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20 CENTS

Corn crop may be the best ever, but there's no profit to be made

The corn harvest in Perquimans County is just about half over as of early this week, and farmers here are feeling quite pleased with themselves as they complete what one long-time observer has called "the best yields we've ever had."

County Agricultural Extension Chairman Bill Jester expects about 90 percent of this county's corn will have been picked by September 15, and though two weeks ago he was looking forward to measuring some 200-plus bushel an acre yields, as of last Tuesday he has yet to find one, and now no longer expects to.

But even without the magic 200, Jester cautiously believes this county will probably break its old record of an average 120 bushels an acre set in 1976. "Most of the farmers are getting about 120 bushels or better," he said.

"From what farmers have told me about 1976, I think we're doing better overall this year," he added.

With the high yields, farmers have kept agriculture officials here busy measuring fields for the annual corn yield contest. As of Tuesday morning, there were 40 entries in the contest, more already than last year's 38 entries.

The high so far is 190 bushels an acre from a farm in Woodville, and there has been one 187-bushel

plot of no-till corn measured in New Hope. "I think it shows that farmers can get good yields using no-till," Jester said.

Prices, however, are another story. Prices in this area are running about \$2.30 a bushel, and in one fairly common case in this county, after discounting for moisture, the farmer received \$1.61 per bushel.

That isn't leaving much for the farmer after expenses, according to Jester. Jester figures farmers in this area are spending anywhere from about \$250 per acre to over \$300, depending on whether they're still paying for their equipment and land. Fertilizer, seed, chemicals and gas alone will cost in the neighborhood of \$180 per acre.

If a farmer does well, say 150 bushels an acre on the average, at \$1.61 a bushel he can expect to make about \$240 acre. So if he goes lightly on the chemicals (and according to one area crop duster, they have this season), he might just make it through.

"We've been fortunate that yields have been so high," said Jester. "If they weren't we'd be in a bad situation."

In addition, the dry weather of the last few weeks that has made corn harvesting easier and has made the soybean outlook poorer, Jester reports. "We need a little rain right now," he said. Crops have also been affected by insects. And though there was some

