

Jones Journal

"A BETTER COUNTY THROUGH IMPROVED FARM PRACTICES"

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Green Prefers Kinston Over Korea; He's Back With Kinston Fire Department Now



Sergeant First Class Leslie L. Green (right) of Kinston, N. C., receives the Commendation Ribbon with metal pendant for meritorious service from Colonel Duff, commander of the 45th

Division in Korea. SFC Green, whose wife, Dot lives at 414 W. Blount St., was cited for service as a cannoneer with Battery C of the 189th Field Artillery Battalion in Korea.

Connection Between Cigarettes And Lung Cancer, If Any, Poses Big Problem to Tobacco Industry

The biggest, ugliest and most dangerous problem to stare the Eastern North Carolina farm economy in the eye in this century is the current wide publicity being given to the very likely possibility that there is a direct and dire connection between smoking and lung cancer.

The first trickling of this blow that can be a death blow to the major part of the Carolina Farm Economy came with announcement from the government that tobacco stamp sales were showing a decline in 1953 for the first time in more than 20 years. In short, fewer fags are being smoked and the cause, so many experts say, is the apparent fact that lung cancer is far more predominant among smokers than among non-smokers.

Last week "Business Week" made a detailed survey of the situation and presented as many of the facts as were available along with some of the conjecture, some of the tobacco industry comments and reflections on the advertising and research policies of the major tobacco processing companies.

Calling "The Reader's Digest" a "long-standing foe" of the (tobacco) industry, "Business Week" points out that the "Digest" under an article entitled "Can The Poisons in Cigarettes Be Avoided" has spread before its many million readers the statement that "used to excess tobacco may even shorten life."

Referring to another circulation and prestige-giant among the nation's publications "Bus-

ness Week" mentions "Time" and its articles on cancer research which "points a finger straight at cigarettes as a major cause of lung cancer, the incidence of which has quadrupled during the 20 years that cigarette consumption has shot up from 100-billion to about 400-billion per year."

The unveiled "Digest" and "Time" comments, buttressed by what they apparently believed to be sufficient fact ended the vast public silence which has been observed by the tobacco industry on lung cancer and its possible causes.

About all the tobacco industry has been able to say up until this time is: That the case against cigarettes has not been (Continued on page 8)

Lenoir's Only Certified Seed Producer Ready For '54

This is the time of year when the better tobacco farmers begin giving serious consideration to the variety and brands of seed they will soon be putting into their plant beds.

Norwood B. Johnson, who lives just north of Kinston on what used to be Route One but has now become Route Six with the expansion of the rural free delivery system, again this year is ready with plenty of his certified tobacco seed of the predominately favorite types used by Eastern Carolina farmers.

Again this year Johnson, as well as all others who hope to sell many seed in this area are supplying their dealers with Dixie Bright 101 seed and in considerable quantity, since this over the past three years has proven to be the best possible variety for the disease-infested soils of the Coastal Plains.

Johnson says there are very few areas left in which "old fields" lines of tobacco can still be used and even in the few that have not yet shown any sign of disease the grower is taking a long risk since these diseases have a way of moving into fields.

Johnson got into the seed business, largely on the recommendation of Lenoir County Farm Agent Joe Koonce, Jr., who knew Johnson as one of the better tobacco farmers in the county and who also knew him as one capable of giving detailed supervision to the growing, harvesting and packaging of the tiny seeds—all of which are necessary to obtain certification from the North Carolina Crop Improvement Association.

All of Johnson's foundation seeds—as with all other certified seed dealers—come from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. From these seed Johnson grows the tobacco from which he selects the seed that he will offer for sale during the coming year.

After carefully going over the field many times while the tobacco is growing and selecting those stalks that conform to the type in a particular field Johnson then pays particular attention to their future welfare and at just the right time personally supervises the removal of the seed from the top of the flowering stalk. Being a few days too late with the removal may net Johnson nothing but seed hulls since the tobacco seed is an extremely delicate and vagrant type that has to be taken at just the right time.

Then after a long drying period the seed are carefully cleaned, largely by Johnson himself with some help from farm labor, but always under his meticulous supervision.

Each batch of seeds is kept carefully separate from all other fields and varieties and after their cleaning samples from each batch are sent the State Department of Agriculture where they are given germination tests—which is simply a test to determine on an average basis how many seed will grow out of each hundred planted if the weather and plant bed give the tiny seeds a fair chance.

After reports from these germination tests are in then Johnson begins the job of packaging these seeds into one ounce containers, each marked with the variety and the percentage of germination.

Johnson admits that his is a small operation in comparison with the "giants" of the seed industry, but Johnson, who is not a type giving to bragging, modestly points out with pride that his seed are just as good as can possibly be purchased and the long list of repeat customers that he has accumulated



Here Norwood B. Johnson of Kinston route six is seen inspecting one of the fields from which seed were harvested last summer and have since been dried, cleaned, tested and packaged and are now ready for purchase over Eastern North

Carolina by those farmers who want a seed grown in and adapted to the soil and climatic conditions of this part of the state. Johnson is Lenoir County's only producer of Certified Tobacco Seed, and he is a member of the North Carolina Crop

Improvement Association which is devoted to the production of better seeds for better farm results. Along with Johnson on his inspection trip above is the boss around his house, his daughter, Linda.

in the few years he has been in the certified seed business is a good indication that this is true.

Johnson says the best advertising he gets is from the people who have used his seed in the past. It's rather like the

old Packard ad which said, "Ask the man who owns one." Only Johnson says, "Ask the man who uses my seed!"

Help Fight TB



Buy Christmas Seals