

Watauga Has 112,500 Acres Of Land In Forests, Survey Shows

Watauga County has 112,500 acres of commercial forest land, according to a recent inventory by TVA foresters.

R. A. Vogenberger, TVA forestry representative at Asheville, said the survey completed last April shows a sawtimber volume in standing trees of 173.4 million board feet. Of this total, 144.9 million board feet is hardwood and 28.5 million softwood. The average sawtimber stand per acre, Vogenberger said, is about 1,500 board feet.

Explaining the various tree-size classifications, he reported that sawtimber trees include all hardwoods 11 inches in diameter and larger and all softwoods 9 inches and larger. Pole timber includes all trees below sawtimber size down to 5 inches.

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In terms of total growing stock (both sawtimber and pole timber), hardwoods account for 90 percent of the volume, softwoods 10 percent. White pine is the principal softwood, with about half the volume. Hemlock accounts for 3 percent and pitch pine, table mountain pine, and spruce make up 2 percent.

In the hardwoods, red oaks ac-

count for 14 per cent of the total volume, white oaks 13 percent, red maple 9 percent, yellow-poplar 9 percent, sweet birch 7 percent, black locust 6 percent, magnolia 5 percent, hard maple 5 percent, beech 5 percent, and all other hardwoods 17 percent.

Vogenberger said the survey indicated that only about 45 percent of the forest area in the county is well stocked with trees. Grazing damage was found on 4 percent of the area.

TVA foresters have inventoried the forests of 71 valley counties. Other western North Carolina counties completed are Avery, Mitchell, Buncombe, Jackson, Cherokee, and Clay.

SCIENCE RESERVE

A region equal in area to Europe and the United States combined has been made into a preserve for scientific research, immune from political and military strife.

Twelve nations, including the United States and the Soviet Union, signed a treaty on Antarctica that would establish a free-wheeling inspection system markedly different from any hitherto attempted.

All of North Carolina's 100 counties are in organized soil conservation districts.

SHOP AT HOME

Recipes Given By Specialist

It is easy to buy your holiday cakes, cookies and candies, but it is fun to make them. And so to help Santa on his merry way, here are a variety of Christmas recipes.

Mints
2 cups sugar
2 1/2 cups boiling water
1-4 teaspoon cream of tartar
1 teaspoon vinegar
Few drops of oil of peppermint
Powdered sugar.
Mix sugar, water, cream of tartar and vinegar. Boil without stirring to the brittle stage—256 degrees. Pour on oiled marble slab or tray. Cool, lift and pull, keeping grain all one way. Add flavoring during pulling.

When candy is too stiff to pull, stretch into a long rope 1/2 inch thick. Cut with scissors into small pieces. Drop into bowl of powdered sugar and coat well. When dry store in a jar, cover and keep in a warm place for several days.

Christmas Cookies

1 cup butter
2-3 cup sugar
2 eggs, well beaten
1 1/2 cups flour
1 teaspoon vanilla
Raisins, nuts or citron
Cream butter, add sugar gradually. Add eggs, flour and vanilla. Arrange by teaspoonfuls on a lightly buttered cookie sheet. Spread thin with a knife dipped in cold water. On each cookie put raisins, almonds, blanched and cut in strips, pecans, cut in pieces, or citron cut in small pieces.
Bake in an oven 375 degrees about eight minutes.

Glassed Nuts and Fruits

1-2 cup white corn syrup
1-2 cup sugar
2 tablespoons hot water
Boil sugar, syrup and water until syrup brittles instantly in cold water. Keep hot in double boiler. Dip in nuts and fruits one at a time, taking out on the point of a fork and laying on oiled paper.

MURPHY RETIRES

Robert Murphy, former Under Secretary of State, has warned that instability or weakness in the non-Communist world could lead to Soviet miscalculations that might produce disaster for mankind.

Mr. Murphy, recently retired after a forty-year career in diplomacy, urged his country to remain strong and to make its intentions regarding its use of that strength unmistakably clear.

Doctor Talk

By JOHN B. REMBERT, M. D.

Again, irresponsible federal officials have issued statements from Washington which must be considered merely as a gesture to gain "headlines," as no new scientific facts have been discovered to warrant such rash implications. The incident referred to is the story released by the Surgeon General of the United States implicating, in his opinion, tobacco smoking as the chief reason for the rising rate of lung cancer.