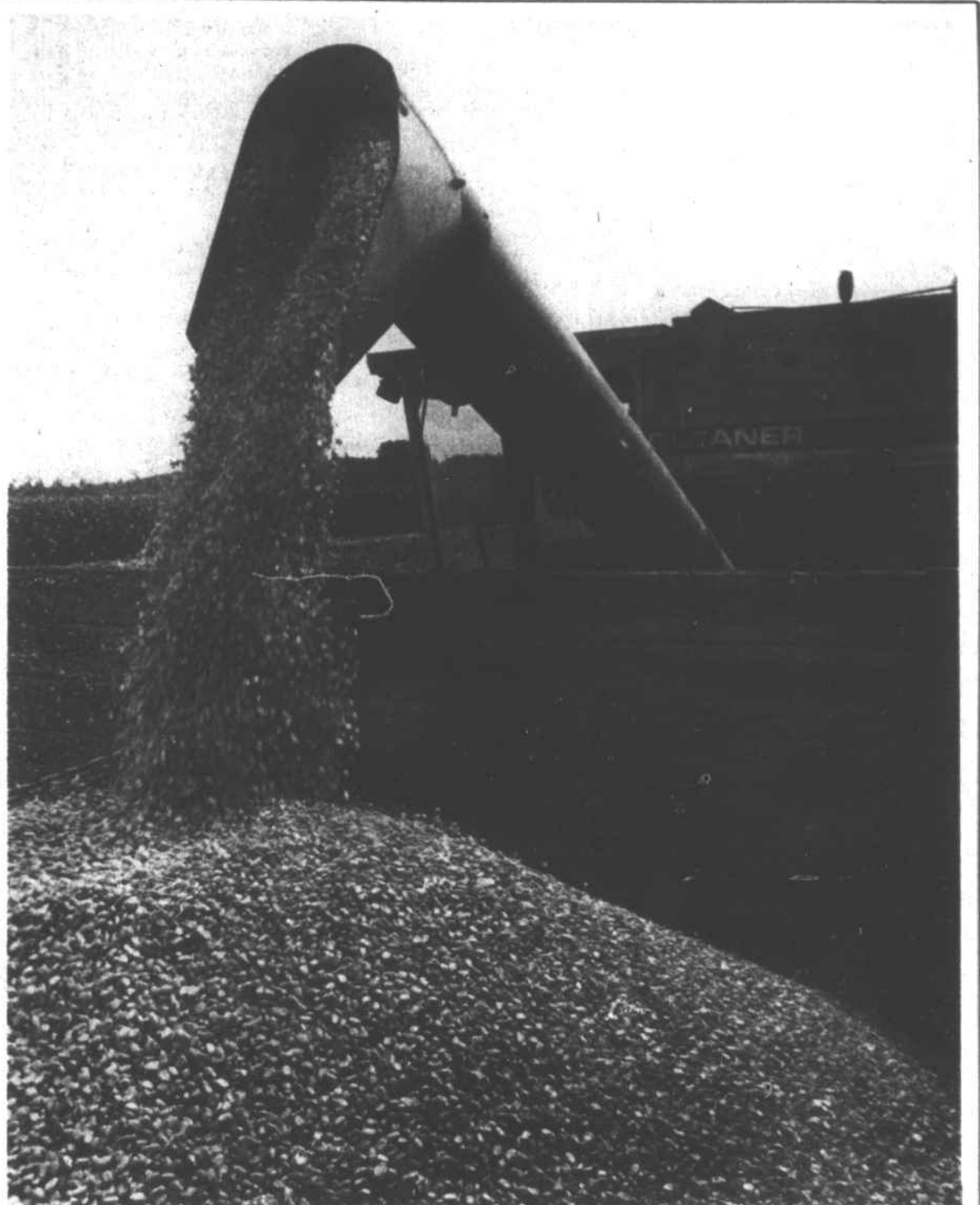
hope for improvement in the price of soybeans, the price has not risen significantly, he said.

The peanut crop has also been damaged by disease and dry weather.

Jester adds that on September 14 there will be a county peanut tour beginning at 3 p.m. at the extension office.



A combine empties its tank of this year's bumper corn crop in New Hope. Above, the combine goes back to picking.



Antique collections among the many displays in coming festival

Along with all the crafts, games, music and art displays, the Indian Summer Festival will also feature antiques, some of them dating back to the earliest years of Perquimans County history.

Among the antiques to be seen along Church Street in town during the festival will be from the collection of Elie Forehand, who has a cradle, quilt, and doughbread tray belonging to the Roundtree family and dating back to the mid-1800s.

Troy Elliott of Winfall, a favorite at recent shows, will again display a small portion of his collection of hundreds of old tools, some of them

200 years old.

There will also be antique cars from Melvin Howell's collection and farm equipment belonging to Clinton Winslow of Belvidere. Don Juan will even display one of its old sewing machines.

But Silas Whedbee of Hertford beats them all in age with the articles he has collected belonging to the Harvey family, from whom Harvey's Neck got its name.

The Harveys were one of the most prominent families in North Carolina during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The Harveys first settled in Perquimans County

from Ireland over 300 years ago, and by 1678 John Harvey was appointed provincial governor of North Carolina, the first, historians believe, native-born governor of the state.

Thomas Harvey served as Deputy Governor of the colony in the late 1600s. His grandson, also named John Harvey, became one of the leading figures in the state in the early struggle for independence, and his vigorous defense as Speaker of the Assembly for the people's rights earned him the name "Bold" John Harvey.

His accidental death in 1775 cut short a marvelous career. "He was



Indian Summer Festival

one of the most influential men of the Revolution. He would have been up there with Benjamin Franklin if he had lived through the Revolution," said Mr. Whedbee.

The last remaining descendent of

the Harvey family was Emily Skinner, a great-great-granddaughter of Thomas Harvey, who was a cousin of Mr. Whedbee's and from whom he received the articles.

