

CHANDLER MOUNTAIN

Chandler Mountain lies in the northern part of St. Clair County. The mountain is ten miles long and runs from the southwest toward the northeast. It covers an area of about 25 square miles and is from 1200 to 1500 ft. high.

The mountain gets its name from the Joel Chandler family who settled not on Chandler Mountain, but on Little Canoe Creek in Rocky Hollow near the present location of Cobb's Mill or Killian Mill, just north of Steele. A trail lead by the Chandler home going up the nearby mountain — which was a good hunting ground. Hunters connected the mountain with Joel Chandler's place and often spoke of it as Chandler's Mountain. Later the apostrophe and "s" were dropped and the mountain came to be known as Chandler Mountain.

The abstract records show that Cicero Johnson of Northwest Georgia was the first person to enter land on Chandler Mountain in 1855.¹ The Smith family, grandparents of Herbert Smith and Milton Johns of Steele moved to Chandler Mountain in 1858. They came originally from the Carolinas. Polk Smith,² a son of this family died on the "Sultana" during the "War Between the States."

Jake Lutes married Sarah Steele, a daughter of Toliver Steele, for whom Steele was named. They were among the first settlers on Mount Chandler.

The Lutes murder case was one of the most notorious of the county at the time, (about 1911).

Sarah Steele Lutes died and Jake married a second time. As the couple grew older they lived more and more to themselves. They moved from the mountain to Greasy Cove to a little cabin and there it was thought they

1. The Agricultural and Educational Development of Chandler Mountain by D. A. Langston
2. History of Steele

kept money hidden away in snuff boxes and under the floor boards. One wintery night in 1911 two men went there and visited with them. They ate supper and then knocked the old people in the head and left them lying in their own blood in front of the fireplace. It was such a lonely secluded place that it was almost a week before they were found. Three men were involved MacLemore, McClain and Will Camel. The latter from Steele. MacLemore was from Birmingham and McClain lived at Clear Creek. Camel was sentenced and served several years until MacLemore on his death bed confessed to his own guilt. Camel was freed and the Lutes Murder case was closed.

According to the records land had been bought from the government by the northeasst and southwest Railroad Company which later merged into the Alabama State Land Company.¹ This land was sold by the company to the settlers for \$2.50 per acre after these land companies sold the timber. Some of this land today sells for \$50 per acre.

Other early settlers were: Hezakiah McWaters, a local Methodist preacher, John Bearden, W. V. McKay, Boze Woods, Jake and Bob Robinson. Practically all these settlers came from Georgia. They entered land, built crude cabins near springs and raked out a meager existence from the shallow rocky soil. Transportation was difficult due to the lack of roads, and the difficulty in building them.

In early days there were several roads or gaps leading up and down the mountain. All were probably used by wild animals before the pioneers came. The gaps were Shahan (near the Joel Chandler home), "Old Steele" (near Johns' Spring), Steele (in use today) Flat Top and Point Peter. The Greasy Cove gaps are Brothers, Ferguson and Hyatt. The Hyatt and Steele Gaps are used today for most all transportation. Both roads are reasonably good chert roads.

1. The Agricultural and Educational Development of Chandler Mountain
by D. A. Langston.

The original Steele gap was once used by the Steele young people as sightseeing and picnic grounds. The J. C. M. Johns Spring at the foot of the mountain was headquarters for these parties. As they climbed the mountain side they gathered wild flowers in springtime, while in the fall they found hickory nuts and chestnuts. When they reached the top they explored caves and drank mineral water. The "Devil's Well" was the most noted cave.

When the first settlers climbed the mountain trails to find new homes, they found many wild animals. Deer ran at large. Wolves, bears, foxes and wildcats were common. It is said the father of L. A. Deerman (Who lived near Deerman's Chapel) killed a panther that was 9 feet long on the mountain cliff, just west of Steele.

Mount Chandler is surrounded by a definite cliff. Many stories have been told of how wild animals bedded under the cliffs; of how wild animals bedded under the cliffs; of how deserters during the War Between the States, and even as recently as World War I and II, hid in the caves under the cliffs and were fed by their families who lived not many miles away.

It is said a young deserter escaped to the cliffs and was hiding there during the War Between the States. A young war widow lived near his family on what is now Highway 11 south of Steele. She often went with his fiance or members of his family to carry him food. During this time the widow and the deserter fell in love. He repented of his treaitious ways joined the Confederate Army and served until the war was over and then they were married.

Up until 1900 the extent of farming carried on by the early settlers consisted of corn for the family's use and for the stock, a small cotton crop and a vegetable garden. After this time a fruit growing era begun.

Two northerners, Sloat and Bush came from Michigan and interested the farmers in growing peaches. They furnished several thousand trees and promised to provide a market. A packing house was located in Steele across the railroad from the depot. At first it seemed the project was a success but the bottom fell out of the market price of peaches. Then Sloat and Bush built a canning factory on the mountain at Sharpton's Spring. For several years the fruit was canned but soon the first trees died out and no one was interested in planting a new crop. Some doubted the trustworthiness of Sloat went to Birmingham and went into the produce business. Bush went to Michigan and this type of farming disappeared.

James N. Hyatt, a cousin of Hezakiah McWaters came from Herd County Georgia with his wife on a small mule, with 20¢ in his pocket. He had previously bought 80 acres on Mount Chandler. Near a spring on this land they built a log cabin between 1875 and 1880. Mr. Hyatt was a hard worker and a good manager. Hyatt Gap was named for him. As time went on he bought up more land. There he grew the usual farm crops until 1926 when his son Otis, planted the first crop of tomatoes to be grown for commercial purposes.

They were packed in baskets, which sold for one dollar each, and peddled in a wagon off the mountain. This was the beginning of the tomatoe growing industry on the mountain. By 1935 Chandler Mountain was one of the greatest tomato growing areas in the country. The farmers were soon growing beans, cabbage and squash on a large scale also. The farmers sold their produce in markets at Birmingham, Mobile, Atlanta and Crystal Springs, Mississippi.

In 1943 the "Chandler Mountain Tomato Groweres Association" was formed. Chandler Mountain is today one of the leading truck farming areas of the country.

On the night of October 17, 1948 a freeze came which killed a large crop of tomatoes, the value of which has been estimated at \$15,000.00

The first school on the mountain was taught in Mt. Lebanon Methodist Church about 1890, for three months in the summer. The patrons and the county shared the cost equally.

In 1895 the Hyatt Family built a new home and gave the logs in the old house to build a school house. This building was erected on the McKay place. Marion Case was the first teacher in the new building. Greasy Cove pupils walked up the mountain to attend the school.

To promote harmony among the citizens the school alternated between the church on the east and the schoolhouse on the west end of the mountain.

Delia Stevens, a sister of Tom and John Stevens.¹ (St. Clair County boys who made good in Attalla and Gadsden) taught at the church in 1895.

In 1896 two teachers were hired Arthur Hurst, who was certified and That Roberson who was not. Mr. Hurst taught one day at the schoolhouse and the next day at the church. Mr. Roberson taught on the alternate days.

Ed Beason taught in 1900 and Cicero Putman in 1901. They were St. Clair County boys. In 1902 a new schoolhouse was built at the old Hollingsworth place on the west end of the mountain, replacing the Mackey building.

In 1908 the schools were consolidated and a new building was erected about the center of the mountain near the site of the present building. There was still some friction.

1. The family of Eli Hugh Stevens, a local Methodist preacher, was reared in the Gulf of Chandler Mountain. John Stevens was postmaster at Attalla and Tax Collector of Etowah County. Tom Stevens served many years as postmaster at Gadsden.

In a few years this building burned down the day after the insurance had been granted. Then for several years they had two schools again in the churches.

In 1913 Miss Bertha Rogers taught three months. She married and her brother Hershell finished the school.

In 1919 a new three room building was erected with the insurance money. The mountain citizens seemed more united as they enjoyed the new building. But in 1926 the school again burned down. This time the insurance was only enough to buy doors, windows and ceiling for another building. Mr. V. S. Rogers furnished the framing and the building in use today was erected.

In 1938 Mr. Roy Gibson, Superintendent of Education of St. Clair County and the state officials began planning for a high school on the mountain due to the fact that it was impractical if not almost impossible to transport pupils down the mountain, due to the roads. When pupils completed the work offered by the Chandler Mountain school they usually boarded to attend Ashville High or Etowah County High at Attalla in order to complete their high school work. For several years tenth and eleventh grades work was taught (the faculty now consisted of five teachers). In 1946 there were sixteen pupils doing eleventh grade work. The next year the number was considerably lower and after 1948 all efforts to make a senior high school on the mountain were dropped.

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Principals of recent years of Chandler Mountain school have been Hugh Toland, Alton Runyan, Lamar Buffington, Oscar Mitchell, J. D. O'Donnell and John W. McHugh.

There are three churches on Mount Chandler. They are the Baptist, Smith's Chapel Methodist and Mt. Lebanon Methodist. The latter was probably the first one built. It was used as a schoolhouse in 1890. About that time or about 1900 the only form of recreation for the young people was a Fa-So-La Singing held once monthly on Sunday afternoon in the log church. The Baptist attended church in the Greasy Cove for years. Then they organized and held services in the school building and called themselves the Pleasant Valley Baptist Church. In 1919 the name of the church was changed to Chandler Mountain Baptist Church. Later they built a church near the school. The church granted Madison Rogers a license to preach in 1923. He was ordained in 1928.

