

Honor Farmers Tells About His Struggles For Success On Farm

Sam Lathan Describes Three Decades Upon Tar Heel Farm.

Farm and Fireside.

Thirty-four years ago Sam Lathan of Monroe, N. C. then a sturdy young man of 26, took his ax into the woods cleared six acres and between Christmas and March built a one-room log cabin. With \$20 he got for his cow and \$50 he borrowed he bought a cook stove, a few simple furnishings, a supply of staple groceries and settled down with his young bride of three months.

In 1926 Sam Lathan, nearing 60, and owning 400 acres of good land was made an "Honor Farmer" the only man of the 269,000 farmers in North Carolina to be so designated that year by the state college of agriculture.

What happened between the time Lathan first went into the woods and his recognition by state authorities is an outstanding example of the grinding struggle and proud achievement of thousands of American farm men and farm women.

Lathan at 60 is content to "take life a bit easier. He spends part of his time in town, where he and his brother own a general store patronized mainly by farmers. But he seems out of place behind a counter. For his interest are still mostly in farming, not in salt pork and pigged goods. This is indicated by the only sign in the display window of the store. It reads: "Farm to make money and you'll fail; farm to make a living and you'll make money."

Exactly Lathan's experience. Like his grandfather and father before him, he has always raised meat, bread and feed; and he has always grown soil-building crops to restore the fertility taken from the ground by crops sold off the place.

Now the whole South is coming around to this plan after years of cash-crop farming.

Started 30 Years Ago

Lathan started it more than 30 years ago and as a result he has a comfortable share of worldly goods; for himself and he has been able to give each of his two sons a 100-acre farm when they started for themselves. A younger boy, who is still at home, will probably share the remaining 400 acres.

Being an "Honor Farmer" hasn't swelled Lathan's head, in fact all through our interview he stressed the help his wife gave him. If it wasn't for her, he said, the only daughter of a wealthy farmer, he would have quit several times when the going was hard.

"I don't know why the college awarded me the Certificate of Merit," he told me. "If I had known it beforehand I would have suggested that it be awarded my wife. If it hadn't been for her advice, help and willingness to suffer discomforts and privations such as she wasn't used to I would have pulled up stakes."

"There were 165 acres in the place Father gave me for helping him, but not a foot of it was cleared. Why I even had to cut a path from the road to the place we started clearing I had no money except the \$20 I got for my cow and \$50 I borrowed. Our one-room cabin, about a mile from nowhere, was cheerless and cold. Often it seemed we'd freeze to death if we so much as put a pot of beans on to take heat from the stove."

"The virgin land made good cotton but the market went below 5c a pound. The first year we didn't make expenses. I was afraid of debt but I had to have a little money to keep us alive. About that time my father-in-law offered us his plantation of 250 acres of good tillable

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THE PARAGON'S CLOSING OUT SALE.

land if we'd come and live with him. He was lonesome for my wife, an only child.

Wanted To Go

"I was all for going. Anything to get out of debt and the miserable way we were living. I didn't mind so much myself but it was pretty hard on my wife. But she turned the proposition down. At first I was disappointed but when I thought it over and realized that her refusal was an indication of her willingness to do more than her share, I buckled in and worked a little harder."

"The second year I rented 20 acres to grow cotton. It made a little money and I paid off my notes. I hired a negro and we cleared 16 acres that winter. He was such a good worker that I bought another mule and in addition to my own cleared land rented 40 acres."

"Prices were a little better the next fall, so we timbered more land and I bought a few head of sheep to clean up the brush, a cow and a sow. The livestock, supplying cur milk and butter, cut our food bill almost to nothing as I had a patch of wheat and a garden. Our surplus of these products paid for what we had to buy."

"As I cleared more land and put it in crop I devoted more and more of it to feed and fertilizing crops."

Soybeans Helped.
Soybeans especially did much to keep up the land and provide feed for the increased stock. This is the way Grandfather and Father farmed before me, and the plan was as good for me as it was for them.

"They call it living at home now and cotton farmers are gradually coming to it after all these years of ruining their land by trying to make money with cash crops alone. It's mighty hard to make a profit on only one crop, especially when you do little or nothing to keep up the life of the soil."

"When we got a little money ahead I started to build a new house. The cabin became entirely too small and uncomfortable after our boys began to arrive. After our new house was built and paid for I invested our surplus cash in land. At one time I had 700 acres. We didn't need the land but I thought it a good investment as I could find. Besides, I was thinking of the boys when they got older and went on their own. My dad helped me and I wanted to do the same for our sons."

"I later sold some of the land, but when the two boys got married I gave each a 100-acre farm as a start. Later on they will get part of

the 400 acres remaining in the plantation."

Helping Boys
But giving the boys a farm isn't all Lathan did for them. When they left home they had a pretty good idea of how to farm profitably. Both of them are making good now using their father's methods, taught by letting results prove the value of his plans.

About ten years ago, for instance he was planting soybeans in the corn. The boys didn't think much of the idea. Said you couldn't make good yields when two crops were planted together. Lathan didn't dispute them at the time, but during harvest when the boys were slow in bringing up the grain he asked:

"What's the matter with you fellows? Seems like it's taking you a long time to get in a few acres of corn."

"Finest crop we ever raised. Dad," they replied.

