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ALL KINDS OF INSURANCE

At Home On The Farm

The City Cousin

The three big trucks with Florida license plates and their human cargo of 45 Negro harvest hands pulled into the migrant labor camp at Bayboro and stopped at the door of the camp manager's office.

All this was strangely new to me. As I witnessed the arrival of these workers who travel up the Eastern part of the United States each spring only to reverse their steps when winter calls them back to Florida harvests, my whole conception of the agricultural migrant and his place in the scheme of things began to change.

Being a City Cousin whose only connection with such farm laborers in the past had been to eat their winter-picked vegetables and their summer harvested North Carolina cobbles, I admit I under-rated the importance of the migrant—in fact, hardly knew he existed—until I visited the heart of this state's Multi-Million dollar potato belt in the midst of the harvest season.

I had thought of these transients as nomads, with money instincts, people who just happened to be passing through an area of a state that could use them to supplement local labor in the harvest.

I thought they were a rowdy, troublesome crew that farmers looked upon as a necessary evil. All these ideas were in for a serious going over after I talked with Fred S. Sloan, Farm Labor Supervisor for the State College Extension Service.

"They're necessary, all right," he says, "and a quiet bunch as a whole. Fed people realize, Cousin, that the growers in these eight counties where potatoes are a big cash crop, rely on migrants to harvest up to 90 percent of their crops."

"That's amazing!" I said, and asked the supervisor if it wasn't a pretty big job to get workers in the right place at the right time.

"You can imagine the fine equilibrium that exists between the factors of needs, availability, and housing," he says. "But we've used a new plan this year to keep the grower and the migrant informed on such things as maturity dates, weather conditions, and so forth." Then he told me all about the new plan, called "Selective Recruitment," that enabled North Carolina to use in 1947 the top grade of laborer out of the stream known as the Atlantic Coast Movement.

Leaders of carefully picked migrant groups were contacted at their work in Florida during the past winter and asked if they would like to help in the Tar Heel potato harvest. If the answer was "Yes," then the growers that requested the crews, together with Mr. Sloan, and his Farm Placement Interviewers, guaranteed housing.

By the time I had heard the details of this plan and learned of the work that the Agriculture Extension Service, the State Employment Service, and the Production and Marketing Administration had done co-operatively to make it a smooth-running operation, I was convinced that the migrant laborer, for all his apparent instability, is a conscientious, hard-working, well-paid individual.

He is also a vital link in the chain that puts North Carolina potatoes in the markets of America.

Negro 4-H Youth Make Poultry Pay

Negro 4-H Club members of the St. Luke school in Bertie county have developed a profitable and educational enterprise from a poultry project which began on a small scale, according to M. W. Coleman, Negro county agent for the State College Extension Service.

Beginning in February of last year the group of eight boys and girls

formed a small business group with capital of seven dollars each for the purpose of raising broilers to sell.

After building a modern brooder house at the school and borrowing enough money for the first year's operations, the group had paid back the loan as well as paid for the house and all the equipment before beginning this year's operations.

In March of this year, 250 barred rock chickens were bought from one of the local hatcheries and arrangements were made for credit on the feed bill. On June 5, not a single chick had died and each of them averaged approximately three lbs. whereupon they were placed on a local market and sold for \$221. The total expense for raising them was \$130; therefore, a cash balance of \$91 dollars remained as profit.

"The venture was started to give the children some practical education in the things they might follow in later life," Agent Coleman said, "as well as to teach them the spirit of cooperation."

So pleased is the group over the success they have had thus far, that plans are now underway to enlarge their facilities to be able to accommodate 1,000 chicks at a time, he said.

Negro News

By Mrs. Jessie G. Costner

"George Boye's Place" operated by Mr. L. G. Rhombs at the corner of West Ridge and North Tracy streets will hold formal opening on Monday, July 7, from 5 to 7 p. m. Ice cream will be served free. The public is cordially invited to attend.

The Girls Scouts Troop 23, held its regular meeting last Wednesday, June 25, at the home of Mrs. L. H. Gibson on Watterson street. After the regular meeting Mrs. Gibson served ice cream to the troop.

On Thursday, June 26, the Girl Scouts had a picnic on the Davidson

REMEMBER

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school campus. A number of children attended. Punch and ginger ale were served to the children.

Otis Perry 51st class, USN, Midweight champion 3rd naval district is home on ten days leave, visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Florence Perry. Also their daughter, Miss Marie Perry of Charlotte, was a weekend visitor.

Mr. and Mrs. William McCoy of Gastonia is spending a week's vacation with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Thoms, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Gidney and their two sons were callers at Rev. and Mrs. D. A. Costner's on Monday afternoon.

Rev. and Mrs. D. A. Costner attended the house warming of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Henry in Bessemer City Friday evening June 27.

Robert C. Currence, veteran of World War I, of the Compact com-

munity, died in the hospital at Gastonia, S. C., Saturday. Funeral services will be held at Shiloh A. M. E. Zion church, Grover, N. C., on Wednesday, July 3, at 2 p. m.

Mr. J. A. Gibson who is in summer school at A. and T. College, Greensboro, N. C., spent the week end at his home on Watterson street.

Mrs. Geneva Carroll is on the sick list. She is improving, but is still confined to her bed, where she has been for two weeks.

The Pride of Kings Mountain, Friendly Aid Society had a successful week meeting last week. Rev. W. M. Murray of Bessemer City preached, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights. The closing sermon was preached by Rev. A. W. Williams on Sunday afternoon at Bynum Chapel A. M. E. Zion church.

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