

## SOIL CONSERVATION NEWS

By JAMES H. GRIFFIN, Soil Conservationist

Robert Francis has just completed his soil and water-conservation plan for his farm in the Pollock Swamp watershed. His entire farm is planned for woodland. Loblolly pines will be set on the 11 acres of open land on the farm this spring. He says, "I might as well put the open land in pines because by the time the raccoons, squirrels and birds get their share of the crop there is not much left for me." Furthermore, he is more interested in growing pines than field crops anyway.

At the present time Mr. Francis is busy poisoning the "weed trees" on 40 acres of cut-over woods. He is using a homemade tree injector to apply a mixture of 1/2 pint 2-4-5T to one gallon of kerosene. Loblolly pine seedlings will be set in February in "spots" where no natural re-seeding has occurred in the last few years. In 1961 he plans to cover the other 50 acres of cut-over woods, poisoning the "weed trees" and setting pine seedlings as needed.

One 20-acre field has about a 20% stand of saleable trees, mostly gums, maples, oaks and a few pines. This is being harvested now. This coming summer (July) a disc or K-G blade will be used to remove the remaining trees and brush in preparation for setting pine seedlings in February, 1962. Drag-line ditches will be dug around the field for firebreaks and drainage. Road firebreaks have been planned for most of the farm. The upcoming Pollock Swamp watershed project will provide canals on two sides of the farm for fire protection and drainage. Mr. Francis says, "Protection of the trees from fire is just as important as getting them." His conservation plan includes protection, too. Technical assistance has been furnished by the Soil Conservation Service and N. C. Forest Service through the local soil conservation district.

Soils on Mr. Francis' farm are Bladen silt loam with smaller amounts of Bertie fine sandy loam and Athello fine sandy loam. These soils with proper woodland management will grow loblolly pines at the rate of two inches of growth every five years or a 10-inch tree will be a 12-inch tree in five years. Site index is 95-105 or an excellent site.

Gilliam Wood is re-planning the Hayes farm. It was first planned in 1948 but is out-of-date for today's operation. Mr. Wood is especially interested in increasing the wildlife population on the farm. This is being considered in advising on the new plan. Several wildlife food borders have been planned and some were established this year. Some old food borders were enlarged. A trial planting of Dillen's tick clover and wild soybeans has been established. Prospects look good on this planting. Farm Foreman Earl White reports that quail are using it.

Sericea lespedeza is being added to the multiflora rose fences.

for wildlife cover and erosion control. Grass waterways have been planned using fescue for nesting cover and erosion control.

Crop rotations have been planned to meet the land capability of the soils found on the farm according to the soil survey map. Ed Karnowski, SCS soil scientist, made the soil survey after Mr. Wood requested technical assistance from the Chowan County district supervisors in re-planning his farm last year.

A four acre impounded farm pond has been planned. SCS engineers completed the field work and prepared a blueprint for constructing the pond. It is located in a bottom unsuited for cultivation near the house and barns. The dam will serve as a farm road. Water from the pond can be used for fire protection, irrigation and recreation.

A large acreage of the woodland has been cut over, leaving less than a 10% stand of pines. This woodland has been planned for re-forestation. First, the saleable wood will be sold. Next, the land will be prepared for tree planting, using a heavy tractor with the K-G blade and disc as needed.

Complete drainage systems of open ditch and tile has been planned in the new conservation plan according to the conservation needs. Field surveys were run to determine if adequate outlets were available. With all the information available, Mr. Wood made the decisions on which conservation practices he would carry out, when and how much. Technical assistance was furnished him by the Soil Conservation Service working with the Chowan County unit of the Albemarle Soil Conservation District. You, too, can receive this service by requesting it from your district supervisors of the local soil conservation district. Chowan County District supervisors are L. C. Bunch, H. F. Byrum and J. A. Webb, Jr.

E. Z. Evans of the Rocky Hock community has a new conservation farm plan. His plan includes crop rotations to fit the land capability, winter cover crops, a complete drainage system of open ditches and tile, woodland weeding (poisoning of weed trees) and three acres of Coastal Bermuda grass on deep sandy land (class III). He plans to establish the pasture this spring.

R. E. Forehand had about 12 acres of young pines (4x16 in.) marked for thinning on December 7 as part of his conservation farm plan prepared in 1958. These trees will be sold along with the scattered saleable trees on 100 acres on the farm. The 100 acres will be cleared after the harvest for re-setting pine seedlings. Most of the area is covered by brush and unsaleable hardwoods. In 1958 he planned to re-establish it in 1961. Trees in the 12-acre tract were marked for cutting by David Bobbs of N. C. Forest Service and work unit conservationist James H. Griffin.