Mr. Vester Rogers came to Chandler Mountain in 1913 from Georgia. He took the lead in a movement for a telephone system on the mountain. He started a mercantile business. In 1923 Mr. Rogers set up a sawmill and in 1926 installed a cotton gin on the mountain. Rogers Brothers, son of V. S. run a general store on the mountain today.

Up until 1923 there was no Rural Free Delivery of mail on the mountain. Any mountain resident if he happened to be in Steele carried any mail that was customary for someone to make the trip for the mail about once or twice a week. Some families from the lower end of the mountain met the postman on Steele Route One at the Fidelity Gap and got their mail. In 1923 Route Three ran from the Steele Post Office to Chandler Mountain. W. J. Ellis carried this route until it was consolidated with Route One in 1933. Since then N. J. Turner has been the carrier.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I thoroughly enjoyed Frankye Awtreys exploits of Chandler Mountain in last weeks edition. I as well as many others share her sentiments of that not only beautiful but well developed heights. My father, the late O.H. Rogers, as a young man of nineteen came with his parents the late Ben and May Rogers, from North Georgia to settle on this mountain. At the age of 23 he was married to Florence Cleary and built a home near his parents. This is my birthplace. Each time I drive down Blount Mountain where I approach the curve that allows a full colorful view of old Chandler, the thought comes to mind "that is my native soil". Each season brings out a rare and special beauty to places we love.

Often, I have hiked up the southwest side of this mountain with my father to a cliff which was a part of the old home place and is known in this vicinity as Point Peter. The satisfying reward for the climb was the beauty of the view, identifying families points and as Mrs. Awtrey says, watching the scenes change.

Some distance from this spot there is a place called the horse pens where the Confederate army concealed horses during the civil war. And on the north side of Chandler we find Camp Sumatanga. My father was instrumental in selecting and negotiating this camp site for the North Alabama Methodist Conference. This great development certainly adds to the attraction of this area. Besides all this the farmers of this mountain are among the most progressive in the county. They are, and have a right to be proud of their community. I have many pleasant memories of childhood vacations there with my grandparents and a maiden aunt, Mrs. Rosa Rogers. Aunt Rosa still resides on the old home place. I remember with gratitude the untiring efforts she made to make my visits enjoyable ones, may God always be near to her needs. To Mrs. Awtrey--
Thanks for the memories.

Respectively,

Edith Rogers Puckett



News photos

Mrs. Lois Smith rings the lunch bell; she cooks breakfast, too

A no-problem school

Chandler Mountain enrollment small, but returns are big

By Shawn Ryan
News correspondent

At a school in St. Clair County, time took a summer vacation and decided not to come back.

While many schools have enough students to populate a small city, the Chandler Mountain School in northwest St. Clair is a throwback to yesterday.

Housing grades one through nine, the little school has 65 students. Four instructors, including the principal, handle the teaching chores and one woman does all the cooking and cleaning in the lunchroom.

Built in 1928, the school has hardwood floors and gas heaters in each room. Grades are combined in the four classrooms: First and second, third and fourth, fifth and sixth, seventh through ninth. It gives teachers a hectic schedule, but they say they enjoy the challenge.

"I would have it no other way," said Pat Parker, who teaches third- and fourth-graders. She has been at the school for 13 years and said she intends to stay.

So does Vivian Fite, who has been the school's first and second grade teacher for the last 15 years. "I'm going to be here until they make me quit," she asserted. "I could have quit last year, when I turned 64, but I didn't want to."

PRINCIPAL Sam Roberts is the new kid at Chandler Mountain, having



Chandler Mountain School

become principal in 1982. A teacher and administrator for 10 years at Gadsden's Westminster Christian School, Roberts said it took a special school to drag him away. "There are not a lot of schools I would have left (Westminster) for."

Roberts' parents attended the school on Chandler Mountain, so he knew what to expect. He also was a good friend of Hoover Rogers, the school's previous principal for 28 years. "I've tried to continue his program, which emphasizes the basics," Roberts said.

But there are many other reasons why Chandler Mountain is special — not just to Roberts, but to everyone there. Foremost is the size of the school. With an average of 15 students

per class, teachers say they can give individual attention to each child and feel like they are making an impression, something that might not happen at a larger school.

And this extra attention is paying off. Results from the 1982 California Achievement Test, which checks students in math, reading, spelling and language skills, show the students at Chandler Mountain scoring higher than the state average. Its students are five months ahead of state average in second grade and more than two years ahead in fourth, fifth and eighth grades.

THE COMBINED classrooms had a lot to do with the excellent scores, Roberts contends. "It's amazing how

much a child in, say the seventh grade, can pick up by being in the same room with eighth graders."

The community on Chandler Mountain is another reason the school is special. People on the mountain live a mostly agricultural life (tomatoes from the region are famous throughout the United States) and have managed to retain many old-fashioned values. They believe in hard work and a good education, Roberts said, and these traditions and ideas are reflected in the children.

"A school is no better than the community," Roberts said. There are no serious discipline problems, he said, because "parents back the school up."

"I think parents have more to do with it than anything," said Lois Smith, who has fixed breakfast and lunch for the students for more than 10 years. She and her husband have lived on the mountain most of their lives and they, too, attended the school. Later, so did her six children.

Then, of course, there is the school mascot. Chandler Mountain may be the only school with its mascot stuffed and placed in a glass cabinet for all to see.

Before the mascot was shot on the mountain in 1981, the school name had been the 'Demons.' But students and faculty decided the name had to be changed.

The new name? The 'Bears,' of course.

Bright agriculture story seen on Chandler farms

BY A. W. JONES

News farm specialist
One of the brightest agricultural stories recorded in Alabama this year concerns 70 families on a St. Clair County mountain plateau.
They're farmers in the five by five-mile Chandler Mountain area (1,000 feet above sea level) who started a tomato-growing organization 21 years ago and

wound up 1964 as the best year ever.

A record 108,000 forty-pound lug boxes of tomatoes went through a new grading and packing shed. And farm leaders figure about the same number was sold by Chandler Mountain growers before they reached the shed.

Last year, about 66,000 such boxes were graded and packed

at a smaller shed in Steel community, at the foot of the mountain.

CHANDLER MOUNTAIN'S high altitude, which prevents early fall frost damage, makes the area ideal for late season tomato marketings. Only a freeze knocks the tomatoes out, and that usually doesn't come until November (as was the

case this year), giving the area almost sole possession of the tomato market for a few weeks in the fall.

In fact, said County Agent H. L. Eubanks, only California is competing with Chandler Mountain during that time. Florida tomatoes don't start hitting the market until November.

Eubanks, a member of Auburn University Extension Service who has worked closely with growers over the years, said there is more enthusiasm than ever among producers. There is renewed interest in doing better jobs of production that in turn has led to more efforts to expand and improve marketing.

This year, an all-time high of about 1,500 acres were devoted to tomatoes, and Eubanks said he expects that acreage to increase.

THE GRADING and packing shed — a 19,335 square foot building on the mountain — was completed in mid-August. Previously, the smaller (4,500 square foot) shed at Steel had to suffice.

The shed, built through local bank financing, is being paid for by a service charge against each package that moves through the market.

At this year's rate, that won't take long. At one time, nearly 4,000 boxes a day were moving through the shed.

Future plans call for addition of a cooler room so tomatoes can be stored for short periods of time at the shed — permitting more flexible marketing. Producer groups are studying ways of packaging tomatoes so they can also offer "retail ready" packages.

CHANDLER MOUNTAIN'S success is actually the climax of a concerted effort that began years ago, said M. R. Glasscock and John Bagby, two other Extension Service staff members who have worked with the growers.

The Chandler Mountain Tomato Growers Association was formed in 1943 mainly to provide a central market facility where producers could market tomatoes to re-packers, said Glasscock, a marketing specialist on the Extension's staff at Auburn.

The shed was built at the foot of the mountain for the convenience of trailer trucks. No all-weather road extended to the mountain-top production area at that time, said Glasscock.

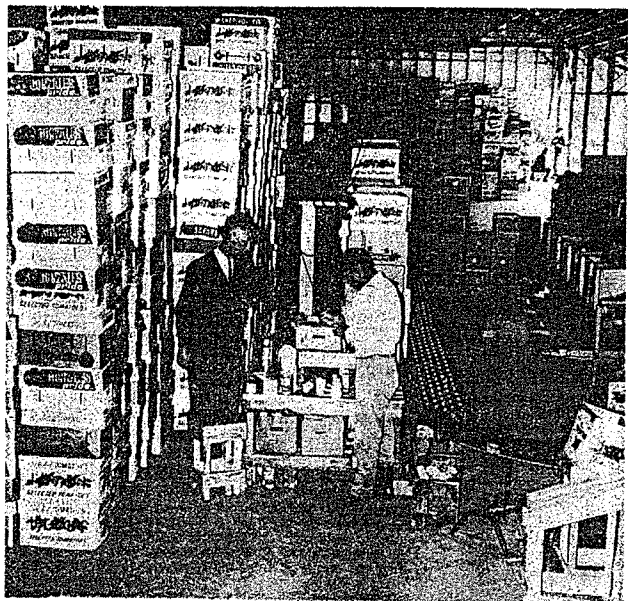
Then, in the late '40s and mid-'50s, hard days plagued growers. Insects and disease took their toll. There was a lack of interest and the result was low yields, poor quality and waning buyer interest.

THAT SET the stage for a comeback, led by producers and community leaders. Low yields and poor quality were attacked first. Farmers and Extension Service personnel worked together in setting up demonstrations on recommended production practice. The demonstrations in turn were studied by other farmers.

