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INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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## Wonderful Season For Wilkes Farmers

Although there have been short droughts, Wilkes farmers have been highly pleased with weather conditions this summer which have enabled them to have bumper crops well on the way to harvest.

Such favorable conditions have not existed everywhere. Less than 100 miles from here in the Piedmont belt farmers have had it tough this summer with blazing heat and little rain.

We mention all this to point out that when all factors are considered Wilkes county is one of the best places in which to live and produce.

Great strides have been made in agricultural progress in Wilkes county but the surface of opportunities has hardly been scratched. The dairying industry has gained a firm footing, but the county's soil could accommodate twice as many cows with grass and feed without placing any undue strain on resources.

Wilkes produces more than one-fourth of the apples grown commercially in North Carolina, but even in this phase of agriculture much greater possibilities exist. There remains much land in the Brushies thermal belt which could be used for orchards and the orchards on the east slope of the Blue Ridge have proved to be very profitable.

There is only one great obstacle to Wilkes becoming the outstanding poultry county in the nation, and that is the low production of grains. With soil improvement and better yields this obstacle can be overcome and a great amount of the grain used in poultry feeds in Wilkes county can be grown in the county.

There are many smaller but highly important possibilities for Wilkes agriculture. It now appears that the county can become one of the leading producers of Turkish type tobacco, which for decades has been imported. Several farmers in Wilkes last year grew this type successfully and with excellent cash returns. The crop's future is looked forward to with such anticipation that the state furnishes specialists to aid and advise these farmers in Wilkes and adjoining counties.

Efforts are being made to stimulate production of sourwood honey. Sourwood trees grow only on the eastern slopes of the Appalachian mountain range and particularly in the Blue Ridge and foothills. There is no other type of honey which can compare favorably with that made from sourwood trees and beekeepers in this part of the country have a monopoly on a great product if they want to take advantage of the opportunity. Properly produced and advertised, the production of sourwood honey could become a great industry with lucrative financial returns to producers.

As yet too few Wilkes farmers are in production of high grade beef cattle, but those who have been in this type of business have found it very profitable during the past ten years. With the long grazing season and favorable climatic conditions, production of beef cattle should be a major phase in Wilkes agriculture.

We know of no county in the south with greater possibilities for diversified agriculture than Wilkes.

Many farms in the state are too small for efficient operation. Average acreage of cropland per farm is only 26.4.

## 308 Highway Deaths In State In 6 Months

Death was the travel companion for 308 persons on North Carolina streets and highways during the first six months of 1948, according to a traffic fatality report released by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The Department reported that even this large toll represented an 18 per cent decrease in fatalities over the same period last year, when 377 persons died violently in traffic.

During the first six months, 7,154 accidents were reported, with 279 of them fatal, causing 308 deaths; 2118 were non-fatal accidents resulting in severe injuries for 1,265 persons and slight injuries for 2,047 others.

While fatalities dropped 18 per cent, total accidents took a 37 per cent climb, and personal injuries increased 14 per cent over the same period last year, when 5,229 accidents were reported, killing 377 and injuring 2,909 others.

The Department reported that 99 persons lost their lives and 1,898 were injured in motor vehicle collisions; 87 died and 857 were injured when their cars overturned or ran off roadways; 79 pedestrians met their deaths and 344 were injured when struck by cars; 16 persons met death and 59 were injured while riding their bicycles. Motor vehicle-train collisions claimed seven lives and injured 27, and other non-collision accidents resulted in death for 20 people and injuries for 127.

A disturbing factor in the report, the Department said, was the 23 per cent increase in bicycle deaths, while one of the bright spots was the 71 per cent drop in motor vehicle-train deaths.

Efforts to prevent fire damage to forest lands probably can never be perfect but the record shows they do greatly reduce the number of fires and hold down destruction.

In 1946, North Carolina's rank among the 48 states was second in farm population, third in cash farm income from crops, 29th in cash farm income from livestock, and 13th in total cash farm income.

A miniature electronic device collects and transmits to ground observers 24 different kinds of information about flights of the Navy Aerobee high-altitude rockets which travel at nearly 3,000 miles per hour.

In reviewing cases of Navy and Marine Corps Personnel discharged during the war with less than honorable discharges, a Navy board has found that about one-third of those who requested a review are entitled to a better grade of discharge than they actually received. The Navy urges all with this type of discharge to request such reviews.

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### THE LOVE AND GRACE OF JESUS

Many people long for riches,  
Many people long for fame,  
And they use their time and talent  
That they may possess the same;  
But there's something that is better  
I'm so happy that I own,  
Which excels in fame and riches  
That of palace, crown and throne.

It's the wondrous love of Jesus,  
And His grace so rich and sweet,  
That He puts within my spirit  
As I worship at His feet,  
With the hope of reaching heaven  
When my race on earth is run,  
Where I'll dwell with saints and angels  
And outshine the noontide sun.

With the love and grace of Jesus  
In my heart and mind and soul,  
And the blessed Holy Spirit  
Leading up to heaven's goal,  
With a peace that is abiding,  
And no guilt to bring me shame,  
Why should I not feel more happy  
Than to own both wealth and fame?

O this precious love of Jesus  
Makes me love my fellowman,  
And desire to bless and help him  
In whatever way I can,  
That he may be good and noble,  
Live for God and do this best,  
And reach heaven, filled with glory,  
Home of life and peace and rest!

## Urgent Needs Of Schools Listed

Raleigh — Findings of the State Education Commission's study advisory committees indicate that North Carolina has made much progress in education but that there is still room for improvement in the public schools of North Carolina, according to Executive Secretary W. H. Plemmons in an article in the June issue of "Popular Government," a monthly publication of the Institute of Government at Chapel Hill.

The magazine cover features a picture of a school building bearing a large question mark.

In the article, Plemmons points out that the Commission has reached no conclusions, but hopes to arrive at its recommendations at a meeting August 26-28. He describes the work of the 13-member commission through its 15 study and advisory committees composed of some 300 persons throughout the state, and says that "some general and some specific information" has been secured from every county in the state during the two-year study.

Some important findings of the committees to date, he said, include these:

1. The teaching load of some of the Tar Heel teachers is much too heavy.
2. More than 2,000 of our white teachers do not meet the minimum requirements for the standard class-A certificate, and the teacher shortage is growing worse.
3. Far too few young people are entering the teaching profession to meet even our present needs.
4. There are thousands of handicapped children who are not receiving the special types of education they need.
5. The principal's time is consumed by too many duties that are not directly related to improving the educational program.
6. Too many children who ride buses must leave home from one and one-half to two hours before school opens and wait that long

before returning home, after school.

7. The larger the school, the larger the proportion of the pupils who graduate.

8. A large proportion of school plants are sub-standard and inadequate.

9. Too many schools are too small to provide an adequate educational program at a reasonable cost.

10. Vocational training is inadequate.

"Someone has observed that a more adequate educational program will cost more money," Plemmons says, "to which another replied that it would at the same time save money." A committee has already proposed a six to ten-year school building program for construction and repair work.

The State Education Commission is headed by R. Grady Rankin of Gastonia, and Mrs. R. S. Ferguson, of Taylorsville, is secretary. The work of the Commission is financed through \$50,000 appropriated by the 1947 General Assembly and a grant from the Knapp Foundation of New York.

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The Haywood County Farm and Home Field Day attracted a large group of farmers and farm women this year.

Sourwood honey will not be as plentiful this year as last, reports W. A. Stephen, Extension beekeeper at State College.

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place to work... where a man can take pride in the job he's doing.

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