

SOIL CONSERVATION NEWS

By JAMES H. GRIFFIN, Soil Conservationist

Soil and water conservation plans are being prepared on the farms of A. C. Griffin, T. S. Leary, Luther Bunch and Gilliam Wood. These plans are a part of the local soil conservation district program. First, the farmer signs an agreement with the district stating that he wishes to use his land within its capability and treat it according to its needs. After the agreement, a soil surveyor makes a soil map of the farm placing each type of soil in its capability class. All soils are placed in one of eight classes depending upon the conservation problems of the type of soil. Most of the soils farmed in Chowan County are Class II or Class III soils, meaning that a moderate erosion, water or sandy condition is present. This problem will be planned for in preparing the soil and water conservation plan with the landowner later.

The work unit conservationist will then make an appointment with the landowner and together they prepare the soil and water conservation plan. Really, the conservation plan is a plan of operation for the landowner to carry out in order to meet the capabilities of his soil.

Tommy Leary is finishing installing tile on his farm today (Tuesday). This tile is being installed on the Lynn Perry farm which Tommy is cultivating. Next tile to be installed is on W. P. (Spec) Jones' farm at Smith's store in Rocky Hook. Mr. Jones is having 1,300 feet six-inch tile put in this year. From the Spec Jones farm the tile machine will go to Milton J. Evans' farm at Bandon and install about

1,300 feet of six inch tile. Around 25,000 feet of six-inch drain tile will be installed this spring. This is some less than the amount installed last spring.

M. J. Bunch is planning to seed Pensacola Bahia grass on his farm next month for summer grazing. Milton and Marvin Evans of Bandon are also seeding some Bahia grass pastures for summer grazing. Ben Wood of Greenfield is seeding five acres next month to graze his sheep on this summer. Another good summer grazing crop is Starr Millet or Pearl Millet if you prefer Pearl Millet to Starr. Starr Millet placed in narrow rows (18-24 inch) and a good season will yield around 6 to 7 thousand pounds per acre dry matter—that's a lot of feed for cattle in July and August.

R. C. Privott of Rocky Hook is the first farmer to request ACP assistance in establishing a sod waterway in Chowan County. A sod waterway is a gradual grass strip used by surface water to prevent further erosion or soil washing. This sod waterway was planned last year in his soil and water conservation plan. Mr. Privott has conservation plan No. 580 and has carried out part of the plan. This year he plans to establish the sod waterway, relocate the farm road and reconstruct an open ditch.

Frank Williams has recently signed an agreement with the local soil conservation district. Last week the soil surveyor mapped the soil on his farm. Mr. Williams will construct a main drainage ditch on his farm this spring.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Some days ago Mr. J. George Stewart, Architect of the Capitol, told the Senate Public Works Subcommittee on Public Buildings that plans for extending the East Front of the Capitol "do not belong to the public", which would pay the \$10.1 million bill, and that the plans "are not for publication."

He said it wasn't a matter of secrecy—it was just "the way things are done on the Hill."

He sure told the truth. Secrecy is what I often suspect Washington has the most of, except waste paper, maybe. This secrecy thing, this all-to-frequent business of "executive session", is something that merits scrutiny.

Since Mr. Stewart's remark about "the way things are done on the Hill," I've done some looking-back into the record. I find that while there are too many executive sessions, to my way of thinking, amongst Senate committees and subcommittees, the situation has been worse and the incident of such sessions apparently is falling off.

Executive sessions are as old as the Senate itself. From 1789 to 1795 all Senate business, with one exception, was done behind closed doors. The exception was in February, 1794, in debate over the seating of Albert Gallatin when, by vote of 19 to 8, spectators were admitted.

But the situation is improving. Congressional committees last year held fewer closed-door sessions than in any year since 1953, on a percentage basis. Senate committees closed only 33 per cent of their meetings to the public last year, four per cent fewer than in 1956.

