

Historical Briefs
About America's First Food

What Can 4-H'ers Do To Help Protect The Environment?

By Mrs. Jane Cook
Save the environment!
Clean up the environ-
ment! This is one of today's
people's greatest concern.
It is dependent on
environmental products of
land, water, the air that
we breathe. How can you
as a 4-H'er help to make
the environment safe? Little
Switzerland Extension
Homemakers Club is so in-
terested in this that they are
awarding two awards this
November to 4-H'ers who
show that they really care
about doing something about it.
Two awards will be presented
a \$25 award to the
Mitchell County 4-H'er who
shows he or she has helped
set in solutions to environ-
mental problems and a \$25
award to the Mitchell Coun-
ty 4-H club that shows it
has excelled in solving en-
vironmental problems. The
guidelines have been drawn
up by Miss Esther Oldt, pre-
sident of Little Switzerland
Extension Homemakers Club

in cooperation with Agricul-
tural Extension Agents who
work with Mitchell County
4-H Clubs.

Winners will be deter-
mined on the basis of leader-
ship, excellence of project
work and effectiveness of
presentation for the project
which best (1) demonstrates
achievement in cleaning
up and beautifying your
community or one or more
areas of your community
and/or (2) develops a work-
able plan for improving the
water, air, land or health
resources of your county or
community.

Study what can be done
and how. Look around and
decide what places seem to
you to be ugly to look at
and are dangerous to people's
health. What can be done
to make them beautiful
again? How can streams be
made healthy and beautiful
again? Remember when
you could wade in the bran-
ches and creeks—even bend
over and get you a drink of

cool, clean water from the
streams?

Take pictures before you
begin and as changes are
made, take more pictures.
Get your family and friends
to work with you. Keep a
record of when you began,
what you did, how many
people helped and what you
accomplished. Another ex-
ample: Study the streams
in your area. Can they be
made safe for fishing, wad-

ing, swimming and drinking?
What can be done to make
the water safe? Will your
own land and water supply
be harmed in the future?
Will your children be safe
to drink it? Another exam-
ple: What about garbage dis-
posal in your area? What
laws have been passed in
North Carolina on garbage
disposal and why? Mitchell
and Yancey, in a joint ef-
fort, will be setting up some

dumpsters in areas of the
counties. What can you do
to help people use the equip-
ment?

To make your work ef-
fective, what publicity can
you give people who have
helped you? People like
to read about it in the paper
or hear about it on radio or
TV.

Can you do anything
about youth's great concern
the environment?

A lot of people will be sur-
prised to learn that corn is not
only an herb, but a member of
the grass family as well—under
cultivation for so many cen-
turies... that botanists can't
trace its wild plant origin!

The New World colonists of
1608 were so opposed to eat-
ing corn—that they only ac-
cepted it... when faced with
starvation!



TESTING FOR HEARING LOSS—Charles Black tests the hearing of a Glen Raven employee as part of a program by the mill to solve their noise problems. Special equipment and a sound proof booth are only a part of the effort by the mill to check employees for hearing loss.

There Was A Time..

By George Conrad
Agricultural Extension Chairman

"And God said, let us make man in our image after
our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish
of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the
cattle, and over all the earth and over every creeping
thing that creepeth upon the earth". Genesis 1:26

The beneficent land yielded lush, bountiful crops.
The forests, the skies, and lakes and streams were abun-
dant with game, fowl and fish. Nature's gifts were li-
mitless, it seemed. Despite these blessings, days were
often clouded by a relentless struggle with enemies that
threatened man's very existence.

There were times, as now, when the bounteous land
was enshrouded with fearful stillness. Insect hordes
clouded the skies. Splendid crops were demoted, with-
ered and died. Strange maladies struck flocks and
herds. Game and domesticated carcasses were familiar
sights. Virgin lands were decimated... causing ra-
ging fires, floods, erosion... resulting in desperate
shortages of fuel and food. Man was stricken by hunger,
disease and death. The land became a grim specter.
Throughout history, there were times when no escape
was possible.

