

# THE GAB BAG

By ALAN BROWNING, JR.



**THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING DOING HERE**  
Elkin may be a small town, but here of late it certainly hasn't been dull. The recent flood furnished enough excitement to last many people a lifetime, then came the fire down at the Chatham Manufacturing Company. Wonder what further blows fate has in store for us?

Here of late we've noticed a note of sympathy on the part of out-of-town people who have visited the town. They seem to feel sorry for the folks here, what with having been hit so hard by flood and fire. But so far as we've been able to tell, Elkin isn't feeling sorry for herself. True, the town has been sort of hard hit, but instead of letting it get them down, folks are going ahead and building back. Sort of looking to the future instead of weeping for the past.

Excusing one fire we photographed in Durham 10 years ago

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in which several large tobacco warehouses, plus some nine or 10 negro cottages, were destroyed, the fire here last Friday night was the largest we've ever seen, and a lot more exciting. The other fire occurred in the daytime. Night fires are always more spectacular.

The Chatham fire was too big for Elkin's fire department. Although they ran many lines of hose to the blaze, there was too much blaze and not enough water. We don't know where the water was, but it wasn't coming out of the nozzles. And if it had been it's doubtful that it would have had much effect.

No matter how serious a blaze,

something always happens that's funny, especially in Elkin. Friday's fire furnished a prime example. According to the way we heard it, some colored boys working under the leadership of "Dr. Tom," who works at Abernethy's, grabbed the loose end of a hose and went tearing across East Main street to a hydrant. Working rapidly, and no doubt under the impression they were going to put the fire out single handed, they screwed the hose to the outlet. About the time it was connected, up came another group of colored boys with another hose, intending to fasten it to the same hydrant. Seeing that "Dr. Tom" had gotten there first, they laid their hose on the pavement at the base of the water plug.

All in readiness, "Dr. Tom" let out a bellow announcing to those supposed to be on the other end of the hose that he was turning on the water. Not awaiting a reply, he turned whatever it is one turns, and the hose swelled as the pressure sent the water along. For a moment all was well, then, with a most disconcerting swish, water leaped from the end of the other hose that the other boys had brought to the scene, and flew all over "Dr. Tom" and his crew!

What happened was the particular hose the first group had attached to the hydrant didn't have a nozzle on it, and the second group had brought the other end to the hydrant. But they had a lot of fun.

We don't know what formula other photographers use for photographing fires at night, but we use the prop and shoot method. Some use a tripod to steady their camera; we use the nearest tree, side of a house or whatever else that's stationary. We've found that an exposure of one-fifth second, with lens stopped down to f:8 does nicely, but something solid against which to hold the camera firmly during the exposure, is necessary. The fire pictures on the front page of this issue were made like this and at the exposure mentioned. Fast Super XX film was used.

Maybe the explanation of a steady support will explain to lots of spectators at the fire why we were seen peeping from around corners of buildings or from behind trees. We weren't hiding, we were just propping the camera.

Developing the film on which fire shots have been made makes it appear at first that after all your running about from one side to the other for the best angles, you've wasted your time. For

usually your negatives will show a dark spot somewhere toward the middle, while the remainder of the film is blank. For all that registers is the flames and the reflection of the fire on the smoke and maybe a small part of the foreground or walls. But when you put it in the enlarging camera and blow it up so as to exclude the blank film where no light registered, you get a pretty good picture. Of the three pictures on the front page of this issue, the top photo didn't cover an area on the original negative of more than one by two inches. The two bottom photos showed on the negatives in areas of about one inch square.

**DON'T BE SKEERED**  
We've had numerous reports of reaction to the picture of a prehistoric monster which appeared in this column the other week. Chief of Police Corbett Wall told us that he was called from his slumbers one night by a person who asked him in all seriousness if he reckoned it was safe to appear on the streets at night. A preacher was reported to have told his congregation about the monster and predicted in all earnestness that the end of the world is coming right away. Other reports have reached us.

We didn't think the picture would be taken seriously, but for the benefit of those who are worried about the matter, we would like to report that a farmer living several miles up the river caught the monster in a mouse trap just the other night, so now it's safe to come out, and if the end of the world should come, don't blame it on us.

But the world does seem in a heck of a shape, doesn't it?

## LITTLE ELKIN

The revival meeting will begin here Sunday night, September 15. The pastor, Rev. J. H. Luffman, will be assisted by Rev. Lester Johnson who has been elected pastor here for the coming year beginning in October.

The young people from Cool Springs church sang here Sunday night. A very inspiring talk was rendered by Mrs. Paul Newman.

Mr. C. E. Walls is leaving this week for Lumberton where he will work on the tobacco market. Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Sale and daughter, Barbara Jean, spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Key.

Misses Zelma and Hattie Bell Key spent Sunday night with their sister, Mrs. George Sale, and Mr. Sale, at Ronda.

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## Total Population of State Given At 3,563,174

Washington, Sept. 7.—Preliminary census bureau returns showed today a gain of 12.4 per cent, for North Carolina.

The bureau said the 1940 figure for North Carolina was 3,563,174 compared with 3,170,276 in 1930.

Of the 100 counties in North Carolina, 97 made gains, the largest being 35.9 per cent. in Alamance county.

