

# Forests: What They Mean to North Carolina

## Farmers Given OK On Bear Trapping; Permits Needed

### Philippine Veterans Receive Homesleads

## State Continues Program to Reforest Idle Acres, Seedlings Distributed

The pioneers who first landed on the shores of North Carolina and other places on the coast of the United States probably never conceived of a tree planting program except possibly for a few fruit trees. The great expanse of forest which are mentioned in many old historical documents were usually considered a hindrance to progress instead of one of the basic raw materials for civilization.

These early settlers would be amazed at the tremendous efforts that are now being made to reforest many idle acres in this state. The interest has grown greatly from the planting of shade trees, dogwood and other ornamentals to the planting of millions of tree seedlings to reforest idle land.

In the state of North Carolina alone, plans are being made to increase the production of the state forest tree nurseries to a 15 million capacity annually as soon as funds permit. This year three million seedlings have been distributed and the demand has exceeded the supply by at least one million tree seedlings.

The growing of these trees by the Division of Forestry and Parks of the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development, is an intricate problem demanding highly technical skill. From the forest tree seedlings are available from the state for about \$2.50 per thousand, the cost of production. Applications for seedlings can be obtained from E. M. Foreman, county warden, Core Creek.

## Forester Speaks

(Continued From Page One)

The direct supervision of a district forester, now blanket the State, except for a few counties lying in the Upper Piedmont Region. These Districts are broken up into a county system of fire control, whereby the county forest warden is responsible for his particular county.

The county forest warden is the key man in the fire-fighting organization. He issues all tools and equipment for fighting and inspects the same to see that they are kept in first class condition. He is expected to attend personally as many fires as possible during the day and night, and often he is fighting fires continuously without rest for several days and nights. He is responsible for the reports on all fires so that a record of damaged timber and land may be maintained.

When a fire is reported it is investigated at once. With such fire fighting equipment as knapsacks, brush hooks, fire flaps, rakes, water buckets and axes the fire warden goes out on his job. If the fire is a large one, heavier equipment such as tractors and plows are taken to the head of the fire where a fire line is plowed to stop the blaze. As soon as possible, he determines the extent of the fire, and organizes the fire fighting crew ahead of it. This may take five minutes or five days according to the headway the fire got before it was detected.

Other than fire fighting, the forest warden is expected to turn in a certain amount of time on fire prevention work. Signs must be posted, schools must be visited, fire prevention booklets and leaflets must be distributed. Law enforcement activities also take a great deal of his time. He is the man who must have the co-operation of the people in his county if he is to be successful in his work. Public opinion is the key to his success, and to the success of the forest fire prevention throughout the entire State. Unless the people want to keep fires from their forests, no amount of forest fire fighting or prevention methods will be effective.

An integral part of the fire detection system in North Carolina are the more than one hundred lookout towers scattered throughout the protected areas, being located as to afford maximum visibility. These towers, most of which are steel construction, are usually about one hundred feet in height, but even so, the number of towers has not reached the point of overlapping visibility from adjacent towers. Therefore auxiliary observation posts have been established at different strategic points. The tower of the Duke Chapel in Durham, the top of the Court House in Carthage and many other prominent landmarks are used as observation posts.

Knowing that most fires are man-caused, the logical question asked the forester is "Why do people burn the woods?" A recent survey by the United States Department of Agriculture among the Southern woodland owners showed that the most common causes of wood fires were carelessness, indifference and lack of appreciation of the forest values destroyed. One out of five fires was set because of grazing, and nearly as many from attempts to kill snakes and insects. About seven per cent were attempting to remove the fire hazards near their homes and buildings. In Carteret county a few fires are known to have been set for spite and revenge and a great many fires are set to open up the woods to improve game habitats. Desire for excitement and thrills were the reasons for setting some fires.

Thus we have a brief picture of what is happening in North Carolina in regard to the protection of her forests from the worst of all forest enemies. The people of North Carolina have been slow to realize the dangers that have resulted from this forest destruction. They have been slow to see that such continued forest depletion will mean disaster to the economy of the entire State. There are too many people and too many industries who depend wholly or partly on the forests and forests products for their very existence to take the matter of forest waste so lightly as it has been taken in the past.

