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## Loose Leaf Burley Display In Asheville

BY W.C. BLEDSOE  
County Extension Chairman

A display of loose-leaf packages for future sale of burley tobacco will be held at the Dixie Big Burley No. 2 Warehouse in Asheville (behind the Western Carolina Livestock Market) on November 30-December 9. Loose-leaf tobacco is not tied into hands but is packaged in sheets or pressed into bales for comparison with conventional hand-tied tobacco. The bales are formed in a homemade press box and weigh 60-75 pounds each, while the sheet package is the same as used in the flue-cured area and weighs 150-180 pounds each. Equipment used to form the sheets and bales will also be displayed.

The display is part of a larger over-all experimental effort being conducted in the burley states and involves producers, warehousemen, tobacco companies, and the Federal Grading Service. The tobacco for the North Carolina display was grown by Mr. Rogers Shelton of Jackson County and will be purchased by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company.

Under existing marketing regulations, burley tobacco must be tied into hands in order to receive government grades and therefore merit price support. Consequently, permission has been obtained from the proper authorities to waive these regulations for sale of the experimental loose-leaf tobaccos in the cooperating states.

Rising production costs and continued scarcity of labor have caused burley producers to become keenly interested in loose-leaf handling as a means of reducing both production costs and labor requirements. The present method of stripping burley tobacco and tying it into hands is laborious and time consuming. From one-

fourth to one-third of the total time required to produce an acre of burley is expended in stripping and preparing for market. Preliminary time and motion studies carried out at the University of Kentucky have shown that loose-leaf handling will reduce market preparation time by as much as 30 to 40%. Most of the major American tobacco companies have indicated that they can handle burley in loose-leaf form provided that they are given sufficient time to change certain machinery and handling procedures. But, they stress emphatically that growers will have to offer burley for sale uniformly. That is, it will either have to be all bales or all sheets.

This necessity for uniformity is one reason the experiments are being conducted throughout the 8-state burley area. These displays and related evaluations by producers and tobacco companies will give all segments of the

industry a chance to investigate both bales and sheets. The present system of tying burley into hands and selling it on baskets has been used for about 75 years. Therefore, any new system of marketing that is introduced may be used for a long time, so it is necessary to test each system thoroughly to make sure the one chosen is suitable to all segments of the industry.

Both systems offer advantages and disadvantages. For instance, one man can handle a bale but two are required to lift a full sheet. Bales stack and load more compactly than sheets but bales may damage if tobacco is in high case. Sheets may not pass readily through conventional stripping room doors. Warehouses can handle baled tobacco in about the same volume as they now handle baskets, but handling sheeted tobacco is less efficient. A method of warehouse designation similar to that in use for flue-cured markets may be required for sheeted tobacco, particularly in Kentucky.

Trial marketings of loose-leaf burley in either bales or sheets at designated locations may become a reality in 1977. Consequently, all burley growers should make an effort to come by the Dixie Big Burley No. 2 Warehouse in Asheville between November 30 and December 9 to inspect the different methods of handling burley in loose-leaf form. Representatives from N.C. State University will be at the display site between 10 a.m. and 12 noon on November 30-December 3 to discuss the different methods of handling with interested growers.

Burley Producers should keep in mind that this is an experimental display only. The general crop for 1976 must still be tied in hands to meet current marketing requirements.

## Quarterly Tax Report

The collection and distribution report for the county sales and use tax levies for the quarter ending September 30, 1976 was recently released by the North Carolina Department of Revenue. The report shows Yancey County collected \$63,930.28 for that quarter; of this amount, \$544.69 was the cost of collection, making \$63,385.59 the net distributable proceeds.

By comparison, Madison County collected the amount of \$42,680.07 for the quarter ending September 30; Avery County collected \$69,751.67 for that quarter; and Mitchell County collections were \$83,437.52 for the same period.

The cost of collecting the tax is \$.852 per \$100 of collections.

*Let's take this holiday as a time to reflect on all that we have to treasure. And celebrate Thanksgiving in the true tradition of peace, unity and love.*

## NCSU Agriculturalists

### Meet With Area Farmers

An area meeting has been scheduled for Marion on Tuesday, December 9, to give local people an opportunity to discuss agricultural matters with several people from North Carolina State University.

W.C. Bledsoe, Yancey County extension chairman, said the Marion meeting has been planned for the people of Yancey, McDowell, Alexander, Burke, Polk, Catawba, Avery, Mitchell, Rutherford, Cleveland, and Caldwell counties.

Fourteen such meetings are planned across the state in an effort to improve communications between local citizens and the School of Agriculture and Life Sciences at NCSU, Bledsoe explained.

"The people from NCSU will report on what the school is doing in the way of Agricultural teaching, research and extension work. Local citizens will have an opportunity to discuss their needs and offer suggestions," Bledsoe added.

Farmers, agribusinessmen and other people with an interest in agriculture are invited. Starting time is 2 o'clock p.m. and the place is the McDowell County Administration Building in Marion. All who are interested in attending, please contact the Agricultural Extension office for reservations.

