

Fire Wardens Protect Carteret's Greatest Natural Resource, Forests

Forest Land Comprises 86 Per Cent Of 336,720 Acres in Carteret County

Within the boundaries of Carteret county lie a total land area of 366,720 acres. More than 300,000 acres of this are forested land, comprising 86 per cent of the total land area.

Tar Heel State Improves Fire Record in 1947

According to the latest figures released by State Forester W. K. Beichler, North Carolina had, in 1947, the second lowest percentage of protected forest acreage burned on state and private land among the 12 states in the southern group.

For many years, about 20 million board feet of lumber was cut annually in this county and thousands of acres of forest land were cut so heavily that they will not produce another piece of lumber for many years to come.

What can be done to stop ruthless cutting practices, to stop the destruction of forests by wild fires and to start these 300,000 acres to work growing the wealth that rightfully belongs to the people of this county?

The North Carolina Forest service has many technical foresters working in the field giving advice to any landowner who requests it. They urge all timber owners to have their timber marked before it is sold.

Beichler adds that increased state appropriations for forest fire control and a greater number of foresters and county forest wardens in the field are largely responsible for the decrease in the number of fires and the lower percentage of protected land burned.

An Important Sign



This sign indicates the residence of a forest warden. Mounted at the top of a red and white post, the notice with yellow background and black letters is easily visible in front of the warden's home.

A Forester Speaks...

By R. C. Winkworth, District Forester. We in North Carolina have heard a great deal about our forests throughout the State.

We have seen much devastation of our woodlands by ruthless cutting, and we have seen the effects of forest fires which have burned, needlessly, millions of acres of valuable woodland which this State can ill-afford to lose.

In view of these happenings before our eyes, what is being done to help protect our remaining timber from the most ruthless of all killers—the forest fire. What is being done to insure forest fire protection to the thousands of acres of forest land which we will depend upon to produce the much needed timber supplies in the future?

Before answering these questions, it would do well to review a few facts about our State which will give some basis for determining the need for adequate forest fire protection.

First of all, forests occupy over 18 million acres, or 59 per cent of the total land area of North Carolina. Second, forests help to protect the watersheds of over 100 hydroelectric developments in the State, and many more municipal water-supply systems.

Third, nearly 3,000 industrial plants depend directly upon the forest for raw materials. Many other facts, such as the employment by our wood-using industries, our lumber and pulp companies, and the influence such industries have upon our whole economy, make the job of protecting our forests from fire one of the utmost importance.

If forest fires are the State's greatest enemy, what is being done to combat this enemy? What agencies are responsible for protecting our forest lands, and how is the fire-fighting organizations set up to do an effective job?

The men responsible for protecting the forests, Carteret county's greatest natural resource, are located all the way from Open Grounds to Pelletier. Supervising the work of these wardens and smoke chasers is Edmund M. Foreman, county warden, who has the authority to summon his "deputies" at any time to assist him in putting out fires.

During the fire season, February through June, these men receive a regular salary. Members of the fire fighting crew receive \$90 a month, smoke chasers are paid \$125 a month, and any citizen summoned by Mr. Foreman to assist in fighting a fire is paid 75 for each hour he works, unless he is a landowner or kin to the person whose forest is burning. 40 cents per hour.

Fires occurring out of the fire season, as they frequently do during dry summers as experienced this year, are fought by the fire wardens without pay. It is possible that during the spring, when most outbreaks occur because farmers are burning off fields, that there are no fires at all.

Carteret county for the fiscal year 1948-49, the second year of its participation in the state forestry protection program, has paid 25 per cent of the total cost of the program within its boundaries. This amount, \$1,500, plus the 75 per cent paid by the state and federal government, makes \$6,000, total cost of protecting millions of dollars worth of lumber and pulpwood.

During the first 10 months that the county participated in this program (during the fiscal year 1947-48) there were 35 fires in which 751 acres of woodland burned. Before the forestry protection program these fires would have burned unabated, sending in to the thousands the number of acres of timber destroyed.

In the state forestry protection set-up Carteret county lies in district 4. The ten districts throughout the state consist of 10 counties each. The other nine counties in district 4 are Hyde, Beaufort, Pamlico, Pitt, Greene, Lenoir, Onslow, Jones, and Craven.

