

Soil Conservation Value Is Stressed By Miss Walker

(Editor's Note: Miss Helen Walker, who is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. F. G. Walker, of Sparta, and member of the eleventh grade class at Sparta high school, delivered a speech on soil conservation before the North Carolina Bankers Association at Pinehurst last week.

Miss Walker was given a trip to Pinehurst, with expenses paid in recognition of speaking progress when she won the district contest at Elkin recently. She was accompanied there by her father, the Rev. Mr. Walker.

Miss Walker's prize-winning speech on soil conservation follows:

The greater part of the earth's surface is covered with a layer of loose particles, varying in depth from a few inches to several feet. This layer is called soil, but to the agriculturist, soil is only those portions that are suitable for the production of plants.

Conservation has been defined as the "greatest good, to the greatest numbers, and that for the longest time." Conservation is a complex and inter-related problem. It means different things to different people. For instance:

(1) To the forester—it means forest conservation.

(2) To the fisherman—it means conserving trout streams.

(3) To the exonomist—it means effective land utilization.

(4) To the farmer—control of soil erosion.

There are these and many professional people who are in conservation of many types. Today, we're most interested in the farmer who desires conservation for the protection of his soil.

President Theodore Roosevelt said, "When soil is gone, man must go and the process doesn't take long!"

Soil without a cover loses as much as sixty tons a year. In forests and grass lands there is little if any soil lost. Ordinary crops deplete the soil, but by

a process of crop rotation, plowing under green manure crops and fertilization the soil can be restored. Water flowing over the surface of land washes away the thin sheet of fertile topsoil and wind also carries away the soil. Gullies appear and serious erosion begins.

Erosion not only affects the individual farm, but goes outside its boundaries and spreads from farm to farm.

To prevent erosion and endeavor intelligently to follow out definite plans to preserve and conserve the soil it is necessary to:

(1) Plant cultivated crops on fertile and level land so as to avoid soil depletion and washing away.

(2) To drain swamps, marshes and wet lands where practical.

(3) To limit grazing on pasture lands.

(4) To place check dams in gullies to halt runaway rain-water.

(5) To use slops for permanent pastures and forests to hold soil.

(6) To practice crop rotation so as to maintain fertility.

(7) To use strip-crop rotation and contour cultivation which holds water and breaks up dust storms.

Now, let us study some of these problems. Some people seem to think that swamps and marshes are useless, but these people have been misinformed. By proper drainage the value of this land can be doubled. For instance, there was a piece of land in Sparta, Class 5A land. It was a low place and unfit for anything, valued at \$100.00 per acre. The owner is now using tile drainage to drain this land and by this simple method, which only cost him \$400.00 for the thirteen acres of land, he has raised the value of his land to \$200.00 per acre and it is now Class I land.

One day last week I observed a pasture that had once been nothing more than a swamp. The farmer now has the tile

drainage system at work and has one of the best pastures in Alleghany county.

Gullies are caused by wind and water. They may start as small as your finger and grow into an ugly ditch if left unchecked. They are immediate danger spots. Gullies hamper cultivation, steal moisture from the soil, endanger livestock and cut down market value of property. We must heal them! Grass is an excellent gully-healer because the plants will fill the walls and floor with a vast tangle of roots that will grip the soil and the thick mats of stems and leaves will hold the water.

If the gully is small it may be healed by seeding it to adapted grasses or legumes. Then a generous application of superphosphate and lime will help these plants get started.

It is often hard to gain control of large gullies. Here are a few helps for these gullies:

(1) Plow contour furrows on the slops above the gully.

(2) Place a series of dams made of concrete, brush, masonry, fence, rocks or slabs in the gully and its tributaries.

(3) Plant belts of sod in the gully.

(4) If sodding doesn't complete the job, then try planting grasses, legumes, shrubs, or trees along the walls or floor.

Many millions of tons of rich topsoil have been washed off of steep grades and slopes. When one inch of soil has been taken off of an acre of land, you have lost 150 tons of soil. How great is this loss!