Representing the School of Agriculture and Life Sciences will be Dr. J.E. Legates, dean; Dr. E.W. Glazener, director of academic affairs; Dr. K.R. Keller, director of

the Agricultural Experiment Station; D.G. Harwood, Jr., assistant director of the Agricultural Extension Service; Mrs. Ada Dalla Pozza, state home economics agent; Dr. K.L. Knight, head of the Department of Entomology; Dr. C.B. McCants, head of the Department of Soil Science; Dr. J.W. Strobel, head of the Department of Horti-

culture Science; and Dr. T.J. Mann, acting assistant director of the Agricultural Experiment Station.

## Mill/KWH Increase Is Approved For EMC

Mr. Charles R. Tolley, General Manager of French Broad EMC in Marshall, N.C., announced today that the Board of Directors has approved an increase of one mill per kilowatt hour (KWH) to be effective on the November 20 bills. This will amount to \$1 per 1000 KWH and will be included in the Purchase Power & Fuel Adjustment Charge on the bills.

The rate increase that went into effect in May of this year covered only the increased cost of power purchased from Carolina Power & Light Company and did not allow for additional revenue to cover the increased cost of operations. This one mill increase is necessary to cover the increased cost of materials, supplies and day to day operations.



## Troop 502 On Campout At Briar Bottom

The Boy Scouts of Troop 502 went on a campout at Briar Bottom, a part of Black Mountain Campgrounds, on November 6 and 7. The night of the 6th was very windy and some of the tent pegs were blown right out of the ground. Among other things there was a football game, a compass hike (in which the boys lost the scoutmasters), and after dark the scouts played "capture the flag" then had a campfire with skits and a ghost

story. Pictured at the campsite are (left to right) top row: Dan Maxwell, Brian Hensley, Greg Edge, Robert Proffitt, Jerry Layell, Joe Gillespie, Steve Maxwell, Davis Gillespie; bottom row: Jesse Buchanan, Andrew Wampler, Eric Hensley, Stewart Hensley, David Fortner, Kevin Laughrun, and Tom Maxwell. Ass't Scoutmaster Joe Maxwell is standing; Scoutmaster Wampler took the picture.



Ann Parks Hawthorne

## Hawthorne-MTI Visiting Artist

From now through June, 1977, Ann Parks Hawthorne will serve Yancey, Mitchell and Avery counties as Mayland Technical Institute's Visiting Artist. Initiated in 1971 by the Department of Community, Colleges and the North Carolina Arts Council, the Visiting Artist Program is designed to deepen the appreciation and cultivation of the arts within the sponsoring institution and community. Through this program professional artists are placed in North Carolina's technical institutes and community colleges for one-year residencies.

Ms Hawthorne brings to this community diverse skills as a photographer and artist. Following study in art history at the University of North Carolina, she worked as a free-lance photographer in Chapel Hill for five years. During this time her work appeared in various national and regional publications--American Horticulturalist, the New Yorker, N.C. Wildlife, etc. She was an instructor in photography at UNC and photographer for the Morehead Planetarium and the North Carolina Botanical Garden. The position as Third Century Artist with the Toe River Arts Council brought her to this area in January, 1976. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hawthorne of Statesville.

While in the Tri-County area, Ms Hawthorne will work on a number of projects relating to photography and the arts in general. Her principal project is the collection of photographs of various local communities to create a "portrait" of our area. According to Ms Hawthorne, "The Appalachian mountains have for too long been shown only in the precious stereotype of bonnets and hardship. I feel it is time to show a more honest mirroring of the life and the people here."

Ms Hawthorne is available

for talks, exhibits and workshops with schools, clubs, churches and individuals within the three counties served by Mayland Tech. Arrangements must be made in advance through the Visiting Artist advisor at MTI, Dr. Kearney Smith. Ms Hawthorne may be contacted directly at 765-7549 on any Thursday from 8 until 11 a.m. or at Box 547, Spruce Pine, N.C. 28777.

## Drive With Care Over Holidays

Edward L. Powell, Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, reminds motorists that the Thanksgiving holiday weekend is one of the most dangerous of the year on North Carolina's streets and highways.

Powell said that during the 4 day (102 hours) holiday weekend last year (1975), there were 1,546 traffic collisions, 978 persons injured and 26 persons killed on North Carolina streets and highways.

"As we approach this dangerous holiday weekend with 1302 fatalities this year, we can improve this record, but we need the cooperation of the public. I am asking all motorists to drive defensively and cautiously," Powell said.

Colonel E.W. Jones, Commander of the State Highway Patrol said the patrol will be out in full force patrolling the streets and highways. "While particular attention will be paid to speeders and suspected drunken drivers, the troopers will also be on the lookout for all clear cut violators." He also reminds motorists that half of the traffic accidents involving fatalities last Thanksgiving weekend were caused by speeding and driving under the influence of alcohol.

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POLLARD'S DRUG STORE

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