The three main jobs of the district forester, R. C. Winkworth, and his assistants headquartered at New Bern, are fire control, forest management, and distribution of information on forestry—educating farmers, woodlot owners, and the average citizen as to the tremendous value and importance of trees.

Mr. Foreman keeps in constant touch with his wardens, informing them of new steps in the forestry program. Only during the fire season, however, does he maintain a full fire crew, consisting of two to three men who live near him in Core Creek-Harlowe section so they can be picked up quickly in case of emergency.

Serving in Pelletier as a regular warden is Harvey Norris, whose picture was unobtainable for this issue. Mr. Norris, however, can be reached at the Pelletier post office should any forest area in that section of the county catch fire. It is his duty then to inform the county warden, Mr. Foreman, who will bring the proper equipment and men necessary to bring the fire under control. Joseph G. Taylor is the warden at Bogue.

Mr. Taylor and Ronald Salter, warden at Davis, are also smoke chasers. Should they see smoke in the distance, they are expected to travel immediately to the site to determine whether the smoke is from a wild fire or one that is being watched and is under control.

Mr. Salter can be contacted by phone at Davis 533 or 530. At Wildwood C. A. McCabe is fire warden. His mailing address is Newport RFD 1. Also in the western part of the county at Salter Path is Moody Lewis.

Neal Chadwick serves as warden at Harlowe, Carl Johnson at Harkers Island, O. G. Pigott at Gloucester, Robert King at Open Grounds, and Woodrow Cannon at Merrimon.

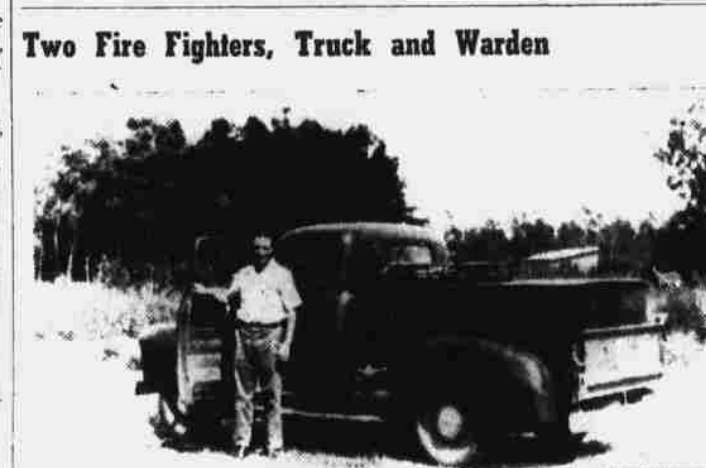
Permanent member of the fire crew is Pete Turner, of Core Creek. One of the methods of protecting forests is to issue burning permits to farmers who wish to burn off their fields. This prevents indiscriminate burning and controls to a great extent improper burning of tracts of land.

These permits can and must be obtained from Mr. Taylor at Bogue, Mr. Salter at Davis or any of the following: Floyd Yeomans, Charles Bell, Newport RFD 2, Mrs. Lester Hall, Newport RFD 1, L. B. McIntosh, and the sheriff's office, Beaufort, Cleveland Gillin, Bettie, Julian Gaskill, Seal level post office, H. G. Willis, Smith's Corner, Smyrna, G. M. Sabiston, Camp Glenn, and B. H. Edwards, Newport.

Resulting from arrangements made between North Carolina State college, the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development, the latter department took over on July 1 the Cooperative Farm Forestry program for the state.

This program, covering cooperative employment by the state and federal governments of seven or eight farm foresters, had been administered since its beginning in 1942 by the Agricultural Extension service, a division of the North Carolina State college. The new arrangement according to State Forester W. K. Beichler, is an important step toward fulfilling the responsibilities of the Department of Conservation and Development as the state's forestry agency. The farm foresters are being assigned to the department's 10 forest district offices, under direct supervision of the district foresters.

State Forestry Officials to Meet At Lodge on Harkers Island



E. M. Foreman, county warden, who lives a short distance from the steel bridge, route 101, returns from a trip to Harkers Island where a large brush fire occurred recently. The fire started from sparks underneath a black pot in which wash was boiling.

