

### HUGE DESTRUCTION BY FIRE SHOWS NEED FOR CLEAN-UP

Property and resources now are being destroyed by fire in the United States at the fastest rate in history, according to estimates of the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

During the past year \$592,635,000 went up in smoke, most of it in housing, buildings, food, raw materials, and manufactured goods that are in short supply.

This loss figure does not begin to include all the other indirect losses caused by the hundreds of thousands of preventable fires that broke out during the year. These other losses include forests and timber, watershed, production losses, business failures, medical expenses, wages, tax values wiped out, and fire-fighting costs, which are the result of fire.

Much of the fire destruction is the result of the determination of heating systems and machinery, and the overloading of electrical circuits. In recent years, shortages of repair parts and manpower have caused this deterioration; hence it is of extreme importance that every householder and every property owner keep close check on his heating equipment, and inspect fuses regularly to be sure that fuses are of proper size.

An increasing number of fires are due to accumulation of rubbish and debris. This may be one result of manpower shortages, due to lack of janitorial help, but owners and tenants should keep premises clear of waste materials, and not neglect regular inspections.

A major factor in most large fires is delay in notifying the fire department. Every citizen should learn the fastest way of calling the fire department from his home, office, school or factory. Where feasible, automatic detection and alarm systems

should be installed, particularly in large value establishments.

Rural residents should organize some method of summoning fire equipment quickly, such as a "fire block" system, as has been done in many counties.

### Sanitarian Tells Of Privy Upkeep

(By E. R. Sprull, Wilkes Sanitarian)

Fly time is here, along with the clean-up time. Therefore, to those who have in use a pit privy, here are a few suggestions:

Several years ago, the W.P.A. program built a large number of privies throughout the county. These privies by now are in need of repairs and moving. It is not a hard job to maintain a privy in a sanitary manner. The health department advises that if the present pit is filled within eighteen inches of the top, a new pit should be dug 3 feet 6 inches square and at least 5 feet deep, and the building be moved over this new pit, using a part of the dirt to cover the old pit. Care should be taken not to crack the slab in moving; see that the lid is in good repair and that the hinges are in good shape.

An added precaution to pit privies is the use of lime in and around the building. A sprinkle of burnt motor oil in the pit from time to time is good practice. The pit will not fill up as fast if paper and other rubbish is not put into the pit. A small can with a lid in the privy can be used to place papers in; this can be emptied and the paper burned.

Plans for the construction of new sanitary privies may be obtained at the local health department.

### Closing Date For Combining And Dividing Farms

According to Maude S. Miller, secretary of the Wilkes County A. C. A., May 1 has been set as the deadline for tobacco farmers to divide or combine their farms. Mrs. Miller urges all farmers who are interested in taking this action to come by the county office and attend to this at once.

County office hours are 8:00 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. each Monday through Friday.

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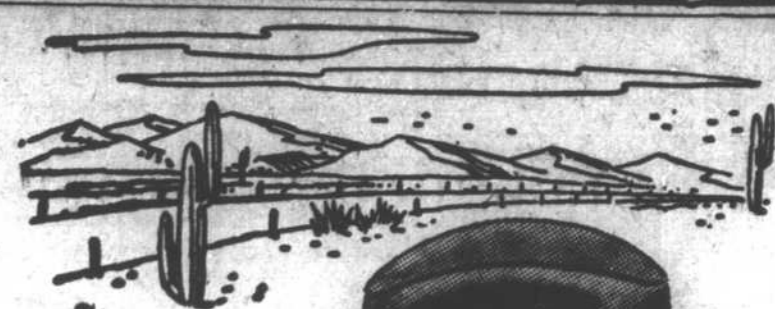


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### Junior Class Play At Traphill 30th

The Junior Class of Traphill announce their play "Antics of Andrew," a three-act comedy, to be given in the Traphill school auditorium Saturday night, April 30. Curtains will rise at 7:30 p. m.

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