

Many Farm Ponds Wanted, Smith Finds

by John S. Smith
One of the most sought after conservation practices on the farms of Cherokee County, as in practically all other counties, is a farm pond. Technicians of the Soil Conservation Service are quite frequently called upon to assist a land-owner in the location of a suitable site for the construction of a small farm pond.

In all too many instances, the site where the land owner wants to build his pond is found not suitable for the economical construction of a good pond. Due to the steep slopes which prevail over most of the mountain area, it would be

necessary to build a very expensive dam in order to back up a very small surface acreage of water. About the biggest disappointment which technicians run into in working with farmers is that of a man who has planned to build a pond in a particular location only to find that the site is not suitable.

Not all sites prove unsatisfactory here in the mountains. This fact is well testified by the pictures showing one of the most beautiful ponds in North Carolina. This one is on the farm of Carl Sudderth of peachtree and was constructed in 1958, one picture shows the dam in the process of con-

struction and the other shows the completed pond filled with water. Such a pond adds greatly to the value of a farm in case the owner should decide to sell his property. It is possible to get lower insurance rates on farm property when a source of water, such as is provided by a pond, is available on the farm.

The technicians of the Soil Conservation Service can render valuable assistance to farmers in helping them select a suitable site for their farm pond, where the pond is to be used for private purposes. It is necessary to run engineering surveys on the site to de-

termine whether or not it is a suitable site and this requires instruments not available as a general rule on the farm. The surveys can be run before a shovel-full of dirt is moved so the farmer will be out of no cash if the site proves unsatisfactory.

Any farmer who is planning to build a farm pond on his farm for private and agricultural use is invited to call on the Soil Conservation Service for assistance before any dam is started. It may be possible to save much time, effort, and even cash, by knowing before-hand whether yours is a suitable site.



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From The Desk Of STATE SENATOR W. FRANK FORSYTH 33RD DISTRICT

The Legislature still faces a heavy load. When the General Assembly classes began February 15, the three "R's" loomed large on its curriculum -- rithmetic, re-apportionment, and reform of the court system.

Now with the target date for adjournment being June 20, the Legislature has pretty well indicated its position on those issues. The court improvement compromise, a constitutional amendment, has passed the Assembly and will be submitted to the voters for approval.

The Legislature has voted to apportion the membership of the House, which gives additional seats to the counties with growing population. This is the first time in twenty years that this action has been taken. No substantial redistricting of the senatorial districts was forth-coming in this legislature, the smaller counties being firmly in control.

The knotty problem of cutting the congressional districts from twelve to eleven remains unsolved; and I predict if the Legislature does not adjourn on its target date, redistricting of the congressional districts will be the reason. As of now, three bills are in the senate committee; and this committee, of which your Senator is a member, will have to bring out a compromise measure.

In the rithmetic department the big break-through came last week with the Finance Committee's voting for a subcommittee. On Thursday this subcommittee was named; Senator Boyce Whitmire of Henderson, was named.

These developments were significant victories for the sanford administration --- although certainly not the first. The Legislature, for example, has increased substantially the appointive

powers of the Governor by raising the membership of the State Highway Commission to nineteen and the Board of Conservation and Development to twenty-eight.

As the General Assembly showed the first signs of breaking into the homestretch, a whole wad of local legislation has been disposed of.

On the 7th legislative day, May 4, 1961, a meeting was held in Raleigh of the U. S. Highway 64 Development Corporation headed by Mr. Potts of Franklin. This group, composed of folks from all over western North Carolina and including legislative representatives and senators met in the highway auditorium at three-thirty as a preliminary meeting to calling on and hearing Governor Sanford later on that afternoon. Governor Sanford was very sympathetic and expressed his desire that this road could be started as quickly as possible. However, he expressed the opinion that work could not possibly begin for two or two and a half years because of money problems.

House Bill 494, introduced by Mr. Leatherwood of Swain County to amend G. S. 51-3 relating to capacity for marriage, was unanimously passed by the Senate. This bill, dealing with the marriage of white and Indians and making such marriages legal, was a very good bill and should have been passed some fifty or sixty years ago. This inter-marriage is a thing that has been practiced, and it certainly should have been legalized.

Visitors in Raleigh last week included Mr. Percy Ferebee of Andrews, stopping by for a reunion of the 1957 members of the General Assembly. Mr. Ferebee had been in Washington attending a White House conference on regional planning.

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