

We Need a New Building

Figures released this week by the Unemployment Compensation Commission state that 98 per cent of all payments being made to North Carolina veterans go to farmer trainees. Apparently the days of the 52-20 club are finished, and the program set up by the Veterans Administration for former servicemen is now accomplishing what it was originally intended to do: Provide the veteran with financial compensation for time used in making him a better citizen by increasing his earning power.

The program at Wakelon School, which is under the capable direction of Ed Ellington, is being carried out in the spirit intended by the Veterans Administration. Trainees are being held strictly accountable for their actions, insofar as meeting the minimum requirements of the program is concerned. In addition, each piece of the thousands of dollars worth of machinery installed at the vocational building is being used by every one of the seventy-odd local trainees.

Unfortunately two flies remain in the ointment of training. The quota set for this area is too small to meet the area's needs. Although Wakelon has the largest quota of any school in Wake County, some applicants for farm training had to be turned down this year. Only an increased appropriation by the national congress can change this situation.

The other complaint has to do with space. There is no more space in the vocational building for equipment; as a consequence, veterans are not receiving training on available machinery — training they need and are entitled to. To make the matter more distressing, veteran labor is available to assist in the construction of a building to house the still crated equipment; all that is needed to start the addition is a mason and some brick, these latter items to be furnished by Wake County. We hope and trust that prompt action will be taken by responsible authorities to give our veterans their required space.

A Campaign Every Week

Members of one of the community's churches were considering having a revival meeting a few years ago. Some of the members were opposed on the grounds that the church had already held one revival meeting that year. One member, however, whom we will not identify, finally rose and stated that from the way most of the membership acted, a revival every week would not be too often. They had their meeting.

Just last month we had a statewide rat poisoning campaign. Unfortunately, from the amount of damage done by the rats missed and their progeny, a rat killing campaign every week would not be too often. Hence during the latter part of this month another campaign against the nation's most destructive rodent will be undertaken, this time by the Wake County Health Department in cooperation with the county agent's office.

Dr. A. C. Bulla, county health officer, says in connection with the campaign:

Of course, we are interested in saving food, but, primarily, we are interested in the extermination of rats. With the killing of rats, the second and third parts of this program automatically become effective. If every farmer and home owner would take full advantage of this service, it would save, perhaps in the next two or three months, \$150,000 to \$200,000 in stored grain which otherwise would be eaten or destroyed by rats.

More Traffic Case Convictions

Speeding convictions in North Carolina in 1946 amounted to 13,727, as compared with a 1947 total of 26,237. Other convictions of moving violations showed a corresponding increase, with a 1947 grand total of 59,787 as compared with 31,604 in 1946.

The increase in convictions does not mean that Tar Heels are becoming worse drivers; rather it indicates that the State Highway Patrol, enlarged and properly equipped, is doing a better job. In fact, if the Patrol keeps up its good work, Tar Heels will eventually become better drivers—or go broke paying traffic fines.

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This, That and the Other

By Mrs. Theo. B. Davis

Palisades, Washington — This is the evening of New Year's Day, and we have really celebrated. My sister had a special dinner with her son, his wife and baby here to help enjoy it; and my husband walked on crutches from his bedroom, across the living room to the dining room table, sitting down to his first meal with us since September 27, the day he fell and hurt himself. Theo had been practicing in his room for the great occasion. Our nephew, who once broke his ankle and remembered crutches gave careful instructions, which helped considerably. He had Theo learn first to stand with his weight on one foot. This took about two days. (You can forget a lot in three months.) But now we really feel on the high road to recovery. The broken leg is not stiff, though it will most probably be somewhat shorter than before, and the hip seems to be behaving pretty well.

Since his accident Theo has done more reading than he has done in several years, outside his Bible. Friends have sent reading matter, we've bought some, and there's a good library here. One day when another book was wanted I took Theo "Kitty Foyle" and told

him it would be good for him to read it. Some time later he indignantly demanded my reason for saying it was a good book. I reminded him that my statement was not that the book was good, but that it would be good for him. From then till he finished it he alternated criticism with puzzled questioning of my motive and meaning—but he read it all.

When my husband called me somewhat excitedly I hurried to his bedroom to find him watching a tiny bird that was busily running up and down the trunk of an apple tree, without bothering over which way its head pointed. We had thought only nuthatches could get around like that; and this little fellow did not resemble any bird by that name we had ever seen. It was hardly as large as a wren, slender, with black body and almost white vest. My sister identified it as a pigmy nut hatch, and it was certainly a pigmy. That kind is not found in eastern states.