To prevent erosion on slopes pastures can be planted. When I say pastures, I don't mean a "weed patch," but a crop! Many farmers regard the pasture as a poor relation to their cropland. The result is; weeds spring up, the pasture is overgrazed, gullies appear, and the animal carrying capacity is greatly reduced.

Here are a few tips for a good pasture:

(1) Make a good seed bed.

(2) Lime.

(3) Fertilize.

(4) Seed.

(5) Mow.

(6) Don't overgraze.

One Thursday morning two representatives of the Soil Conservation Service took three of us on a field research trip. As we were peacefully riding along observing the fields, forests, and everything else in sight, we saw a woman working in her garden, so we stopped. On this farm soil conservation and fertilization of pastures had been practiced for eight years. When asked for a statement as to how much good they had received from it the woman replied, "Well, eight years ago we could only graze three cows on 20 acres of land. We have been using lime and phosphate and mowing our pastures and as a result we can now graze 23 cows and 2 horses on this same 20 acres. And that's the truth!" This man is saving \$226. a year for cow feed. Over a period of 10 years it would amount to \$2,260.00.

I was talking with another Alleghany farmer's wife, who is 100 percent for soil conservation. She said, "Last year the milk from our cows tested higher than milk from pure-bred Jersey cows. Some people thought we had a pull to get this test, but I had never seen the men before. I know what caused it, it was because we fertilized our land."

It is a fact that people are healthier when they drink milk and eat meat that has been produced on fertilized land.

(Continued Next Week)

Whitehead News

Miss Emeline Joines, of Sparta, spent the week end with Miss Louise Joines.

Arlice Atwood, of the Merchant Marines, is spending a furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Atwood.

Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Edwards, and daughters Opal, and Irene, were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. James C. Caudill, Sunday.

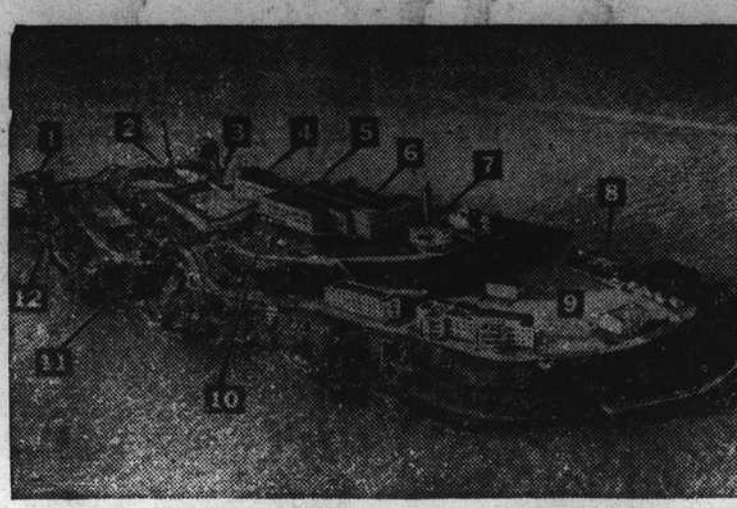
Mrs. Oscar Wyatt and daughters, Merry Lee, and Carol, spent Sunday with Mrs. Jess Wyatt, who has been ill for the past week. Mrs. Wyatt's condition remains the same.

Mrs. Stella Mae Taylor spent the week end with her sister, Mrs. Curtis Blackburn, and Mr. Blackburn, at Sparta.

Mrs. L. V. Richardson is able to be out again after being confined to her home for several weeks.

Mrs. Maggie Maxwell, of Sparta, spent Sunday night with Mr. and Mrs. Carl Edwards and Mrs. Stella Mae Taylor.

Lawrence Mason, Rt. 5, Statesville, was instrumental in the organization of the new Iredell County Dairy Herd Improvement Association which now has 250 cows on test.



