

PUBLIC PULSE

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T. W. FERGUSON WRITES

The day of expensive experiment in water control should be over and we should put into practice the things proved over the years to be both practical and economical. In spite of all this, however, it is surprising how some few continue to labor under the ob-

vious delusion that in order to protect one section you must necessarily destroy another. Under no circumstances can water control be an over night proposition after all our past errors. Work with nature and she will help you; buck her and she will ruin you. Water control must start where the first trickle falls. Dams for water control are becoming largely out moded. Small dams fill up in a few years. Large ones will do likewise. A fourteen foot dam on Reddies River built for a water supply filled up at the rate of two feet per year. Recent floods proved T. V. A. dams ineffective and you ask why? Because they are rapidly filling up. Fill a bucket with mud and you have no space for water. Two thousand dams in the U. S. have already filled up. Why continue to throw untold millions into doubtful and absurd pro-

jects? The day of Santa Claus is over in that respect. Lets control our excess waters by simple, sensible and economical means and in ways that will not return to us as a boomerang. The HEDGEROW PLAN, backed by an intensive land and forest treatment is the best and most feasible method of flood control in North Carolina watersheds especially in the mountain and piedmont sections. Thousands of farmers have used it for years on a small scale; but it is not a one man's proposition. The government should assist and there is nothing that can pay better dividends and pay them quicker. First clear the banks of trees and the channels of obstructions so that excess waters may run off rapidly. Place broad hedgerows of quick growing sycamore and willow at strategic places. The hedgerows should be uniform, reaching from the banks to the hills. They soon catch up mud, trash and drifts forming a natural dam. There should be ten thousand of these in a watershed of 175,000 acres. This is no untried experiment. Many examples of it can be seen on a small scale on nearby streams now. The cost would be negligible in comparison with earthen dams. The secret of its strength and effectiveness is the retardation is spread out over a large area instead of being confined to a few thousand acres. Try to impound water in small areas by unnatural means and you have a headache forever. As far as real security is concerned the Hedgerow has no equal and its as permanent as the rock of Gibraltar. There will, of course, be some overflow as there will be in any flood control system that can be wisely devised. With further reference to the Yarkin-Reddies River proposed project of large detention dams we have it authentically from the chief engineers who surveyed the projects there will still be 36 feet of water at North Wilkesboro should the dams be built in the event of a flood like 1940. If one is going to be drowned he does not care whether it is in ten feet of water or fifty the result is the same. Real estate companies have advertised that the proposed flood control system will give absolute security to any one building in the usual highwater reach. Chambers of Commerce and other civic organizations seem to be advertising the same sort of false security. A former resident of N. C. now living in Dayton, Ohio, advised that ten thousand people of Dayton had to evacuate in the recent flood there and they are

just below the detention dams. An overflow! Of course, you are going to have an overflow with any method that can be devised. We had just as well accept that fact and act accordingly. The idea should be to retard the excess waters as much as possible by natural means until they get into the main channels, then rush them off as quickly as possible so as to prevent an overflow. If the dam building crowd wants to build a dam so badly why don't they build the High Point dam that has been hanging fire for ten years or more? They express such a keen interest in the people below. Let's act wisely, adopt the HEDGEROW PLAN, that protects all alike, and destroys nothing. No government owned lands. T. W. FERGUSON.

Farm Bureau To Organize Wilkes Apple Producers

The Farm Bureau, which has a strong organization of 200 farmers in the eastern part of the county, is planning to organize apple producers in Wilkes, George Farthing, field representative, said while on a visit in

the county last week. The Farm Bureau now established in Wilkes is composed in the main of tobacco growers and is a very strong and active unit. C. E. Tharpe, of Ronda, is president; Irvin Key, of Ronda, is vice president; and Lawrence Miller, of Wilkesboro, is secretary. The directors are T. J. McNeil, James Pardue, and John Hurt, Jr.

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Stewart Bishop Obituary Given

Stewart Leonard Bishop was born Sept. 27, 1921; died in action July 15, 1944, in France; age 23 years, 10 months and 12 days. He entered service Sept. 14, 1942, with Company F, 134th division. He was the son of Mattie Bishop, who preceded him in death. He is survived by one brother, Rollen Bishop, Wilkesboro, Route 1, and one sister, Mrs. Charlie Dancy, Wilkesboro, Route 1.

Stewart made a profession of faith in Christ and united with Arbor Grove church on August prior to his enlistment. Stewart was one of the boys to be appreciated: First, for his moral standing in the community; second, for his social standing. Third, for his strength as a soldier in defense of his country, for which he gave his life; fourth for his spiritual standing with Christ and his church, which makes one a good soldier of the cross. He was well loved by all in his community in which he lived and is greatly missed by his many, many friends.—Reported.

With further reference to the Yarkin-Reddies River proposed project of large detention dams we have it authentically from the chief engineers who surveyed the projects there will still be 36 feet of water at North Wilkesboro should the dams be built in the event of a flood like 1940. If one is going to be drowned he does not care whether it is in ten feet of water or fifty the result is the same. Real estate companies have advertised that the proposed flood control system will give absolute security to any one building in the usual highwater reach. Chambers of Commerce and other civic organizations seem to be advertising the same sort of false security. A former resident of N. C. now living in Dayton, Ohio, advised that ten thousand people of Dayton had to evacuate in the recent flood there and they are

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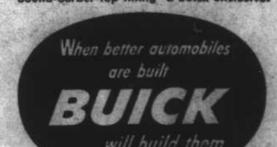


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