

Totally Disabled Assisted By New A.P.T.D. Program

"The program of Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled is helping an in area of great need and is at the same time conserving county funds," said C. Edgar White, superintendent of the Perquimans county department of public welfare, in outlining the services available to the people of the county through this department.

Perquimans County has participated in the Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled (A.P.T.D.) program since it was begun in North Carolina in March, 1951, and is currently helping 24 persons a month in the county," Mr. White said. "A.P.T.D. is one of the three programs of public assistance financed from Federal, State and county funds.

"The A.P.T.D. program provides help for persons who are between 18 and 65 years of age on the basis of both medical certification of incapacity and the determination of need upon the same uniform budget basis as for Old Age Assistance.

"Before the A.P.T.D. program was begun, the county did its best to meet this need out of General Assistance funds for those who were permanently and totally disabled. These General Assistance funds were entirely county funds while in the A.P.T.D. program the county puts in about one dollar out of seven—the remaining six dollars are contributions from State and Federal funds.

"The A.P.T.D. program resulted in a decrease in the General Assistance load supported entirely by county funds by 50 per cent state-wide between February, 1951, and July, 1952. It is expected that this group will stabilize at about 6,500 beneficiaries over the State for the next few years.

"Like Old Age Assistance a person must be found to be in need to be eligible for A.P.T.D. Need is determined by balancing all income in cash and in kind against a uniform budget used State-wide. Only 80 per cent of the remaining amount needed can be provided through A.P.T.D. after all income is taken into account.

"The 24 people in Perquimans county who are currently receiving help from the A.P.T.D. program include some who are completely unable to help themselves through being bedridden or otherwise totally and permanently disabled. All have been carefully determined to be in need under the provisions of the uniform budget.

A medical examination is required in each instance. This medical information and a summary of pertinent social factors is reviewed in the office of the State Board of Public Welfare by the State Medical Consultant and a social worker, since the decision as to permanent and total disability is made in the State office. All cases are reexamined annually or oftener, both as to continuing need and as to possible rehabilitation.

"The average monthly payments in Perquimans County to a person eligible to receive A.P.T.D. is about

\$38.00. This is slightly below the State average of \$35.00 and considerably below the national average of \$46.00.

"While the first responsibility in this program is the meeting insofar as possible of minimum subsistence needs," Mr. White said, "careful attention is being given in Perquimans County and state-wide to every opportunity for rehabilitation the recipients to any extent possible."

BAKER - OVERTON

Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Baker announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Catherine, to Eugene Overton, son of Mr. and Mrs. William M. Overton of Elizabeth City. The wedding will take place November 2, 1952, at 4:00 o'clock at the Great Hope Baptist Church. The public is invited.

Farm Wage Rates Higher Than In 1951

Farm operators in North Carolina are paying an average of \$5 per day (without room and board) for hired labor this month, as compared with an average of \$4.75 per day in October of last year. This was disclosed today by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics through the State-Federal Crop Reporting Service here.

The average hourly rate in the Tar Heel State, the report stated, is 59 cents—compared with 55 cents in October of 1951.

For the Nation as a whole, labor costs are up 5 per cent over 1951, with the per-day average (without room and board) standing at \$5.60. Wages in the individual states range from a low of \$3.80 per day in South Carolina to a high of \$9.50 per day in Idaho. Only eight states had an average of less than \$5 per day when the reports were tallied as of October 1.

Workers paid by the hour without board or room are receiving an average throughout the Nation of 76 cents, but they are averaging \$1 or more per hour in 19 individual states—mainly in the West, North Central, Mountain, and Pacific regions and southern New England.

A total of 13,252,000 people were working on U. S. farms during the week of September 21-27, and 3,709,

000 of these were hired workers, the survey showed. There were about 100,000 more hired workers than a year ago, but a decrease of nearly 200,000 family workers kept the total under last year.

SOIL CONSERVATION NOTES

L. B. Elliott and Leroy Nixon recently had a new ditch cut with a dragline.

D. T. Whitehurst had a new ditch cut with a dragline to drain a low area in a field on his farm near Chapanoke. These ditches were surveyed and grade stakes set by Soil Conservation technicians working with the Albemarle Soil Conservation District.

Bicolor Lespedeza was seeded this spring on the soil banks in the woods on the Burnt Mill canal. This Bicolor made a fairly good growth this summer in spite of the dry weather. Bicolor is a shrub that grows five to ten feet high. Like other lespedeza it is a legume. By observation and food studies it has been found that bicolor is a preferred food for quail. They eat the seeds in preference to their usual favorites—annual lespedeza, cowpeas, partridge peas and acorns. These seed were furnished by the Soil Conservation Service Nursery.

A number of farmers are having their soil analyzed now for lime and fertilizer recommendations for 1953.

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