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Cottage industry flourishes in the county

By Jack Grove
A local family is operating a "cottage industry" in the truest sense of the term. Sonny and Nancy Fletcher make pottery at their home on No. Church St. Extended in Hertford.

The Fletchers majored in ceramics at the University of South Carolina where they met. Sonny Fletcher also majored in sculpture. They moved to Hertford and set up their business last October.

Their pottery has a Fletcher originality from beginning to end. Fletcher drives his truck to the clay fields near Oak Hill, Ohio to bring back three types of clay. He hauls a ton of bagged clay each trip.

Using his own formula, Fletcher mixes the three kinds of clay in a large vat. These batches are stored in plastic bags until needed.

There are basically six phases in the art of pottery making. In the first phase, the moist clay is kneaded, like bread dough, and formed into a ball or conical shape depending upon what is to be made.

The second stage is called "throwing." It is this stage where the object

is actually shaped on the potter's wheel. The Fletchers use a "kick-wheel" operated by the feet.

After the piece is formed, it is allowed to dry for two or three days. It is then baked in the kiln at about 1500 degrees to produce what is called bisque-ware.

The fifth phase consists of glazing. The Fletchers make their own glazes from powdered clay, silicas and colors. The basic colors used are blue and yellow. Five gallon batches are made of each glaze.

The final stage for the pottery is firing of the pieces at 2300 degrees. The bisque-ware is porous at the time it is glazed, and during the final firing, where the pottery actually becomes molten, the glaze fuses with the pieces to produce the final product.

Since Fletcher does everything himself, from trucking the clay from Ohio to mixing the clay and glazes, it should not be surprising that he built his own electric kiln.

The Fletchers have been producing pottery for the past six years. They are now associated with Watermark, Inc., a



FINISHING TOUCHES — Sonny Fletcher fashions a handle for the lid of a two gallon casserole. The item was ordered by a customer for cooking ham and vegetables. (Staff photo by JACK GROVE)

company dedicated to furthering the arts and crafts. Watermark sponsors arts and crafts shows and demonstrations in the Albemarle region.

The Fletchers have participated in several such shows since their arrival in this area. The next arts and crafts show and demonstration is scheduled for July 14 and 15 at the old train station in Elizabeth City where they will demonstrate their skills.

There is no admission

charge to the public. Other crafts to be demonstrated will be early American weaving, basketry and wood carving.

The Fletchers market their wares by wholesaling to gift shops, at arts and crafts shows and at their home. They also accept special orders for unusual items.

According to Fletcher, anyone interested in receiving instruction at the beginner or more advanced levels in the pottery making art can contact him.

Crop outlook is not favorable this year

BY JACK GROVE

Spring rainfall in Perquimans County has been so heavy as to make the farm outlook rather bleak for area producers. Corn crops have near-surface root systems this year that will require rain every four or five days to nurture the plants according to Chowan County Agent, Pete Thompson.

The Spring rains have also been responsible for late planting of soybeans and peanuts. These crops will be especially vulnerable to early frosts in the Fall.

The weather has not been cooperating in the area of temperature either. Much warmer weather is needed to bring the soybean and peanut crops along he said. Peanuts, especially, need much higher heat

units and the cool nights the area has been experiencing are not only holding back maturity, but are conducive to insects and diseases.

Thompson said that a year like 1978 with a late Fall would be a big help. Although there is no way at the present time to forecast yields on peanut and soybean crops, Thompson feels that the best farmers can expect from corn crops is an 80 percent yield. And this projection is based on excellent weather for the rest of the growing season.

Chowan County's primary crops are watermelons, cantaloupes and vegetables. Asked about crop conditions there, Thompson said that all those crops are late and will need the same weather conditions as perquimans County for decent yields.

N.J. truck overturns

BY JACK GROVE

A tractor-trailer truck overturned on the Prison Camp Rd. (rural paved route 1329) about two miles from New Hope in the direction of Woodville.

The accident occurred at 5:30 p.m. last Monday. The owner/driver of the truck is Albert W. Kinkade of Sagaponack, N.Y. The truck, loaded with potatoes, was bound for Edgewater, N.J.

According to Highway Patrolman Y.Z. Newberry, Kinkade lost control of his vehicle on a sharp curve due to defective power steering.

Kinkade picked up his load in Beaufort, N.C. He told investigating officers that he was on his way to Weeksville and got lost.

Damage was estimated at \$60,000 to the refrigerated trailer and the tractor. The 48,000 pounds of potatoes were transferred to a truck operated by Moody Harrell and Son Grain Co. and delivered to N.J.

Kinkade was not injured in the mishap and was not cited for any violations by the Highway Patrol.



DAMAGED FIELD REVISITED — Archie T. Lane, Sr. (left) and Archie T. Lane, Jr. inspect a portion of their corn crop damaged by a hail storm on May 29. The plants vary in height

from two feet (foreground), to over six feet in the background. They expect the 52 acres damaged to have a yield of from 25 to 50 percent. (Staff photo by JACK GROVE)

Health systems committee will meet

The Project Review Committee of the Eastern Carolina Health Systems will meet Thursday, July 26 at 7:00 in the Willis Building on First and Reade Streets, Greenville. Among items on the agenda will include discussion of a Nurse Practitioner Grant at the East Carolina University School of Nursing. Public is welcome.