"By 1960, nearly all producers in the area were using the right kind and amount of fertilizer and were tilling the soil to control nematodes," said Bagby, an Extension horticulturist. "They acquired spray equipment and consequently did a better job of controlling diseases and insects. Management was better — and so were yields and quality."

With production rolling, the next thought by growers was how to better market their product. Outgrowth was the new shed and formation of producer groups to study market needs.

"The growers themselves should be commended for recognizing the necessity for producing high quality produce in enough volume to attract wholesale buyers," commented Glasscock.



CHANDLER MOUNTAIN TOMATO CROP HEADS FOR MARKET
... County Agent H. L. Eubanks, left, and federal inspector, check records

Migrant Program Applauded

Joseph Bertoglio, U.S. Office of Education, Migrant Branch, recently said, "the vocational component of the Summer Migrant Education Program in St. Clair County is exemplary and worthy of national dissemination."

He also indicated that other migrant education programs could well benefit from the vocational education program currently being conducted for high school students.

The program includes classes in auto mechanics, auto body repair, clothing construction and repair, child care, typing, food and nutrition, electricity, woodworking, and welding.

Walter M. Kennedy, local director of the Migrant Education Program, says that the educational and vocational programs are designed to meet the unique needs of these migrant children.

Approximately 300 migrant youths from Texas and Florida come to Chandler Mountain in St. Clair County with their families to harvest the tomato crop.

The Migrant Education Program is a component of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended.



News photos by Beverly Taylor

MACRAME HANGINGS ATTRACT ATTENTION AT CRAFTS FAIR

... Mrs. Teresa Whatley of Birmingham admires handwork



BONNETS IN STYLE—FREE TYING LESSONS FROM CHANDLER MOUNTAIN EXPE

... Mrs. Adonis Fisher left, Pell City, and Mrs. Hazel Coffman.

**Horse pens;
fun for all
at festival**

Hot biscuits, frying bacon and new sorghum syrup!

Handmade quilts, bonnets, eathercraft, dolls, painting,andle holders and pin cushions!

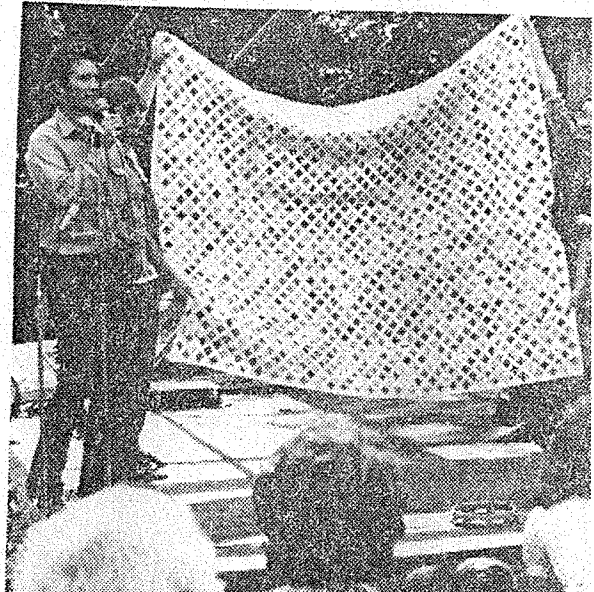
A hollering contest and bluegrass music mingled with the sights and smells of a fall festival Sunday at Horse Pens 0 atop Chandler Mountain.—t all impressed News photog-apher Beverly Taylor.

She came away with a pile of pictures and "loaded down with mountain-made crafts."



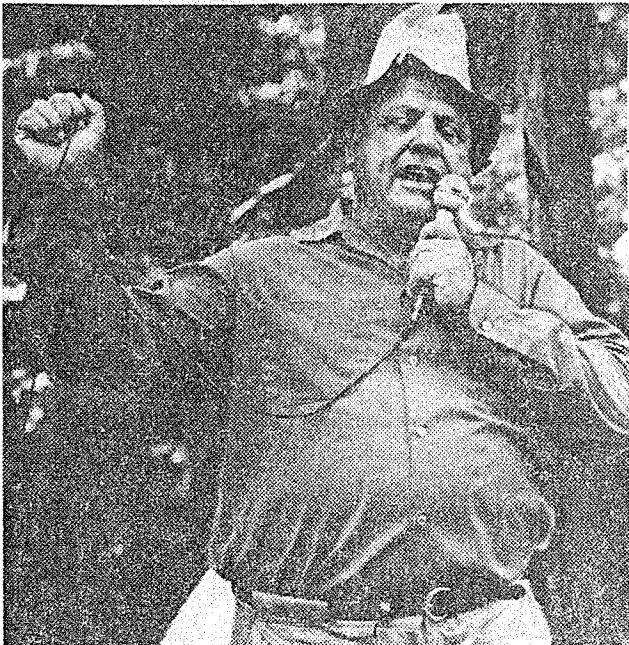
"NATURAL COLOR" SAND IN BOTTLES

... Mrs. Evelyn Barry has unusual hobby.



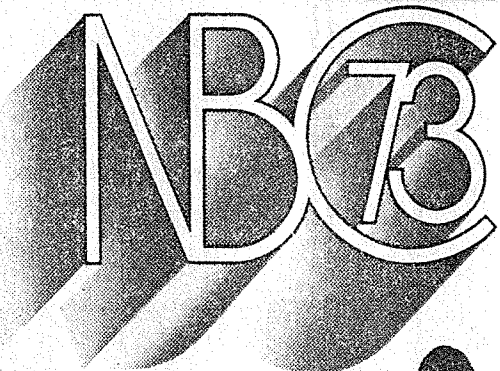
SHOWING OFF QUILTING CONTEST WINNER

... "Cathedral window" by Thelma Van Huss.



NOTHING LIKE A "WHOOPE AND HOLLER"

... "Apple Jack" Capps of Cullman demonstrates



Chase
7:00 pm
NEW SHOW
This police unit





Quality production plus this new improved marketing facility are giving Chandler Mountain Tomato Association members a stronger position in the marketplace.

During the late 1940's and into the mid-1950's, the area's vegetable producers were faced with insect and disease problems. They were lax in using good management. The result—low yields, poor quality, and waning buyer interest.

Community leaders, prompted by H. L. Eubanks, St. Clair Extension County Agent, held numerous meetings to discuss problems and plan improvement programs. The basic problems—low yields and poor quality—were attacked first. State staff specialists helped county personnel and farmers to develop demonstrations. These were observed by growers and resulted in changed production practices.

By 1960, nearly all vegetable producers in the area were using adequate plant food (usually based on a soil test). They acquired spray equipment and applied insects, nematode-, and disease-control materials—and they improved harvesting practices. Better management effectively increased yield and quality. The area's production volume rose and buyer interest was renewed.

The renewed interest in marketing production created a need for expansion and improvement in marketing.

About 2 years ago, association members realized the need for an improved marketing facility. The old one was inadequate in many respects—it was not large enough to meet new demands, loading space was short,

utilities were not available, and the building was dilapidated. But more important, members realized the need for new marketing procedures—ones that would give producers a greater share of the market price and at the same time, meet changes in market demand.

The present production and marketing program was worked out in community meetings of local leaders, producers, county RAD leaders, county government officials, agricultural industry leaders, produce company representatives, local bank representatives, county Extension staff, State Extension specialists, and others. Principal leadership was from the county agent's office.

The Chandler Mountain Tomato Growers Association moved their sales activities to a new, 19,336-square foot grading and packing shed during mid-August of 1964. A modern facility conveniently located in the production area is serving as a sales center for mountain area growers. An estimated 80 percent of this year's 1,000-acre tomato crop is being marketed through the farmer-owned, locally-financed facility. Sales are approaching 4,000 40-pound fiber cartons of U.S. inspected tomatoes daily.

St. Clair food crop growers plan to use the new marketing facility as concentration and sales point for beans, squash, melons, and other food crops as well as tomatoes. They are also equipped to serve as the sales center for growers in the surrounding area. The conveniently located, modern facility allows producers to market produce near the point of production.

The nearby market permits operators to devote more time to production details and to harvest labor supervision. It reduces marketing cost and thus far, demand has equaled or exceeded supplies. Prices received have been encouragingly satisfactory.

Chandler Mountain growers are optimistic about their ability to expand volume. They are devoting more thought and energy to improved production practices.

A brief review of major factors responsible for the new St. Clair County facility should be of value to other areas.

First, growers recognized the necessity for producing high-quality produce in sufficient volume to attract wholesale buyers. With the able leadership of County Agent Eubanks and others, they effectively applied recommended cultural and pest control practices in production programs. U.S. No. 1 quality harvests are now a reality.

Communication between professional leaders and grower groups has been well maintained. The grower group has studied market needs, alternative procedures, and has accepted the financial responsibility involved in creation of the new market. They elected to use local bank financing. A service charge against each package that moves through the market is a means of liquidating the bank obligation.

Producer groups are now devoting packaging time to a study of most desirable and profitable packaging of mature tomatoes. After a trial period, they will no doubt offer "retail ready" packages of vine-ripe St. Clair County tomatoes to Alabama and other southeastern food vendors. This is another part of the Chandler Mountain Cooperative's effort to return the largest possible portion of the consumer's food crop dollar to St. Clair County growers. ■

plexity of technology required and the economic environment in which farmers operate complicates decision making. Economic problems intensify pressures on farm people and are reflected in their demand for more economic information and assistance in developing management skills.

