

Azalea Festival In Wilmington On March 29 - April 1

Riot of Beauty Will Be Ready to Greet Visit- ors Attending

The massed azaleas of Southeastern North Carolina are building up their show for Wilmington's Azalea Festival on March 29-April 1.

Already, red and white dwarf varieties are in bloom, and during festival time the multitude of crimson, magenta, purple, pink, lavender, and countless other blooms are scheduled to reach their peak.

Top show places of the festival are Orton Plantation, Airlie Gardens and Greenfield Park. Great banks of azaleas, giant fuchsia indicas and multi-flowered dwarfs, complemented by late-blooming camellias and white dogwood blossoms, will greet visitors.

Special accommodations are being arranged in the city and at nearby beaches for the large number of visitors. The resort towns of Wrightsville and Carolina Beach will have more than 3,000 rooms available.

The fourth annual festival, dedicated to the men and women of the armed services, will feature the appearance of national celebrities in sports, music, and other entertainment fields.

SPORTS AFIELD

By Ted Keating

Does shooting have a future?

You might as well hazard a guess as to the future of our latest breakfast food, claims Edwards Brown, noted arms authority. He says shooting won't end, but it could develop to the point where it is no longer a sport.

Stop a moment and think. What has happened to our constitutional right to bear arms? It is no fantasy that a law-abiding man, in most parts of our country, is prohibited from having a gun in his car ready for the protection of his life.

If you are stopped by a bandit on the highway, of course you don't have to submit. Instead you can choose to be clubbed or shot to death. Naturally—and here's the irony—the bandit can have a gun because he isn't a law-abiding citizen!

Most of us are engaged in shooting because we're interested in it as a sport. A vast majority channel their enthusiasm into hunting because it gets them out in the open and they like the spirit of the chase. Killing game does not breed a lust to kill—most humans feel a pang of sympathy for game they have killed.

Many who are against hunting try to outlaw guns because they regard them as dangerous. But, are they as dangerous as many household risks—steps, bathtubs and butcher knives? Accident records indicate that they are not. Frankly, we'll never eliminate a few accidents with guns—but legislating against them isn't the answer.

If you love shooting, only you can do something about preserving its future. The answer to the firearms question is not narrow-minded gun legislation. The answer is education. Teach everyone—boys, young men, adults—how to use a gun. Then gun handling will be safe.

Not long ago an officer's report from Korea complained about the lack of GI experience in gun handling. If ever there was a time when Americans should be able to handle a gun—then it is now!

Forestry Group To Give 4-H Awards

Initial awards will be made this year on the part of 4-H members, and to provide recognition to the 4-H boy or girl in each county who does the most outstanding job in carrying out forestry projects and otherwise contributing to the development of good forestry practices.

The boy or girl selected to receive a medal must be an active 4-H member at the time the award is made, must complete at least one forestry project and must turn in a record to one deserving youth in each county. The North Carolina Forestry Association is made up of representatives of wood-using industries, foresters, farm and other woodland owners.

Purposes of the program are to stimulate further interest and activity to 4-H Club members in all counties for outstanding work in forestry projects, announces John L. Gray, extension forestry at State College.

Selections in each county will be made by the county extension staff in forestry and good forest practices at 4-H achievement programs or similar events.

The North Carolina Forestry Association plans to offer medals this year under the supervision of the farm agent. Awards are to be presented book.

OUR DEMOCRACY — by Mat

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Good Price Expected For Sweet Potatoes

Sweet potatoes are expected to be a profitable crop for North Carolina farmers in 1951, asserts George S. Abshier, extension marketing specialist at State College.

Because of increased consumer demand and reduced acreage, this year's crop should bring good prices, he believes.

Abshier explains that the greatly expanded cotton acreage and increased tobacco allotments will cut deeply into sweet potato acreage this year. He says the decrease will be particularly noticeable here in the South.

"In view of the expected strong demand and short supply," says Abshier, "North Carolina farmers should find sweet potatoes a very profitable enterprise this year." The demand for the Porto Rico variety is expected to be particularly strong, according to the specialist.

Farmers who have enough land and sufficient labor are urged to grow as many sweet potatoes as last year. The U. S. Department of Agriculture is recommending the same sweet potato acreage for 1951 as was advised for 1950.

Crop specialists urge sweet potato growers to plant good quality, disease-free seed and use recommended cultural practices to insure receiving top prices. Careful harvesting, field grading and packing are also essential, they point out.

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