

Perquimans People

J.P. Perry's blueberries bring pickers to Perquimans

By VAL SHORT
 Almost daily during July and August Loretta Sedler and her mother Amy Kight travel from Moyock to J.P. Perry's farm to fill their buckets and tubs with those plump, juicy, deep blue morsels called blueberries.
 With brows dripping and arms filled with containers brimming with the delicate fruit, the two women make their way back to their Currituck kitchen where jars of jam and jelly will be prepared to sell to waiting customers.
 "Thousands of the Perry blueberries have gone into their near-famous concoctions over the years. Loretta says they have tried other blueberry pick-your-own operations, but "We always come back here. They are the best!"
 Though Amy has chronic heart problems, she and her daughter, a former school teacher, think their

regular sojourn into Perquimans is certainly worth their while.
 Such is the feeling of others from surrounding counties and Virginia who flock to the Perry farm and withstand the unrelenting heat to pick buckets of blueberries. Perhaps, thoughts of blueberry cobbler, buttered blueberry pancakes and fresh blueberry bread cool the perspiring patrons.
 Jesse Parker and Sarah Perry have operated the 3 1/2 acre pick-your-own blueberry farm for about five years. Many of the bushes were planted years ago during summer vacations by Perry and his children.
 The farm is located in the heart of Perquimans near Beach Springs and off state road 1114. Signs point the way for newcomers. The farm is open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
 According to Perry, the variety Tif-blue, makes up 70 percent of the

crop on the farm and the remainder are either Home-Woodard or Home-Bell varieties.
 The blueberry season usually begins around July 10 and a few berries can still be found around the end of August, said Perry.
 Perry estimates 25 percent of the crop was lost because of the late frost this year. Lack of rainfall has also had its effect on the blueberries. "Like any crop, they depend on moisture," said Perry. An irrigation system relieves some of the threat of dry weather, however.
 Soaring temperatures have not discouraged the steady stream of blueberry customers, most of whom are repeat customers, who tend to come in groups, according to Perry. Last week Perry recorded 102 degrees in the shade, "during one of the hottest days I've seen." Still, they return to pick buckets of the cool delicious fruit.

People briefs

Mrs. John Marris of High Point and Ms. Marcelle Garnichat from Troyes, France were overnight guests of Mrs. J. E. Morris on Thursday of last week.
 Dr. and Mrs. Harold White and Chuck are visiting their home in Belvidere until August 13.
 Mrs. Eldon Winslow and Miss Thelma Elliott have returned from a vacation at Topsail Beach.
 Mrs. Ellie Vickers of Hertford, Mrs. Fred Gregory and daughter, Vicki, from Raleigh, and Royce Vickers, Jr. from Virginia Beach, Va. spent a few days last week in Washington, D. C.
 Mrs. Cecil Harrington and son, Michael, of Perry, Fla., were guests of her mother, Mrs. H. C. Strokes, last week.
 Mrs. W. L. Pickhardt returned to her home in New Smyrna Beach, Fla. last week after spending some time with her mother, Mrs. J. H. Bagley.
 Mr. and Mrs. John Decker were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Decker, Jr. at Atlanta, Ga. They were accompanied by their granddaughters, Rosalind and Olivia Decker, who have spent several weeks with them.
 Mr. and Mrs. F. A. McGoogan spent a few days this week in Clarksville, Md. with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Miller, Jr.
 Mrs. George Clarke of Petersburg, Va. is a guest of her mother, Mrs. J. E. Morris, this week.
 Mrs. Flora Hurdle of Belvidere is a guest of her daughter, Mrs. Florine Weeks in Elizabeth City.



Loretta Sedler of Moyock is a regular customer at the J.P. Perry blueberry farm. (Photo by Val Short)

Senior calendar

The following is a list of activities scheduled for this week at the Senior Center located on Grubb St. in Hertford.

August	9-12, & 2-5.
4 — Trip to Bath, N. C.	8 — Crochet class, 1-4.
5 — Blood pressures checked free,	9 — Putt-n-Play Miniature Golf, 7 p.m.
	10 — Bingo and cookout in Missing Mill Park, 2 o'clock.
	11 — Bible study class, 1-3.

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Amy Kight of Moyock picks blueberries that will go into her own jams and jellies. (Photo by Val Short)

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