

## 279,585 Farms In State Electrified

### North Carolina 13th In Percentage of Farms Electrified

About 92.3 per cent of the nation's 5,382,134 farms had electric service as of June 30, 1954, the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced recently. This compares with 90.8 per cent electrified June, 1953, and 77.2 per cent electrified at the time of the 1950 census.

A new survey by the Rural Electrification Administration shows that North Carolina had 279,685 farms with electric service as of June 30, 1954. This was 96.9 per cent of the state's total number of farms and left less than 9,000 farms without electricity.

This state ranked second only to Texas in the number of electrified farms; but 13th in the percentage of farms electrified. Connecticut led in the percentage comparison, with 99.9 per cent electrified; but that state has only 15,615 farms.

Under the Rural Electrification Act, REA is required to estimate the number of unelectrified farms in each State on June 30 of each year. This provides a basis for allotting electrification loan funds among the states. Because of the high percentage of farm electrification, REA made a special effort this year to pinpoint the farms remaining without service. The customary unelectrified farm survey was broadened, and special studies were utilized in certain areas.

### Weekly Devotional Column

By JAMES MACKENZIE

That superb story teller, the late Fulton Oursler, was once privileged to visit Scotland Yard's famed Black Museum in London, where is displayed "souvenirs of old crimes, exhibits from murder trials, and left-overs of unsolved violence." Amidst the knives, guns, and poison vials he chanced to

**HALSEY**

**F E E D      S E E D**



**STORE**

notice, in an obscure corner, a fading piece of needlework fashioned by a woman prisoner over a century ago. His guide told him the story behind it. The woman, a homeless alcoholic, had been jailed fifty times, and was considered incorrigible. But during her last stretch in prison a strange change came over her. Instead of spending her time cussing and fussing she secured a Bible, and began to study it. One verse in particular brought comfort to her heart, a promise that God would teach and guide the trusting soul safely to its home in heaven.

About this time, too, a young mother, about twenty-four years of age, was thrown into her cell, and her baby with her. Seeing this young woman starting out just as she had so many years before touched the old alcoholic's heart, and she began to plead with the young mother to reform and bring up her fatherless child in decency. They became fast friends, and the old lady comforted the young mother and nursed the child through a fever.

But as the months went by the old lady, her body wrecked by the ravages of sin and dissipation, began to grow weaker, and her young friend could see that soon she would be called to her long home. "Won't you give me some little thing to keep when we are no longer together?" the young mother asked. "Some reminder that will steady me and keep me straight when I get out of here?" Of course the old lady had nothing to give, but she

determined to honor the request. She had neither needle nor thread, and only a tiny sliver of light to work by, but with dogged persistence she managed to make an outlandish decoration on her head scarf. Using a hairpin for a needle, and her own gray hairs, plucked out one by one, for thread, she stitched the words of her Bible promise, leaving behind a moving testimony to the transforming power of faith in God. Today, over one-hundred years later, you may see the fabric she made from the hair of her repentant old head, and read the crudely formed words, "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way that thou shalt go—I will guide thee with mine eyes—thy home is in heaven."

Better to be ignorant of a matter than half know it.

#### ELLERY QUEEN'S TRUE MYSTERY STORY

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The worth of a state, in the long run, is the worth of the individuals composing it.

—J. S. Mill.

I swear nothing is good to me now that ignores individuals.

—Walt Whitman.

There can be no friendship, where there can be no freedom.

—Thomas Fuller.

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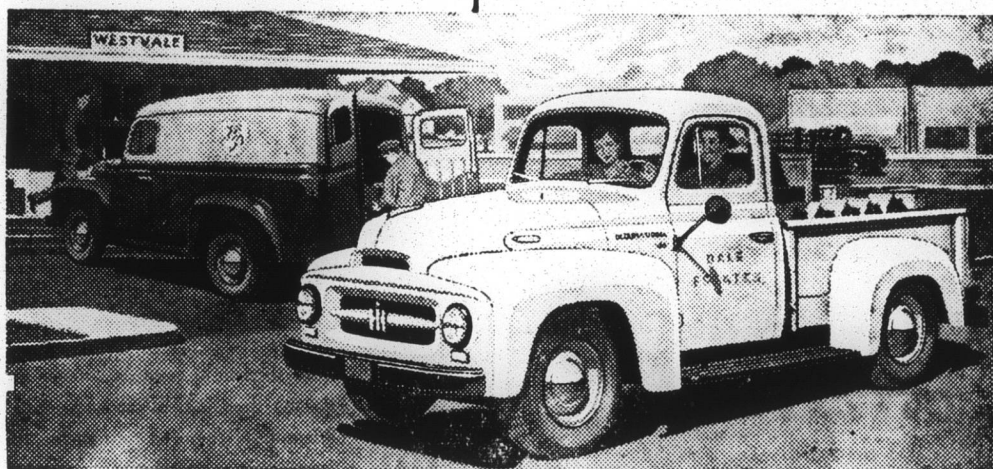
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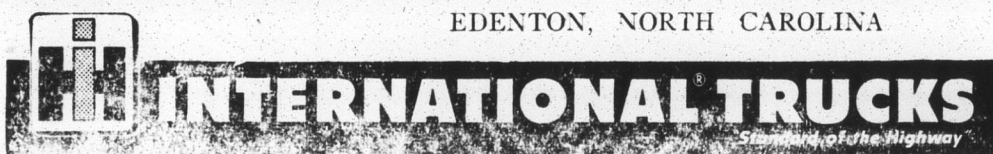
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