Extension is strengthening its educational work with commercial farmers to help them cope with these problems by: (1) Wider use of management-production teams of specialists, (2) increased emphasis on short courses dealing with the economics and technology of sound management and the proper combination of production techniques into a profitable farm unit, (3) practical application of electronic data processing to everyday management decisions as well as long range organizational problems, (4) increased attention to individual technological developments as they fit into the total farm operation, and (5) intensive training with lending agencies and farmers on proper acquisition, use, and control of capital resources.

Livestock and Crop Health

Diseases and pests continue to exact a heavy toll from agriculture. Rapid progress in developing effective tools for reducing these losses has been accompanied by creation of new problems. Problems such as toxic residues, build-up of resistance by pests against specific chemicals, and rising costs of control measures. The situation is further complicated by the increasing mobility and concentration of animals and people. Disease-transmissible between man and animals will require increasing attention. Extension has a tremendous challenge to exert dynamic educational leadership in this area.

The techniques and economics of producing food and fiber and delivering these items in acceptable form to the consumer are constantly changing. Production of commodities tends to become concentrated in those areas that have a comparative advantage. Interregional competition is expected to intensify in the years ahead, accompanied by serious enterprise adjustment problems for many farmers. Extension has a major responsibility to help farmers analyze their situation, evaluate alternatives available to them, and make sound adjustment decisions to improve their competitive position.

Resource Development

Mounting pressures from an expanding urban population and industrial economy for use of natural resources create problems of increasing concern to farmers and ranchers. Some of the problems already confronting many producers are: (1) Rezoning of farming areas for nonagricultural uses, (2) reduction of grazing permits on public lands, (3) condemnation of farm land for public acquisition, and (4) acceleration of land value and taxes above economic levels for agricultural use.

Agriculture faces increasing competition for use of water as industrial and residential needs accelerate. Underground water reserves are being depleted at an alarming rate in many areas. Salinity problems already plague some irrigated operations. Pollution reduces the value of many

streams as sources of water. As water problems become more critical, additional laws governing use of water resources may be expected. Greater attention will need to be focused on multiple uses of land and water.

Extension will have a broadening responsibility to help farmers develop an understanding of the issues involved, the contributions they can make to the solution of these problems, and the alternatives available to them for adjusting to the situation.

Adoption of new technology creates additional need for a wide range of commercial services. Incomes of farmers are directly affected by the quality and costs of services provided by suppliers and contractors. Extension educational work with these firms and agencies complements their work and helps to improve the quality and the efficiency of their services.

In the final analysis, the results of Extension's educational work in the foregoing areas will be dependent on the development of competent lay leadership to transform these programs into effective community action. Extension has a continuing responsibility for training this leadership so they will recognize their opportunities, implement the appropriate action, and carry it through to completion. ■

The Team Approach

by M. R. GLASSCOCK
*Extension Fruit and Vegetable Marketing Specialist
Alabama*

FRESH vegetable growers in the Chandler Mountain community have come a long way since they organized in 1942. They have overcome setbacks and now operate a model marketing facility which benefits all concerned.

Chandler Mountain community consists of 70 small farms located atop the mountain in St. Clair County, Alabama. The area is a plateau about 1,000 feet above the surrounding valleys and is about 7 miles long and 3 miles wide. It has long been a center of fresh vegetable production and tomatoes account for 85 to 90 percent of the vegetable acreage. Due to its topography, the mountain produces tomatoes from mid-summer until a killing freeze which usually comes in November.

In 1943, the Chandler Mountain Tomato Growers Association was formed to provide a central market facility where producers could market tomatoes to repackers. A 1,500 square foot packing shed was built at Steelton, community, located at the foot of the mountain, for the convenience of trailer trucks. There was no all-weather road extending to the mountain-top production area.

EXTENSION SERVICE REVIEW

Extension Service Review
Feb. 1965

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BY A. W. JONES
News farm specialist

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Eubanks, a member of Auburn University Extension Service who has worked closely with growers over the years, said there is more enthusiasm than ever among producers. There is renewed interest in doing better jobs of production that in turn has led to more efforts to expand and improve marketing.

This year, an all-time high of about 1,500 acres were devoted to tomatoes, and Eubanks said he expects that acreage to increase.

THE GRADING and packing shed — a 19,335 square foot building on the mountain — was completed in mid-August. Previously, the smaller (4,500 square foot) shed at Steel had to suffice.

The shed, built through local bank financing, is being paid for by a service charge against each package that moves through the market.

At this year's rate, that won't take long. At one time, nearly 4,000 boxes a day were moving through the shed.

Future plans call for addition of a cooler room so tomatoes can be stored for short periods of time at the shed — permitting more flexible marketing. Producer groups are studying ways of packaging tomatoes so they can also offer "retail ready" packages.

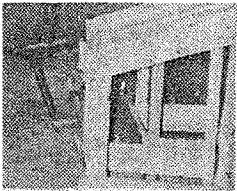
CHANDLER MOUNTAIN'S success is actually the climax of a concerted effort that began years ago, said M. R. Glasscock and John Bagby, two other Extension Service staff members who have worked with the growers.

The Chandler Mountain Tomato Growers Association was formed in 1943 mainly to provide a central market facility where producers could market tomatoes to re-packers, said Glasscock, a marketing specialist on the Extension's staff at Auburn.

The shed was built at the foot of the mountain for the convenience of trailer trucks.



CHANDLER MOUNTAIN TOMATO CROP HEADS FOR MARKET
... County Agent H. L. Eubanks, left, and federal inspector, check records



OR MARKET
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The shed was built at the foot of the mountain for the convenience of trailer trucks. No all-weather road extended to the mountain-top production area at that time, said Glasscock.

Then, in the late '40s and mid '50s, hard days plagued growers. Insects and disease took their toll. There was a lack of interest and the result was low yields, poor quality and waning buyer interest.

THAT SET the stage for a comeback, led by producers and community leaders. Low yields and poor quality were attacked first. Farmers and Extension Service personnel worked together in setting up demonstrations on recommended production practice. The demonstrations in turn were studied by other farmers.

"By 1960, nearly all producers in the area were using the right kind and amount of fertilizer and were treating the soil to control nematodes," said Bagby, an Extension horticulturist. "They acquired spray equipment and consequently did a better job of controlling diseases and insects. Management was better — and so were yields and quality."

With production rolling, the next thought by growers was how to better market their product. Outgrowth was the new shed and formation of producer groups to study market needs.

"The growers themselves should be commended for recognizing the necessity for producing high quality produce in enough volume to attract wholesale buyers," commented Glasscock. "And with the help of County Agent Eubanks and others, they effectively applied recommended practices."

"All this had made harvests of U. S. No. 1 quality tomatoes a reality."



News photos by Beverly Taylor

MACRAME HANGINGS ATTRACT ATTENTION AT CRAFTS FAIR

... Mrs. Teresa Whatley of Birmingham admires handwork



BONNETS IN STYLE—FREE TYING LESSONS FROM CHANDLER MOUNTAIN EXPE

... Mrs. Adonis Fisher left, Pell City, and Mrs. Hazel Coffman.

Horse pens; fun for all at festival

Hot biscuits, frying bacon and new sorghum syrup!

Handmade quilts, bonnets, leathercraft, dolls, painting, candle holders and pin cushions!

A hollering contest and bluegrass music mingled with the sights and smells of a fall festival Sunday at Horse Pens 40 atop Chandler Mountain.—it all impressed News photographer Beverly Taylor.

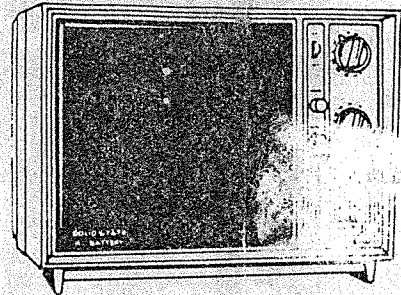
She came away with a pile of pictures and "loaded down with mountain-made crafts."



"NATURAL COLOR" SAND IN BOTTLES

... Mrs. Evelyn Barry has unusual hobby.

Sure to make this Football Season More Enjoyable



PHILCO
VHF/UHF
Portable TV

89⁹⁵

EASY TERMS

Compact, lightweight former powered solid chassis and solid state diodes that reduce component damage heat integrated circuit output to provide crisp picture. Special devices to trap interferences & diagonal.

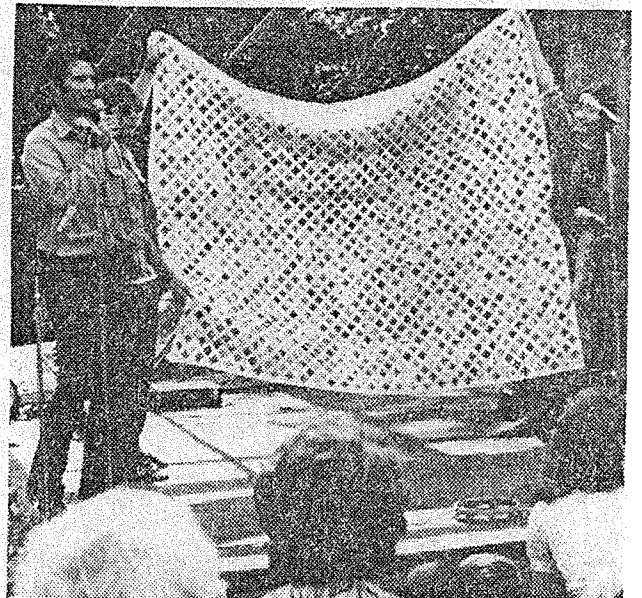
LARGE DIAMOND & WATCH

BUSCH
JEWELERS

20th St. & 4th Ave. N. 1903 2nd Ave. N.

