

Assets Come in Pots

WF Grad Turning Over New Leaf in His Work

RALEIGH (UPI) — Joseph W. Dean never dreamed as a student at Wake Forest University law school that plant care would become part of his duties as a lawyer.

But now that he's become trustee for an insolvent plant company, Dean has to take care of all the assets, most of which are plants.

Since Friday, Dean has been watering hundreds of plants as part of his job as receiver for International Flower Mart.

"I look on it as a sacred trust," said Dean, a former assistant U.S. attorney. "I'm supposed to see that the creditors don't lose money. If it were hogs, I'd be over there feeding them or getting somebody else to do it."

International Flower Mart went into

receivership July 14 in Wake County Superior Court after claiming it was insolvent. The company was founded in 1973.

The company sold cut flowers and accessories such as pottery and glassware, but Dean said there were no cut flowers left when it went into receivership. Plenty of potted plants remain he said, "varying from four feet tall to two inches high."

After he completes an inventory of assets and receives all creditors' claims, Dean will try to sell the potted plants, along with other assets. He hopes the sale can be conducted next week.

"I don't know much about watering plants," Dean said. "I hope I'm not drowning them."