From his collection, Mr. Whedbee will display an Irish cradle used by Gov. John Harvey and many of his descendants; a box made by John Harvey for the keeping of his boyhood treasures; a rocking chair which once belong to Emily Creecy Harvey, wife of Thomas Harvey; and a candle tripod, horsehide trunk and sewing table, all dating back to the 1700's.

Besides the antiques, the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce, which is organizing the festival, announced other additions to the program, which begins September 16 and runs through the 18.

The Cann Puppeteers of Elizabeth City will perform at 11 a.m. at Missing Mill Park, and there will be a children's program beginning at 1 p.m. that day. Festival spokesmen will appear on WGIA radio next Monday at 9:45 p.m., and again on Almanac, on Channel 7, September 14.

Holiday Islanders throw a Labor Day bash

By JACK GROVE

Holiday Island residents experimented with every mode of transportation they could imagine, from dirt bikes to golf carts to running with sacks on your feet to floating coffins, and then threw in a flea market, live music and picnicking to finish out the season, if not with a bang, then at least with the pop of a keg.

Holiday Island ended the summer's recreational season with an estimated 2,000 people attending a full calendar of activities over the Labor Day weekend.

The festivities began Saturday morning with an arts and crafts sale and flea market in the park. In the afternoon, sack and relay races were run with toddlers up to

teenagers participating.

"The Carolina Good Ol' Boys" were the featured entertainment at a dance in the clubhouse Saturday night.

Perfect weekend weather continued into Sunday as did the arts and crafts sale and flea market.

Free beer and sodas were on

(Continued on page 2)

Below, a dirt-biker negotiates a turn during a race at the Holiday Island Labor Day festivities last Sunday. Above, the infamous floating coffin with its crew, Steve Doan (left) and Jerry Hart.



Resident dies following local logging accident

A Perquimans County man died last Thursday in Norfolk General Hospital following a logging accident in Pasquotank County.

Louis Henry Felton, 59, of Route 2, Hertford, died after spending seven days in the hospital's intensive care unit. He had been struck in the head just before noon August 27 by a tree that witnesses said bounced farther than expected after it had been cut down.

According to his boss, Douglas Temple, owner of Douglas Temple Logging Company of Elizabeth City where Felton had worked for two years, Felton was standing off to the side waiting for the tree to fall, when the tree fell and hit him.

The incident occurred at a site about seven miles north of Elizabeth City on U.S. 17. Felton was taken to Albemarle Hospital by ambulance, and from there to Norfolk General by helicopter.

A funeral was held Monday afternoon at the Saunders Grove Baptist Church by the Rev. C.A. Proctor. He was buried in a local cemetery with Masonic rites by the Meridian Lodge No. 18 of Hertford. Visitation was at Stallings Memorial Chapel, Hertford on Sunday evening.

Felton was a native and lifelong resident of Perquimans County. He was the son of the late Louis G. and Rosa Dail Felton, and the husband of Estelle M. Felton of the home.

Felton was a member of the Saunders' Grove Baptist Church, and

was Chairman of the Deacon Board. He was a member of the Perquimans County Branch of the NAACP, as well as a member of the Saunders' Grove Community Action Club. He was also a Past Master of the Meridian Lodge No. 18, Prince Hall Affiliate.

Besides his wife, Felton is survived by two daughters, Carolyn F. Felton of Durham, and Cassie L. Felton of Greenville; five sons, Henry L. Felton and Preston Felton, both of Hertford, Howard E. Felton of Wyandanch, N.Y., Nathan M. Felton of Grand Island, Neb., and Garland R. Felton of the home; six sisters, Gracie Anthony of Norfolk, Va., Emma Blanchard and Nellie B. Felton, both of Hertford, Earnest Tine Felton of Tyner, Estella Mack of Washington, D.C., and Ida Felton of Brooklyn, N.Y., and 11 grandchildren.

This week

New Hope church helps relocate a member of the congregation. Turn to page five.

Weather

Fair with a chance of thundershowers over the weekend. High in the 80s, lows in the low 60s.