

All too few people realize the importance of our forests in North Carolina. Forestry in our State is "big business." North Carolina among the first seven states in lumber production, and that its volume of lumber produced during recent years has placed it fifth among all the states, being surpassed only by the Pacific Coast and one other southern state.

Mr. C. M. Douglas, Chairman of the Transylvania County Keep North Carolina Green Committee, has issued a statement calling on all citizens of Transylvania County to exercise every precaution to prevent forest and brush fires during the next few weeks.

March, April and May are the most dangerous months of the year for forest fires. High winds, which usually occur during this period, makes every brush fire a potential inferno capable of destroying thousands of dollars worth of growing timber as well as homes and property.

Business and civic leaders of the county realize

that timberland owners are not the only persons who suffer when forest resources are destroyed by fire. Every loss burns a little larger hole in the pocket of every citizen because just that much of our county's wealth is gone and cannot benefit anyone.

Forest fires endanger our watersheds. Without trees, leaves and undergrowth to hold back the rainfall, we as well as other industries, would be deprived of our controlled supply of water, which is essential to continuous operation.

Wood-using and wood-processing industries have large investments in our county. They, in addition to timberland owners, pay taxes to support our schools, build roads, support our government, and provide jobs for a lot of people. Their ability to continue this contribution to our economic welfare is dependent upon a continuous supply of forest resources. Let's not permit forest fires to curtail it—let's keep North Carolina green!