

Agriculturally Speaking

Agent Warns Of Dangers Of Christmas Tree Fires

By FRANK W. REAMS, County Agricultural Agent SAFE CHRISTMAS

Here's hoping everyone a happy, enjoyable and safe Christmas. Danger, though lurks around us at all times to mar such occasions and in split seconds turn laughter into wales of anguish.

sible dangers caused by Christmas tree fires, surely hope you will read the following conversation between a parent and the fire chief:

fires occur during the holiday season—at a time when tragedies take on an especial poignancy. To help us learn how to prevent these fires, we have with us today Mr. Fire Chief who will tell us why it is so important to use precautions with our Christmas trees?



May the Christmas message bring contentment and joy, and may your house be blessed.

HUNTER DRUG COMPANY WARRENTON, N. C.



May the Christ Child born in Bethlehem so many years ago bring his message of Peace and Good Will into every heart on this most joyful Day.

BENTON FURNITURE COMPANY WARRENTON, N. C.



GREETINGS

This is the time of year when we take account of our assets. Among them all, we find none nearly so valuable as the confidence and good will of our patrons. To them go our hearty thanks and warmest holiday wishes.

WARREN TIRE SERVICE WARRENTON, N. C.

ed about that. Use only electric lights and wiring that has the underwriter's laboratories label. Check your last year's lights, too, for loose sockets and other defects.

Parent: It seems to me I've read about fires that were started in artificial cotton snow or something of that kind. What can we do about that?

Fire Chief: That's easy. Never use cotton or paper or other Christmas materials that might catch fire easily. You can purchase treated materials that are fire-resistant.

Parent: And the decorations on the tree should be nonflammable, too, shouldn't they? Many people have learned to be very careful about their tree, but it seems to me that we should also be careful about other decorations around the house.

Fire Chief: That's right. People who know better than to put candles on a tree will have lighted candles as decorations in the window or on a table or mantel with boughs of Christmas greens within easy igniting distance. If you wish to have a candle in the window, use an electric one, and don't place Christmas greens near it.

Parent: Speaking of artificial snow makes me think of the cotton used in Santa's whiskers.

Fire Chief: Oh, yes, an amateur Santa should buy whiskers and costume that are fire resistant, and he shouldn't smoke while he's passing out gifts and when he's near the tree. In fact, no smoking should be allowed at all near the tree.

Parent: I suppose that on Christmas Day the grown-ups should be careful to remove all those tissue-paper wrappings as soon as possible.

Fire Chief: That's a sensible precaution that you don't need a fire chief to tell you about. But there's one more thing about trees. You should put the tree outside the house when the needles start to drop. That's a sure sign it is drying out. If you must burn your tree, do it in a wire mesh container out of doors.

Parent: How about lights? I know that candles are dangerous.

Fire Chief: I'm glad you ask

Parent: Well, I'm sure we'll all be more careful with Christmas trees now that we know some of the precautions to take. Thank you very much, Chief, for your excellent suggestions for making Christmas a safer, happier holiday. Maybe in our county we'll be able to reverse the North Carolina State Board of Health's figures and keep the holiday season accident-free.

COTTON LIMB J. Boyd Williams of the Paschall community delivered to me a limb from a stalk of cotton with seven beautiful bolls of cotton attached. Is this a record? If anyone can locate more than seven bolls, please let me know!

A Tree Is A Factory

When Adam was gardening in Eden, a tiny seed fell in a California forest. Today, that tree is the mightiest living thing in the world. "For 4,000 years, the General Sherman Bigtree, or Giant Sequoia has grown in Sequoia National Forest near Bakersfield," said John Gray with a gleam of wonder in his eyes. "Today it's 272 feet tall. Its base is 32 feet across. It weighs more than 800 tons. There's enough lumber in it to build 57 houses with 1,000 square feet each."

The General Sherman Bigtree is the king of the plant world, its highest form of life. "Nobody would take such a magnificent life for the material use of man," said John, who has grown to love trees in his work as Extension Forester at North Carolina State College. "But the trees we know best of all in North Carolina are truly living factories that serve the people."

Once there was an expert who tried to catalog all the ways people use wood. He gave up after finding 4,500 uses. The raw materials for the growing tree are the soil's water and minerals, the air's carbon dioxide and oxygen. Its power flows down from the sun, which changes carbon dioxide and water into sugars and oxygen through photosynthesis. Its products are wood and bark fiber, its by products starch, fats, resins, tannins and other sugars.

"Water permeates the tree," said John. "Young leaves and root tips may be 90 per cent water, and trunks 50 per cent." To Tar Heels and other

southerners, the loblolly pine is the most important timber tree. And in its way it is a giant.

"Each year, a well-stocked acre of loblolly — if it isn't cut — will grow three tons of usable wood and bark," John said. "Or it may be ground into chips and put through a pulp mill."

From the chips can be made 15,000 large grocery bags; or 7,900 two-quart milk bottles; or 1,400 copies of a 48-page newspaper; or 900 viscose rayon women's dresses.

"It might be used to produce 300 square feet of one-inch thick boards, plus 2,500 pounds

of wood for pulping," John noted.

In a year, 35 acres of loblolly grow enough lumber to build a six-room home with 1,000 square feet of floor space, plus 262,000 grocery bags, or 137,250 two-quart milk cartons, or 24,500 newspapers, or 16,000 rayon dresses.

"North Carolina has 19 million acres of woodland," John recalled. "From 50,000 to 60,000 acres of open land are planted to pines each year.

"Such a green factory can make an almost unlimited contribution to the physical needs and prosperity of North Carolina's people."

May Rites Held At Littleton Saturday

LITTLETON—Funeral services for Garland S. May, 70, were conducted Saturday at 2 p. m. at the Littleton Methodist Church by the Rev. John Sutton, Jr., pastor, the Rev. M. Y. Self and the Rev. Arthur Winstead. Burial was in Sunset Hill Cemetery.

Mr. May died early Friday morning. He was actively engaged in business for about 30 years until ill health forced his retirement. He was a veteran of World War I, a Mason, a Shriner, and a member of the

Methodist Church. He was first married to the late Ethel Simmons. He is survived by his second wife, Mrs. Elizabeth M. May; one son, Garland May, Jr., of near Littleton; two daughters, Mrs. Robert L. Turner of Lynchburg, Va., and Mrs. Charles Briggs of New York City; two sisters, Mrs. Grace Schlichter of Norfolk, Va., and Mrs. C. A. Jones of Littleton; one brother, Andrew J. May, and his stepmother, Mrs. W. H. May, both of Littleton; and five grandchildren.

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