

North Carolina Cuts Forest Fire Losses In Keep Green Drive

3,782 Fires Burned Over 186,309 Acres During 1953

North Carolina, with a vigorous Keep Green organization, whacked its forest fire losses almost in half in 1953, the American Forest Products Industries reports.

The report, based on new government figures, showed 3,782 fires burned over 186,309 acres during the year. In 1952 the record was 4,280 fires and 357,843 burned-over acres. All but eight per cent of North Carolina's forestlands is under organized fire protection.

"The educational fire prevention campaign conducted through the Keep North Carolina Green organization is certainly to be commended for its part in achieving this improved record," said Carr Gibson, Elizabethtown, chairman of the North Carolina Forest Industries Committee. "Our industries, government agencies and woodland owners are working to keep forest fires at a minimum."

Other forest fire losses shown in the report for 1953 included: Georgia, 401,573 acres; South Carolina, 72,867; Virginia, 35,197; Tennessee, 256,006; Mississippi, 773,620, and Alabama, 292,365.

Spectacular Highway Now Open For Travel

A spectacular new stretch of highway has just been opened for smooth, easy motoring up and down the Blue Ridge Divide in North Carolina.

It is a paved four-lane link on transcontinental U. S. Highway 70 between the towns of Old Fort and Ridgecrest, and was completed at a cost of \$3,000,000 to replace the hairpin curves and steep grades of the old two-lane concrete section built in the early 1920's.

Construction of the new road involved the greatest earth-moving project in the history of North Carolina's extensive road building program. Three million cubic yards of earth and stone were whittled off mountains and pushed into hills before bituminous paving began on the 6.15 mile stretch of highway. At one point, the road's two 22-foot wide sections rest on a 185-foot high fill containing almost a million cubic yards of earth and stone.

The new highway climbs 1,420 feet with a maximum grade of 5 per cent and 19 easy spiral curves; on the 8-mile section of U. S. 70 which it replaces there are 98 sharp curves on an ascent of 1,215 feet.

ELLERY QUEEN WRITES OF ITALY MURDER

The strange death of a pretty young woman that created a sensation in high Italian government circles is the subject of a mystery thriller by Ellery Queen, famous detective-writer. Don't miss this exciting feature in the July 25th issue of

THE AMERICAN WEEKLY Magazine in Colorgrave with the BALTIMORE SUNDAY AMERICAN Order From Your Local Newsdealer

Drop Reported In N. C. Farm Values

Statistics Show Five Per Cent Less Than Year Ago

North Carolina farm real estate values which have been rising sharply since 1940, now show signs of leveling off.

A recent report released by the Statistics Division of the State Department of Agriculture shows the index of land values as of March, 1954, at 423, a drop of 23 points or five per cent below the index a year ago.

The Tar Heel State continued, however, to hold the highest land value index in the nation. Alabama, with an index of 314, is second, and Kentucky, at 309, is third.

The decline for North Carolina was slightly less than that for the nation as a whole as that index dropped about six per cent during the year.

In computing the indexes, land values for the year 1912-14 represent 100.

Compared with averages for the five year period 1935-1939, the dollar value of land in North Carolina had increased 232 per cent by March of 1952. Only two other states, Kentucky and Arkansas showed greater percentage gains during this period.

The March, 1953, index of 416 represented a gain of 4.7 per cent during the preceding year, and now stands as the record high for this state.

SPORTS AFIELD

By Ted Kesting

Why do grouse seem to get smarter every year? Because they go to school. So says Earle V. Ehrhart in an article in Sports Afield magazine. He writes that this schooling was an annual affair on grouse sanctuaries on his farm. For a long time he thought they were merely putting on a show; then he realized it was more than that.

In the fall the older males of each little grouse community gathered in the same spots each year. The younger male grouse also came, timidly. While they watched, the elders began showing the "tools" used by grouse in self-preservation.

