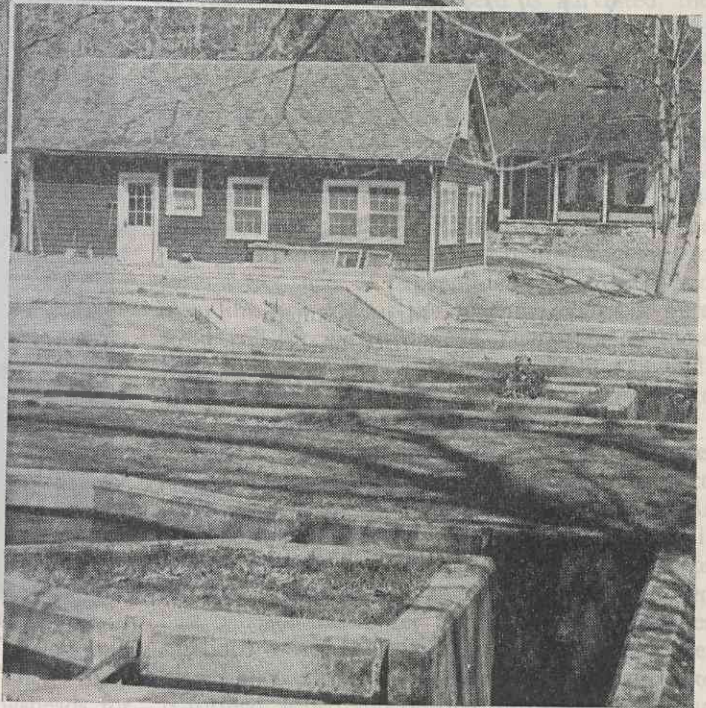


The fish rearing pools at the station.

The Davidson River Fish Rearing Station.

Forty thousand trout will be planted in 150 miles of fishing streams this year.



divided between six watersheds, resulted, after various management practices were tried, in an increase of approximately 300 percent in anglers and in number of fish caught. After the first year, all hatchery fish were marked by fin clipping before being planted. Recoveries from planting made at different seasons show a five-fold increase in recovery of spring-planted legal-size trout over trout of near equal size planted in the fall. During the last year of the experiment, emphasis was placed on the stocking mainly with legal size trout in the spring. Success indicated that this method is the best means of meeting increased fishing demands. Unfavorable practices, such as closing streams to fishing every other year, were discontinued. Because of the requirement that a complete creel census be taken over widespread

fishing areas with a limited personnel, a fishing schedule was planned, staggering the open days for the different streams under an arrangement called "The Pisgah System." While the system permitted only one watershed to be open at a time, it was found adequate to meet the increasing intensity by spreading the fishing fairly evenly.

At the rearing station the large trout are kept in separate pools to keep them from eating the small ones. There is one pool of very large trout which are kept for visitors to the station to see. Ranger Duncan says that there are fish in the streams as large as those at the station, but he says that they are too smart for the anglers. They might be smart, but a lot of us will be wading the streams this summer trying to outsmart them.