Besides Chinese and Hungarian pheasants, we have seen flocks of migrating warblers; the empty nests of many orioles hang from twigs on apple trees; wild geese have called to each other in the

air above us; a flicker comes near the house occasionally; once in a while a great goshawk swoops over the yard; juncos appear at intervals; various sparrows come, feed and disappear, though not one of the English kind have I seen. Magpies, strikingly handsome in black and white, fly busily to appointments. However, you are smiled at in a peculiar way, if you admire magpies. They are scavengers and take over the work done by buzzards in our section of the country.

We have had a beautiful snowfall, with damp flakes that piled high on branches of trees and on every slope and crevice of the coulee walls. It looked just like a Christmas card done in black, gray and white. Trunks of trees black (too steep for snow to cling on). For the first time I saw what it means to have no green at all in the landscape—or snowscape. Incredibly lovely but appearing piteously cold.

Up on Snowqualmie Pass snow is more than seventy inches deep. Stevens Pass has sixty-nine inches. There'll be water for irrigation in proportion to the snowfall.

Zebulon's Loss — Sanford's Gain

Well, we've said our goodbyes to a darned good doctor, and it is with regrets that we let him go. It was a jolt to discover that he was moving to Sanford after becoming such an important part of our community life. There's lots of things I remember about Doc Thomas—things that mean a lot.

There were several times when I was downing a coke at the Atlantic Station, taking off time from work at two or three o'clock in the morning. Some poor fellow would come in and plead: "I gotta have a doctor. My wife is sick." A call would be placed to Ben Thomas, and he was always ready to help.

A young colored boy was lost in a pond near Wakefield. He was found by a trio of Boy Scouts. And Doc Thomas stood by to watch over the artificial respiration work in case he could aid in any way.

At four o'clock in the morning

a worried mother put in a call. Her young son was burning with fever. Doc Thomas was at the bedside in a matter of minutes.

It's been a comfort to us who have been well to know that we had someone here who was always ready to help. It didn't matter who called—Ben Thomas was ready.

Well, it's too late to keep him here—and there's no use crying over spilled milk. But it's going to be harder to find another doctor for Zebulon and we don't want to lose him through a repetition of the same mistakes.

Doctor Thomas was promised several things to induce him to come to Zebulon. Among these were a clinic and offices on the ground floor. He didn't get the clinic and he didn't get the ground floor offices and he didn't get other things he had been led to expect. Now he's gone to Sanford where, we understand, he has a wonderful set-up waiting for him.

I'm not going to argue whether or not Zebulon can support a clinic. And I'm not going to argue whether young doctors expect too much nowadays.

However, it is a crying shame to make a lot of promises and then fail to keep them. It's not fair and makes for too many disappointments.

If, as, and when Zebulon has an opportunity to get another doctor to come here and practice, let's be honest with him and with ourselves. If we make a promise to give him ground floor offices—which every doctor should have—let's keep that promise. If we make other promises, let's keep them too. Or else we'll lose the next doctor that comes in to town.

I'm wishing lots of luck to Ben Thomas in his new practice. He's leaving lots of friends here who wish him well. I hope he'll forget all our faults and remember us with as much pleasure as I've had from knowing him. —BSD.

Farm Home Hints

When you take your vehicle to one of the State's Mechanical Inspection lanes this year, make sure the muffler is in good working order—for that's one of the requirements for passing the inspection test.

The Manual of Motor Vehicle Mechanical Inspection Requirements states that "all motor vehicles with internal combustion motors shall be at all times equipped with a muffler in good working condition to prevent excessive or unusual noise. The entire exhaust system, including manifolds, exhaust pipes, mufflers and tail-pipes, shall be leak proof."

If you have ever driven behind a car or truck with a loud, roaring muffler, you know how offensive such noise can be. So take your car to the nearest repair shop and have the muffler fixed immediately

if it emits any unusually loud or harsh noise. And make sure that the entire exhaust system is leakproof.

Statistics show that one out of every five vehicles has some mechanical defect such as poor tires, faulty brakes, lights, wheel alignment or steering mechanism.

And one of the most important and serious are bad tires. Are the tires on your car or truck worn so thin that a sharp curve or stone in the road would send you careening into a traffic tragedy? If they are, then you would do well to have them recapped or discard them for new ones, not only for your own safety, but to insure that your vehicle will pass its inspection test.

The Manual of Motor Vehicle Mechanical Inspection Requirements states that all motor vehicle tires "shall be free from any

exposed fabric or bulges which indicate broken fabric or which exhibit dangerously weakened conditions."

In 1946, 520 fatal accidents and 9,240 non-fatal accidents in the United States were caused by punctures and blowouts, alone demonstrating the importance of keeping tires in good condition at all times. It is believed by Motor Vehicle officials that tires are an even greater factor in accidents than is generally reported, for often when the investigating officer lists "drove off the roadway" as the principle cause of the accident, it is logical to assume that with perfect tires, brakes and steering mechanism, the accident might not have happened.

Help prevent your car for its inspection check-up by having the tires in good condition before you report to the State Inspection lane in your area.