The annual meeting of the Division of Forestry and Parks, State Board of Conservation and Development, will begin at 8 o'clock tomorrow morning at Harkers lodge, near Shell Point on Harkers Island.

Attending the three-day session will be district foresters, assistant district foresters, and rangers from throughout the state. Approximately 100 are expected, many of whom will arrive at the lodge today.

Serving as chairman of tomorrow's session will be Chairman P. W. Tillman, acting assistant state forester, fire control. Chairman of Thursday's session will be F. H. Clardie, assistant state forester in charge of forest management, and chairman of Friday's program will be W. C. Clark, forest inspector.

The meeting, a three-day training program for supervisory personnel of the State forestry service, will be under the supervision of W. K. Beichler, state forester. Mr. Beichler will address the group at 8:15 tomorrow morning.

The various phases of the forestry program will be explained and discussed by district officials. Stated for study tomorrow are the following: correlation of forest fire control and forest management programs, farm forestry program, maximum and minimum age limit for employment of personnel, report on the cooperative fire control project with the Tennessee Valley Authority, possibilities of forest fire detection and suppression, maintenance and inspection of motor vehicles.

Thursday's program will deal with the following: forest management policies, policies on seedling distribution and planting machine use, progress and plans in North Carolina Forestry service radio, means to improve annual inventory and property records, cooperative relations with Wildlife. See STATE OFFICIALS Page 3

County Forest Warden Plays Important Role

Carteret County Warden E. M. Foreman, of Core Creek, is the key man of the North Carolina Forest Service in Carteret county. Personally responsible for all forest fire control and forest fire prevention work in this county, he is equipped with a half-ton-pick-up truck, specially adapted to forest fire work. This truck carries a complete set of fire fighting tools and back pack pump and has recently been equipped with a Panama fire pump, powered from the truck's engine, and a 120-gallon steel water tank.

County Warden Foreman has a staff of year-round district wardens located throughout the county and also equipped with fire fighting tools. These men are paid only for actual fire suppression work but are ready at all times to get when a fire is reported to them and to assist the county warden in detecting fires. During fire season, a trained fire crew is kept in readiness on a 24-hour basis.

Although County Warden Foreman ordinarily handles fires with his own personnel and equipment, there are times when it becomes necessary for him to call upon the district office at New Bern for assistance. The staff and equipment of the district office are available to "back up" the county wardens of the ten counties in the district. The district office includes the district forester, his assistant and two district rangers who are highly trained and experienced in supervising the suppression of fires.

Two heavy tractor-fire plow units are available for use on bad fires in Carteret county. These units, stationed at New Bern and Jacksonville, consist of a diesel tractor and a heavily constructed disc plow, specially designed for plowing fire lines. These units are transported rapidly to and from fires by truck-trailer hauling units. A third unit, maintained by Beaufort and Pitt counties, could be called from Washington in the event of an emergency.

The district is also equipped

Street Car Sirens Cause More Accidents in Gorky

MOSCOW — (AP) — All the street cars in the city of Gorky (formerly Nizhni-Novgorod) are equipped with sirens. A long article in "Izvestia" tells how a correspondent found Gorky pedestrians with jumpy nerves from the continual wail of the street car sirens.

He discovered that the street cars of Gorky were delivered to the city with ordinary soft-sounding signals but that the city fathers replaced them with the equivalent of fire engine sirens. He reported that this was the result of accidents in Gorky but that when the sirens were put on all the street cars, the drivers drove more wildly than before.

In his letter to the paper, he suggested not only changing the sirens to ordinary signals but demanding from the administrators of the city's transport that they also change or else—be changed.

Advertisement for Jack Benny featuring a cartoon illustration of him and text promoting forest fire prevention. Includes the slogan 'Remember - Only you can PREVENT FOREST FIRES!' and 'WILLIS RROS. LUMBER CO. Just Outside Morehead City Limits'.

Advertisement for Bing Crosby's 'ODDITORIUM OF FOREST WRECKERS' featuring a cartoon illustration of Bing Crosby and text promoting forest fire prevention. Includes the slogan 'Remember - Only you can PREVENT FOREST FIRES!' and 'CANNON BOAT WORKS Located 3 Miles West of Morehead City'.