**LION-SITTER**—"Just minding her for a friend," was Anthony Ortolano's explanation for a 125-pound lioness found in his car by Brooklyn, N.Y., police. Anthony and lioness, Cleo, above, answer summons to police court.

Histories are more full of examples of the fidelity of dogs than of friends.

—Alexander Pope.

### Minutes Of Board Of Public Works

Edenton, N. C.  
December 6, 1960.  
The Board of Public Works met this day in regular session.

at 8:00 P. M., at the Edenton Municipal Building with the following members present: Thomas C. Byrum, chairman, Jesse L. Harrell, Ralph E. Parrish, J. P. Ricks, Jr., and J. H. Conger, Jr.

The minutes of the regular meeting of November 2, 1960, were read and approved.

Electric Commissioner Parrish was requested by Chairman Byrum to contact the first customer on the delinquent account list and get commitment from the customer as to the payment of this account.

Superintendent Hines reported that the sewer pumping station located on U. S. 17 North is in operation and that Seabrook Blanching Corporation will very shortly make connection to the city sewer system, the basic arrangements for this connection having already been made with them according to letter directed to them on November 28, 1960.

On motion by Jesse L. Harrell, seconded by J. H. Conger, Jr., and carried, E & W Dept. bills in the amount of \$15,512.00 be paid. This entire amount was for general operating expenses as no payments were made this month for sewer extension.

On motion by Jesse L. Harrell, seconded by Ralph E. Parrish and carried, the regular employees of the department be given cash Christmas presents. The amount not to exceed 20% of the regular weekly base pay, shall be the same percentage used by the Town Council to determine the Christmas presents for their employees.

On motion by J. H. Conger, Jr., seconded by Jesse L. Harrell, and carried, Electric Commissioner Parrish and Superintendent Hines were requested to work out a new monthly minimum electric charge and present schedule at the next meeting; this is to be done with the idea in mind of increasing the minimum charge to \$1.50, but make no change in the other rates.

The proposal of the Virginia

Electric and Power Company dated November 9, 1960, directed to Chairman Byrum and signed by Mr. C. L. Sale, District Manager for VEPCO, was discussed and considered in detail and the Board looked favorably upon this proposition; however, it was decided to await a reply to our letter requesting more detail before definite action would be taken.

The bills ordered paid for the month of November were as follows:

Eastern Electric Supply, Inc., \$173.08; Norfolk Southern Railway Co., \$109.00; Graybar Electric Co., \$120.76; Electrical Equipment Co., \$1,412.62; East Carolina Supply Co., \$223.85; Thurston Motor Lines, \$9.56; The R. S. Jordan Co., \$30.64; Charleston Rubber Co., \$58.46; Coastal Electronics, Inc., \$10.60; Bunch's Garage, \$77.31; Williamson Office Supply, \$36.00; Railway Express Agency, \$7.72; Edenton Ice Co., Inc., \$10.10; Byrum Hardware Co., \$15.71; R. T. Mills, \$8.12; M. G. Brown Co., \$3.00; National Committee for Utilities Radio, \$12.00; Ashley Welding & Machine Co., 75c; Hughes-Parker Hardware Co.,

80c; The Chowan Herald, \$265.80; Edenton Furniture Co., \$3.25; P & Q Super Market, \$1.50; Jackson's Radio & TV Service, \$1.00; Hobbs Implement Co., 35c; Coastland Oil Co., \$75.57; West-ern Gas Service, \$2.06; Virginia Electric & Power Co., \$10,774.40; American Creosoting Corporation, \$864.00; Gulf Oil Corporation, \$101.98; Gallant, Inc., \$51.00; Carolina-Norfolk Truck Line, \$5.74; Portable Light Co., Inc., \$34.92; Tidewater Supply Co., \$15.45; Morton Salt Co., \$760.74; Motorola C. & E., Inc., \$46.75; Edwards Body & Fender Works, \$12.75; Norfolk & Carolina Tel. Co., \$53.65; Gulf Oil Corporation, \$2.48; Tom Goodman, \$55.00; Postmaster, \$53.28; Ernest

Sanchez, \$5.00; total, \$15,512.00. Salaries paid in November, \$3,024.11. Received for current, water and merchandise, \$16,734.50. Disbursements in excess of receipts, \$1,801.61. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

RALPH E. PARRISH, Secretary.

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