ALCATRAZ PRISON QUIETS DOWN . . . Following the rioting which broke out at the "rock," Alcatraz federal prison in San Francisco bay, which resulted in the death of two guards and three prisoners, the prison authorities with the assistance of marines, coast guard and San Francisco police restored order with capture of remaining leaders of the break. Aerial photo of the island. 1—shoe and furniture shops; 2—power house; 3—prisoners' yard; 4—men's hall and kitchen; 5—main cell block; 6—administration and warden's office; 7—warden's home; 8—landing dock; 9—guards' recreation yard; 10—cat-walk; 11—guard tower and 12—wharf.

Timely Hints

farm and make sure:

1—Trash, rubbish, waste paper, old clothing, feed bags, bedding, and the like are removed and

It's time to clean up and clear out winter's accumulation of debris from all buildings. Clean, grease, and replace worn parts of machinery, look over buildings (home and out-buildings), make necessary repairs.

Fire prevention specialists say inspect every building on the

Swanson For State Senate



My Republican Friends:

In order to keep the records straight about this Republican primary; I was nominated by the Republican County Convention, (as this paper has already published two or three times) it was asked at this convention that if there were any other nominees from my precincts to please let it be known, there were no other nominees from the floor. N. Carl Jones had his name filed the last few minutes before the filing deadline at 6 P. M. on April 13, by his stooge and half uncle, Neal Jones, (Of course to spite his neighbor, and for no other reason). It is obvious that this is a lick below the belt, and against a veteran. I have not promised anyone, including "Norm" Carl Jones, or his half uncle Neal Jones, that I would withdraw my name from the ticket, under any condition, the least of which would be his withdrawal. I still don't intend to withdraw it—Win or lose.

Carl Jones, (his young wife calls him "Norm,") called at my home last week when I was not at home, and informed my wife that he was withdrawing his name from the ticket, because he had THREE BIG FARMS to operate, 30 acres of corn to plant, SEVERAL SAW MILLS to run, A NEW \$1800.00 TRUCK to drive, and with all his business to see to, he could not make the race for the State Senate, there was no condition that I withdraw whatever. Now it is true that Carl "Norm" Jones does have three big farms, all paid for, I understand. He also has sawmills and a NEW truck. He obtained his priority for the new truck while other veterans and I only had priority on FOXHOLES. Of course he made the money to pay for his three BIG farms while we were also fighting for our homes, and his three farms, and his rights to sell lumber, and drive that Big Truck. Now it seems, friends, that it would be a pity, to send such a valuable man of affairs to Raleigh, in the State Senate, at a salary of only \$600. per year. Don't you know, friends, that his business would suffer, but on the other hand, I am not a rich man, I can afford to go. I am still able and willing to go to the State Senate, and make you a Senator, that you could feel justly proud. If you are registered as a Republican, I will highly appreciate a vote of confidence on May 25th. in the Republican Primary.

PAUL SWANSON.

Filed political advertisement.

turned in for salvage. Fires originate in debris which likewise serves as tinder for any spark or carelessly tossed match.

2—Dust, cobwebs, shavings and other flammable materials, are cleaned away from fuse boxes, motors, and other electrical devices to avoid flash fires. Replace worn extension cords, and repair

defective equipment.

3.—The heating plant and the chimney are clean. Replace worn parts. Repair cracks in masonry joints in the chimney, and install a spark arrester if the roof is not protected with fire-resistant roofing.

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Vote To Re-Elect J. Erle McMichael Solicitor

In Democratic Primary May 25, 1946



To the Veterans and Citizens of Alleghany County:

Mr. McMichael is a veteran of World War I. He enlisted and served as a member of the 30th (Old Hickory) Division, which broke the Hindenburg Line. He fought in every battle in which this famous division was engaged and was cited for the Congressional Medal of Honor.

His record as a soldier and as Solicitor is deserving and commendable.

His opponent is a veteran of the present war and there is no intention to disparage him, BUT IT IS A FACT, THAT HE IS BEING ACTIVELY SUPPORTED BY THE C. I. O., WHICH JOHN L. LEWIS FOUNDED, and its paid political agents are working for him.

Sponsored and paid for by the Veterans and citizens of Alleghany County, friends of J. Erle McMichael.

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