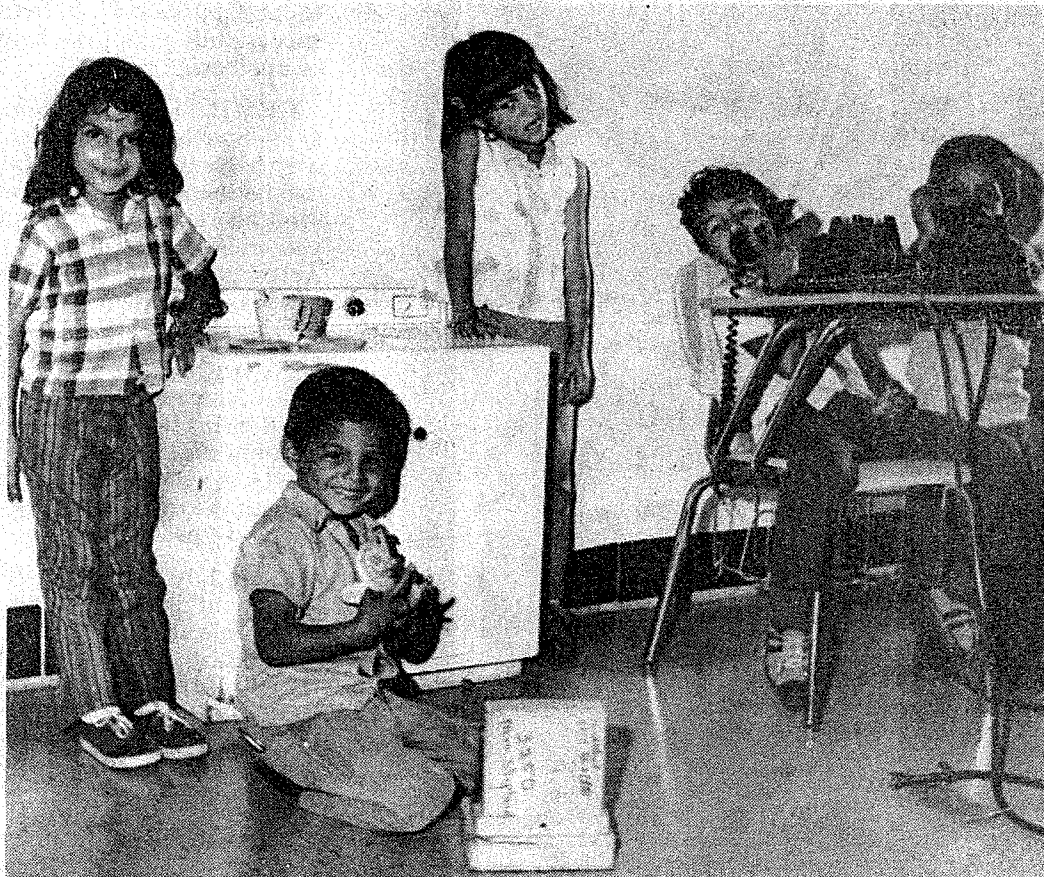


Chase
7:00 pm
NEW SHOW



SHOWING OFF QUILTING CONTEST WINNER "Cathedral window" by Thelma Von Huss

County's Education Program Migrant Workers Offers Some



TOTS HAVE FUN IN NURSERY



BY ANNE MII

With night class for adults prevalent today, it should not be considered unusual to meet at Ashville High School at night for Economics, typing, and vocational subjects.

But when those adults have gotten out of the tomato fields on Chandler Road and gone into the tomato fields on Chandler Road as there was daylight, gathered at Chandler Elementary School for showers and bath, children for the Ashville High School are from 6:00 to 10:00 — that is something new.

The St. Clair County Board of Education migrant workers children on Chandler Road year, and for the second time this year, expanded to offer night classes for the school.

Forty-six workers and teachers, under the supervision of Superintendent of Education Walter Kennedy, met at a special workshop early in the week.

Mr. Kennedy expects a participation in the entire session, which is over four times the school three years ago.

The entire program is federally funded by the Department of Education and is operating this year at a cost of approximately \$77,000.

Most children of migrant workers do not read Spanish, some speak a little English, and the most part do not read Spanish.

Unique in this year's program is a special feature at the St. Clair County Library. The library has provided books and material to the migrant workers, newspapers in Spanish and English, books, and assistance in selecting material and desires of the people are a part of the program.

In addition, the library furnishes books in Mexican languages to be used in the typing class.

Consultant for the program, participated in the program, participated in the program, participated in the program.

Another unique feature of the program is a class in English as a Second Language for Spanish-speaking students, taught by Mrs. June Adoni. Last Friday night, when the picture bell rang, the participants of the class were entirely male, and the participants of the class were entirely male, and the participants of the class were entirely male.

Fisher teaches this class in Spanish and another class in English. Arts and Crafts in the night classes are being taught by Mrs. Wright, an Ashville High School teacher. Other arts were being earnestly pursued.

One member of Mrs. Ruth Pope's group wanted to be a "secretary" for her group and wanted to learn secretarial skills. Another has been offered a job by her family if she "does well" in the class.

A dinner table beautifully set and pot in evidence in Mrs. Carolyn Frazier's home.

Migration Program For Migrants Something For Everyone

BY ANNE MILAM

With night class for adults prevalent and plentiful everywhere today, it should not be considered out of the ordinary for adults to meet at Ashville High School at night to study English, Home Economics, typing, and vocational subjects.

But when those adults have gotten out of bed before dawn and gone into the tomato fields on Chandler Mountain, worked as long as there was daylight, gathered at the Chandler Mountain Elementary School for showers and boarded a bus with their small children for the Ashville High School and classes five nights a week from 6:00 to 10:00 — that is something else again.

The St. Clair County Board of Education-sponsored school for migrant workers children on Chandler Mountain is now in its fifth year, and for the second time this year, the school has been expanded to offer night classes for the adults at the Ashville High School.

Forty-six workers and teachers, under the direction of Assistant Superintendent of Education Walter Kennedy, prepared for the ten week school at a special workshop early in June.

Mr. Kennedy expects a participation of about 285 during the entire session, which is over four times the number of students in the school three years ago.

The entire program is federally funded through the State Board of Education and is operating this year on a budget of approximately \$77,000.

Most children of migrant workers drop out of school to go into the fields to work after about grade six. Most of the adults speak Spanish, some speak a little English, read a little English and for the most part do not read Spanish.

Unique in this year's program is a service being provided by the St. Clair County Library. The Library Bookmobile is delivering books and material to the migrant people on the Mountains. Newspapers in Spanish and English, books in both languages for all ages and assistance in selecting materials suitable to the needs and desires of the people are a part of the program.

In addition, the Library furnishes records in Spanish and Mexican languages to be used in the typing classes at night at Ashville.

Consultant for the program, particularly in the Spanish field, is C.C. Lee of the St. Clair County Library.

Another unique feature of the program is a class at night at Ashville High, taught by Mrs. June Adonis Fisher of Pell City, titled "English as a Second Language for Spanish Speaking Migrants." Last Friday night, when the picture below was made, the class was entirely male, and the participants did not speak English. Mrs. Fisher teaches this class in Spanish and Miss Susan Swann teaches another class in English.

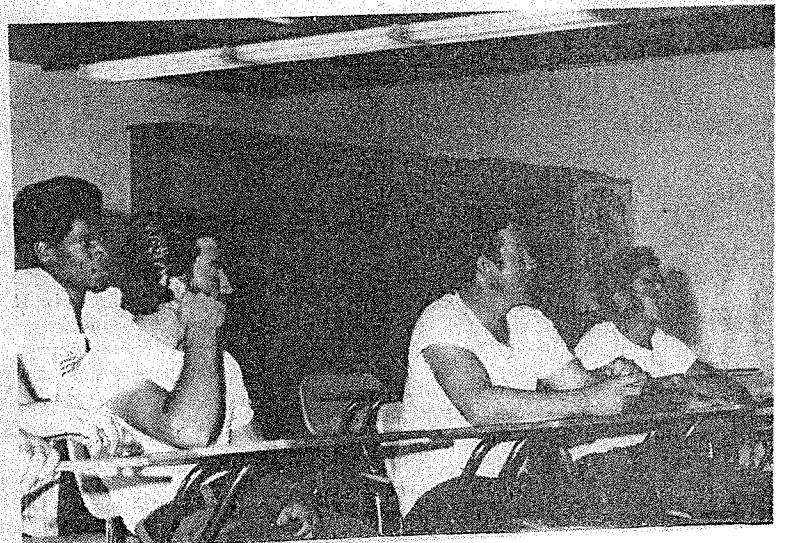
Arts and Crafts in the night classes are taught by Mrs. Josephine Wright, an Ashville High School teacher, and participants' ages ranged from teenage to elderly. Crocheting, knitting, painting, and other arts were being earnestly pursued by the class members.

One member of Mrs. Ruth Pope's typing class acts as "secretary" for her group and wanted specifically to learn to write letters. So Mrs. Pope had provided books and materials on secretarial skills. Another has been promised a typewriter by her family if she "does well" in the class.

A dinner table beautifully set and pots bubbling on the stove were in evidence in Mrs. Carolyn Frazier's home economics class. Sewing is also a part of the course.



ARTS & CRAFTS CLASS FOR A





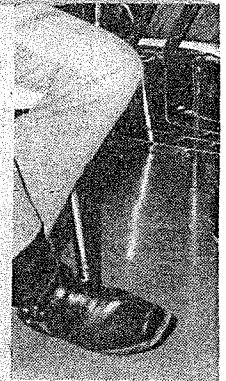
In the vocational education department of the school, Lloyd Newton principal of Ahville Jr. High during regular session, was teaching a young man named Jimi Salazar in woodwork. J.B. Hare is instructor for auto body work and Pete Thompson is teaching auto mechanics.

