

AROUND THE FARMS IN CHOWAN

By C. W. OYERMAN, Chowan County Agent

Dry Weather Killing Many Trees
The severe dry weather, has severely damaged many trees and killed some. Fruit trees, shade trees and oaks are the principal ones observed.

In response to calls, several home orchards have been visited where trees were seriously dam-

aged or dead. In every case the main trouble was found to be apparently due to the severe dry weather. Young fruit trees in dry areas have had a most difficult time this year. There was one home orchard where several trees were dead and many more seriously affected. On the live trees the agent recommended a heavy mulch around the tree but not against the tree and then watering each tree slowly for three or four hours with the hose to be sure the water gets good penetration. This appears about all that can be recommended.

Many pecan trees and many dogwood in home plantings are showing leaf yellowing and parching due to the severe dry weather. An application of about one quart



INSOMNIA — WHAT'S THAT? — It's no problem to relax when you're in the late two's or early three's. Holly Stafford makes a sleeping bag of a suitcase while waiting for her plane to depart from New York's Idlewild Airport.

of nitrate of soda placed in a circle around the tree out under the tip of the limbs and a good watering with the hose is about all we know to recommend and this should help considerably.

Many oak trees particularly and some other trees are showing injury by the drought and many have died. Of course, there is nothing we can do for the trees that are dead but those still living can be helped by a good watering each week. The water must be applied slowly over a period of 4 or 5 hours instead of hurriedly in order to get good penetration down to the root area.

Peanut Crop Condition

The peanut crop in Chowan County has been greatly improved since the rain on July 23 and 24. The plants have grown considerably since that rain, but now are getting very dry again. An estimate of the peanut crop of 1957 has been made as 80% of

normal. It can be this good, maybe better, or maybe worse, depending upon the season from now on. If rains come in sufficient quantity and not in excess, it is possible that we will make a good normal crop but if the dry weather prevails our crop will be short.

There has been very few reports of disease in peanuts during the last 60 days. A few fields have been damaged by southern stem rot, but none of them real serious that we know of. Terra-chlor in the land plaster was used by several growers and we hope that this is helping toward off the disease. Insects have invaded some peanut fields and it has been necessary for the grower to dust with 10 per cent DDT to control them. We know of no severe damage so far.

Get-Acquainted Meeting

The Southern Pulpwood Conservation Association sponsored

a two-day get-acquainted and educational meeting and tour for county agents and soil conservation technicians. This was held at Williamston on Monday and Tuesday. On Monday the program was devoted to getting acquainted and an educational meeting. The agricultural workers and members of the pulpwood industry were presented individually in order that we might know them. Some of the talks were illustrated by slides made of work being conducted in this area.

As the county agent, I have often wondered about the advisability of farmers selling blocks of their woodland to pulpwood companies. In riding through the county I have observed many tracts of woodland with the line trees planted indicating the pulpwood company's holdings. Again the impression that the pulpwood companies are out to buy up all the timber land possible. That a company which once buys a tract of woodland it is forever lost from farm ownership. This last statement may be somewhat true but the extent of the company's holdings according to the figures we were given are not near as extensive as I had thought.

According to the figures given at this meeting the pulpwood companies purchase about 90 per cent or more of their supplies of pulpwood from farmer-owned and other individually owned tracts. This means that there is a large market for pulpwood from farmer owned tracts and farmers can supply this demand by properly thinning and managing their farm woodlands.

The pulpwood companies are like any other factory in that they have to have a continuous supply of raw material to operate. During the busy seasons on the farm there is less pulpwood being cut

on farmer owned tracts. During these slack seasons the pulpwood company cuts their raw supplies from their own pulpwood supplies in order to keep in continuous operation. They explained to us that it was only their intent to have their sufficient acreage of company owned land to assure them a continuous supply for operation.

We made a tour of several tracts of woodland owned by the company. In one tract they are making tree selections for seed purposes. The seed from these trees are to be used to propagating the type of pines that have quick growth, straight growth and will give them the most return per year of growth. They explained that some breeding work is being done in an attempt to develop fast growing, high quality stock. On another tract we observed young plants which are off to a good start now. Here the hardwoods have been controlled and the young pines released with a chance to make good growth. In another tract we observed the poisoning of hardwoods in order to control the hardwoods so that the area might be developed to pines. In the next tract we observed heavy equipment discing the area preparatory to planting next winter.

We were very much impressed with the way the pulp companies are farming their woodlands. While in these instances the company was using its own equipment for preparing land for planting, they explained that in some instances that they have to hire equipment to do the work. Farm-

ers can hire such equipment to do work in their home woodland in cases where they don't have it. These demonstrations we saw are just plain good woodland management and things that farm woodland owners can do to make their forest land produce and pay maximum returns.

