

History Of Forest Fire Control In State

Forest fire control in a small way began in 1845 with the Legislature's passage of the first forest fire laws. This law carried no fiscal penalty and was administered by the North Carolina Geologist and Economic Survey.

The immediate predecessor of the present Department of Conservation and Development was the United States Forest Service. However, cooperation between the two agencies at that time enabled the State to appoint a few part-time forest wardens principally in the western counties, whose duties were largely educational.

Cooperation was provided by the Weeks Law of 1911, which consisted of from \$380,000 annually between 1915 and 1920 for the payment of fire patrolmen in the various regions of the State. Payments were made direct to the patrolmen by the Federal Government under certification by the State Forester of their interest to note that the State Forester was appointed to his office in 1915.

At that time this official was termed a Forestry Economist and the Geological and Economic Survey. The State Forester was an assistant to take charge of the fire-control work. An assistant was appointed to the title of Chief Forest Warden. Between 1915 and 1920 reports on the occurrence of forest fires were from data furnished by correspondents throughout the State.

During the years 1915-20, the work that was carried out was done largely by individual landowners and Forest Protection Associations. Under these Associations, the State Forester, and they were groups of forest owners whose property was managed and who handled their fire-control work through assessments on a per-acre basis.

The General Assembly passed the first law authorizing counties to cooperate with the Survey in the protection of forest-fire. A number of counties took advantage of this authority and during 1921, 1922 and 1923 County money was used for the work. In 1922 this was about \$931, and in 1923 about \$3,500. Forest Wardens, under moderate compensation, had been appointed in about twenty counties and were being supported by two salaried forest wardens in the field who were called Forest Wardens.

through several of its branches, owns and gives adequate fire protection to nearly 1,500,000 acres of forest land in the State. The remainder of nearly seven million acres is largely privately owned. It is this latter area with which the Department of Conservation and Development is concerned. In 1930, the State had some ten million acres of this under a measure of fire protection. During the depression years, this protected area dropped as low as six and three-quarters million acres. At the present time, it has risen to about 11,720,000 acres. Furthermore, at present, fifty-eight of the State's one hundred counties are cooperating financially with the Department in this work.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, for the defense and protection of those liberties which we as citizens of North Carolina and the United States of America enjoy and are pledged to defend, a permanent reservoir of natural resources is essential; and

WHEREAS, the forests of North Carolina constitute one of our most valuable resources from which materials for the construction of barracks, ships, planes, wharves and other military and civilian essentials can be obtained; and

WHEREAS, the forests products industries of our state rank third in importance, being exceeded only by tobacco and textiles; and the forest land represents about 60% of our State's total land area, our state ranking first among all the states in the American Union in the number of operating saw mills and fourth in a total lumber production; and

WHEREAS, during the year 1941, 728,947 acres of privately owned forest land in North Carolina and burned over by fire; and

WHEREAS, only 1% of the state's forest fires are caused by lightning and the remaining 99% resulting from the acts of man and classified as preventable; and the interest and welfare of the citizens of this state and the cause of national defense are involved in the reduction of fire losses and the preservation of our national resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, J. MELVILLE BROUGHTON, for the purpose of bringing the matters above mentioned to the attention of the people of North Carolina, and for the purpose of stimulating more interest in the efforts to protect and preserve the forest resources of our state, do hereby designate and proclaim the week of March 15th-21st, which includes Arbor Day on Friday March 20th, as FOREST PROTECTION WEEK, and call upon all public officials, agencies of the press and radio, the State's various law enforcement agencies, the schools, the American Legion and auxiliaries, the civic clubs, woman's clubs, and all other organized groups, to lend their efforts during this designated week and throughout the ensuing year to the protection and preservation of North Carolina's forest resources.

Done at the City of Raleigh, this seventh day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and forty-two, and in the one hundred and sixty-sixth year of American Independence.

J. M. BROUGHTON, Governor

Erection Of Army Camps Big Job

One of the biggest carpentry jobs of all time was begun in September, 1940, when the U. S. Army called upon the building industry to supply housing for 1 1/2 million men. The lumber industry delivered more than 2 billion board feet of lumber to over 60 Army camps in 6 months.

Ninety Forest Towers Owned

The State Forest Service now owns and operates about 90 forest fire lookout towers and some 900 miles of telephone line in its fire detection system. Most of these towers, and particularly those within 75 miles of the coast, are already actively included in the growing network of Aircraft Warning Observation Posts. Such towers represent ideal "spotting" posts for aircraft, whether friendly or hostile. Forest Service phone lines, being largely in isolated areas or along secondary roads, are often subjected to more than their share of "insulator-shooting." Such vandalism now might easily represent the difference between prompt telephonic reporting of suspicious aircraft over our coast and untold delay in such reporting.

Cut Out Canopy Of Forest Smoke

During these times of alertness along our Atlantic seaboard we cannot afford to tolerate the dense canopy of forest fire smoke which has afflicted those coastal areas so often in the past. Such a smoke-screen, extending as it often has even for some miles out to sea, might well constitute an invitation to some hostile action. Forest fires — and their smoke — must be abolished.

Pulp Industry Shows Big Growth

One of the outstanding developments affecting forestry in the South during the last decade has been the rapid expansion of the pulp and paper industry. During this period, about \$150,000,000 of new capital has been invested in this region in the form of new pulp mills or additions to old ones. North Carolina has shared in this development. Obviously, these pulp mills are every bit as dependent upon an adequate and lasting wood supply as are the sawmills. The answer lies in forest protection and wise and scientific forest management.

