

LOOK OUT BEHIND!



GANDER, N.E.D. — Gilbert Perier, General manager of Sabena Airlines, said bodies of 26 persons who lost their lives when a Belgian transatlantic airliner crashed near here Wednesday could be buried at scene of disaster rather than endanger the lives of rescue teams by attempting to bring the bodies out of the wilderness. Eighteen survivors of the disaster, rescued by helicopter, are now in a hospital here.

WASHINGTON — W. Averell Harriman's addition to President Truman's official family edged it further away from domestic issue views espoused by Henry Wallace and united it on a policy toward Russia. The present ambassador to Britain, tapped by Mr. Truman to replace ousted Wallace as Sect. of Commerce, is widely credited, in fact, with having had a major hand in framing the present policy of firmness toward the Soviet. Harriman said today in London: "I fully support the foreign policy of Mr. Truman and Mr. Byrnes, who are carrying on the high principles laid down by Mr. Roosevelt. There lies the road to peace."

Rovin' Reporter
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how far the farmer and stock raiser is destined to go. Most of us can still remember the razor back hogs, the tick-infested non-milk giving cows and the hens of a few years ago that laid few eggs. Last week County Agent Dodson and other county agents of South-eastern North Carolina went to the great U. S. Experiment stations at the University of Maryland and Beltsville, Md. There, among other things, they saw a milk cow cross that will produce more and richer cream than any cow of the present day. There was also a bacon type hog, the

result of crossing, that is better than any of the present breeds. Not least of all, they are also producing a better type of chicken.

New stories last week were to the effect that Senator J. W. Bailey was urging the United Nations organization to use Bald Head Island at Southport for its permanent home. This action was made by the Senator in accord with a request that he take the lead in calling the attention of the U. N. O. to the island. A recent letter from the U. N. O. chairman to Senator Bailey and forwarded by him to this columnist, stated that the island situation would be looked into and all consideration be given its facilities as a possible home for the U. N. O.

County Agent Dodson stated this week that both Columbus and Brunswick farmers in the area of the proposed work were determined to push the efforts to get the drainage spillway from the Waccamaw river to Mullett Creek and thence on via that stream into the Atlantic. An angle not heretofore given consideration is the aid that such a spillway would give to residents of Horry County, S. C., in addition to Brunswick and Columbus county land owners.

County Forest Warden Dorman Mercer and his township wardens have been fortunate this year in that the constant rains aided them in seeing that no disastrous fires occurred in the woodlands of Brunswick. However, this aid has only been of a temporary nature and may actually

result in really disastrous fires later on when real dry seasons come. The warden points out that the constant rains during the summer resulted in a more than normal production of weeds, grass and all sorts of undergrowth that will form dangerous food for flames during the dry seasons that are sure to come. No fires during the summer was merely a postponement of what will inevitably come.

Some times no effort at all will accomplish more than can possibly result from the expending of a lot of energy. A case in point occurred this week when Mrs. O. B. Sellers, of Supply, wrote regarding a volunteer sweet potato vine in her back yard. She said: "Last spring a sweet potato vine came up in my back yard, where I had a small bank. I paid it no attention further than to pull some dirt up around it on two occasions. On September 16th I dug out of that one hill 22 eating sized sweet potatoes, measuring from 7 to 13 inches around, and there were some more smaller ones."

Speaking of energy, Brunswick people have a terrible road situation. Nobody can blame them for sort of demanding relief. We are not blaming them. Still, there have been a lot of times and cases called to our attention and where energy was being wrongly directed. We have seen men and women throwing trash on the street and half an hour later spend their unlimited time, and all of ours we would spare, in blaming the city officials for the streets not being kept cleaner. The same thing applies to roads.

One bad place often calls for hours of heated discussion, and half the time so wasted would put the place in good order if other than hot air energy was used.

Homer Phelps, of Supply (he acclaims himself to be a regular Green Swamper), put one over on other Brunswick county rattlesnake-killers this week. He came across a whopping big rattler, surrounded by her spring brood of five young ones. The old lady had 11 rattles and the usual button. The four young rattlers were from 12 to 18 inches in length. It may be remarked here that young rattlesnakes of that size are just as deadly poison as the large ones. Homer killed all four of the young ones after first getting rid of the bigger danger.

This week we interviewed a fellow who put in two full years working on something without having an idea of what it was. For the past year he has known the ultimate end of his efforts without knowing exactly where his work fits in. And at that he has very little desire to find out. He is simply an automatic cog

in the atomic bomb construction. This past week this party, R. Ellis, formerly of Shallotte, came home to spend a week with parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Ellis. We shared a seat with him a bus this week and while he was very friendly and congenial did not buzz much about work he was doing.

PLANNING A STORE — planning to open a store at the Covie Clemmons, of the Royal forks of the road leading to Oak Community, near Supply, is Henry Landing.

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"I would like to tell you why Increased Rates on Telephones are Necessary"

Today, more than ever before, North Carolina needs adequate, dependable telephone service, and it is our purpose to provide it. We are now furnishing more service to North Carolinians than at any other time in our history.

Both local and long distance calls have reached an all time high for this state and more and more people want telephones. Since the first of the year, we have installed 36,000 new telephones. But we still have 23,000 orders on hand. Our study of the state's growth indicates that the demand for more service from present as well as new customers will continue to increase.

In order to keep up, we must enlarge our facilities and hire more people, regardless of the fact that construction costs and wages have risen tremendously.

The cost of erecting buildings is up 75 to 100 per cent. The cost of providing telephone facilities is up 45 to 60 per cent, and telephone materials 15 to 25 per cent.

Total payroll costs have increased 196 per cent since 1941. Wages in North Carolina have been raised \$2,311,415 within the past 12 months. This was in keeping with national policies and trends and to assure competent personnel to provide adequate service. We now have 4,300 Southern Bell people in North Carolina. Wages account for about two-thirds of our operating costs.

Although the cost of everything we do to provide service keeps going up, your telephone rates have remained unchanged for many years. Because of this, the amount of money we are paying out is increasing faster than the amount we are taking in, despite a record volume of business. Since 1941, the costs of providing service in North Carolina have climbed 102 per cent, while revenues have increased only 76 per cent.

The rapid advance of costs in comparison with revenues has caused our rate of earnings to go down. In 1941, the Company was earning 5.56 per cent on the amount of money

invested in the state. Today our earning rate is only 2.71 per cent. This rate reflects the latest wage increases and does not include any possible tax refund that may be available this year only on 1944 federal income taxes. Southern Bell's earnings are today the lowest in history.

Nevertheless, the Company is going ahead with a huge expansion program. We are preparing to spend about \$40,000,000 in the next five years on construction work to improve and expand telephone service in North Carolina. We must proceed with this construction work, despite high costs, in order to meet demands for service.

We need improved earnings if we are to meet the increased costs of providing service, and if we are to obtain, on reasonable terms, the capital funds necessary to improve and expand our service.

That is the reason we have asked authority to raise rates on business telephones and to charge 5 cents more on most long distance calls within the state.

Current costs indicate a need for greater increases in rates than we are asking. But we hope our operating experience under the new rates will prove them sufficient. Since residence local charges are to remain unchanged, the increased income under the new rates would amount to only 7 per cent of our total North Carolina revenues. In face of the continuously rising costs of providing service, this is moderate.

The State of North Carolina is now in a period of its greatest growth and expansion, a growth that will bring the state more prosperity than it has ever known. Good and effective telephone service is essential to this progress and the Telephone Company must be in a position to supply it.

We believe, therefore, that our request for increased rates is sound and in the public interest.

E. H. Wasson
Carolinas Manager

SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY INCORPORATED



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