We were taken on a tour through the pulp plant at Plymouth. We were shown the various operations beginning with the unloading of the pulpwood from trucks and cars through to finished paper being loaded in the cars for shipment. This is truly an interesting process and farm woodland owners could cooperate in joining together for a scheduled tour through such a plant.

Casual Discovery

Deliberation — "Is a diplomat supposed to tell the truth?" "Oh, yes. But he is often permitted to take his time about discovering it."

virtue is no slight evidence of one's own. —Montaigne.

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Scott Brady and Mala Powers in "The Storm Rider"

COMEDY

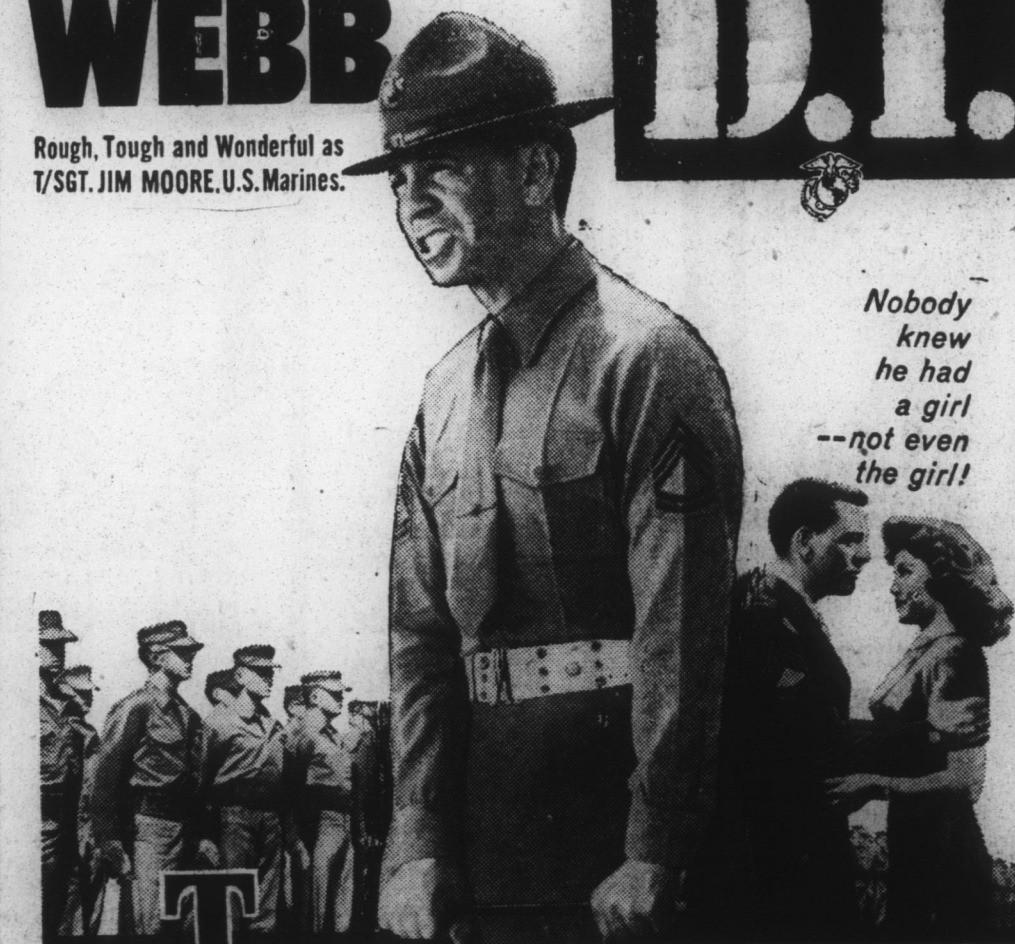
3 CARTOONS

SUNDAY, MONDAY AND TUESDAY, AUGUST 25-26-27—

JACK WEBB

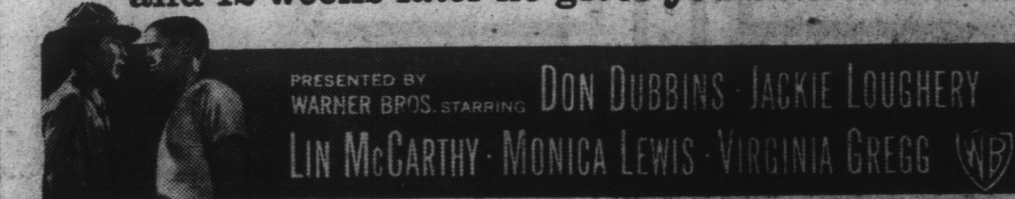
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