"Doctor," said the patient, "I'm bothered with a curious pain. When I bend forward, stretch out my arms, and make a semi-circular movement with them I feel a sharp stab in my left shoulder."

History Of Forest Program In State Of North Carolina

By J. S. HOLMES, STATE FORESTER

When the new North Carolina Geological Survey was established in 1891, authority was given to the State Geologist, Mr. Joseph A. Holmes, to conduct "forestry investigations," and Mr. W. W. Ashe, a graduate of the University of North Carolina, and of Cornell University, was appointed an assistant in charge of timber investigations in June, 1891. Mr. Ashe continued his somewhat intermittent connection with the Survey until 1909, when he resigned to accept a permanent position with the United States Forest Service. From 1891 to 1905, when the Survey was reorganized as the North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey, and Dr. Joseph Hyde Pratt was appointed State Geologist, an average of somewhat less than \$900 per year was expended by the Survey for forestry investigations. During this period a number of important informational and educational reports were prepared and published.

Following the resignation of Mr. Ashe, the position of Forester in the Geological and Economic Survey was offered to Mr. John S. Holmes, who had for several years been carrying on work with the United States Forest Service throughout the southern states. Mr. Holmes ac-

cepted the position and started work June 1, 1909. Cooperation was secured from the United States Forest in a study of forest conditions and Bulletin 23, "Forest Conditions in Western North Carolina" was published in 1911. Following this a series of Press Bulletins on the timber resources of the various Piedmont Counties was issued from time to time, up to 1919, when federal cooperation in this study was withdrawn. A study of the Wood-Using Industries of the State was made in 1909-10 under a cooperative agreement with the United States Forest Service and published in the latter year as Economic Paper Number 20. This study was revised under a similar agreement ten years later and published as Bulletin 30.

During the last few years of Mr. Ashe's connection with the Survey he had made repeated efforts to secure constructive legislation for the protection of the forests of the State from fire. This effort was continued under a somewhat broadened program by Mr. Holmes and a proposed bill was prepared and introduced into the General Assembly at each successive session. It was not, however, until 1915 that the basis of the present fire law was enacted.

Although the fire law of 1915 carried no appropriation, cooperation with the United States For-

est Service enabled the Survey to appoint a few part-time forest wardens whose duties were largely educational. In the latter part of 1920 the State Forester was allowed an assistant to take charge of the forest-fire protection work of the Survey and Mr. W. Darrell Clark was appointed Chief Forest Fire Warden. Between the passage of the 1915 law and the appointment of the Chief Forest Fire Warden, the annual reports on fires from voluntary correspondents were published as Economic Paper Number 43, "Forest Fires in North Carolina, During 1915-16-17," and Economic Paper Number 51, "Forest Fires in North Carolina 1918-19."

FARM YOUTH TO ENROLL FOR MOBILIZATION WEEK

National 4-H Mobilization Week, April 5-12, will afford North Carolina's 60,000 club members an even greater opportunity to do their part in the war effort, says L. R. Harrill, 4-H Club leader of the N. C. State College Extension Service. A concerted effort will be made to reach every young person eligible for membership, and follow-up work will be continued through the summer. During the late fall, a National 4-H Achievement Week will be observed at which results of the 4-H program will be reviewed and recognition given to club members, leaders, and clubs for accomplishments in the Victory program.

Harrill pointed out that these farm youngsters have already accomplished much in the Nation's drive for victory. They have collected usable scrap materials,

Little Cities And Towns Not Immune To Bombing

Little cities and towns in coastal states, like North Carolina, are as apt to be bombed from the air as some of the bigger places. But the smaller cities are not well organized to take care of civilian defense.

Last week and this week, in a series of meetings around North Carolina, mayors and other officials of the little cities and the big cities are getting together to see what can be done about it. Officers of civilian defense organizations and members of county commissioners have also been invited to attend.

Six meetings are being held, according to C. W. Smedberg, president of the North Carolina League of Municipalities which is sponsoring the series for local government officials. Meetings were held at Burlington March 12, Greenville March 13, and are to be held at Fayetteville March 16, Charlotte March 17, Asheville March 18, and Hickory March 19. Smedberg, who is city manager at Greensboro, announced that Daniel W. Hoan, Field Representative of the Washington Office of Civilian Defense will speak at each meeting. Hoan was mayor of Milwaukee for 24 years before becoming a natural figure in civilian defense work.

planned gardens, increased food and feed projects, and conducted a more intensified health and citizenship training program.

Smedberg said the municipal officials discussed their mutual problems of defense, and received definite instructions from Hoan and North Carolina Defense Director, T. S. Johnson, on organizing and carrying on civilian defense and protective activities in all types of municipalities.

Timberlands Are Now Understocked

The findings of the U. S. Forest Survey show conclusively that the South's timberlands are understocked. "With adequate fire protection and good forest management, the growing stock in many localities of the South could be doubled in two or three decades," say officials connected with the Survey.

Home Insulation Expert Here

Jesse E. Hardy, Fayetteville, in the past two weeks, has insulated the homes of C. L. Taylor, Arthur Fowler and L. Baggett. Mr. Hardy will be in Whiteville again next week. He says that he has insulated 350 houses in Fayetteville with rock wool in the past year and that not only does his product insulate against heat and cold, but reduces fire hazard.

The Best Time to ...



IN THE FOREST

Is Before It Starts!

THIS IS

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

The Protection Of Our Forests Is A Job which Calls For The Co-operation Of Every Man, Woman And Child In Brunswick County. Resolve Now To Exercise Every Possible Precaution To Protect Our Wood Lands—Let's Make Every Week

Forest Protection Week

Orton Protective Association