Fortunately, there are more and more men and women becoming forestry-minded, realizing that to delay good forestry practices any longer will result in a lower standard of living for all concerned. The General Assembly, speaking for the people of North Carolina, took definite action toward establishing a more sound forestry program in the State. But unless every man, woman, and child in North Carolina becomes forestry-conscious we cannot continue to have the high standards of living we now enjoy.

By B. C. WINNORTH, District Forester

North Carolina has a total forest area of approximately 18,400,000 acres, which represents about 59 per cent of the State's total land area. Of this forest area, about one and a half million acres is in various forms of Federal ownership; the remaining 17 million acres is very largely privately owned and in the forest area with which the Division of Forestry and Parks is directly concerned.

The above statement bears out the fact that North Carolina is a state where the forest resource has a decided influence upon the everyday life and well-being of most of the people. No other resource in the state has a closer tie with agriculture, industry, employment, finance, transportation, public water supplies, and electric power production than the forest resource. Because it contributes so vitally to the welfare of the people and industry of the state, it should be recognized as an integral part of the whole economic and social structure of North Carolina.

In order to appreciate the real value of the forest resources to the people of the state, a few forest facts should be brought out. Of the more than 18 million acres of forest, about one half is on farms, yielding more than 20 different products with a value over \$50,000,000 each year. Forests help to protect the watersheds of over 100 hydroelectric developments and many municipal water supply systems.

In 1943 there were 3,500 industrial plants in North Carolina classified as primary forest industries, and secondary forest industries constitute an important position in the economy of the state. In respect to employment, all forest industries of North Carolina provided work for 71,000 persons in 1944. The workers were evenly divided between woods work, primary plants and secondary plants, and the wages paid in the paper and pulp industry were the highest of all manufacturing industries in the state.

Although it is so evident the forests play such an important part in the economy of the state, forest stands generally are less than 50 per cent stocked. A special study of the loblolly pine type—one of the best—shows only 30 per cent of the saw-timber area and 15 per cent of the under-sawlog size area satisfactorily stocked. Stands of the remainder are progressively poorer down to the treeless areas. Since quality is definitely tied in with tree size and thrift, the kind of trees making up the growing stock is of primary importance. In North Carolina it too often has been the practice to cut all the larger and better trees; where trees are left they are too often quite small, and of poor form and inferior species.

This situation calls for increasing the utility of the forest resource by improving the quantity and quality of the growing stock through better forest practices; intensifying protection against fire, insects and disease; a reasonable program of State ownership of the poorer lands; and increased forest research in timberland management, forest products utilization and marketing.

Forests have been a source of revenue and employment to the people of North Carolina from the time of the first permanent white settlement about 1650 somewhere east of the Chowan river. The seemingly boundless forest affected the everyday life and policies of the developing colonies. In 1732 Governor Barrington wrote to the Colonial Secretary in England that "Abundance of sawmills are being erected here by which the builders propose to carry on trade in boards and other sawed timber." And again he wrote of "granting 5,000 acres or more to each owner of a mill."

As early as 1750, long leaf pine lumber was exported from Wilmington to the West Indies and England. Exploitation of the forest resource did not begin on any scale, however, until after the erection of the first steam sawmill at Wilmington about 1818. From 1820 to 1880, lumber production remained at a fairly even level. Then large scale logging began in the virgin longleaf stands of the Coastal Plain and in less than 20 years most of them were cut out. About 1800 the lumber industry turned to the loblolly and shortleaf pine stands, where operations have continued ever since. About this time, too, band-sawmills began to cut the virgin hardwoods of the North Carolina mountains.

## Making Room for the Young Uns



A GOOD job of constructive forestry was done when the trees in this area were cut. Mature trees were cleared out, making room for natural reproduction of new growth from seeds dropped by the seed trees left standing. The tag on the tree in the foreground warns producers not to cut the tree. Some states require that at least four healthy seed trees per acre be left standing until the natural reproduction is at least 15 feet high.

## State Officials

(Continued From Page One)

Woodpeckers A Menace

OSLO — (AP) — The municipal authorities in the small community of Valsjojord, southwest Norway, have declared war upon woodpeckers. The birds have concerted their efforts in an attempt to break down the electricity supply of the small community. The wooden posts, supporting the transmission wires, have been damaged, and are now to be replaced by new ones. The authorities are paying \$1 for every woodpecker killed.