Committees and subcommittees I am on are holding fewer executive sessions. Forty-nine per cent of the Agriculture Committee's sessions were closed-door in 1956; there were but 41 per cent last year. Thirty-two per cent of the Post Office and Civil Service Committee sessions last year were closed, four per cent less than in 1956. On Public Works, 45 per cent were executive sessions in 1956, but only 27 per cent last year.

What happens in executive sessions? Well.

When we take up the agenda on the Agriculture Committee we automatically go into executive session. Some days ago the only business involved watershed projects, two in Piedmont North Carolina, Abbott's Creek and Deep Creek, and Senator Ellender, the chairman, said at the outset that all agencies concerned had endorsed them. They had come from county and state levels and been approved here by the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of the Budget without

dissent. So, somebody in our executive session moved that they be authorized by the Agriculture Committee and I seconded the motion and it was done. Our "executive session" didn't conduct any secret business, after all, and lasted about two minutes.

In my many years in public life, I have heard a great many excuses for secret government meetings. There are plenty of excuses given for conducting the public's business in secret, but I know of no real justification.

Nurture your mind with great thoughts.

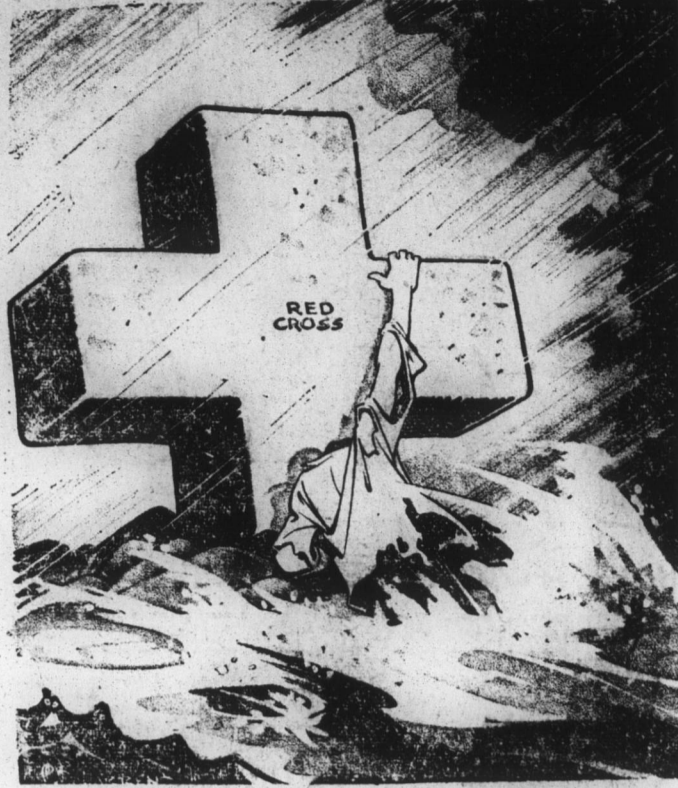
To believe in the heroic makes heroes.

—Benjamin Disraeli.

When men put their trust in God and in knowledge, the government of the majority is, in the end, the government of the wise, and good.

—William Spalding.

Rock of Ages



By L. D. Warren —COURTESY OF CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

TIMBER A VALUABLE CROP

By JAMES H. GRIFFIN, Soil Conservationist

Chowan County farmers have the best opportunity of any group on the east coast of the United States to increase their income. This area is one of the best sites found for growing loblolly pines, cypress, tupelo gums and other species of timber trees. We have the sites, or nature-given characteristics. Therefore, what we do with the natural resources is most important on management.

What are we doing about management? Most nothing except on a very few farms. Ralph Van Matre of Greenfield has requested the supervisors of the Albemarle Soil Conservation District to furnish technical assistance for preparing a woodland conservation plan for his farm. A soil survey was made last month and on March 10 John E. Wiggins, SCS woodland conservationist, along with Mr. Matre and myself will start planning the woodland on the farm. Recommendations will be made on the needed practices to bring his woodland into highest production. Part of the young pines will need thinning, some of the "weed trees" will need poisoning. (Weed trees are trees that cannot be sold, such as hollow, limby and undesirable species). The total woods (700 acres) will be divided into fields for ease in management and treatment will be given for each field. Other farmers can obtain this same service by requesting it.

