

# County Agent Analyzes Tobacco Situation In Detail

## Varieties Discussed in Light of Tobacco Need And Parity Set for '57

Here are a few practical suggestions which may be of help to tobacco farmers at this time.

(1) Some growers may want to grow some of the old line non-resistant varieties since the quality of these varieties is generally better than resistant varieties. Since this is a heavily diseased area, especially Black Shank, growers should not take undue risk. Growers who can plant tobacco on fields that has not had tobacco on it for several years may be able to get by with a non-resistant variety. It is suggested that a grower not plant his entire allotment in a non-resistant variety under any condition. It seems a good idea to put a row of non-resistant tobacco in each of his fields and check up on his disease problem before planting too much acreage of a non-resistant variety.

Longer and well-planned rotations are absolutely necessary if a grower is to grow a non-resistant variety and are just about as necessary for some of the resistant varieties which carry a low level of resistance. If the present trend continues, we may be forced to grow non-resistant varieties so it is very important to get the best rotation system possible put into practice on every farm just as quickly as possible.

Where a non-resistant variety is grown, be sure to treat the plant bed with methyl bromide gas and try to prevent water from running across the beds. Taking disease free plants to the field is absolutely essential if a non-resistant variety is to be successful.

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## Six Injured Slightly In Weekend Accident

Six teen-agers were injured — two seriously — in a high speed accident at about 10:30 Saturday night. Walter Willoughby, of 100 South Adkin Street in Kinston, driver of the car involved, will be charged with reckless driving and driving without a driver's license. Investigating Officer Wesley Parrish says.

The accident took place about seven miles southeast of Kinston on the "Fire Tower Road" when Willoughby lost control of the car while travelling at high speed on a straight stretch of road. Willoughby suffered a broken shoulder, Mary Harper of Simon Bright Apartments is listed as having a serious back injury, Dorothy Thompson suffered cuts about the face, head and legs, Bill Stepps had possible internal injuries and Betty Sue Hill of Kinston route two had possible internal injuries. The sixth occupant, a Camp Lejeune Marine, also had minor bruises and abrasions and possible internal injuries. He was transferred to a Marine hospital for further treatment.

The car Willoughby was driving was borrowed from a friend and it was classed as a "total loss" by Patrolman Parrish.

## Social Security Makes Reduction Tenants Easier on Parrott Farm

In the past two years all of the problems of the farm owner have not been totally centered around quality production. Jim Parrott, manager of the Dr. James Parrott Estate, which is Lenoir County's largest farm operation, admits that the matter of human relations has caused him almost as much concern as the problem of production and marketing.

With such a large and long-established farm operation Parrott has found himself faced with cutting back as acreage cuts came to tobacco and as improved tobacco farming techniques lowered the overall labor demands on the farms owned by his mother, his sister, Mrs. W. A. Coleman and himself.

Many families had lived on "The Parrott Farm" before "Captain Jim" was born. Children had grown into adulthood, knowing no other home but "The Parrott Farm"; so one can easily understand Jim's difficult task when he was finally faced with reducing the number of families on "The Parrott Farms" which center around Falling Creek, Tull Mill's area in the Deep Run section and Sandy Bottom.

This year Jim's job was materially helped by the arrival of a brand new factor in farm economics — Social Security.

With a 20 per cent tobacco cut Parrott recognized "If we keep all the tenants we have now they will all suffer".

Two long-time tenants had reached the eligible age for social security benefits. Parrott persuaded them to "retire" and what persuasion he used; A home on the "farm" with a large garden plot and necessary out-buildings and enough land to grow a little feed for a few hogs and chickens was the offer Parrott made to these two tenants — and rent free for the rest of their lives. Neither of the men was anxious to retire but Parrott finally was able to convince them that they could still work around the farm "when labor was short" but they had earned a rest and with the home he was offering plus social security checks they could catch up with their fishing and rocking.

One of these two to retire was Elias Morris . . . A Falling Creek man born and bred . . . "Never lived no where else", is his boast. "I know Falling Creek", Morris said as he interrupted the cleaning up around his retirement home on the railroad line just east of Falling Creek.

With his wife and a grandson, Morris is settled quite comfortably with TV, hogs, chickens and about two acres of land for garden and



Elias Morris

corn.