The chronicles of history reveal man's desperate
struggles, his heartbreaking defeats against suffering
and misery, his relentless battle against superstitions,
ignorance and opposition of the closed mind. But his-
tory also records man's heartening victories over his
adversaries. He learned slowly. Desperate and horri-
ble measures were frequently adopted. Torture and
witchcraft prevailed. By virtue of his intellect, he
gradually developed tools capable of changing phy-
sical and ecological environments, and slowly rose to
a position of dominance, setting himself apart from all
other creatures. His success has been and continues to
be temporary and local... and the eternal struggle
between mankind and the combined forces of his ene-
mies goes on.

To produce sufficient food for his constantly increas-
ing numbers, man has made spectacular progress.
Drought, war, floods, earthquakes, storms, fire and
disease have all threatened his existence, but hunger
has been the most savage enemy. In its trail, unrest,
revolution, war and disease have usually followed.

As the population expanded in early civilization,
man turned from hunting to raising cattle and farm-
ing. Communities were established, replacing man's
roving through the forests and plains. The deliberate
practice of food-growing, now called agriculture, had
begun. As food supplies increased, so continued the
population growth.

Through the intervening centuries, man slowly
learned the techniques of successful farming. But his
struggle against drought, soil-depletion, crop-destroy-
ing insects and pernicious weeds continued.

Ravaging insect hordes often struck communities as
man stood helpless, unable to combat and control
them. Vivid descriptions of the depredation of many
injurious pests are contained in early Greek and Bibli-
cal writings.

An illuminating change came in man's struggle
against pests toward the end of the nineteenth century.

When American farmers were given the responsi-
bility of feeding half of the world during World War II,
scientists redoubled efforts to develop effective com-
pounds. This war-stimulated research led to the intro-
duction of completely new categories of insecticides,
fungicides, herbicides and rodenticides. A major
scientific breakthrough had been made, and the era
of scientific pest control began.

For the first time during man's long, troubled exis-
tence, technical knowledge permits him to produce an
abundance of agricultural commodities. In certain
areas of the world, the battle against starvation and
disease has been waged most successfully. The great
challenge continues, however. The earth will double
its present three billion population within the next
35 years. That number may increase to 12 billion in
an equal period of time. Every sixty minutes, man-
kind increases by 7000.

Without further improvement of food production and
pest control and weed control, man may be so busy
struggling for food he will lose sight of that margin of
surplus of time and energy needed to maintain an ad-
vanced civilization.

There is a time... at this very moment... when
half the world's population is going to bed... hungry.
Spurred by hunger and disease from his remote past,
man suffered, starved, struggled over death, survived,
and is here to tell the tale. But only just.

Glen Raven Goes One Step More

Glen Raven Mills in Burns-
ville is a weaving mill that
produces synthetic fabrics in
the grey state, (unfinished)
that have many end uses.

This Burnsville division
began operation in 1948, and
the looms at Glen Raven now
produce four times the amount
of cloth that was originally
manufactured there.

Bob Rhinehart, a manager
of the mill, said that they
have been working in all
areas of occupational health
and safety to bring their mill
into compliance with existing
standards. He said, however,
that any weaving operation
has a noise problem and

Glen Raven is no exception.

After complying with new
laws, Glen Raven has gone a
step further by installing a
program to protect and cor-
rect the hearing ability of
their employees. Working
with them on this program is
Dr. Joseph Stataloff, a Phila-
delphia ear surgeon specializ-
ing in hearing problems and
defects. Two Glen Raven
employees, Charles Black
and Billy Byrd, have received
special training to administer
the program.

Under the program, all
employees are given periodic
checks. If a hearing loss is

present or develops, the em-
ployee is assisted in taking
steps to correct that loss, what-
ever the cause.

According to Rhinehart
and Black, Glen Raven ac-
tually had little to do to com-
ply with new laws concerning
noise. Ear muffs and ear
plugs have always been pro-
vided, but only until recently
did the law make wearing
them mandatory.

