



SPRY OLD GENTLEMAN... to visit here soon.

Scout Will Publish Letters To Santa Claus

Told Santa yet what you want him to leave under your tree this Christmas?

If you haven't, you'd better get busy. Otherwise you may have to take "pot luck"—you know, what's left over after Old Saint Nick fills the orders placed by all the other little boys and girls the world over. The Scout is helping Santa collect his mail again this year. We'll take your letter and speed it on the way to the North Pole where Santa and his helpers are busily filling orders. Santa has given us permission to print all his letters in The Scout this year, so all his little friends can get ideas from each other, just in case they need help deciding what they want him to bring.

We'll print them as soon as possible after we get them, then send your Copy on to the North Pole.

Remember, Santa fills orders only from good little boys and girls. If that's you, write him your letter right away. Address to: Santa Claus, c/o The Scout, Murphy, N.C. 28906.



WILBURN GRIGGS... diabetic, but made fine garden at Marble

812 Families Make Gardens With ASCS Help

Bass Hyatt had a hand in 32 family gardens in Cherokee County this year and would like to increase that number for 1970.

Head of the local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Hyatt reports that low income families were furnished with seed, fertilizer and equipment for gardens and those who would like to participate next year should sign up now.

The urgency for early registration, he explained, is that ASCS does not have the money at the present for the program for 1970. The local office hopes to know by February if the money will be available, Hyatt says, and a long list of applicants will be of assistance in obtaining it.

"People who live in the city limits of Andrews or Murphy are not eligible," Hyatt said. And a family with an annual income greater than \$3,000 in qualify only if there is unusual hardship such as illness or large family size."

Those interested in participating should sign up immediately at the local ASCS office, he said.

The garden project, Hyatt said, is one part of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's offense in the war on poverty. It is designed to improve the diet of low-income families with enough land for a garden and was originally aimed, he said, in this state at the poor Negro farmers in eastern North Carolina who are being pushed out of tobacco farming by increasing mechanization.

However, the program did not flourish in the east, Hyatt said, and Cherokee County applied and was approved for the only pilot project in the state. This meant that while the garden program was recommended in all counties, the ASCS offices would have to find the money for it in their regular budgets. Cherokee received a special grant of \$15,000 just for the gardens and when the response proved overwhelming, got an additional \$5,000.

"We began with 500 participants," Hyatt says.

"Then an additional 312 families were approved. There were 60 applicants who had to be turned down because they were not eligible under the rules and another 150, who were eligible were turned down simply because we didn't have enough money to help them."

The garden assistance program was accepted in Cherokee County as a farming program, he explained, and not a welfare project. "It wouldn't work for a lazy man—it's not a handout," he said. "It takes plenty of hard work to make a garden."

"Many of the people in the program were on welfare but the majority were not," he said. "They were old people, widows, disabled people, folks with large families and small salaries, underemployed people and families with a pretty good income but with unusually high expenses due to sickness."

The cutoff line for participation was \$3,000, he said, but 460 of the 812 gardening families had incomes of less than \$2,000 a year.

In the regular farm programs the ASCS administrators, the local office will buy trees if a farmer will plant them. If a farmer has unused land, to prevent erosion the ASCS will buy seed, lime and fertilizer for the farmer to plant to hold the land. The gardening program was handled in similar fashion.

"They didn't get a red cent in cash," Hyatt said. Each participating family was given \$40 credit at local stores selling farm supplies. The ASCS picked up the tab and there was a recommended list for the quarter-acre gardens.

This included 300 pounds of 8-8-8 fertilizer, 50 pounds of ammonium nitrate, 500 pounds of lime, a sprayer and spray materials, 200 onion sets, 50 pounds of Irish potatoes and seed packets for snap beans, corn, squash, carrots, lettuce, cucumber, mustard, okra and turnips.

The list was not mandatory, Hyatt said, and if a gardener wanted to drop turnips and substitute tomatoes, that was his business. He said although the program was too late in

being funded for tomato plants to be included, most of the gardeners had already made seed beds and had tomatoes in their gardens.

Most of the gardeners followed the list, he said, and it took the allotted \$40. He added that about 800 of the 812 families purchased a sprayer as advised, which can be used for several years to come.