What do you do when your cotton or other field crops are too thick? Of course, you thin by chopping out the excess plants. What if you don't have a stand? You either plant again or replant where needed. What if your field crop is weedy? You use chemical methods or mechanical methods to destroy the weeds. After your field crop is ready for harvest you harvest it and sell it by the pound, bushel or other types of measure. Right? Now, how do you manage your woods? Unfortunately, most farmers in Chowan County and the rest of eastern North Carolina don't consider the woods a crop. We don't plant trees enough, don't control the weeds, don't thin to a stand, don't harvest to get the most for what we have or sell by a measure and in most cases to the highest bidder. Most of you sell the first man to offer you what you think might be in the woods. There are three or four different types of lumber sticks or rules for measuring board feet of lumber in a log. Which one do you use in selling timber? Most people in Chowan County sell and buy using the Doyle rule which is all right providing you understand the rule. The point I want to get across is that your woods are very valuable, more so than you think, and deserve better treatment than most people have been giving it. Your woods is a crop the same as your field crops such as peanuts, cotton, truck and others.

The most common excuse used by small woodland owners is that I can't get anything myself—the time of harvest is too far away. These same people admit that the timber they have sold grew in when somebody else owned the woods. Also most owners' have children who can benefit by their parents' good management today. Help is available from professional foresters, Soil Conservation Service, the County Agent

AROUND THE FARMS IN CHOWAN

By C. W. OVERMAN, Chowan County Agent

Fruit Growing Interest in Chowan County
Several Chowan County farmers have started commercial fruit orchards this winter. Bennie Bateman of Cross Roads community has set about two acres of apples and peaches. Vandy Nixon of Center Hill community has set two acres of peaches. H. M. Nixon of Rocky Hook community is setting about three acres to apples and peaches.

The climate and soil of much of Chowan County is well suited to fruit production. With reduced acreage of allotted crops, fruit growing fits well as another cash enterprise to maintain farm income. There is an abundant open market in this area for the fruit we produce.

Forestry Demonstration
North Carolina Forest Service and others. Use these people. They are here to assist you and are waiting for an opportunity to help you.

To Be Held
Wolf or weed trees in woodland shade and crowd out young pines and other desirable trees. A farmer would not let weeds crowd out a corn stand and if the stand was too poor, he would plant over. Doesn't your woodland deserve as good attention? Good trees grow adding interest day and night.

Poisoning weed trees and other woodland management practices will be demonstrated at Marvin L. Evans' woods in Rocky Hook next Thursday afternoon at 1:00 o'clock. James Griffin, the Soil Conservationist, and the County Agent will cooperate in conducting the demonstration. We will show how easy and inexpensive it is to make your woodland more profitable.

Co-op Plan Urged To Beat Russians In Science Race

Pruning Can Prevent Spreading Of Disease

Late winter months are a good time to prune shade trees.

R. S. Douglass, forestry specialist for the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service, says that pruning diseased or damaged limbs can prevent the spread of disease, improve the appearance of the tree and increase the usefulness of a tree as an ornamental shade tree.

Douglass says to be sure to make a neat cut as close as possible to the trunk. He says the best way to do this is to cut part way through the limb from the underside about six or eight inches from the trunk. Then remove the limb by cutting from the top a few inches farther out. This will prevent the weight of the limb from tearing a strip down the side of the tree. The stub should be removed by cutting close to the tree.

Wounds over two inches in diameter should be kept covered with asphalt, heavy paint or spar varnish until they heal over. Otherwise, rot fungi may become established in the exposed dry wood and the tree will eventually be hollow.

Douglass concludes: "A nice shade tree requires many years to grow. Any reasonable amount of care is a paying proposition."