Parrott emphasized one point: "I'm afraid a great many farmers are not taking advantage of the big break that Social Security gives them. They are supposed to under the law and they ought to for their own sake".

## Problems Reviewed by Agent; Suggestions For Answers Offered

Since 1940 tobacco farmers have operated a sound program which brought untold benefits to the tobacco areas. Difficulties began to appear in 1955 and became worse in 1956.

### Surplus

Tobacco farmers failed to keep supply in line with the demand during the past two years. Stocks in the Flue-Cured Stabilization Program are around 700 million pounds of tobacco. Stocks in the hands of the trade are at an all-time high. If it had not been for an effective price support program in 1956, tobacco prices would have dropped substantially.

### Change in Demand

The second problem is that production is going in one way and market demand is going in another direction. That is to say that the demand is toward a tobacco with full body, flavor, and aroma while our production has been rapidly going towards the lighter milder tobaccos.

### Filter-Tip Cigarettes

When the lung cancer publicity appeared a few years ago, tobacco companies brought out the filter-tip cigarette in the effort to keep sales from dropping. Sales of filter cigarettes continued to increase in 1956. Filter tips require stronger tobacco which has accounted for much of the change in demand for tobacco in the last two years. The percentage of burley and other kinds of tobacco in cigarettes is increasing and will continue to increase over flue-cured.

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## Croatan Forest Skeleton Still Mystery; Little Hope for Answer

Jones County Sheriff Brown Yates and SBI Agent Jack Thomas doubt that the identity of a skeleton found Christmas Eve Day deep in Croatan Forest will ever be reliably decided.

J. W. Meadows of Maysville found the scattered bones and numerous personal items while on a deer hunt about eight miles east of Maysville last Monday.

Sheriff Yates and Agent Thomas accompanied by guides returned to the site where the skeleton was found last Friday and recovered a few more bones but no additional personal belongings.

Sheriff Yates share with Thomas the belief that the skeleton was of a man who had been dead for three or possibly more years. The skeleton was partially covered by a fire-lane plow furrow which Yates says was cut through the forest about three years ago.

With the body were found a pair of khaki trousers, a felt hat, a bluish gray necktie, the lower half of a Parker fountain pen, a spoon, a can opener, two medicine bottles — one empty the other half full — a nasal inhalant, a rubber shoe sole and a leather belt with a horseshoe type buckle.

One of the leg bones found was broken and the skull was found a dozen or more feet from the rest of the bones. The officers were not able to say if the leg bone break was before death or possible done by the bulldozer which cut the fire lane.

Sheriff Yates says there have been no reports of missing hunters in that area in nearly a dozen years. Marine Corps investigators quickly eliminated the possibility of the skeleton belonging to a serviceman because of the types of

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Workers pictured here are rapidly extending lines of the Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Company into the Southeastern corner of Lenoir County out the Trenton highway. This newest telephone

extension in Lenoir County will go as far as Leslie White's filling station in Jones County and serve several dozen homes between Loftins Crossroads—where the present service ends — and White's store.



Negro Preacher Columbus Blount and his wife Ollie Lee of Kinston route three have been charged with burning the car pictured above. Deputy Sheriffs Kirby Hardy Jr., George Hill and William Stroud participated in the investigation which followed the discovery late Monday night of the burning car near the Dobbs Farm

northwest of Kinston. The car was first listed as belonging to Lloyd Ray Dawson of La Grange route one, but he had disposed of it in the spring and it was later sold to Blount. The officers say the car was saturated with kerosene and they allege that its burning was no accident. Blount is held under \$5,000 bond and his wife is under \$2,500 bond.

## Adult Class Monday

Use of the Modern Gas Range will be the topic of an adult class to be held Monday night at 7:30 in Jones Central High School with Home Economist Sarah Barker of Charlotte conducting the classes. Home Ec Teacher Mrs. Alma Phillips, who is supervising this series of adult classes urges a large turnout to those who would like to learn how to use their gas range more efficiently.



The 10 members of the Odell Howard Family were left homeless, without clothing or furniture Monday afternoon by the fire which destroyed their home on US 70 five miles east of Kinston on the J. W.

Gates Farm. An oil stove explosion started the fire which spread very rapidly making it almost impossible to save either the house or any of the family's personal belongings. Damage was estimated at \$4,700.