Paul Rogers had a young would-be welder busy outside the building.

A nursery is provided for the small children of the workers. Judy Kell, Isabella Hazelwood, Kay Weaver and Susan Hyatt supervise the play and take care of the youngsters while their parents are in class.

At the Chandler Mountain school, a nursery for the very small children is operating in the Chandler Mountain Community Center and a pre-school class is being taught by Mrs. Lois Russell and Mrs. Madolyn Burttram at the Chandler Mountain School.

Other classes for ages six through 12 are taught by Mrs. Hoover Rogers, Mrs. Hazel Coffman, Mrs. Betty Robinson, Miss Diane Dodd, Nancy Yarbrough, and Jimmy Deweese.



ENGLISH

MRS. FISHER

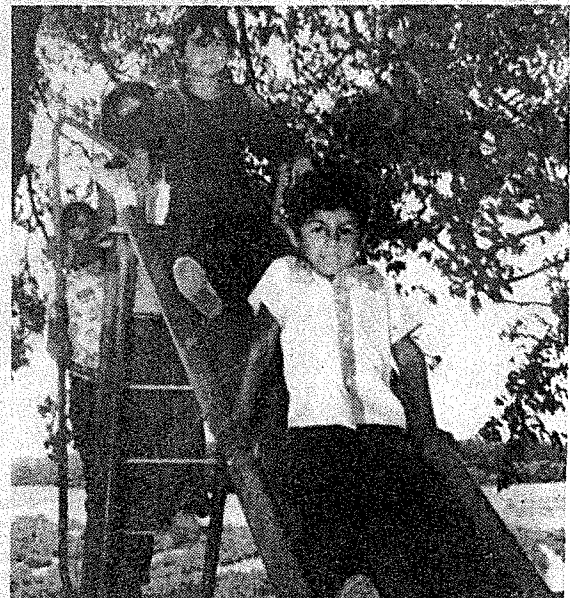
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TYPING CLASS

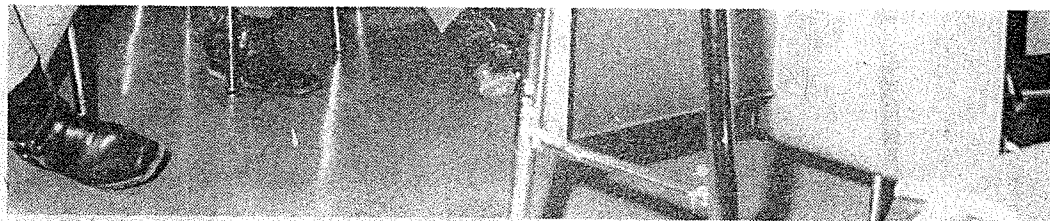


WELDING INSTRUCTION

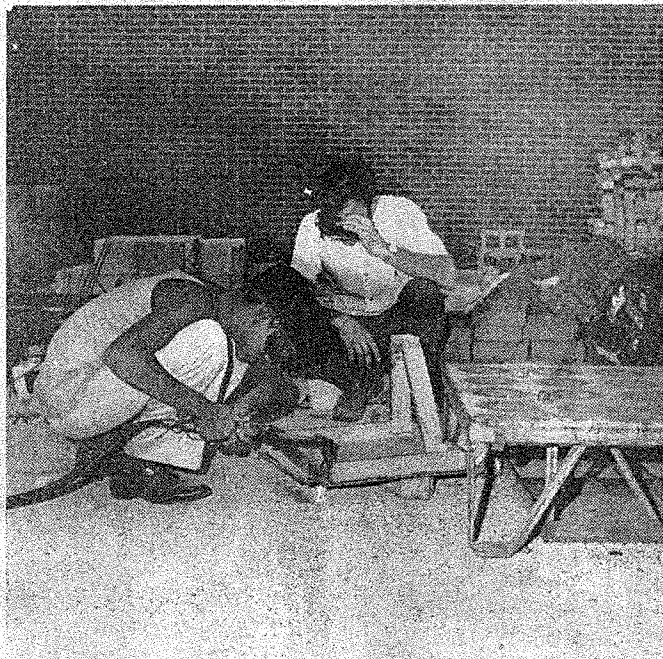


the small children of the workers. Judy Weaver and Susan Hyatt supervise youngsters while their parents are in

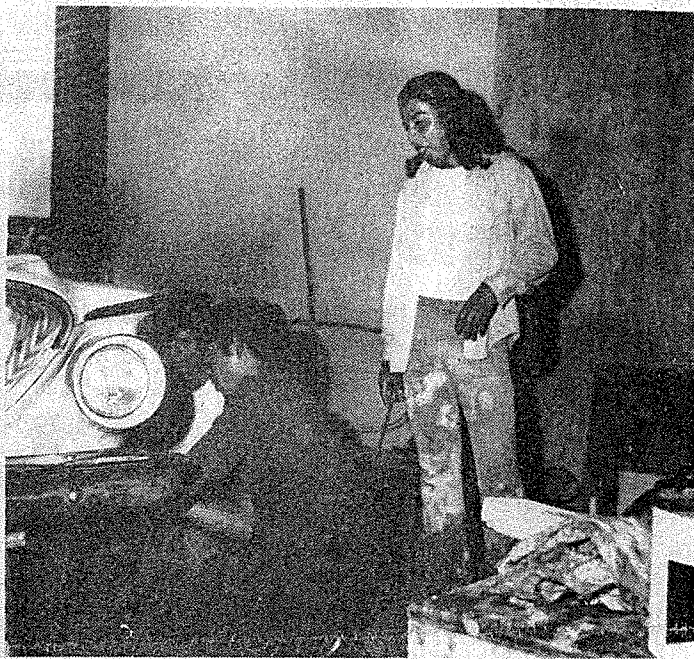
school, a nursery for the very small children at Mountain Community Center, taught by Mrs. Lois Russell and Mrs. Edna Mountain School. Children through 12 are taught by Mrs. Hoover, Mrs. Betty Robinson, Miss Diane and Jimmy Dewese.



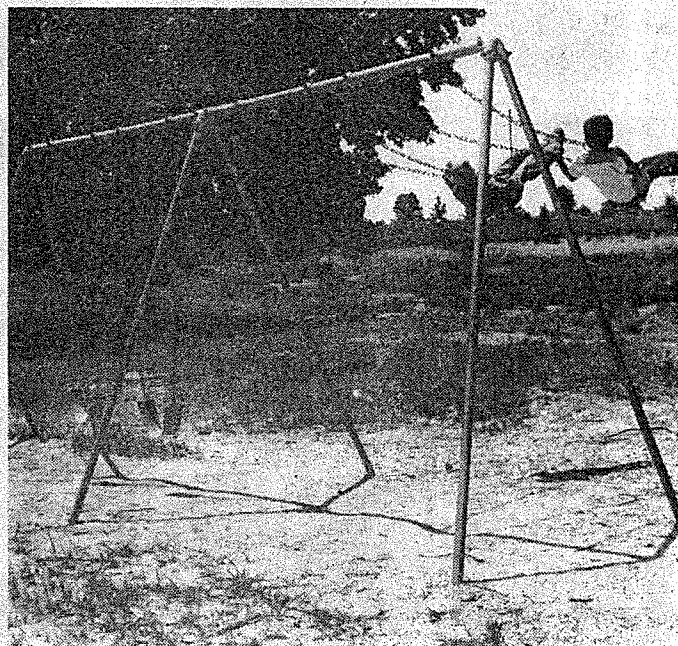
MRS. FISHER TEACHES ENGLISH-SPANISH



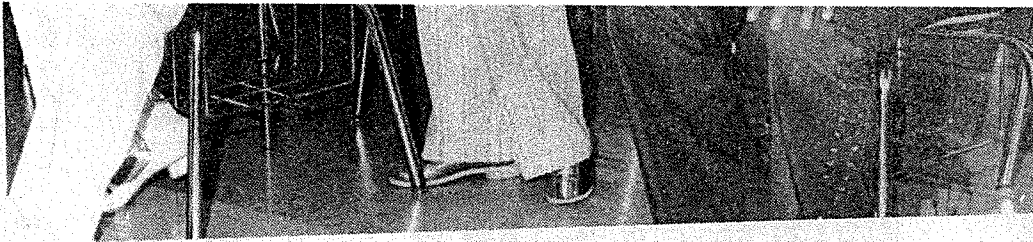
WELDING INSTRUCTION



AUTO MECHANICS



... AT MT. SCHOOL ... AND THEN ... PLAYTIME!!