Next year, if funds for the program can be found, Hyatt said the formula will be \$8 for each tenth of an acre in garden. He said the county ASCS committee will consider each application and the number of tenths to be approved for a participant will be based on the size of the family. People who got sprayers this year will not be given money for sprayers next year, he added.

Hyatt said at the end of the gardening season, he invited the participants to write their opinions on the program. He said the local ASCS office received about 300 letters in support of the program, many saying it had enabled them to have a good garden they otherwise would have not had and expressing hope that the program will continue.

Most of the gardeners, he said, told him that they ate the fresh vegetables or preserved them for later use. They were not prohibited from selling their produce, if they so desired, but he said only a few sold vegetables from their garden plots.

There were two letter-writers who opposed the program, Hyatt reported. One had not been in the program but had heard about it and contended that \$40 was too much, saying a garden could be prepared and planted for less.

The other letter in opposition was from a man who had taken the \$40 in credit and made a garden with it. He said, however, that giving people credit at the store made them lazy. Hyatt said his letter did not indicate whether the writer thought participation in the program had made him lazy.

NEW INDUSTRY ANNOUNCED IN CLAY

Plans for a carpet yarn manufacturing plant on old US-64 near Warne were announced Wednesday by officials of the Harriet and Henderson Cotton Mills and Roy G. Sowers, Jr., director of the N. C. Department of Conservation and Development.

The plant will ultimately employ 600 persons and will represent a capital investment of \$12 million, according to Marshall Y. Cooper, chief executive officer of the Henderson-based company.

Construction on the first \$4 million phase of the plant will begin as soon as the Clay County Development Corporation is able to arrange financing.

The local group held a meeting with officials from the Economic Development Administration Wednesday. The local corporation plans to lease the \$1.4 million building to Harriet and Henderson in the summer of 1970.

The initial plant will contain 110,000 square feet on a 25-acre site, according to Cooper. Employment in the first year of operation will total 225 persons. In 1971, the plant's annual payroll will exceed \$1 million, according to Cooper.

Sowers expressed pleasure at the company's decision to locate in rural Clay County.

There are approximately 250 manufacturing jobs in Clay County now, Sowers said, but when the Harriet and Henderson mill is in full operation, it will more than double the number of jobs available in the county.

"This is a prime example of improving the job opportunities for people in our state," Sowers continued. "This new plant will bolster the economy of one of our fine mountain counties, which, incidentally, is one of those counties which has lost population since the 1960 census."

"This is the nuts and bolts of Governor Scott's program to assist our rural areas improve their economic position," he added.

Cooper, in his statement from Hayesville, said the company looked at sites in Virginia and Georgia before deciding on the Tar Heel location.

"We believe that Hayesville is the best of all communities we looked at for the requirements of this particular plant."

Tom C. Day, chairman of the Clay County Development Corporation, said: "Hayesville is most fortunate to gain a corporate citizen of this stature."

Day, a vice president of Citizens Bank & Trust and manager of the bank's operation in Hayesville, has been a prime mover in attracting new industry to Clay County.

Harriet and Henderson Cotton Mills, in business since 1895, has five plants and 1,500 employees in Berryton, Ga. Annual sales now exceed \$35 million.

The new plant at Hayesville will be the company's first venture into the carpet yarn field.



Inspecting The Site

Tom Day, left, a leader in attracting new industry to Clay County, and Marshall Cooper, chief executive officer of Harriet and Henderson Cotton Mills, look over the plans for a new plant to be located near Warne.

County Commissioners Name Tax List Takers

The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners split evenly along political lines Monday morning and sparred verbally for about half an hour before deciding on tax list takers for 1970.

With the board made up of three Democrats and three Republicans, compromise was their key word. Ray Sims, a teacher at Hiwassee Dam School, led the Democrats; Jack Simonds, of the Wolf Creek section, was the Republican spokesman.

It started when Sims moved that W. T. Moore of Andrews, chairman of the commissioners, be re-elected to his position. Moore is a Democrat and a veteran commissioner; there were nods all around the table and he was re-elected unanimously.

Then Simonds made a motion that Luther Dockery, a Republican, be named as the vice chairman. This office, it is understood, is mostly honorary except that Moore, 72, does not like to travel at night and the vice chairman must attend several evening meetings in his place each month. Sims had been serving as vice chairman.