Thursday will also be guest day. Among the guests expected are D. L. Ward, New Bern, member of the State legislature, Sgt. Tom Brown, New Bern, state highway patrol, James Stingley, forester in charge of State College foundation, Dr. J. V. Hoffman, former dean of the forestry school, North Carolina State college, Ranger National Forest, and members of the Carteret county board of commissioners.

To be discussed Friday will be improvement of law enforcement during the past year, review of fire statistics, revision of tower maps for location of forest fires, and the forest nursery program.

Late afternoons and evenings will be devoted to recreation.

## Hungry Germans Continue To Keep Dogs, Cats, Chickens

MUNICH — (AP) — Germans are hungry. They are crowded into tiny living space. But they will not give up their pets. This was emphasized in a summary of the Munich city regulations which showed that 21,500 inhabitants of the city (population 700,000) have licenses to keep animals into their dwellings. In 1945, there were 6,000 less.

Most popular are fowl, understandable in a country where it is smart to raise chickens to stretch the meager ration. Owners have listed 73,000 chickens, geese and other fowl. There are 31,000 rabbits. One aged woman keeps 15 dogs in her kitchen. In the parlor of a villa is a horse. That's what the records say.

## Forest Land

(Continued From Page One)

wants. And then they take the stranger's word for what the timber is worth. This is not only poor business, but it isn't even good common sense.

The North Carolina Forest service has many actual cases where they have come into the picture just in time to save the landowner hundreds of dollars and have prevented the destruction of his timber land. In one notable case, a widow had been offered \$2,000 for all her timber-cut clean. Instead she had a forester mark her timber. She received \$2,000 for what was marked and still had 60 per cent of her stand left. In a few years she will be able to harvest another crop from the fine young stand left on her land.

Aiding Carteret county in the cost of protecting its forests are two pulpwood companies which are the major landholders in the county: International Paper company, of which Southern Kraft is a subsidiary and the North Carolina Pulp company.

International Paper company, with offices at Charleston, S. C., recently purchased the holdings of Cozier Wood Packing company in this county, increasing their holdings by about 1000 acres. Offices of North Carolina Pulp company are at Plymouth, N. C.

Careless smokers are the biggest single cause of forest fires in North Carolina. According to figures compiled by the North Carolina Division of Forestry and Parks, more than 900 forest fires were started by careless smokers in 1947.

North Carolina has more than 3400 manufacturing plants which depend upon trees for their raw materials. Yet last year careless people burned nearly one million dollars worth of valuable timber in the State.

The marketable pine stands in North Carolina are at least 12 per cent lower today than they were in 1938.

## TREES

By JOYCE KILMER

I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree,  
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the sweet earth's flowing breast;  
A tree that looks at God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;  
A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.  
Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.

### Smokey, The Fire-Preventin' Bear, Asks...

## "Who set the 200,000-home bonfire?"

Last year forest fires destroyed enough timber to build over 200,000 five-room homes! Who started the majority of these fires? Not lightning. Lightning starts less than one out of ten.

Then, is it criminals or crazy firebugs? Not they started only a small fraction of the forest fires that scared and burned over America's timber lands last year.

Now for the real culprit! Almost all forest fires — 9 out of 10 to be exact — are caused by good American citizens like you! Carelessness robs America of thousands of homes yearly!

This year — with more cars, more houses, more vacation travel — America's forests may suffer the greatest catastrophe in history! It is imperative that you be particularly careful with fire. America's forests are in your hands.

**PLEASE FOLK, BE EXTRA CAREFUL THIS YEAR!**

1. Hold your match till it's cold — then stick it in a safe place.
2. Crush out your cigarette, cigar, pipe ashes. Use an ashtray! Never throw burning objects from a car window.
3. Draw your fireplace, then stir and draw again.
4. Ask about the law — and a possible — before burning grass, brush, fence posts, or stumps. These follow safe rules: burn only on dirt, and always have help handy till every spark!

### Remember - Only you can PREVENT FOREST FIRES!

#### SCARBORO - SAFRIT LUMBER CO.

Lenexville Road B 4581 Beaufort