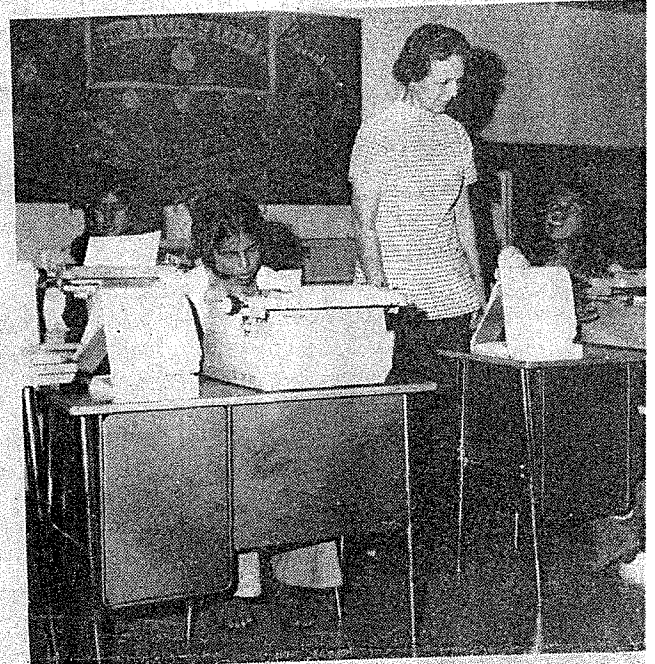
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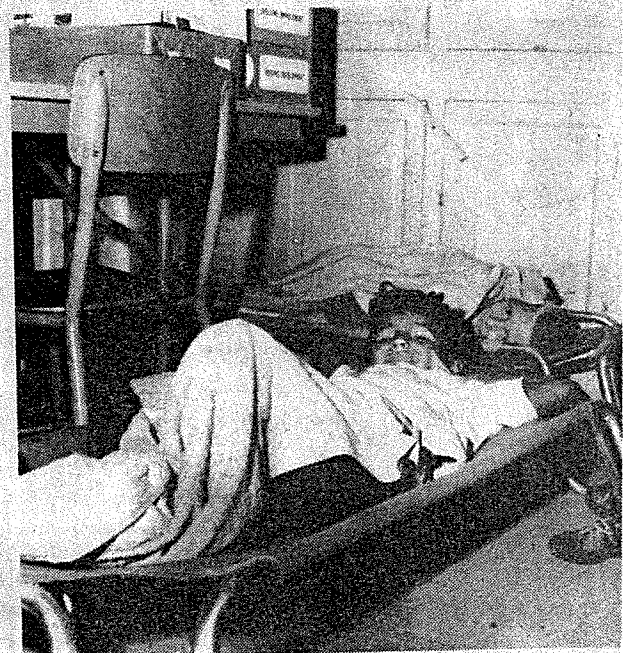
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SUSAN SWANN TEACHES ENGLISH



HOME EC. CLASS COOKS DINNER

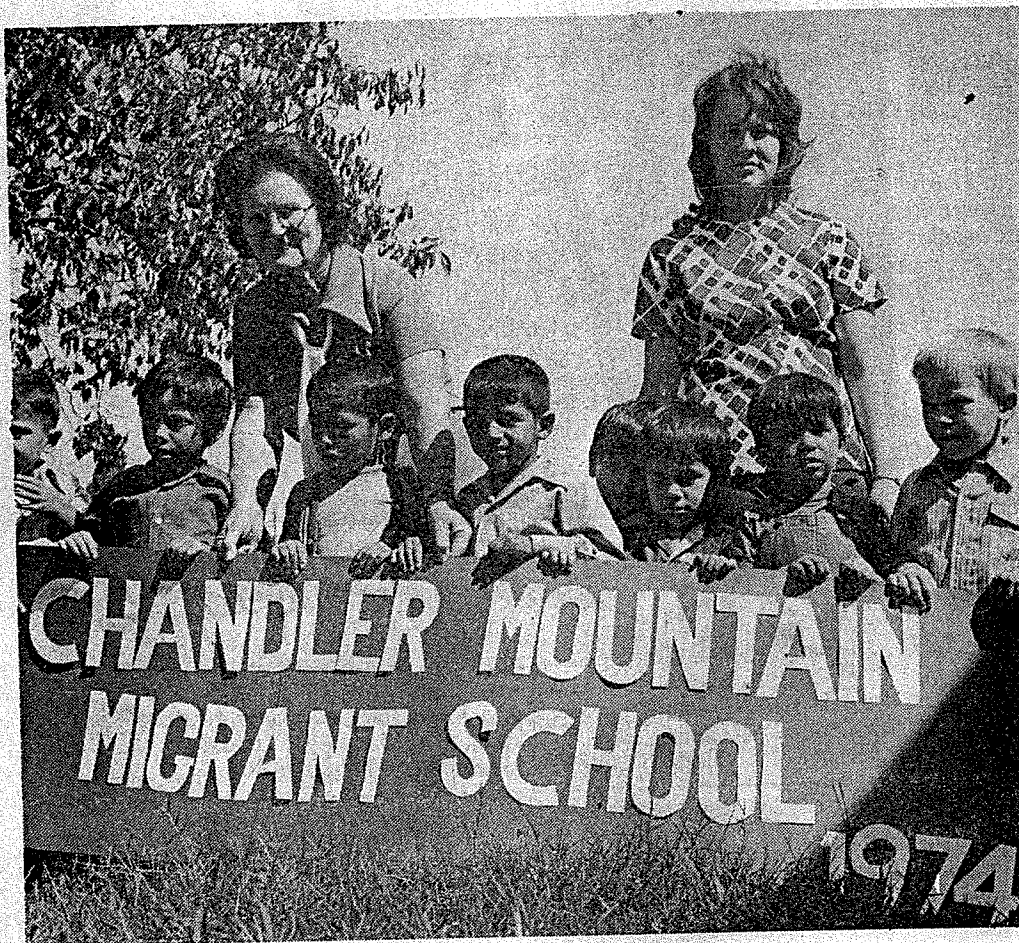
TYPING CLASS



WOODWORK CLASS

NAP TIME AT CHANDLER

Migrant children learn at Chandler Mt. School



Pre-School Class

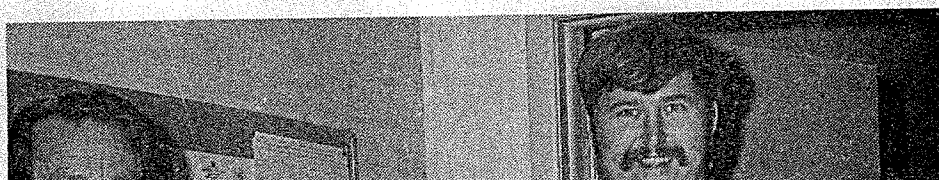
Education for migrant children is sketchy at best. Their parents' annual following of the crops for harvest, gives the children several home bases each year. The length of time spent at each station is too brief for a child to complete one term — much less one school year.

Chandler Mountain Migrant School, federally funded through Title I funds — Health Education and Welfare — operates on the premise that education for these children is nowhere near normal. With this premise, the school is organized to teach each child on the level of his learning, and in an individually scheduled program.

The children and youth — some born in Puerto Rico and Mexico and now in the U.S. — grow up in a family in which the language spoken is Spanish. For those migrants who are not Mexican-American, the pattern of schooling is the same although the native language is that of English. According to Hoover Rogers, principal of the School, there are few cases in which the students themselves speak no English, and in those instances, a bi-lingual child is present for translation.

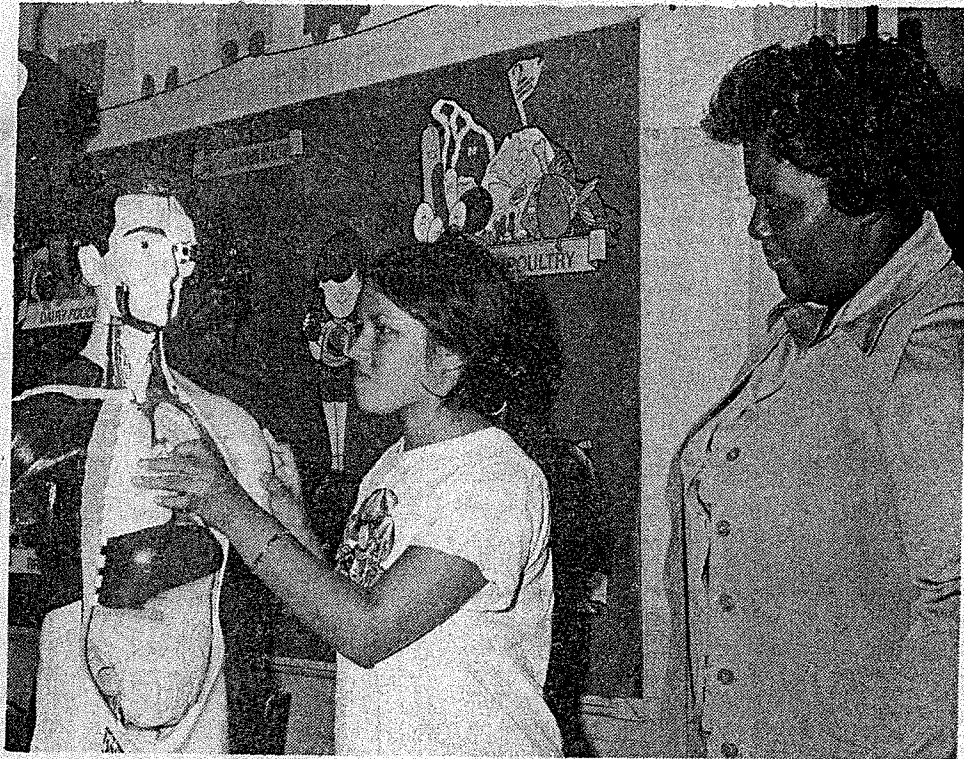
The Migrant School contains two separate programs, the school on the Mountain for the children, and academic and vocational classes as at Asheville High School from 6-10 p.m. for teenagers and young adults.