SURFACE ROOTS — Archie T. Lane, Jr. demonstrates how shallow the root systems of the corn crop are due to the heavy Spring rains. (Staff photo by JACK GROVE)

Suspect is arrested in three break-in cases

A local man was arrested Tuesday morning in connection with a series of break-ins recently. Michael Shawn Crew, 20, was picked up at 3 a.m. Tuesday



MUSIC MAKERS — The Music Maker Class is sponsored by the Perquimans County Parks and Recreation Department and made possible by a grant from the N.C. Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Beth Winslow is the instructor for the class.

morning at Perquimans High School. In his possession at the time was a five gallon gasoline can and a sponging hose.

Crew was released pending investigation and subsequently arrested at 7:30 a.m. the same day by Patrolman Robert L. Harvey and Chief Marshall Merritt. At that time he was charged with breaking and entering of two school buses at the high school, breaking and entering and larceny at the Whedbee Livestock Co. on July 5, and breaking and entering of two trucks belonging to the Hertford Supply Co., Inc., also on July 5.

A small amount of money was taken from the Whedbee Livestock Co. office. The gas tanks of both vehicles at the Hertford Supply Co. were emptied.

Chief Merritt said that plaster casts of tire tracks and footprints were made at the scenes of the break-ins on July 5. He said that preliminary investigation revealed a striking similarity between the suspect's vehicle tire treads and the tracks found at the scene.

Crew was jailed at the Albemarle District Jail in Elizabeth City pending a \$2,500 bond. A first appearance hearing in the case is set for today.

Five hurt in highway accident

Mrs. Mary Perry, 52, sustained serious injuries to herself and another passenger, and lesser injuries to three others, Saturday, when her car ran off the road on Rt. 17 South. The car struck a culvert, went across the

highway, onto rural road 1328 and into the woods, 157 feet before it stopped.

Others injured were A. Perry, Hertford, and James Edward Brown-Sheila and Rosetta Brownridge of Edenton, Calvin Brownridge of Edenton.

Officer receives training as firearms expert

The Hertford Police Department has an ongoing program of training for its officers. As part of this program, Officer Robert Morris is attending the Smith and Wesson Academy in Springfield, Mass. Smith and Wesson is a major manufacturer of firearms.

The training, from July 9 to July 27 will qualify Morris as a firearms instructor. He will receive training with machine guns, rifles, shotguns and pistols. The pistol phase of the training will be with Morris' service revolver, a .357 magnum, according to Chief Marshall Merritt.

Included in the firearms course is safe handling and firing, a practical police combat course, and instructor training.

The firearms instructor course for Morris is funded by the Albemarle Law and Order Association.

Nelson tells of profit sharing

Manager Kathleen Nelson of the local Rose's Stores, Inc. announced that more than 5,600 employees of Rose's in seven Southern states shared in the 1978 Company contribution to the employees' Profit Sharing Trust. The \$2,496,756.00 was the 35th consecutive annual payment made by Rose's since the Profit Sharing Plan was started in 1944.

personal account to four local participants, showing how each shared in

the Company's 1978 profits and what each had accumulated.

Farmer's Newsline

For the latest in crop, livestock, and farm economic information from Washington, call the Farmers' Newsline. Reports change each weekday at 4:00 p.m. Washington D.C. time. Service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a

week. Schedule this week: July 12, Crop Supply and Demand; July 13, 14, 15, Fruit Situation; July 16, Milk Production; July 17, Fats and Oils; July 18, Dairy Situation. Newsline Number is 800-424-7984.

Wooten announces All-Star team

Billy Wooten, District No. 28 Commissioner, has announced the Albemarle Babe Ruth League 13, 14-15, and 16 years old All-Stars.

The 13 year olds representing Perquimans County are: Eric Boyce,

Perry Chappell, Wayne Corprew, Percy Davis, Steven Harrison, Cliff Haskett, Billy Holman, Tommy Tilley, and Emmett Winslow.

The 14-15 year olds are: Melvin Coston, Joey Meads, Donnie Parker,

Chris Perry, Jim Underwood, Wally White, Bobby Winslow, and John Winslow.

The 16 year olds are: Howard Eaves, Glen Lamb, Tim Perry, Eugene Rountree, and Charlie White.

The 13 year olds representing Chowan County are: Steven Astupenas, Joe Hollowell, Charles Pittman, Jerry Stokesbury, and Al Woodle.

The 14-15 year olds: Scott Castleloe, Robert Cofield, Lynn Dale, Skipper Hines, Ed Small, and Greg White.

The 16 year olds are: David Bunch, Jeff Harrell, David Jordan, and Billy Sawyer.

The 16 year olds representing Currituck County are: Jerry Hutson, Jimmy Knight,

Ryland Lindsey, Danny Newborn, Aubrey Patterson, and John Smith.

Coaches for the 13 year olds are: Gil Underwood, Joe Hollowell, and Ronald Boyce.

Coaches for the 14-15 year olds are: Jimmy White, Allen Winslow, and Johnny Winslow.

Coaches for the 16 year olds are: Lynn Jordan, Callwell Hutson and Billy Wooten.

The 13, 14-15 year olds are the host in the Area G 13, 14-15 Year Old Babe Ruth Tournament, which will be held at Hicks Field in Edenton, N.C., July 11, 12 and 13. On the same dates the 16 year olds will be playing in Greenville, N.C.

"Please come out to the games and give the boys your support," commented Wooten.

Parents workshop to be held next week

Parents and day care providers in this area will have the opportunity to learn how to use television as an educational tool for their children. A workshop will be held on July 18 at COA Technical Center Campus, U.S. 17 N., Room 129 in Elizabeth City. Conducted by Bob Bright, the two-hour

workshop, "The Wise Utilization of Television in the Classroom, Daycare Center and Home," is part of training workshops offered to daycare providers and parents during International Year of the Child. Those interested may call the COA Technical Center for information.