

SOIL CONSERVATION NEWS

By JAMES H. GRIFFIN, Soil Conservationist

Farmers are busy now preparing their land for this year's crop. Many of them are rushing to finish their winter conservation jobs. Weather, as you know, has been bad and in the case of tile, supply has been low.

Gilliam Wood has just received his tile this week. The tile trencher will move to his farm this week and start installing it as fast as it is unloaded from the railroad car. R. O. Evans and E. D. Byrum received their tile last week. These orders complete the tile drainage for this spring. Several district cooperators are waiting until this fall to install their tile. Tile this season is costing 16½ cents a foot. Installation cost is 12 cents per foot. Cost of the paper to cover, outlet pipes, and fittings are extra. Price complete is around 30 cents per foot. Under the Agricultural Conservation Program, Federal cost-share is a maximum of 18 cents per foot. With the ACP payment, a farmer can install six-inch for around 12-13 cents per foot or about the same cost as an open ditch.

Installing drainage tile is a more complex job than digging open ditches. It is necessary that a soil survey map be available before recommending tile drainage. All soils will not drain with tile. Sandy conditions cause tile not to operate or tight soil condition prevents the use of tile. Many times an adequate outlet is not available whereas an open ditch can be used where tile drainage will not operate. If you are thinking of drawing a wet spot in your field, contact your soil conservationist and have a system planned before you request ACP assistance. Tile cannot be planned and installed at the same time. Planning should be done the season before installation. Some farmers have not installed their tile yet because tile plans had not been made earlier. Don't be caught with cost share assistance available and no plan for installation.

In January of this year the local Soil Conservation Service office received around 85 requests through the ACP program for technical assistance on tile, and open ditch drainage. All these requests came at one time and as you know, two men could not possibly serve these requests be-

between February and crop planting time. Many of the requests were from farmers who had no up-to-date conservation farm plan on their farm. This caused SCS technicians to have to make a hurried plan of the practice requested and caused much delay. This situation is unfair to the farmer as well as to all concerned.

The Chowan County Supervisors have decided that from now on SCS technicians will use a priority system in servicing ACP referrals. This means that farmers who sign-up for ACP payment first will receive assistance from SCS as soon as possible providing a conservation farm plan has been prepared and the practice planned. Those farmers who do not have a conservation plan will be serviced as fast as possible and a plan prepared as in the past. If a farmer has a planned practice, service can be given immediately, if not many hours are spent determining where the practice he requests is feasible and needed. Prepare for your conservation practices by getting an up-to-date conservation plan on your farm. Requests for this assistance should be made at the local Conservation Service office in the basement of the Post office in Edenton or to one of the district supervisors: L. C. Bunch, J. A. Webb, Jr., or Fahey Byrum.

Now is the time to prepare for seeding Crotalaria. E. M. Ward of Gliden is trying crotalaria seeded at the last plowing of watermelons. Milton Evans of Ban-

don is trying some, too. Milton and Marvin Evans have Bahia grass pastures that look very good. They are top-dressing them now.

Chowan County Supervisors are sponsoring Soil Stewardship observance here May 3-10. A luncheon was held at the Edenton Restaurant April 20, with fifteen ministers of Edenton and Chowan County churches. A film strip "The Land and the Book" was shown on Soil Stewardship and man's responsibility to God for our natural resources. Literature for church observance was distributed to ministers of churches participating in the observance. Some of the churches will have their programs later than the official designated week due to church schedule.

Conservation needs for Chowan County will be prepared by Agricultural Agencies very soon. This is part of the nation-wide program of the U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service has the responsibility for this nation-wide

survey with the cooperation of the other agencies such as Extension, ASC, Forest Service, FHA and others. Sample Soil Surveys have been made for the county. The first training meeting for agencies was held in Williamston on April 21. More on this later.

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of our loved one, Mr. Robert Pate, who died a year ago, April 25, 1952: a Dear one from us you departed one year ago this day. We have missed you more and more each day. Your chair is vacant and your voice is stilled. But we hope to meet you in Heaven where parting will be no more.

MRS. ROBERT PATE
and son
RICHARD PATE.

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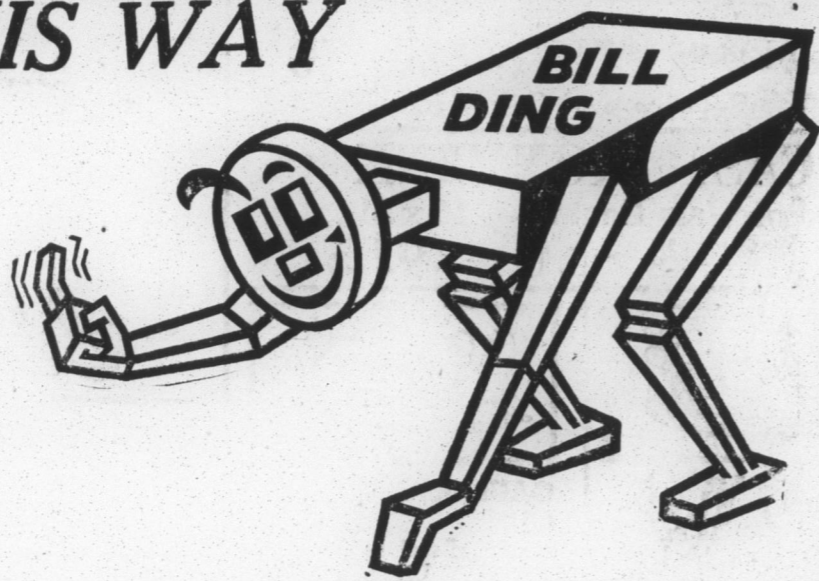
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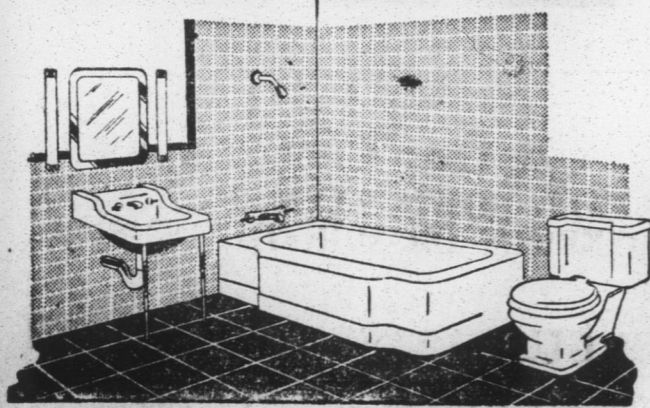


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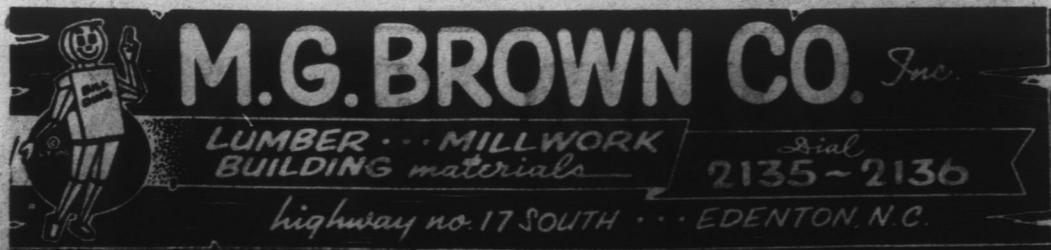


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