

Forest Official Praises Public For Fire Record

Supervisor Charles Melichar, of the Nantahala national forest, with headquarters at Franklin, handed John Public a nice bouquet today when he attributed the low number of forest fires during the nine months of the calendar year to the "special cooperation of the public in general toward safeguarding the forest against fires."

Despite the drought of the last several months, the total number of fires in the forest for the first three quarters of 1938 was only 16, which is the identical number of fires had last year for the corresponding period. And last year was outstanding for having very few fires. So another fire record is in sight for the people on the Nantahala if they continue their care with fire.

This fall fire season has had three small fires, one caused by hunters smoking out game in Macon county and two in Graham county caused by a logging railroad and by a smoker. Mr. Melichar paid special tribute to farmers living inside the forest boundaries, who, he said, have voluntarily given their services in reporting fires discovered in the vicinities of their homes. Also they have been good about complying with the state laws that require a man to get a permit before burning off new ground and sending up a smoke that will cause the lookouts to report a fire and dispatch a crew to a false alarm. The small number of fires caused by brush burners who failed to make their fire safe indicates that most farmers know how to control fire and want to abide by the law.

Fire Prevention Study Completed

This month marks the completion of the Nantahala's fire prevention study, Mr. Melichar pointed out. The Chief in Washington has asked each of the 150 National forests to make a complete fire plan study and this prevention phase is the first step. It includes a study of the best location for the 50 new fire poster sign boards now erected along the roads in accordance with this plan. Also it insures that each of the 158 schools within the forest will be visited by our moving picture outfits sometime during the year, if funds permit. Last year, 17,600 people attended our shows free of charge. A careful estimate

was made of the average number of fire days during the year and the average number of people on the forest on these days and it showed 1,359,000 forest users on fire days. When this large number is compared to the five-year average of 36 fires per year, it indicates splendid record for the Nantahala people and the tourists in their care with fire.

The records show that last year our forces worked with the state men in suppressing 26 fires which threatened government land. This working together of state and federal men in suppressing fires has been the result of a sound policy of cooperation. An equally cooperative spirit has been found with the local justice of peace courts, where the state laws regarding brush burning permits and fire in the woods have been upheld, due to well informed magistrates who are convinced that scorched and killed trees benefit no one and actually injure a community from a tourist and timber viewpoint.

Oxford Orphanage Asks Thanksgiving Offering

The proud boast of the Masons in North Carolina is the fact that for 65 years they have answered the cry of needy children and maintained the Oxford Orphanage as a home for the care and training of these children. Nearly six thousand North Carolina boys and girls have received this service. It is the oldest Orphanage in North Carolina and represents today a large investment in buildings, grounds, equipment, and endowment. The Grand Lodge of North Carolina makes an annual appropriation for the support of these children and in addition the subordinate lodges support the Orphanage through the concerts of the singing class and by special gifts at the Thanksgiving season. Fifty per cent of the children in the Oxford Orphanage are not of Masonic parentage. The state of North Carolina also makes an annual appropriation to assist in the support of the Oxford Orphanage.

North Carolina is justly proud of the Oxford Orphanage. It represents an investment in the needy youth of our own state and pays dividends in character, healthy bodies, trained minds and hands, in that continuing number of young men and women who annually take their places in the rank and file of the citizenship of the Old North State. The time and money invested is a saving as no one can tell what would become of these children without the Oxford Orphanage.

An appeal is made to the general public at each Thanksgiving season to assist in this task of reclaiming the children of North Carolina.

State College Answers Timely Farm Questions

Q. How long must a hog be kept from feed before killing?

A. Do not give the animals any feed at all for 24 hours before killing, but they should have plenty of water at all times. It is easier to get a good bleed when the system is not gorged with food and the meat always cures better when the small blood vessels are free from food particles and blood. The animals should not be excited or over-heated before killing as this produces a feverish condition and causes the meat to sour while in cure.

Q. Is it too late to cut lespedeza for seed?

A. No. The Common, Tennessee 76, and Kobe varieties may be cut just after the first hard frost, but the Korean variety should be cut as soon after October 1 as possible. After cutting, the Korean is left in

the barn or stacks for a few weeks and the seed are then threshed out with a grain separator. Seed from all other varieties are harvested with a seed pan attached to the mowing machine. While lespedeza straw is very valuable as a roughage, it should be left on the land for soil improvement where possible.

Q. What is the best substitute for green feed for the poultry flock where grazing is not available?

A. Alfalfa hay, lespedeza, and clover hay make good greens for winter use provided they are so cured as to retain their green color. Alfalfa leaf meal, if a bright green color, makes a satisfactory green feed, but should not constitute more than 10 per cent of the mash. Where the hays are used, they should be fed in racks as the birds will eat only the leaves and the stems can then be thrown in the litter. Of the feed mentioned, green alfalfa hay is the most satisfactory.

Schools On Burley Grading Scheduled

Better grading methods, a recognized need of tobacco growers, will be taught between now and the opening of the burley markets in early December at schools arranged in 20 Western North Carolina counties by the extension service of State college, in cooperation with the North Carolina department of agriculture and the United States department of agriculture. The first of these schools will be held Monday, October 31,

Macon Boy In Golden Chain



RALEIGH, Nov. 2.—Highest ranking honorary society at State college is Golden Chain, which limits its membership each year to 12 outstanding seniors. This year's members, pictured here, were selected for their exceptional abilities in scholarship and campus leadership. Among them is J. D. Patton, of Franklin, son of R. A. Patton, Alexander M. Smith, of Elkin, a leader in Y. M. C. A. work, is president of Golden Chain. Other members are William McC. Bailey, of Richmond, Va., president of the student body and cadet colonel of the R. O. T. C. regiment; Russell Burcham, of Elkin, president of Blue Key, another top-ranking honorary organization; J. L. Murray, of Newton, vice-president of Golden Chain and captain of the tennis team; Walter L. Fanning, of Shelby, vice-president of the student body and second in command of the cadet corps; Stephen S. Sailer, of East Orange, N. J., editor of The Technician, campus newspaper; Horace K. McSwain, of Shelby, president of the Y. M. C. A.; Leslie C. Brooks, of Bryson City, president of Eta Kappa Nu, honorary electrical engineering fraternity; J. D. Patton, of Franklin, president of the students agricultural fair; Joe Frye, of Wardsville, W. Va., president of the senior class; G. W. Marsh, Jr., of Bath, business manager of The Watauga, student humor magazine; and S. C. Holmes, of Cambridge, N. Y., business manager of The Agromeck, college annual.

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Lots For Sale Just Outside Town Limits of Franklin

These lots are a part of the Allman Cove tract west of Franklin. They front 6, 8, and 12 rods on the Windy Gap Road and are from 22 to 46 rods long, containing from three-fourths to over two acres each. Most of the lots are covered with the original forest. A number front on both Windy Gap and Allman Cove Road, and several include a part of the Allman Cove mica mine. Joining these lots for sale are four well wooded tracts containing 25 to 30 acres each. Each tract has good spring and running water. Would make good mountain farms, or excellent locations for summer camps. The springs are high enough up on the mountain side so that water could be carried in pipes from the springs to a number of beautiful camp sites. The camps would have the appearance of being far out in the mountains but actually less than one mile from the corporate limits of the town of Franklin. Price of these tracts will be reasonable and the terms of payment will be a small amount each month. For particulars, see M. D. BILLINGS.