This writer does not say that smoking is not a causative factor in cancer of the lung, but until actual scientific data proves tobacco to be one of the chief, if not the foremost, causes of cancer of the lung it is felt that no real benefit is derived from such alarming statements. As was pointed out in last week's column concerning the "cranberry scare," nothing is accomplished by such unwise and unscientific statements—such utterances should be publicized only after unquestionable scientific proof is established.

Our nation now is made up of many thousands of "weak and nervous" individuals, daily consuming thousands upon thousands of tranquilizing tablets—with stories such as this latest cancer scare and the daily stories concerning the superiority of the Russians, the outlook is that our nation will daily increase its consumption of tranquilizing drugs.

Some will criticize the attitude taken by this writer in not joining in "the scare campaign" to decrease smoking—but my answer to critics will be that the all powerful federal government in Washington has the necessary laws to prohibit the sale of cigarettes if and when positive proof is established that tobacco tars are responsible for the increase in lung cancer.

The main thing for all to remember in our fight against cancer is to regularly have a complete check-up by their family physician—such regular medical examinations allowing your doctor to detect and properly treat early cancer.

As an example, each year about 15,000 women die from uterine cancer, but it is estimated that practically all of these women could have been saved if only they had sought regular medical examination.

The Christmas season is all around us now and most people are busy purchasing gifts for their children and friends. It is this matter of gifts for children that I want to bring to your attention.

Much fun and enjoyment can be had by all if intelligent care is taken into consideration. From a medical standpoint, I have a certain dread for this and all special holiday periods of the year, for during each one thousands of physicians across the country are called upon to treat holiday accidents.

Children are particularly prone to accidents, particularly at Christmas time, and many of the accidents are due to purchases made unwisely by their parents. This Christmas thousands upon thousands of children will receive air rifles—and only a few, if any, of these happy children, will receive any instruction in the necessary safety measures that must be observed if tragic accidents are to be prevented. The one organ of the body that is most often injured by the pellets from these small rifles is the eye—and as so often happens, results in partial, if not complete, loss of vision in the affected eye.

The point to be stressed here is that parents must seriously consider the dangers involved and take it upon themselves to see that their child is properly instructed in the use of his rifle and stressing the great dangers to all if improperly used.

Roller-skates and bicycles will probably outnumber all other gifts given this year, but parents should give one or both of these gifts to their children only if the necessary area is nearby for their enjoyment.

Please do not let a tragic accident ruin your holiday season. One last reminder is to be very

careful and ever on the alert if infants are in your home in the crawling stage—if older children are in the home there is the constant danger of small objects or parts of toys about on the floor, and naturally, all such objects will be picked up by the infant and then next into the mouth—swallowing of these objects can prove quite dangerous, particularly if esophageal obstruction results and removal is made necessary.

Of even greater danger is the possibility of such small objects being aspirated into the lungs and the serious consequences that may result.

All these possible accidents and many more can be prevented if reasonable care is taken by parents—this requires good "common sense" in purchasing gifts for Christmas, as well as normal parental supervision at all times.

INGENIOUS!

Yonkers, N. Y.—Matthew Sampieri found a stranger in his bathroom. "Who are you?" he asked.

"Plumber," replied the man, pressing his ear against the wall. "Is it still leaking, Joe?" the man shouted down the bath drain.

No answer. "Tell you what," the man said to Sampieri, "You turn on the shower and I'll check the apartment below."

Sampieri turned on the shower and listened quite a while to the running water. When the man didn't come back, Sampieri discovered that \$450 in jewelry was missing from his apartment.

Asians seek to spur French-Algerian harmony.

PROTOCOL CLARIFIED

Foreign protocol planners in countries to be visited by President Eisenhower are being told that his daughter-in-law is in no way to be considered a "stand-in" for the First Lady on the trip.

James C. Hagerty, White House press secretary, said in response to queries that "we don't have a stand-in" for Mrs. Eisenhower.

STEEL BID FINAL

The steel industry says that the contract proposal it made more than three weeks ago to the United Steelworkers of America was its "last offer."

This is the offer that the employees of each steel company will have the opportunity to accept or reject by secret ballot. The Government will poll the employees some time between Jan. 8 and 21.

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