

### Berry Harvest Next In Line

Indications Point To Busy Season For Pickers At Blueberry Farm Near Southport During June

Beginning some time next week some 60 to 70 berry pickers and 5 to 8 packers at the shed will

be needed at the Graham and Keys blueberry farm two miles from Southport, according to George Ayers, manager of the farm. The blueberries are now near the ripening stage and promise a good yield of an excellent quality of berries, Ayers says. It is expected that this year's picking will result in 1,800 cases at the very least. Next year with additional acreage coming into bearing and with this year's bearing plants being

more mature, the production is expected to much more than double, with continued increase in production year by year as new acreage comes into production. It is the plan to ultimately have 200 acres in the plants. The picking and packing labor is expected to come from Southport, or within a short distance from the blueberry farm. The folks who have been pulling tomato plants and picking beans will have something else to start on as soon as the bean picking slows up.

### Buck Creek Watershed Project Is Approved By District Supervisors

The District Supervisors of the Lower Cape Fear Soil Conservation District held a business meeting at the County Agent's office in Whiteville at 2:30 p. m. Thursday.

Supervisors attending the meeting were: Homer A. Munroe, Bladen County; James D. Bellamy, Jr., Brunswick County; G. T. Gore and Evander Arnette, Columbus County; J. H. Tinga, New Hanover County; and A. E. Herring, Pender County.

The principal item of business was consideration and endorsement of the Buck Creek Flood Control and Drainage Project which the U. S. Corps of Army Engineers is now studying to determine whether Federal assistance is needed.

The Buck Creek Watershed contains approximately 35,000 acres, 22,000 acres of which are in Horry County, South Carolina, and 13,000 acres are in Columbus County.

The project is being sponsored by the Horry County Soil Conservation District and agricultural workers in South Carolina. The Soil Conservation Service technicians in both North Carolina and South Carolina are cooperating with the Army Engineers in collecting information about the project.

The District Supervisors of the local district, in their meeting Thursday, endorsed the project and sent a statement to the Engineers Office at Charleston, S. C., pledging their cooperation.

The Supervisors had as their special guest for the meeting, W. W. Eagles of Macclesfield, N. C., President of the North Carolina Association of Soil Conservation District Supervisors, who lead a brief informal discussion on the work of Soil Conservation Districts.

Following the business meeting, the supervisors were conducted on a short tour of several farms near Whiteville to study conservation practices and programs which district cooperations are applying. C. D. Raper, County Agent; H. M. Stott, District Conservationist; and Herbert L. Collier, Conservation Aid accompanied the group as guides to point out interesting phases of the work being done by cooperating farmers.

### State Leads In Crop Insurance

30,560 Contracts Now In Force In North Carolina; Columbus County In Tobacco Insurance Group

Another "first" for North Carolina was marked up this week as Julian E. Mann, State director of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, announced that the Tar Heel State now leads the nation in number of farmers who have signed contracts for Federal insurance on their crops.

With only 17 counties participating, North Carolina has 30,560 crop insurance contracts in force. Of this number, 23,574 were signed in 1950, and the other 6,986 are carryovers from previous years. All contracts are written on a continuing basis and remain in effect until cancelled.

In addition, Mann said, the Tar Heel State has the highest percentage of eligible farmers signed up in cotton counties, and its record in premium collections last year was second highest in the South and well above the national average.

Cleveland leads all cotton counties in the State in percentage of eligibles under contract. Beaufort, which started its program only this year, leads the tobacco counties, with Caswell and Jones tied for second place.

Mann said credit for the State's outstanding record in crop insurance is due to the work of county FCIC committees and sales agents appointed by them, as well as to the cooperation of other agricultural agencies and farm groups.

Of North Carolina's total of contracts, 23,679 are written on tobacco, 6,635 on cotton, and 246 on multiple crops. Tobacco insurance is offered in Caswell, Forsyth, Surry, Stokes, Vance, Wake, Beaufort, Duplin, Jones, Pitt, Wilson, and Columbus; cotton insurance, in Cleveland, Polk, Mecklenburg, and Rutherford; and multiple crop insurance, in Perquimans only.

### Quotas On Marine Enlistments Lifted

RALEIGH—For the first time in more than a year, the monthly enlistment quota for Marine Corps applicants in this area has been lifted. Enlistments for the months of May and June are now unlimited. Capt. M. D. Smith, Jr., officer in charge of recruiting for the state, announced today.