Governor Hoyer said tonight North Carolina will "unquestionably" gain another congressman because of the 12.4 per cent. increase in the state's population.

Congress will probably act on redistricting in time for the 1941 legislature to set up the new 12th district, the governor said. If Congress should fail to act before the 1941 general assembly adjourns, provision might be made for election of a congressman-at-large in 1942.

North Carolina secured a new congressman under the 1930 census, bringing the total to 11. In redistricting at that time the legislature virtually cut the old fifth district in two parts, the governor said.

## PLEASANT HILL

The construction of the new church building is progressing rapidly. The work is being rushed in order to get the building ready for the annual fall revival meeting beginning on the third Sunday night in October. Rev. G. W. Swinney, of Burlington, will assist Rev. David Day in the meeting.

Rev. David Day will fill his regular appointment at the Pleasant Hill church Saturday night and Sunday at 11 o'clock. Everyone is invited to attend.

The members of the Pleasant Hill choir and the Happy Day quartet sang at Friendship church Sunday night. Other singers taking part in the service was the Snow quartet from Double Creek church.

The Snow quartet of the Double Creek community, will sing at our church the first Sunday night in October.

Mrs. Milas Couch, Mrs. Monroe Collins, Mr. Charlie Day and Mr. Erastus Darnell visited Mr. Luther Day who is a patient in the Baptist hospital in Winston-Salem, Thursday night.

Mrs. Linville Couch has returned to her home from the Hugh Chatham Memorial hospital. Her condition is much improved, her many friends will be glad to know.

Little Miss Catherine Darnell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Darnell, is suffering from a broken arm, we are sorry to report.

Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Darnell, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Casey and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Longworth motored to Winston-Salem Sunday where they visited Mrs. Bertha Pope, mother of Mrs. Longworth.

The Couch reunion will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Darnell on the fourth Sunday in this month, September 22. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

Miss Vermelle Money, song leader, urges each member of the choir to attend each choir practice in order to get ready for the fall revival.

Miss Gladys Transou and Mr. J. T. Pardue spent Friday afternoon in Winston-Salem.

Miss Dorothy Hutchins has returned to Jones Business College in High Point after spending several days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bradshaw Hutchins.

Mrs. Luther Day and children, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Russell Casey, visited Mr. Luther Day in Winston-Salem Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Couch and children were the week-end guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Toby Benton, of near Brooks Cross Roads. They also attended a chicken stew at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Wagoner.

Mrs. Curtis Couch has returned to her home after spending several days in Wyoming, W. Va., with her parents, Rev. and Mrs. Mose Adams.

## SURRY REGISTER HAS BIG MONTH

Business in the office of Surry county's register of deeds hit a high mark during August, according to the report submitted by Register of Deeds Kermit Lawrence to the county commissioners. He turned over a total of \$1,439.20 to the county for the single month.

The report showed \$29.60 for recording chattel mortgages, \$83.75 for recording deeds of trust, \$100.40 for recording miscellaneous papers, \$40 for marriage licenses issued, \$800 for 32 beer licenses and \$275 for eleven wine licenses.

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Special: "Teddy, Rough Rider" in Technicolor

Wednesday—  
**"STRANGER ON THIRD FLOOR"**  
With Peter Lorre  
Serial - Short Subjects — Admission 10c-15c

COMING: "SOUTH OF PAGO PAGO"  
With Jon (Hurricane) Hall

# Have you seen this Chart at Gulf Stations?

IT SHOWS THE TREMENDOUS IMPROVEMENT IN GULF GASOLINES!

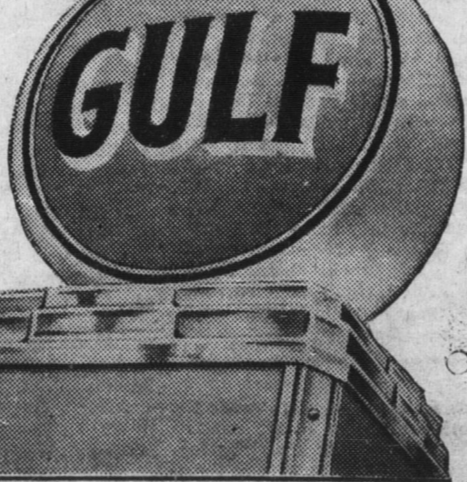


THIS CHART, we hope, will give you a better picture than could a thousand words of the recent amazing improvement in Gulf gasolines. It is based on a scientific test of gasoline quality today—a test that is used by many of our competitors, as well as by ourselves. The chart shows the fair comparative measure of step up in both GOOD GULF and GULF NO-NOX... a step up which is no intangible "engineering triumph" but one which may be enjoyed by you... in your car!

Good Gulf is now boosted to its all-time high... will make your motor perform better than ever before. Gulf No-Nox is now (as always) a truly superior fuel... exceeds by far North Carolina specifications for premium gasoline. It is, even more than former-

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This helpful booklet is yours for the asking at your local Good Gulf dealer's. Get yours, right away at the Sign of the Gulf Orange Disc!



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BOTH GOOD GULF AND GULF NO-NOX EXCEED NORTH CAROLINA SPECIFICATIONS FOR PREMIUM FUELS!