

See Increase in Part-Time Farming in North Carolina

If you're a typical North Carolina farmer, either you or your neighbor works part-time in off-farm work. In fact, on more than one out of four farms in the state,

income from off-farm sources is greater than farm sales. What's more, many farmers on large farms have off-farm income, although more small farm operators work off-farm part of the time.

With new industries locating in the state, very often families on small farms are looking at "the greener pastures across the fence" and wondering if one or more family members should take an off-farm job, according to D. G. Harwood, Jr., farm management specialist for the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service. This is no idle day dream, either; the decision is difficult to make. Employers usually establish a schedule of work which the part-time farmer must meet, and farm work may need to be done just when the off-farm job beckons.

Also, while the part-time farmer devotes much of his time and attention to his job away from home, other full-time farmers may become so efficient that the part-time farmer can no longer compete at the market.

Yet, research at N. C. State college indicates that non-farm work can come in handy as a means of increasing farm family incomes. For example, the typical Southern Piedmont farm family of five members (four of whom are 18 years of age or over) with about 25 acres of cropland could expect to earn only about \$2,000 on the farm if substantial sums could not be invested in new buildings and equipment.

However, the same family could

earn up to \$10,000 each year if the four adult members could get off-farm jobs at \$1.30 per hour.

On the other hand, if substantial additional investment could be made to enlarge profitable enterprises, an equally large income can be made by using all the family labor on the farm. Non-farm work, or additional investment capital, or a combination of these, may be used to boost incomes on small farms.

Families on small farms have about three choices: (1) full-time farming, (2) part-time farming, and (3) full-time non-farm jobs.

If the decision is made to devote full-time to farming, large sums of money must be invested on small farms if family incomes are to be as high as the incomes of most non-farm families. However, since substantial risk is involved in making large investments on farms, it is not likely that many small farm operators are willing to greatly expand their farm operations. The farmer will likely prefer to organize his farm and family labor around some combination of both farm and non-farm work. This requires only a moderate expenditure of additional capital in the farm

business, and still allows for increased income.

The proportion of families on small farms who are earning part of their incomes off the farm can definitely be expected to increase, declares Harwood.

For more information regarding the allocation of labor to part-time off-farm work, write to the Department of Agricultural Information at N. C. State college for a free copy of Technical Bulletin

No. 138, "An Economic Analysis of Farm and Non-Farm Resources on Small Farms in the Southern Piedmont, North Carolina."

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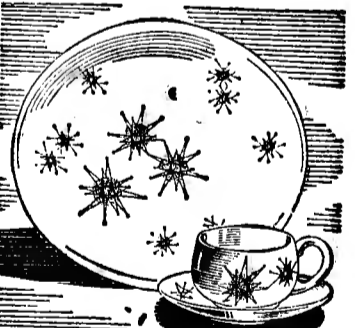
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Accidents Didn't Help . . .

In spite of series of minor and not-so-minor accidents, producer Richard Einfield and director Gene Fowler, Jr., managed to keep the cameras turning without interruption on the filming of "The Oregon Trail," which opens Sunday at the Kehoe Theatre.

First of the unscheduled happenings was when an extra, playing the role of an Indian brave in an attack on Fort Laramie, Wyoming, was stepped on by a horse and forced to retire from the picture.

Shortly after that, a stunt man, jumping from the fort's buring roof sprained his ankle when he lit sideways on his foot.

Came an important scene in which star William Bishop was to fire a revolver at close range at an attacking Indian. Bishop fired and there was a malfunction the gun's mechanism and the actor was seriously burned on the right hand by the powder flash from the blank cartridge. Bishop was taken to the Twentieth Century-Fox hospital and given a tetanus shot. Against the advice of the doctor, he returned to finish out the day's work on the film.

The fourth and final mishap might have been a great deal more serious than it was, had not director Fowler called a lunch break just 10 minutes before the trouble. For some unexplained reason, the main power cable, feeding the camera, sound truck and stage lights with power, blew up and started a fire. The studio fire department finally succeeded in putting the conflagration out, but it delayed shooting for over two hours before the electrical department could bring three large generators from another part of the lot for the company's use.