

Crackup Kills Yadkin Pilot

Elkin, June 23.—Charles H. Vestal, 39, of Yadkinville, an employee of Piedmont Aviation, Incorporated, was killed instantly Friday afternoon in a plane crash on the main runway of Smith Reynolds Airport, Winston-Salem.

The accident occurred at approximately 3 p. m., only a few minutes after Mr. Vestal had taken off alone on a test hop in a Stearman bi-plane of the type used by the army and navy in primary training.

Mr. Vestal received his flight training at the Winston-Salem airport and when granted a pilot's license by the Civil Aeronautics Board of Washington in 1941, he was the first Yadkin county man to hold such a license.

He was injured once before in a plane crash near Fort Thomas, Ky., in 1945. At that time, he was thrown clear of the plane he was piloting, along with three passengers.

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Agent Stresses Driveway Safety

"Trees, bushes, and tall crops at driveway entrances are a serious traffic hazard on farms," says County Agent Paul Choplin of the State College Extension Service. "Too often these objects make it impossible for drivers traveling on the highway to see farm vehicles about to enter the road."

To reduce chances for accidents, Mr. Choplin suggests that farmers use the following method, recommended by the National Safety Council, in removing obstructions:

First park your car in the driveway with the bumper 10 feet from the nearest edge of the pavement or traveled portion of the road. Pace off a distance of 700 feet (290 paces) along the highway to the left and place a marker at the edge of the pavement, on the same side as the driveway entrance.

Using the same procedure, set another marker 700 feet down the road in the opposite direction and on the opposite side of the highway. If a heavy, slow-starting truck will be using the driveway, the markers should be set 830 feet away since it will take longer for the truck to get out on the highway and get up road speed.

After the markers have been set, go back to your car and sit in driver's seat. If you can see the markers, the sight distances are proper as long as traffic going by the farm does not exceed 60 miles per hour. If the markers cannot be seen, weeds and other obstructions must be cleared in order to make the driveway safe.

When entering the highway, make a full stop, look both ways, and turn into the proper lane. When leaving the highway, signal your intention well in advance, give plenty of distance, slow down gradually, and stay in the proper lane.

Farm-Mortgage Debt Increases

The national farm-mortgage debt on January 1 was more than five billion dollars, or nearly a quarter of a billion dollars higher than a year earlier, according to C. Brice Ratchford, in charge of farm management for the State College Extension Service.

Quoting information just released by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Ratchford said the increase in the farm-mortgage debt during 1948 was more than double the increase shown during 1947.

Although a rise was shown for the country as a whole, five states—Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Illinois—continued to show a decline. The 1948 increase in North Carolina was 1.3 per cent, and the increase for this State since January 1, 1946, has been 25.3 per cent.

Ratchford said farmers apparently have found uses for their income other than debt retirement. They have continued to replace worn-out equipment and make necessary repairs and improvements at costs which are still relatively high, he added.

Demonstration On Floor Finishing Held On Thursday

Thursday the Home Demonstration Clubs of Wilkes county had a rare privilege in seeing a floor sanding and refinishing demonstration, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Andrews, on the Lenoir highway near Beamer. Miss Ruth Thompson, assistant Home Demonstration Agent for Wilkes, and Paul C. Choplin, County Farm Agent, cooperated with Lewis T. Lanier, of Charlotte, in the demonstration, using Home Extension approved methods.

Mr. Lanier stated that there are several steps in refinishing an old floor: 1. Old finish sanded off. 2. Sanded smooth. 3. Penetrating seal applied and allowed to dry. 4. Steel wool between coats. 5. proper application of wax and seal is important. For new floors, sand smooth, then proceed the same as for old floor finish.

Twenty-five members were present. Clubs represented were: Cricket, Ferguson, Boomer, Roaring River, Mountain View, Lewis Fork, Clingman.

At noon a delicious picnic lunch and lemonade, was served on a long table in the front yard, under a huge oak tree, about 200 years old.

In the afternoon, the floor penetrating seal was applied, which will take 24 hours to dry properly. The owners will apply the two remaining coats, and wax.

Picnicing Showing Big Increase Now

Now that the summer season has started, picnicing has become one of the most popular pastimes or forms of diversion in this section of the State. Local people as well as those from elsewhere are enjoying picnic outings along the Parkway and elsewhere.

Record crowds were reported at Bluff Park over the week-end as well as at the Cascades.