The demonstrators gave silent exhibitions of love-making, the mating dance, attack, defense and threatening and evasive actions of many kinds. Soon the younger birds began to participate and their lack of skill was quite obvious. The "teachers" often resorted to bodily punishment. This routine continued for a day or two, several hours at a stretch.

Next came the exhibition of "tools" of communication. At first you'd be impressed only by the seemingly limited grouse vocabulary. But with crest, ruff, tail, wings and body-feather accompaniment, the refinements and variations seemed limitless.

Then came the final and most interesting phase of their schooling. Usually one old grouse began silently to elevate his crest as he stood tall, his ruff distending slowly, indicating the approach of an imaginary

THAT'S A FACT

Yak Facts!

PARROTS HAVE ACHIEVED IMMORTALITY BY THEIR ABILITY TO REPEAT WORDS AND SENTENCES. YET PARROTS IN THEIR WILD STATE ARE NEVER KNOWN TO IMITATE THE SOUNDS OF OTHER ANIMALS! SOME PARROTS HAVE VOCABULARIES OF MORE THAN A HUNDRED WORDS—AND SOME OF THESE VERSATILE BIRDS HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN KNOWN TO APPEAR AS WITNESSES IN COURT WITH LEGAL RECOGNITION GIVEN TO THEIR TESTIMONY!



HERE ARE SOME WORDS AMERICANS ARE LEARNING THE TRUE VALUE OF: "BUY U.S. SAVINGS BONDS! THEY REPRESENT VALUE AND SECURITY! AND REMEMBER—BONDS ARE BETTER THAN EVER!"



Where's America?

ALTHOUGH CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS MADE FOUR TRIPS TO THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, HE NEVER ACTUALLY LANDED ON OR SIGHTED ANY OF THE TERRITORY WE NOW KNOW AS THE UNITED STATES! AMONG THE ISLANDS HE ACTUALLY VISITED WERE SAN SALVADOR, CUBA, JAMAICA, ST. LUCIA AND MANY OTHERS.

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MAINE IS THE ONLY STATE IN THE UNION THAT IS TOUCHED BY ONLY ONE OTHER STATE. TENNESSEE AND MISSOURI ARE BOUNDED BY THE MOST STATES—EIGHT!

the species and produced the same evasive actions that had been exhibited against imaginary enemy-approach in the training grouse he had seen in earlier years.

P. M. The hour from 6 to 7 P. M., ran a close second for fatal accident frequency from 69 tragedies counted during that 60-minute period. Only 15 fatal crackups occurred during the morning hour 5 to 6 o'clock.

Capsule Facts On '53 Traffic Accidents

What are the worst, and safest, hours for those who use North Carolina streets and highways?

According to the Motor Vehicles Department, in a 24 hour period, chances of meeting death in traffic mishaps are greatest between 8 and 9 P. M., while the safest time to be out is from 5 to 6 A. M.

Last year, 77 death dealing traffic accidents occurred between 8 and 9

Intellectually, as well as politically, the direction of all true progress is toward greater freedom, and along an endless succession of ideas.

—Bovee.

The best test of truth is the power of the thought to get itself accepted in the competition of the market.

—O. W. Holmes.

God offers to every mind its choice between truth and repose. Take which you please—you can never have both.

—Emerson.