The vote on Dockery as vice chairman split along party lines. Simonds, Mrs. Emogene Matheson and Dockery voted for the motion as Republicans; the Democrats, Moore, Sims and Andrew Barton voted against it.

Then Barton nominated Sims to continue in the post with the same result, the vote splitting along party lines.

Sims then made a completely separate motion, a standard bookkeeping action, that the county continue all county employees in their jobs at the same rate of pay. Simonds asked for a five-minute recess before any vote was taken and with the other two Republicans, left the meeting room.

The GOP side returned shortly and Simonds said Barton, who also serves as tax supervisor, is guilty of double office holding. Sims said it was not true, citing a handbook which he said allowed a tax supervisor to also be a county commissioner.

Regardless of that, Simonds said, the Republicans would go along with Barton holding two jobs and would go along with the Sims motion on county employees, but he said the Republicans were determined to name more of their number to be tax list takers.

The Sims motion on county employees was then passed and the political head-knocking began. Chairman Moore suggested that the list takers be split evenly across the county, but the Republicans said in some places there had been only Democrats for the past two years and there now should be Republicans named to replace them.

Moore then commented that "It doesn't amount to much anyway - they just sit there and write it down when you list your property for taxes" and retired from the struggle. Simonds and Sims then went over the names of those seeking the appointments, with Dockery and Barton also taking an active part and there was much noisy discussion.

In the end, two Republicans were named to list taxes in Andrews, Carlyle Matheson and Mrs. N. L. Adams, and two Democrats were named for Murphy, John Lunsford and Mrs. Kate Mauney. In the other four townships, they were split evenly - a Democrat and a Republican for each.

Property owners in Beaverdam township in January may list with Fred Martin, a Democrat, or with Virginia Patton, a Republican. In Shoal Creek, listing will be done with Walter Anderson, a Republican, or with Democrat Clifford Stiles.

At Hothouse, Mrs. Charlie McGill, Democrat, and Mrs. Winston Hawkins, Republican, will list taxes. At Notla township, Republican V. C. Anderson and Democrat Charles Akins will be list takers.

Since Sims was not replaced, it was explained that he will continue as vice chairman until a replacement is named.

In other action the commissioners

- Voted to finish out the inside of two rooms the Town of Murphy has furnished for the Farmers Home Administration in the building housing the town fire trucks. The FHA office was forced to leave the courthouse in order to provide more space for the Social Services (formerly Welfare) Department. The commissioners saw the arrangement as a welcome solution, since they did not want the FHA office to leave Murphy.

- Released a lot in the Texana section at the request of Robert Bruce who heads the local FHA office, for its tax value plus about \$110 in property taxes owed, a total of \$710. The lot is needed for construction of a Texana community water system, which will be partly financed by an FHA loan. The release was necessary because the county had a \$5,400 lien on the lot, its owners having drawn welfare support before his death.

- Agreed to lease the Andrews-Murphy Airport for 20 years to E. A. Wood, Jr., one of the original owners of the land where the airport is located. This lease will cost the Wood nothing, it was explained, since he gave a large hangar there to the county. Commissioners also approved a set of rules of operation of the airport and noted that the lease would not prevent the operator of another air service from moving in beside the Wood operation, if another business wanted space at the airport.

- Voted to support action originated by the Forsyth County commissioners seeking a law from the next Legislature making vehicle owners pay property taxes on their vehicles when they buy a license tag. This would make for a higher rate of collection of taxes on vehicles, commissioners were told, by closing a number of loopholes. Georgia, South Carolina and Virginia now have a similar law, it was explained. The measure would also provide for a yearly tag on mobile homes.



Christmas Parade Set Saturday

Employees at Clifton Precision are shown preparing their float for the fifth annual Jaycee Christmas Parade, scheduled for 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon. The parade will kick off the Christmas Season. The theme is "An Old Fashioned Christmas" and will be highlighted by a visit from Santa Claus, arranged by the Chamber of Commerce. Starting at the ball park, the parade will travel into town, turn right at the traffic light down Tennessee Street where it will turn left onto Willow Street. From here, the parade will come to Hiwassee Street and turn left back toward town. At the traffic light the parade will turn right on Peachtree Street and then turn left by the courthouse. Trophies will be awarded to the best floats in commercial and non-commercial divisions.