"Waiting lists are now a thing of the past," the captain said. "Any interested applicant between the age of 17 and 29 who can pass the mental and physical examination will now be accepted as soon as he is ready," he added.

### Baker's Widow To Favor Sen. Taft

CLEVELAND—Mrs. Newton D. Baker, widow of a Democratic secretary of war, came out today in favor of Republican Senator Robert A. Taft's re-election. She said she left the Democratic party in 1940 to support Republican presidential candidate Wendell L. Willkie.

Mrs. Baker, whose husband was cabinet member during the First World War, said she had joined the Ohio committee of independent voters for Taft, and would take an active part in its campaign.

### Fireman Is Burned To Death In Blaze

SAN RAFAEL, Calif. — One fireman burned to death and another was critically burned when the roof of a blazing garage in downtown San Rafael collapsed on them.

The dead man was tentatively identified as Jack Miller. Critically injured was Bill Bottini.

The downtown area of the city was crowded with visitors to the Saint Raphael mission fiesta parade.

### 25 Are Killed In Ammo Plant Blast

BOMBAY, India.—Twenty-five workers were killed today when an ammunition plant blew up in Gwalior City, in Central India, police reported.

The building, located in the main business center of the medieval city, was demolished. Police believed an accidental fire touched off the blast.

### NCS Sports Card To End This Week

RALEIGH — Two baseball games—both involving N. C. State College—and an inter-conference track meet at Atlanta this week bring to an end this year's spring sports schedule for the State's Big-Five colleges.

On Tuesday state's diamond nine invades Chapel Hill for North Carolina's season finale. Friday the Wolfpack plays McCrary at Asheboro to wind up its slate.

### Two Soldiers Are Dead From "Alki"

ANCHORAGE, Alaska. — Two soldiers were dead today, two were in critical condition and nine others were hospitalized after drinking methanol (wood) alcohol taken from the Fort Richardson

motor pool. Military officials said the 13 servicemen held an "experimental" drinking party Friday night. One of the men died last night and the second early today.

### SELLS HOME AND

Continued From Page One manager. Mr. Aldridge has been with Harrelson's Grocery since it was first established. He took charge of the Southport Cleaners Monday.

In moving to Monroe Mr. and Mrs. Cranmer have sold their beautiful home in Southport to Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Plaxco, of Long Beach.

An interesting detail of this transaction is that Mr. and Mrs. Plaxco built the Cranmer home and resided there for several years before selling it to Mr. and Mrs. Cranmer and building at Long Beach. Any material which resists the flow of electricity is called a "non-conductor."

### SERVICE GRAVES

Continued From Page One ger attended to this work personally.

It is understood that similar work was done by the other American Legion Posts in the county at Shallotte, Ash and Town Creek. The flags were placed on all known graves of service men, regardless of what war they may have served in.

Apart from the observance by the Legion, the bank, post office, city and county offices all closed for the day. Sam T. Bennett, clerk of the Superior court, kept his office open all day, assisting the workers in the primary election to make out their vouchers for payment.

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SHALLOTTE, N. C.

### Southport Nine Wins Another

Winter Park Defeated In Return Engagement Sunday Afternoon In Wilmington

Starting off their season by defeating Winter Park 9 to 8 in a 10 inning affair, the Southport independent boys under Manager Blackie Webb seem to be heading for a good season.

Saturday they followed up by trouncing Seagate 12 to 2. Sunday they went to Wilmington and proved their previous victory over Winter Park was no fluke. Winter Park came out on the short end of the 7 to 3 score. In this game Bill McDowell got 4 hits out of 5 trips to the plate.

The Wilmington Tigers, according to manager Webb, are scheduled to come down here at 3 o'clock.

### ATTEND GRADUATION

Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Waggett are in Charleston, S. C., this week attending graduation exercises at Charleston Medical College. Their son, Kenneth, will graduate in Medicine on Thursday. Dr. Waggett will at the same time take part on the graduation program.

### I AM GRATEFUL

I want to express my sincere appreciation to the voters of Brunswick county for once more giving me a majority vote in the Democratic Primary Election. It is nice to know that I have the confidence of the people, and I will do my best to live up to this trust.

