

# FOUR YEARS OF PEACE TIME PLANNING

## WPA Has Spent \$69,511,688 On Work In North Carolina

North Carolina's sector of the United States' "Magnot Line," cost \$69,511,688 to July 31, 1939, reported State WPA Administrator C. C. McGinnis.

"We have been fighting an economic war of peacetime planning," said McGinnis as he reported the activities and accomplishments of WPA for a four-year period. "The WPA has always constituted the first defense line. In this accounting of our stewardship, it is proposed to give a detailed picture of WPA along the North Carolina 'front.'"

From zero in October, 1935, to a peak employment of 58,000 men and women in December, 1938, the WPA has had a 30,000 average enlisted in this direct, frontal attack to provide work opportunities for the needy, able-bodied unemployed.

Instead of destruction and the implements thereof, these have been constructive and socially worthwhile endeavors. Peaceful work, not regimentation; useful work to benefit us all. Work—not charity. Work to preserve the foundation upon which our democracy rests—the dignity of man as an individual.

Much WPA work has been underground. Over 400 miles of trenches have been dug. These subterranean passages will not contain the stench of carrion, once men who smiled. Into these trenches have gone sewers, drains and water mains to protect the health and provide conveniences for humans not formerly possessed of these essentials to modern, sanitary living.

Over 11,000 sanitary pit privies dot the countryside. Besides personal convenience, water supply sources have been protected from contamination; that dread carrier of typhoid, the common housefly can no longer, in 112,381 places, make a trip to unmentionable regions and then proudly tread upon the dinner table.

While the hospitals in belligerent Europe are receiving war victims, the 18 hospitals evolving from WPA workers are ministering to those stricken in life's ordinary pursuits. Three are used as tuberculosis sanitariums for those who cannot pay hospitalization charges.

Thirty sewage disposal plants and 26 waterworks plants complete the aid to healthful living conditions.

During the past four years, Germany has employed thousands building military roads to strategic positions with now known objectives.

### Farm to Market Roads

The needy unemployed in North Carolina, approximating one-third, have been building roads—not the kind to carry artillery but farm-to-market roads to carry produce to market, to have easy access to recreational and cultural centers, to permit school buses and mail carriers to make their appointed rounds during all seasons and all kinds of weather, to procure a doctor when sorely needed. The men working live in the areas where these roads are built. Six thousand miles, enough to stretch further than across the United States, is the amazing total of secondary roads with which WPA workers have lifted themselves and their neighbors "out of the mud." Sponsored by the state highway and public works commission, also, 60 miles of culverts have been placed and dozens of bridges built where needed. Two bridges are one-third mile in length.

Work relief's advent, also, found many urban dwellers up to their ankles in mud, many deeper in despair for want of work. Both have been greatly remedied by WPA-municipal cooperation. The score: 298 miles streets surfaced, 72 miles sidewalks and 125 miles curbs and gutters. Placed

end to end, they would defeat the purposes for which they were constructed. Instead they benefit nearly every city and town in the state.

Work — American Symbolism since Captain John Smith's colony at Jamestown. Work, the right of every American citizen, has been provided for needy North Carolinians. So, they have built 55 agricultural buildings in that many counties. With additional governmental services provided throughout the state, many counties had no space in which to house the farm agent, home demonstration agent and others serving agrarian needs. The counties utilized WPA workers to supply that deficiency—again productive guidance elements, not destructive implements.

Also, through WPA labors, two court houses and five court house additions have arisen to taunt totalitarian victims with the fact that justice prevails here; her temples produced by the most economically hard-pressed among us; that here is not only a political democracy but a democracy of economy; that man's dignity, as an individual, maintaining himself by worthwhile work, with his right to have his conflicts justly determined, exists.

There are craters in North Carolina. They weren't produced by exploding shells, causing men, women and children to bathe in their own blood. Eleven craters are WPA-built concrete swimming pools with pure water in which a happy citizenry sports itself. That many more lakes have been WPA-created for boating and swimming.

### Recreational Facilities

Gregarious man has always sought entertainment for himself. Municipal officials know that most people are dependent for recreation upon facilities and leadership which are provided by the government. Caligula's Roman Circuses are pale against the present-day carnage. Jolly little toys like aerial bombs afford us little amusement. Nor do our mtn. women and children carry gas masks to the 34 WPA athletic fields and playgrounds, including 500 tennis courts, 70 gymnasiums. Football and basketball, not "who kills whom first", are played in 35 stadia, and golf on 11 golf courses, furnished by benign state, city and federal governments, caring for the unemployed, not charity but by needed work to benefit, not to destroy us all.

WPA continues to build monuments, but to the living with 45 community houses, four farmers curb markets, 10 faculty houses at colleges, a college dormitory, 90 new school buildings, mostly of brick or native stone, 69 vocational workshops, 44 school additions, 5 teacherages, 1,402 schools repaired.

WPA workers, further aiding municipalities, have erected 12 city halls and fire stations.

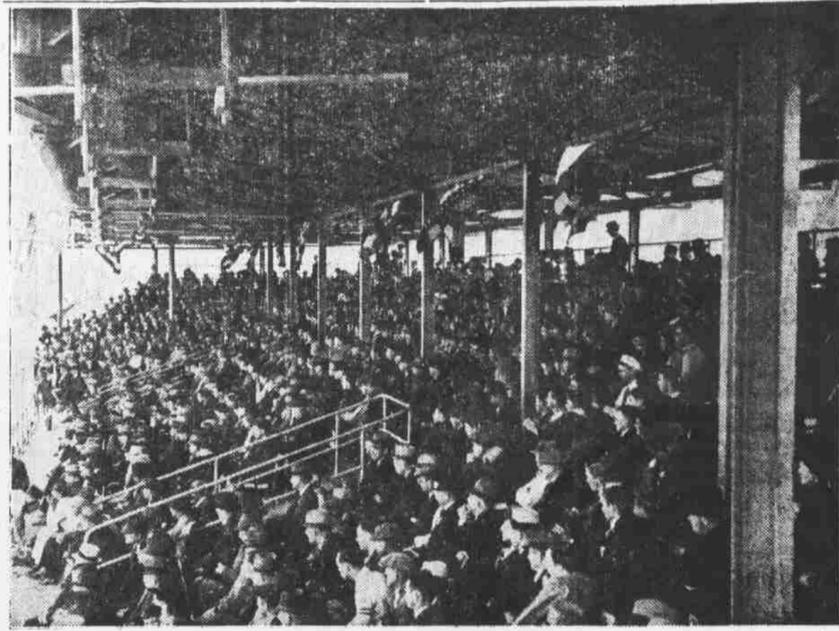
All of these edifices are without bomb-proof cellars.

Conserving and not destroying, WPA helped to reclaim the oyster industry by planting eight and one-half million bushels seed oysters and shells; improvements made to four fish hatcheries; beach erosion and sand fixation work done.

The modern prison camp built for the state is not a concentration camp but for transgressors of our criminal law, enacted by duly chosen representative for the people and interpreted by an untrammeled judiciary.

The authors of books in the four WPA-constructed libraries are from all creeds and derivations.

The difference between an ordinary work program and the WPA is the intangible field, work under the Professional and Service division, Service and "white collar"



A WPA-BUILT BASEBALL PARK

workers' families suffer privation as well as those of male manual workers when there isn't a regular pay check.

The workers on the socially useful, worthwhile projects are mostly women, who are economic family heads. Maintaining individual dignity, includes woman's escape from a subservient status. She is in the WPA program is more than a domestic or a source for "cannon fodder."

The section predominantly female is the sewing projects. WPA workers make high quality clothing at a high-speed rate. Not one bandage for war casualties can be found among the 6,168,331 articles produced in WPA sewing rooms. These were delivered to the Public Welfare Department, distributed to low family-income groups. No "ersatz" fabrics were used in this contribution to the comfort of unprivileged men, women and children.

### School Lunches

Outstanding among the service is the combined free school lunch-gardening and canning endeavor. War, yes, we should hate war which causes children's food to be lightly rationed. Necessary to the welfare of our future citizenry, 22,000,000 hot school lunches have gone to nourish 72,578 little bodies whose parents are unable to pay for their noontime meal. This has gone forward in 90 counties, 706 schools. Correlated gardening and canning, operating in 86 counties, produced food by tons, to supplement sponsors' donated foodstuffs.

Unique among the service projects is matron service in girls' rest rooms in high schools all over the state.

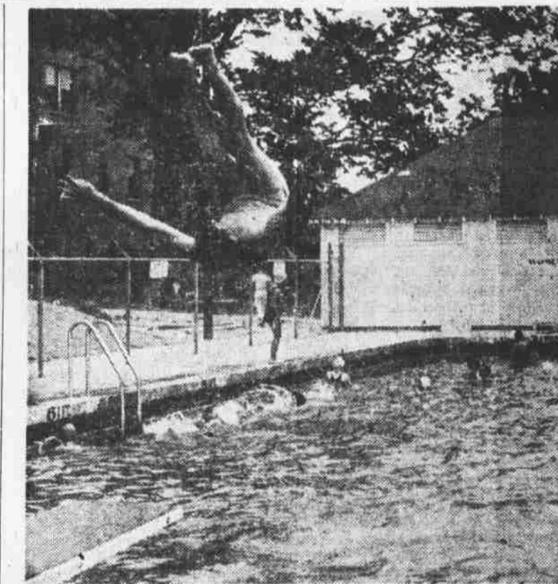
Donated furniture has been repaired, given to the needy; domestics trained for private jobs.

Eight hundred and fifty-two public buildings have been cleaned and renovated, janitorial service provided. Twelve score public grounds are now landscaped as well as 46 miles highways.

In humane practical work, housekeepers aides have gone into needy homes where the housewife was sick. There they have cooked, washed, tended the children and performed all domestic chores during the women's incapacitation.

The country should be happy that many unemployed workers at WPA enterprises are classed as "white collar" not garbed in khaki collars.

The writers project has produced the 600 page "North Carolina Guide." The book is a complete historic and scenic geography of the state, picturing the cultural and industrial aspects of cities and villages. It will be "off" the University Press this month. North Carolina writers contributed a large section of the widely acclaimed



ONE OF THE ELEVEN WPA-CONSTRUCTED SWIMMING POOLS

### "These Are Our Lives."

Three volumes published from the Historical Records Survey preserves that valuable data for future generations. It will be impossible for an incendiary enemy to destroy all volumes distributed.

In 65 counties, availability and usefulness of public records has been enhanced by WPA clerical workers indexing and cataloguing those records.

Three dozen mineral and geodesic surveys are now available for public use.

The municipal practices survey and codification of city ordinances and charters are being completed to supply a pressing need for those types of municipal information.

Recreational leadership is teaching young and old "The art of living" and how to spend leisure time profitably in 172 units, 82 cities and towns. The monthly activity attendance is 572,048. Before WPA, only six towns had permanent recreational programs.

No book akin to "The Manual of Arms" is included in the two and three quarter million books loaned by the WPA library project. Knowing that it is socially worthwhile for good books to be the privilege for every person, the project operates in 159 public and 548 school libraries. Sixteen "Bookmobiles" carry volumes to rural homes. The bookmending section has returned one and one-quarter million discarded tomes to circulation.

### Conserving Human Resources

"Conserving human resources" is the WPA Education Program theme. Humans are not being plowed under but improved for the state's, the nation's future good. The 167,377 adult students who have enrolled in the 7 phase program have not been taught the use of a gas mask, a bomb-proof cellar. From "Signature X", 55,351 have advanced to literacy; while the others were helped to functional literacy, including 36000 graduates from the safe driving schools who were taught to protect their lives and the lives of others travelling along the highways.

Thirty units are developing community consciousness in teaching music and art.

Over 23 million dollars has been spent for materials, supplies and equipment rentals. Stimulating nearly every branch in capital goods industry, private jobs have been maintained, created. The balance of the money has gone into the WPA workers pockets. This has been termed the "fastest spending dollar in the world"—all most immediately go into local trade channels for the bare necessities of living.

### HIGHER

World wheat supplies in 1914 totaled 3,500,000,000 bushels, as compared with an estimated 5,300,000,000 bushels this year, according to a Triple-A announcement.

### SUGGESTION

Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace is advising American farmers to go ahead with their farm plans just as they had planned before the war in Europe broke out.

After 12 years of experiments on developing varieties of tomatoes resistant to fusarium wilt, the Illinois Experiment Station has released four resistant varieties for field use.

### State College Answers Timely Farm Questions

Q. How soon after cutting can I put my hay in the barn?

A. This depends upon the weather and the state of curing, but in most cases the hay will be dry enough to put in the barn during the afternoon of the second day. Green hay, however, should never be stored in the barn as this will cause it to mold and sometimes cause spontaneous combustion. Hay that is nearly air-dry will continue to cure in the barn, if spread out over the floor and it is better to spread this kind of hay in the barn than to have it spoiled by rain.

Q. What amount of light is necessary in the poultry laying house when artificial lights are to be used?

A. Two forty-watt bulbs for each 400 square of floor space will give the most satisfactory light. These bulbs should be placed in the center of the house, ten feet apart and six feet from the floor. A reflector 16 inches in diameter and four inches deep should be used with each bulb to direct the light downward. When lights are used the feeding hours are necessarily lengthened and as a result the mash consumption will be increased and the grain ration should also be increased to maintain body weight and egg production. These should be carefully watched at all times.

Q. How long does it take to get a beef animal on full feed?

A. Opinions differ but as a general thing the time varies with the length of the feeding period. Cattle that are to be short fed should be on full feed in about three weeks while four or five weeks and even longer may well be taken with cattle that are to be fed for long periods. However, the successful feeder always studies and watches his cattle and varies his feeding schedule to fit conditions and individual cases.

### HIGH YIELDS

Samples from the high-yielding corn crops being produced by Johnston county 4-H corn club members this year will be on exhibit at state and county fairs.

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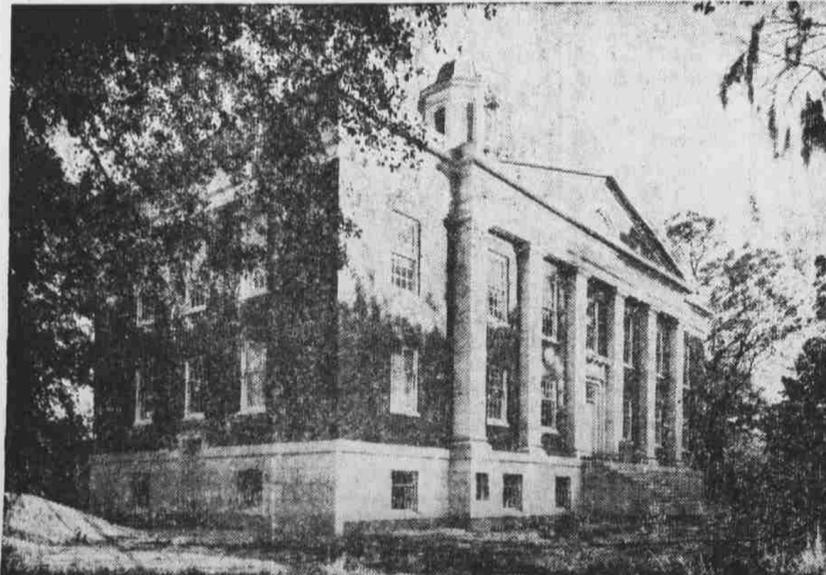
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