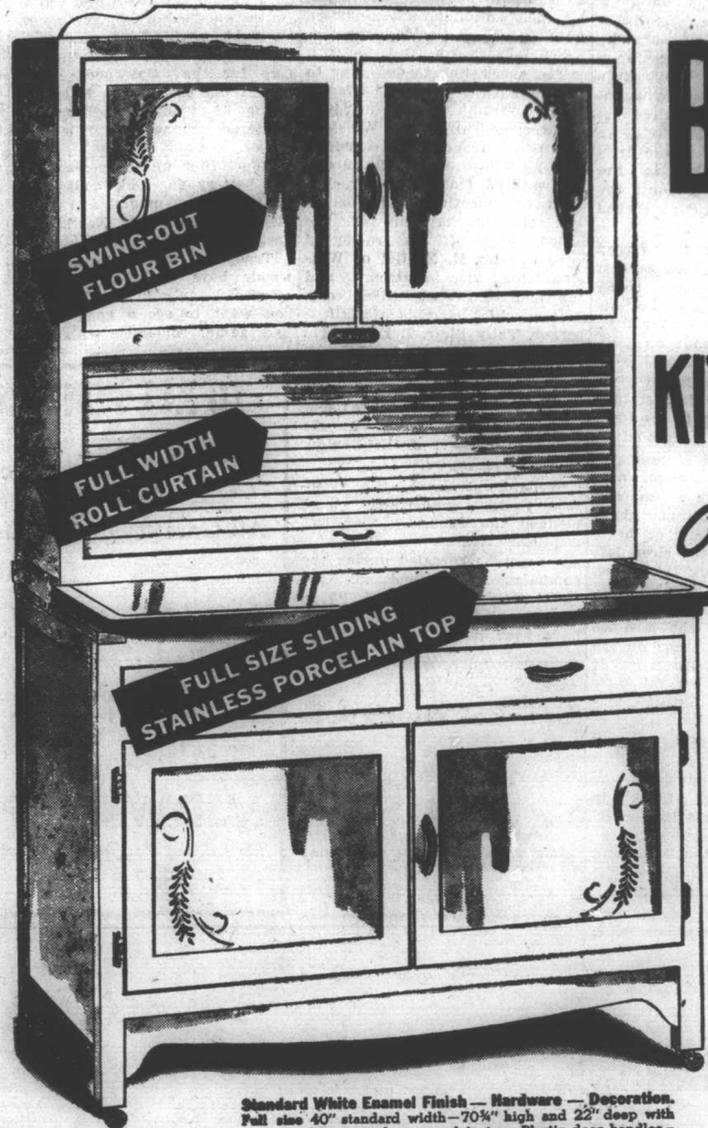
It was pointed out by officials that motorists should always dispose of paper napkins and other refuse instead of leaving it to mar the scenery.

Attention is also called to the fact that special care should be taken to prevent fires by smokers while enjoying the outdoor life.

"Let's all practice good outdoor citizenship," a fire warden said. "We should leave a picnic spot just as beautiful as we found it for someone else to come along and enjoy," he concluded.

Farmers put 50,667,694 bushels of 1948-crop corn under CCC price support in April, the U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced.

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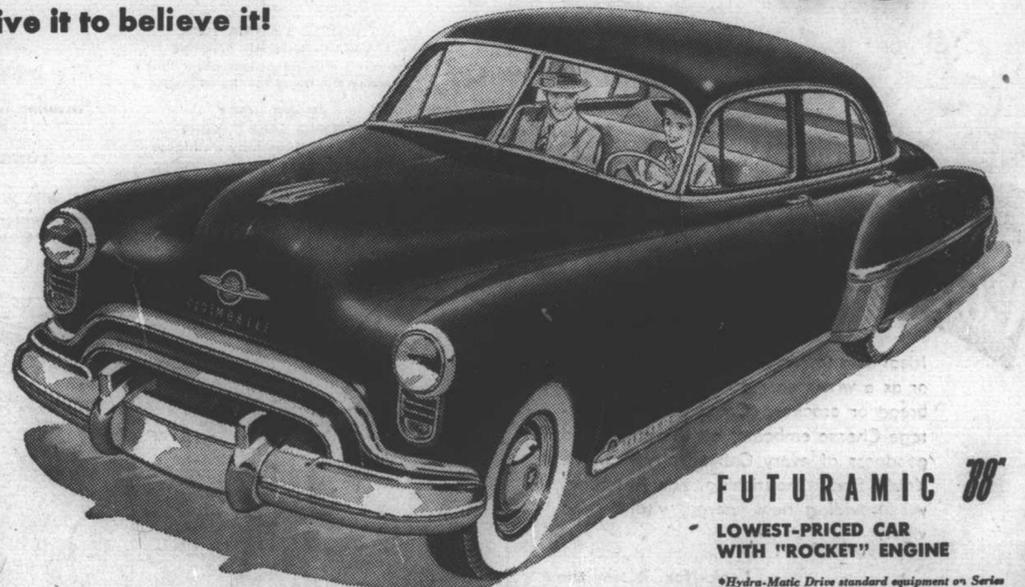
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