Perhaps the reward of the spirit who tries is not the goal but the exercise. —E. V. Cooke.

Rural and small-town schools aren't doing a good enough job teaching science and mathematics to their students. It's one reason why the United States is lagging behind Russia in today's age of Sputniks and missiles.

That's what leading educators, businessmen and government officials agreed recently at a national industry-education conference at Lae Arrowhead, Cal., sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences and Hughes Aircraft Company.

Big-city schools came in for their share of criticism, too. The problem: How to interest and train more talented students in scientific careers.

School-Industry Plan
To remedy the situation the conference delegates recommended joint industry-education cooperation that includes:

1. Using industry scientists and engineers as guest lecturers in science classes.
 2. Hiring science and math teachers for summer jobs that will give them first-hand experience in applying the principles that they teach their classes.
 3. Loans by industry to the schools of scientific equipment too expensive for purchase by the schools.
 4. Vacation work by talented high school students in science-related industry jobs.
 5. Permanent area councils to encourage industry-school cooperation in science teaching.
- The program already is in operation at Hughes Aircraft Com-

pany which is cooperating closely with schools near its main facilities in Culver City, Cal.

"Hughes feels that every company which hires scientists and engineers should do its part in helping the schools train them," says Dr. Lester C. Van Atta, a former professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who now heads the Hughes education program.

Dramatize Science
Company scientists lecture to high school chemistry and physics classes on such subjects as color television, electronic brains and space flight. In addition to getting first-hand information, students have a chance to discuss career plans with the scientists after class.

"It's important for a student to begin preparing for a scientific career early," Dr. Van Atta says. "Some colleges no longer will accept students for science and engineering training unless they have taken extensive math and science courses in high school."

Several states already have industry-education programs in operation. State educational offices have information on them.

People And How They Think Have Changed

The pattern of our population changes. Different thoughts and experiences result from the shift of population. Consider what has happened in the United States during the past 10 years:

Some 16 million people have

died. Some 18½ million marriages have taken place.

Some 41 million babies have been born. Over one-fifth of all present U. S. families have been formed.

Out of the 170-odd million people in the U. S. today, 77% do not remember World War I.

Some 49% do not remember what conditions were like before World War II.

Some 57% have no personal recollection of what a major depression is like.

Some 42% cannot remember Russia as an active ally of the United States.

—American School News.

—Charles C. Noble.

WALT DISNEY PLANS NEW EXHIBITS
Walt Disney, creator of "Disneyland," has a new dream for expanding his amusement park. His new ideas include adventures in science, undersea voyage, scenic excursions and others. Be sure to read "My Newest Dream" by Walt Disney in March 9th issue of the

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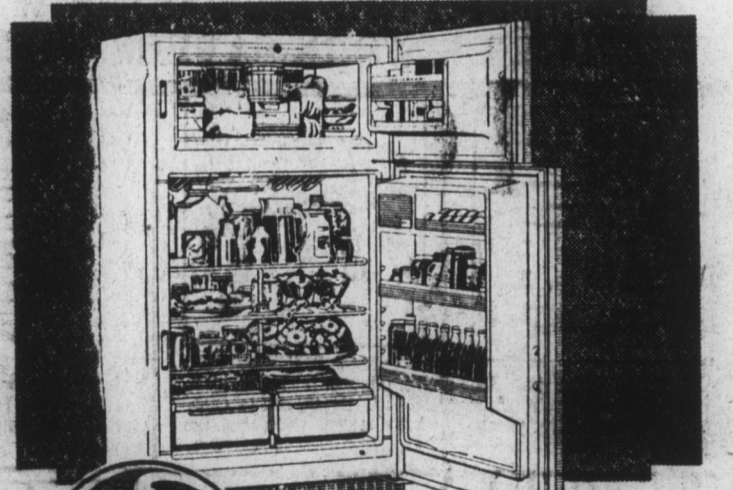
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