

## AROUND THE FARMS IN CHOWAN COUNTY

By C. W. OVERMAN, Chowan County Agent

**What Will The Score Be?** According to a broadcast report a few days ago, over 1,400 people in North Carolina have lost their lives through traffic accidents since January 1 of this year. This certainly would hope that this would be all, but it won't, the score will probably rise to at least 1600 or more. This means 1600 chairs in homes in North Carolina will be vacant this Christmas because of traffic accidents. I dare say that each of these persons had the feeling that "it won't happen to me," out it did!

People will travel the highways and that is what highways are for. Accidents don't just happen, they are caused. The cause may be driver carelessness, sudden disability of driver, mechanical failure of the vehicle which may be due to lack of proper maintenance, and the other fellow's fault. By the last reason, I mean that a most careful and excellent driver may encounter an unavoidable accident due to improper driving of another vehicle operator. Accidents can be prevented, but not cured!

Statistics show that a large percent of accidents occur to young drivers, mostly teenagers. Could this be due to the lack of interest and instruction on the parents' part? It behooves parents not to preach or scold but to explain very firmly to their teenage drivers the absolute importance of observing safety rules at all times in operating a vehicle. Both young and old can make this a safe Christmas season by practicing safety rules and preventing accidents.

In addition to highway safety, in order for this Christmas to be a safe Christmas, we must practice safety in the home with toys and with firearms. Just a few days ago I read an account of where one young boy had accidentally shot and killed his brother out hunting. Several people are killed each year by improper handling and use of firearms. It is parents and other adults' responsibility to educate and train youngsters in the safe handling and use of firearms.

**Shrubs for Christmas:** Have you ever thought about giving shrubs as Christmas presents? Many people do and the result is

Christmas. Those leaves contain a lot of organic matter and plant food which, if returned to the soil, will improve the lawn, flower beds, etc., wherever they may be. For several years attached the mulching covers to my rotary lawn mower and let the lawn mower chew the leaves all to bits. On the area of my lawn on which this was done two weeks ago the grass is pretty well through and there is very little indication that the leaves were there. I don't believe it takes any more time to mulch the leaves, if as much, as it does to rake and it will greatly improve your lawn. Surely the brown leaf particles will show upon your lawn for a few days but they will soon disappear.

**Don't Guess! Soil Test!** Copies of soil test reports from soil samples taken during the first half of November are now coming into our office. At least 60% or more of the fields are in need of lime ranging from 1000 to 2½ tons per acre. I remember the report from one farm on which I believe every field was in need of lime and practically every field was low to very low in potash.

Soil samples are also showing a need for additional potash. Added potash should be applied each year so that the level is held at medium for the type of crops generally we grow in Chowan County. Soil test reports for peanuts are showing a blanket recommendation of ½ pound of Boron per acre. This small amount of Boron has been paying off in reducing concealed damage and appears to have

been increasing yields in many instances. Copper-sulfur dust with Boron in it may be applied as one of the early sulfur-dusting applications. It is also possible that we will be able to get landplaster with Boron in it this year. We will give you more detailed information on this at a later date.

Let's keep on taking soil samples as fast as possible and lime and fertilize our soil according to the report plus individual knowledge of fields.

Practice yourself, for heaven's sake, in little things; and hence proceed to greater.

—Epictetus.

### SEAL ARTIST



Artist Gaetano di Palma, designer of the 1964 Christmas Seal, studied art in Genoa, Italy. A United States resident since 1959, he now lives in Darien, Conn., and works as a scientific illustrator at the Museum of Natural History in New York.

# GENERAL ELECTRIC

## Gifts for Christmas

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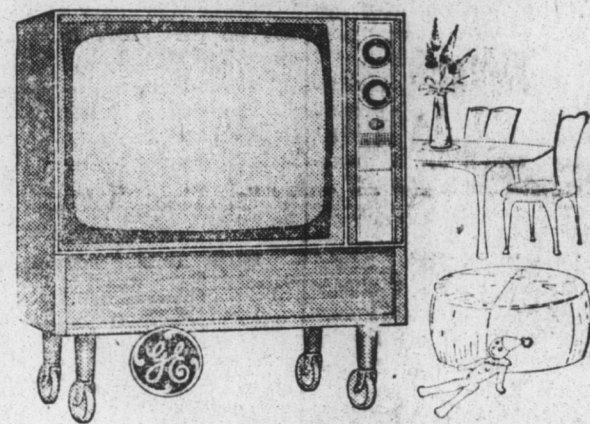


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- Set-and-forget Volume Control . . . no need to reset volume each time your set is turned on.

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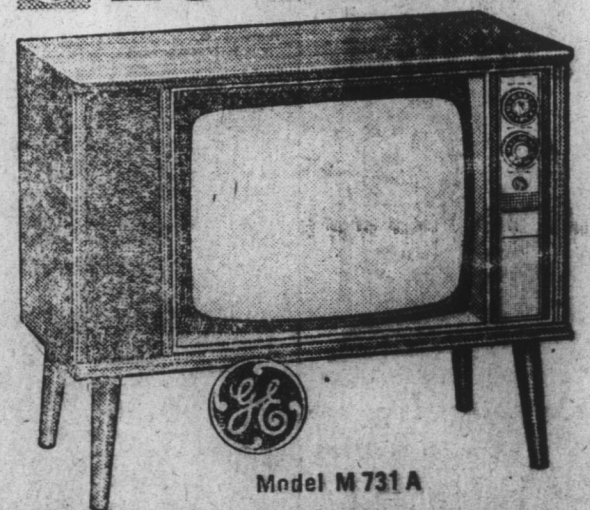


Model M 723 A

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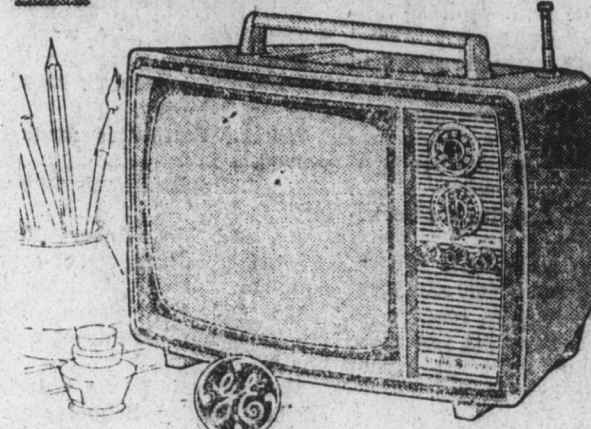
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- Attractive textured plastic cabinet with matching carrying handle.

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