According to Henry Fisher, social worker for the program, the night classes are comprised of people who (weather and available work permitting) have worked a full day in the



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Learn School



Science Can Be Fun

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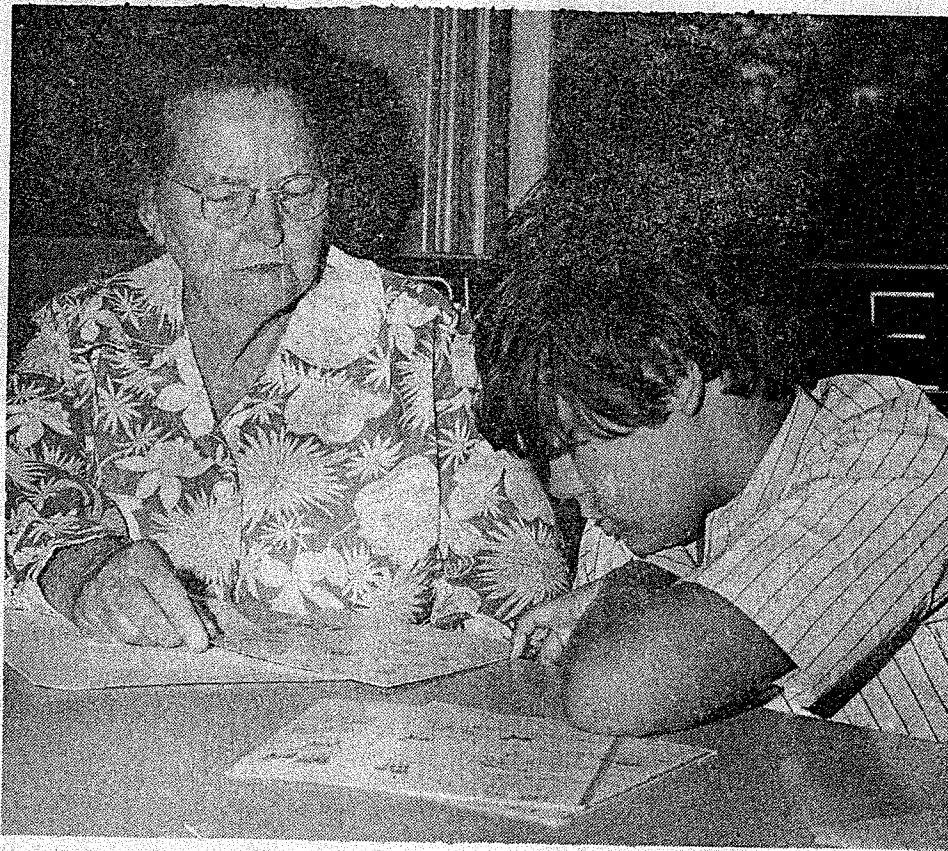
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Enrollment at the night school of this year has been 160;



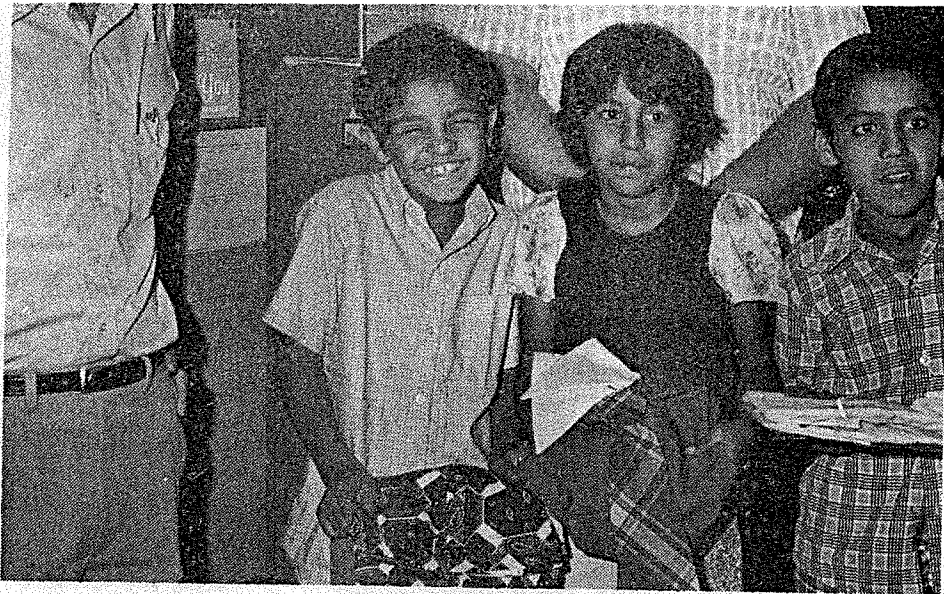
Progressing With Individual Help

Sister Eileen, with Catholic Charities out of Gadsden, provides assistance with the Migrant School program and directs lists of needs to her organization for fulfillment — as in the cases of need for clothes, and food. Sister Eileen

classes including carpentry, auto mechanics, welding, body repair, dressmaking, cooking and arts and crafts. Each student may sign up for two courses.

The teachers, cooks, janitors, aides, bus driver and social

Mr. and Mrs. Hoover Rogers, tomato farmers themselves, first became interested in the migrants long before the program began, and were called upon to help prepare the application for the initial funding of the program in 1969.



Rogers, Fisher, Students And New Clothes



Nap-time In The Nursery

to work with the migrants to improve their educational skills — both academic and vocational — and over a period of time and various schools and centers, to help them both learn skills which will help them personally, and also give them a skill which will enable them to leave the migrant stream.

The day school runs from 7:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. According to Rogers, parents have expressed a concern and desire for the school to run a full working day rather than a full school day.

Reasons for this request being that when the children come home from school, parents or some worker must leave the field and thus may lose half a days labor.

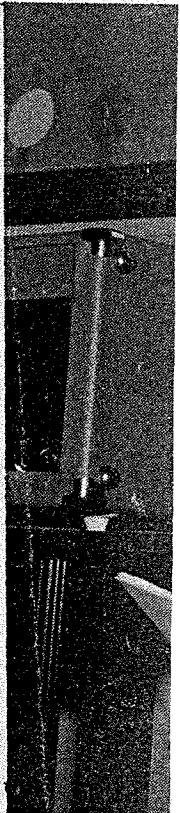
Prior to the migrant program, children were taken to the fields where they could be watched, but their activities were limited to a small area, and the chance for snake bites or accidents was fairly high.

The Migrant School provides complete health care for the students, complete immunizations and dental care when needed, and the students make their trips into the dentists with the social workers to meet appointments made by Miss Ruby Zackie, Public Health Dept.

and coincides with the need and with the
The night school offered a var



*Feature By
Jenna
Whitehead*



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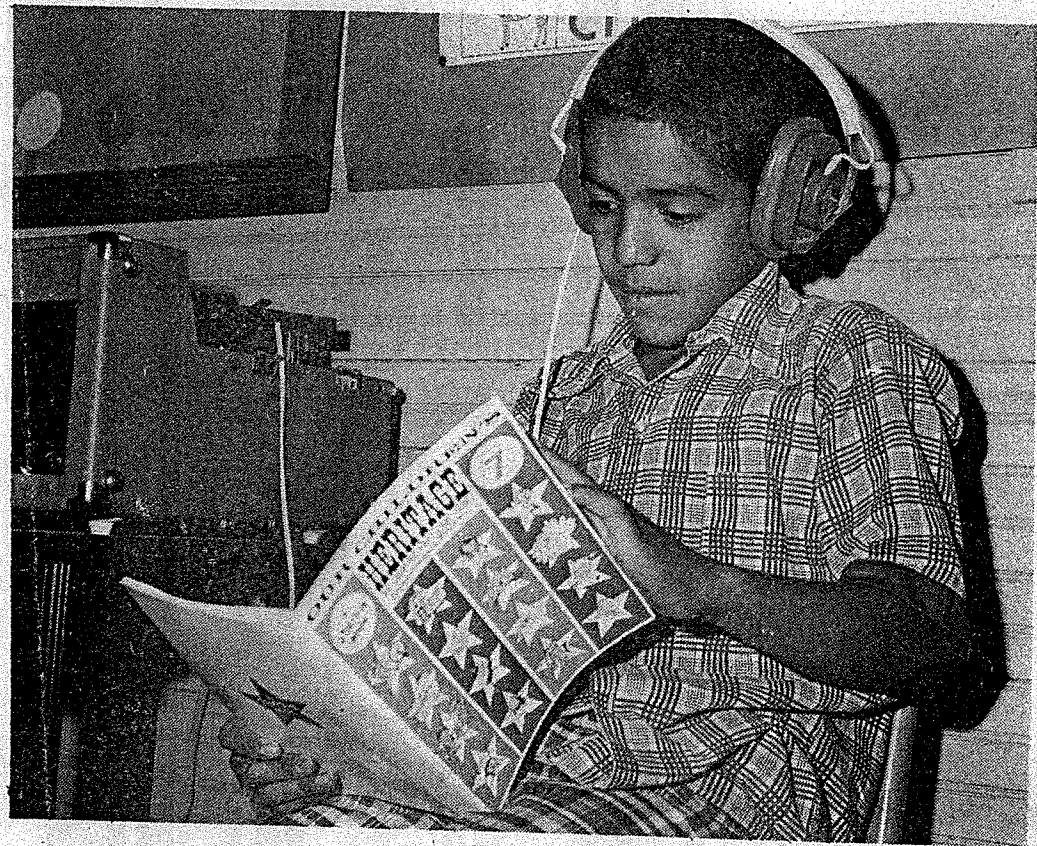
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The night school students are offered a variety of vocational and service which the program provides. The ultimate aim of giving them an option to migratory labor.



Playground Activities

ature By
Jenna
ritehead



Individual Reading Program