the ego in me just a wee bit more to have someone else counting my blessings for me. It kind of reminds me of how lucky I am!

In the August, 1969, issue of Esquire, under the section "Adversaria", we find an article entitled "Happy Days For You! August, '69" in which the editors collaborated and each contributed their thoughts to a list of things to do which will still bring pleasure to a jaded society.

They suggest to the reader that he make two lists. One list should contain "all the things you should like never to hear of again". Their's included "demonstrations and riots, poverty programs, hippies, the Jet Set, nudity in the public sense," etc.

Then they say to "make a list - and study it - of things you really need, things that make you happy just by thinking about them". It will be a never-ending source of pride and pleasure to me (I'm going to keep the article to re-read on rainy days) that number 9 on this list of perhaps 45 items that a person "really needs" for happiness is "A mountain retreat in Yancey County, North Carolina". We say, Amen! And how much nicer to live in Yancey County all year 'round, and

how few people are so fortunate as to be able to do that.

How about food?..they say: "food: white sweet corn (Country Gentleman is the absolute best), not those uniformly yellow and uniformly tasteless ears that some idiot biologist (instead of the wind) pollinated for us, thinking we like it better because it has fatter, more uniform grains, as if consistency had anything to do with taste;

wild strawberries or, at least, strawberries that are small and haven't been bred up as big as medicine balls and as tasteless; ..." Amen, again!

Three other items mentioned in this array of thought-provoking necessities were God (number 1 on the list), Manners, listed second; and further down the list of desirables, Friends with old values: faith, loyalty, tolerance, respect, admiration,

etc. Reading these things, my cup was filled to overflowing. Here in Yancey County the 'old values' as they are sometimes called, still exist and most important, God is not dead!

The last item on the list was also the very fitting end of the article: "A vision of common sense: clear air and clean streams; no more war, no more armies, no more bombs, no big government or taxes. Peace."



Moments After Accident

An editor's nightmare - that's the it - might have been feeling an editor gets when he misses a front-page story. Actually The Yancey Record got the story all right, about the collision of a 1965 model Dodge with a railroad train, but we missed the pictures last week.

Thursday morning, after the Record was printed, this photograph came through the mail with the following letter:

"Dear Sir,

While vacationing in your beautiful county

last weekend, and photographing one of the State's most beautiful railroads, I shot these pictures.

I did not notice anyone else at the accident scene with a camera, and wondered if you would like to use these in your paper.

Permission to use is granted...I would appreciate a copy of that issue of the paper."

Our thanks to G. M. McDonald for the excellent photograph and for his kind words about our county. Mr. McDonald is from Greensboro, N.C.