And they never opposed soys in the corn after that.

They grew partial to the combination of vetch, oats and lespedeza in practically the same manner. The boys used to plow stubble from June to August, a pretty hot season in the fall with small grains, eliminated stubble plowing because it was still growing at harvest time.

"We should have known of it years ago," one son said after the first demonstration.

Beats Drought.
Lathan gets good yields even in the driest years. County Agent Tom Broom told me that while Lathan's soil is not the best in the community it plays second fiddle to none when it comes to actual production. His 50 bushels of corn and 50 bushels of oats to the acre are more than double the county average.

Lathan cultivates only 200 acres now, with another 100 acres in pasture for rotation. Grasses and legumes not only help the land but also return considerable cash in the shape of mutton, pork and dairy products. The cultivated crops are corn, wheat, oats and cotton. They fit into his scheme of management, which calls for banking the returns from 20 to 25 bales of cotton and paying all expenses with the rest of his income.

His Livestock.
For the most part his livestock is butchered and sold in carcass form. Breeding sheep and hogs are sold locally, the lambs bringing \$10 to \$25 a head and pigs 8 to 10 weeks old going at \$10 each.

He keeps 75 Shropshire ewes, 3 purebred sows and about as good a herd of Jerseys as you'll find in the state. His wife makes butter and he supplies milkers for neighboring farmers.

Although Lathan has been kept pretty busy with his farm he has found time to do good work on the

school board, of which he has been a member for fourteen years. Union county boasts of its school buildings and there is a high school in every township.

Lathan has also served in other county offices honorably and efficiently. As a result the whole county loves and respects him. When he attends a community meeting he is usually made chairman by popular accord. The sentiment seems to be: "Let Sam Lathan do it and quit worrying."

FORMER SHELBY NEGRO DIES IN WASHINGTON
Frank Earl who was born and reared in Shelby, died Friday in Washington, D. C., and his body was brought to Shelby for interment on Monday. Frank was the son of the late Tom Earl, one of the city's most respected colored citizens. He was a musician by profession. His mother Jennie Earl and brothers accompanied the remains to Shelby.

Large Families.
Bondfield, Ont.—The 180 families in the town of Bondfield average ten children to a family. The largest family has 22 members.

His Life Threatened
resident Carlos Ibanez of Chile, who was shot at by an assassin three shots were fired but all went wide of their mark. A youth who gave his name as Luis Ramirez was arrested by police.

Child Evangelist Trying To Redeem Wicked Chicago
Uldine Utley Appears To Be More Spell-Binding Than Ever As Years Advance.
Chicago.—In the "world of furnished rooms" between Chicago's gold coast and its slums, 17-year-old Uldine Utley, the girl evangelist, is conducting a campaign to save the city from wickedness.

She has grown up considerably since the days when she was hailed throughout the country as the "child evangelist," but her hair is still blonde and she has the same full red lips that have added so much to her many pulpit appearances.

The most remarkable change is in her manner. Uldine is sure of herself nowadays. She walks with a more confident bearing and has mastered the dramatic gestures and entrances that hold an audience's attention and interest.

Draws Huge Crowds
From all over the "world of furnished rooms" people come nightly to the La Salle Avenue Baptist Church to watch Uldine and to listen to her sermons. Twenty-five thousands persons live in the fur-

nished rooms of this district and each night as many as can deck themselves into the church for the Uldine Utley revival.

Uldine's sermons here are largely reviews of the misfortunes that have visited Chicago which she interprets as warnings from Heaven that the city must reform.

Many of Uldine's followers are young people, recruited from the furnished rooms which line the streets of the district.

Views On Marriage
Uldine says that she hopes to be married some time but that she will not allow marriage to interfere with preaching. She is opposed to companionate marriage and believes women who smoke and dance are sinners.

During the last week she has seized upon the destruction by turbulent waters of Lake Michigan of numerous beaches and shore dives as a lesson to Chicago's sinners.

"The waves," Uldine says, "are God's warning to the city to cease its life of vice and bootlegging. When the wind blows against your door with such force it is God's way of visiting destructing upon you for your sins."

Uldine doubts that Chicago will heed the warning, but she is determined to go her part toward making the warning heard by the city's sinners.

Prove Anything Or Nothing By Bible, Says One Minister
Pueblo, Colo.—Religious circles suffered a shock when a jury of which Rev. Huber C. Benjamin, rector of the Ascension Protestant Episcopal church was foreman, returned a acquittal for Samuel De Salvo, charged with bootlegging.

And this in the face of the fact that Deputy District Attorney Roy A. Payton, himself a Bible scholar of no little ability and reputation in Colorado, quoted from Holy Scripture to support his contention that civilized people have opposed intoxicants since Biblical days.

Payton referred to the passage which reads, "Look not upon wine when it is red," in his argument for conviction.

"But you can prove anything or nothing from the Scriptures," said Rev. Benjamin, when the verdict was returned.

He cited Psalm 104:15, which reads, "Wine, that maketh glad the heart of man," and Psalm 104:11, which states, "Water, where wild asses quench their thirst," as proof of conflicting proverbs.

"Now, you can take your choice," the minister smiled.

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Assignee's Sale

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— SALE NOW GOING ON —

9 Used Automobiles Described as follows:

- 1 Dodge Sedan.
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