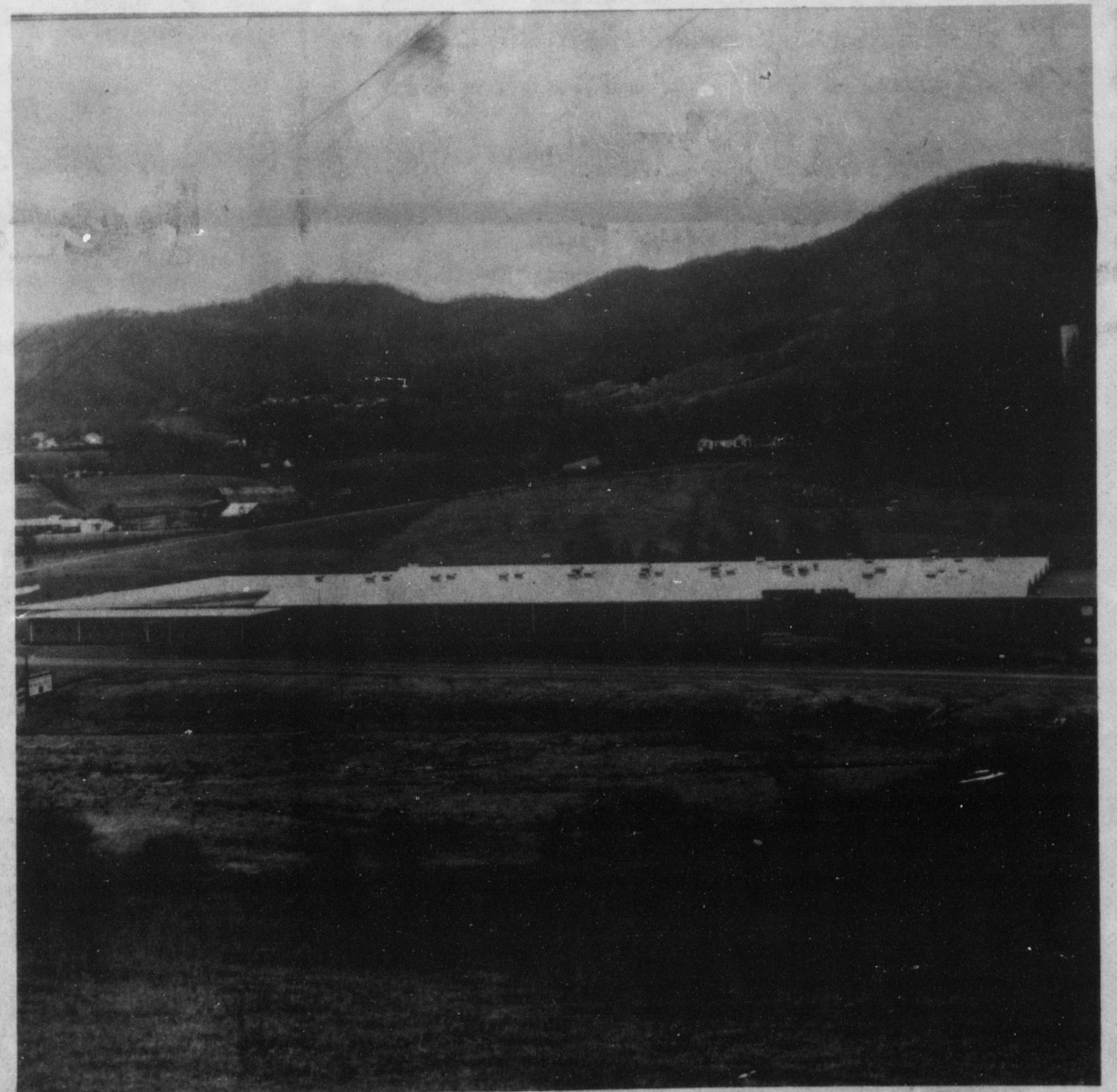
The new program goes far
beyond the necessary require-
ments. As Mr. Rhinehart
put it, "We felt we should do
more for our employees than
just comply with laws."



Cattle Grazing Lush Grass Where Proper Pasture Use
Is Maintained. This Foliage Was Permitted To
Mature Before Grazing.

**"Fertile Soil
Is The Base Of Healthy
Crops, Healthy Livestock,
And Healthy People."**

Frank P. Garland
Tax Collector - Treasurer
Bakersville



**A Good Environment Depends On
All Of Us Working Together,
And We At Glen Raven Mill
Are Willing To Do Our Part**



GLEN RAVEN MILLS, INC.