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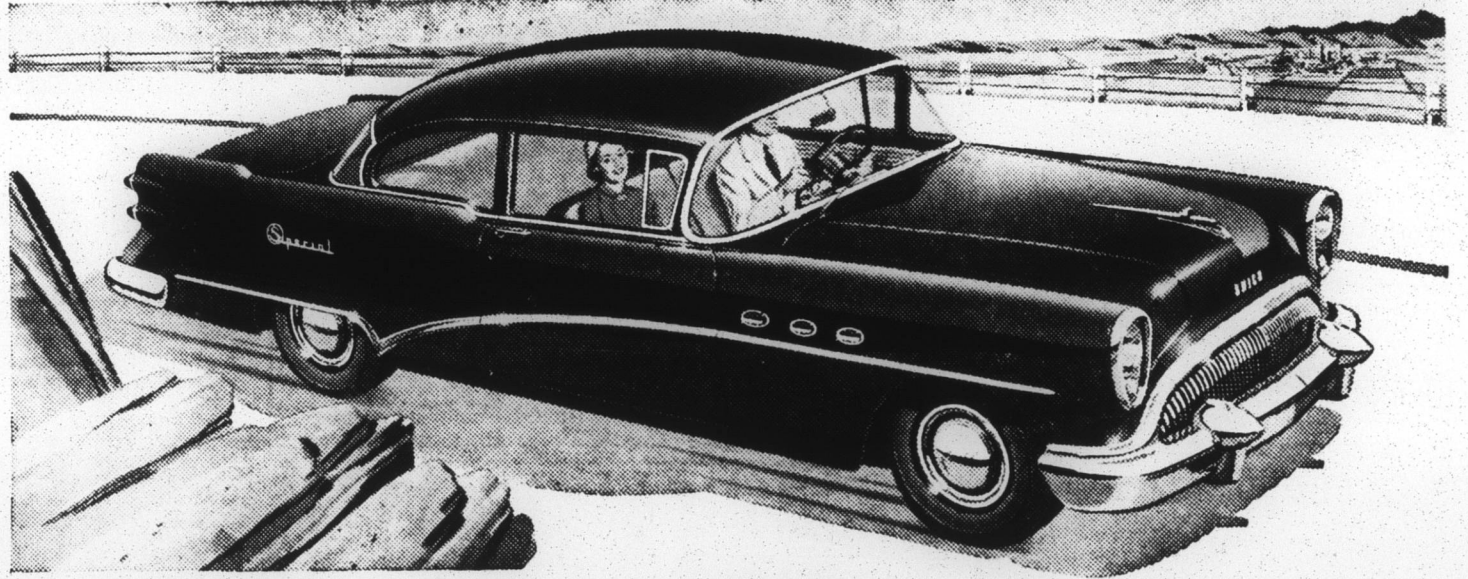
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enemy. Every grouse came to attention. The old grouse uttered any one of seven specific, different, ventriloquistic notes which seemed to come from anywhere but where the grouse stood. All the grouse took proper evasive action. For example, if the note indicated that a hawk was approaching, every grouse faded into the underbrush where they apparently knew that a hawk, a nonwalker, is helpless.

During following hunting seasons, Ehrhart often heard song-birds and nonpredators warning of the approach of enemies. When the perimeter grouse guards, who were always there but unseen, sounded their warning, every grouse came to attention and scooted for shelter. When hawks, owls, foxes, bobcats and lynx approached, a warning call distinguished



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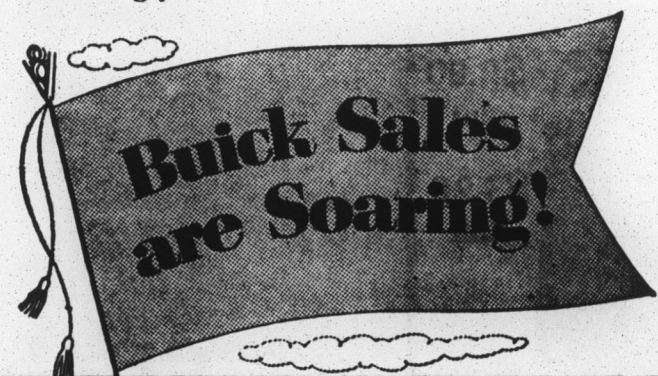
2-DOOR, 6-PASSENGER SEDAN Model 48D (illus.)

*Optional equipment, accessories, state and local taxes, if any, additional. Prices may vary slightly in adjoining communities due to shipping charges. All prices subject to change without notice. Even the factory-installed extras you may want are bargains, such as: heater & defroster . . . only \$81.70.

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