**R. L. RABON**

### THANK YOU FOLKS

I want to thank the voters of Brunswick county for the fine support they gave me in the Primary Election Saturday. I am deeply grateful for their expression of confidence in me, and I shall do my best never to let them down.

**ELROY KING**

### DEEPLY GRATEFUL

I appreciate the fine vote that my friends and supporters in every section of Brunswick county gave me in the First Primary Saturday, May 27th. In casting their ballot for me these people expressed their confidence in my promise to serve them fairly and fearlessly as head of the law enforcement forces of our county.

In the event of a Second Primary Election I urge you all to hold fast to our strong vote, and to do all in your power to build up a winning majority over my one remaining opponent.

**O. W. PERRY**



## Thank You Folks

Thank you for the fine vote you gave me Saturday in the Primary Election. Although I am an unsuccessful candidate, I enjoyed the race, and I now wish to offer my congratulations and best wishes to my opponent.

**Elrich Y. Hickman**

Democratic Candidate For Clerk Of Court

## Why Increased Telephone Rates Are Necessary in North Carolina

Present rates are not sufficient to meet the state's record-breaking demands for good and growing telephone service

The cost of facilities to do the tremendous telephone job that the public wants done in North Carolina has increased sharply during the last few years. These increased costs have made it necessary for us to invest huge and ever-increasing amounts in telephone equipment to serve the people of the state.

### Facilities to Improve and Expand Service Cost Large Sums of Money

This growing investment is already so great that, under present rates for service, telephone earnings in North Carolina are not sufficient to meet the needs for good service—and the earnings are going down.

A year and a half ago our North Carolina investment in telephone facilities averaged \$234 per telephone... but for each telephone added since that time, the cost has been \$354. Subscriber rates designed for a \$234 telephone are, of course, too low for a \$354 telephone, leaving an investment of \$120 per telephone for which present rates provide no return at all.

Each added telephone increases the value of the service to existing subscribers because they can reach and be reached by more people. Since 1945, we have added approximately 140,000 telephones in North Carolina—an increase of more than 86%. Adding these telephones, and improving the service in other ways, has cost \$51,000,000 in new facilities.

### Rate Increases To Date Lag Far Behind Our Increased Costs

In addition to construction costs, all other costs of providing service—wages, taxes, materials, supplies, services of others and so on—also are up drastically.

For example, from 1939 through 1949, wage increases added \$7,000,000 annually to our costs in North Carolina. Our annual revenue from rate increases since 1939 is failing to cover this one item alone—falling by \$2,240,000, to say nothing of all the other cost increases.

Even since the present telephone rates were established in April 1949, several items of cost have increased. Employee pension costs went up in November 1949. Social Security taxes went up in January 1950. Wage costs are going up as a

result of the shortening of wage schedules agreed upon in May 1950.

Another reason for the lag of telephone rates behind telephone costs is that, when the present rates in North Carolina were authorized in April 1949, they were \$1,000,000 short of what the Company asked for and badly needed at that time.

### Good Telephone Service Essential To Progress In State

A constantly improving and expanding telephone service is essential to the progress and development of fast-growing North Carolina. To meet the state's telephone needs, Southern Bell is now constructing facilities at the rate of about \$12,000,000 a year—and continued construction at this high level will be needed in each of the next few years.

The money to pay for new facilities does not come from subscribers' payment of their bills. These monthly receipts cover only wages, taxes, maintenance and other day-to-day costs. Capital for new facilities must come from people who can be encouraged to invest their money in the telephone business.

### Present Earnings Are Inadequate To Attract Needed Capital

Southern Bell's earnings in North Carolina today are too low to attract the additional capital needed to continue good service for present subscribers and to continue expanding the service. Despite insufficient postwar earnings, we have been able to obtain needed construction capital up to now because of investors' faith in the soundness and fairness of North Carolina and its institutions. However, actual earnings and not hoped-for earnings must of necessity be the basis of raising capital for future construction.

For all these reasons, we have applied to the North Carolina Utilities Commission for revised rates.

North Carolina telephone rates have advanced only about one-third as much as prices in general. Under new rates, telephone service will continue to improve—and it will continue to be one of today's biggest bargains.

H. G. Booth  
North Carolina Manager

SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY