

N. C. Births Exceed Deaths; Highest Number On Record

Health Conditions Better; Lowest Mortality Rate Shown

By William H. Richardson
N. C. State Board of Health

RALEIGH, February 16th.—The law of compensation is at work, as it ever has been and ever will be. While thousands are dying on land and sea, and in the air, the doors to this mortal existence are crowded. Births are occurring in unprecedented numbers. In North Carolina alone 90,056 babies were born in 1942, the greatest number ever to be recorded in a single year. With each new soul comes an added responsibility. We must feed and clothe our own armies; we must minister to the needs of our allies, but we dare not forget the obligation we owe those who, not because of their own choice, but because of the "will of the flesh," are pouring into the world—first to constitute a responsibility, then to take our places in a world that will be unlike that which we knew in childhood as the tropics are unlike the polar regions.

What are we doing for these little ones? We can take comfort even in a partial answer to this question. In the first place, our infant mortality rate here in North Carolina last year was the lowest on record. In 1941 there were 5,073 deaths among infants under a year old, with a rate of 59.4 per one thousand live births. In 1942 the total was only 4,281, in spite of the marked increase in the number of births, and the infant mortality rate dropped to 47.5 for the entire year, throughout which there was a sustained downward trend. Can we hold this gain? That is the all important question.

Maternity Clinics
We have in North Carolina 308 maternity and infancy clinics, operated under the supervision of trained public health personnel. These are located at strategic points throughout the State. Undoubtedly, the gratifying decrease in our infant mortality rate is partly attributable to work done in and in connection with these clinics. But these cannot be expected to bear the entire responsibility for infant care. It must be shared by the home—parents must assume the duties that are incumbent upon them. How can they do their part? First, by enlightening themselves and then by putting what they have learned into practice.

For example it is important that every child is immunized against every disease for which a preventative has been discovered. In fulfilling this responsibility, the parent must seek the advice of the family

physician. For those who are unable to pay, the doors of the 308 clinics above referred to stand open.

Lowest Mortality Rate
Not only was the infant mortality rate in North Carolina last year the lowest on record, but the same was true of the general death rate, which was 8.1. There also was a sharp decline in the total number of deaths, which was only 29,613, as compared with 32,154, during the preceding year.

We have considered the low record in infant mortality achieved in 1942—that is, deaths among children under one year of age. Coupled with this, there was also a sharp decline in deaths from diarrhea and enteritis among children under two years of age, the 1942 total having been only 464, as compared with 692 the preceding year, bringing the rate from 19.1 to 12.6 in twelve months.

Altogether, last year's vital statistics are highly gratifying and show that our people are generally healthy. In this connection, attention is called to the fact that the number of deaths from pellagra, a nutritional disease, dropped from 139 to 110. Throughout the State, more attention has been paid to nutrition than ever before. Nutrition is a very important subject at this time and the ill-effects of malnutrition cannot be over-emphasized, especially in view of increased rationing and prospective food shortages. We must learn to utilize advantageously those foodstuffs which are available and, if necessary, to change some of our food habits, to accommodate the necessities of the times. This can be done—even to our advantage—if we know how.

Reaping The Fruits
All the gains we have made can be swept away, if we relax our efforts. Even as "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"—so it is the price of health. The fact that we made and held gains throughout the first calendar year of our participation as a belligerent in the global war, which now seems to be fast moving to a bloody climax, is encouraging. But we must not lose sight of what we actually are fighting for—the preservation of the United States of America—its "way of life"—and the health of its people. Though we win brilliant successes on a dozen battlefronts overseas and lose our fight on the home front, we will have lost this war.

On the other hand, we must not lose sight of the fact that if we fail in our duty toward those of other lands with whom our men are fighting, we will have failed in our duty to ourselves. Disease knows no national or continental boundaries. Most of us recall, all too vividly, how, in 1918, what was



FIGHTING FRONT IN AFRICA—Additional news from North Africa makes more impressive the success of operations against the enemy. One well executed landing and occupation was at Fedala, French Morocco. Above, landing anti-tank batteries on the beach near Fedala. Below, first U. S. flag over the beach head at Fedala Harbor in token of a successful operation. It waves over a machine gun mounted on packing cases.

Government

Seeks Better Distribution Of Man Power

Last year Food for Freedom sounded to some people little to most of us in our daily lives. It had to be explained and supported by figures and statistics. The following information comes from Albert L. Ramsey and Carl Slagle, County RR supervisors for FSA:

Now food production is something that is personal with all of us. Empty grocery store shelves prove that food is, in fact, "a munition of war". Food is one of the essentials—the farmer is on the "production line".

More food is needed in 1943 and it must be produced. We are told farm labor is short; labor must be used effectively and in some places must be supplied. In the mountain section many farmers are not fully occupied on their small farms. Many mountain farmers have poor land, steep land, but little surplus of food is grown to go into market channels. It is the product that goes to market that is used to supply the Army, our allies and our civilian needs.

In the level country in the Eastern part of the State there are some farms likely to lie idle because there is no one there to tend the land. This land is level, productive, easy to tend. Landowners are placing orders for laborers, share-croppers and tenants with the United States Employment Service and these orders are being sent to FSA County Supervisors in the Mountain Counties. More than one hundred underemployed families have already been assisted in moving to where they will be able to produce im-

portant commercial quantities of food. There are opportunities for others.

If two or three neighbors have small mountain farms it might be possible for one man to handle all the land of three places, if equipped and stocked with appropriate workstock and beef cattle or dairy cows. The three farms might be combined for the duration in order to release two of the under-employed farmers so that they could go where larger acreages and more productive land is waiting for them. Such an adjustment would maintain all land in production and would make each of the three men more effective in producing for market food supplies needed.

If you have a farm too small, discuss this general arrangement with your neighbors. Make sure that your land is fully used and your manpower fully employed in a manner that will be most effective in growing the food supplies needed. Your Farm Security Supervisor will assist in arranging for you to inspect one of the idle farms and to contract for a farm to operate for the duration if you are one of those on a mountain farm too small, too steep or too unproductive to supply a considerable amount of food for sale into commercial channels.

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CAMEL

Wood Harvesting On Farms Ruled War Necessity

Secretary of Agriculture, Wickard, in an effort to prevent a decline in the production of wood products needed in the war effort as a result of loss of man-power on farms, has approved the U. S. Forest Service's proposal to secure recognition of woodland products as war units for the basis of deferment of farm workers by selective Service Boards according to an announcement by Joseph C. Kircher, Regional Forester of the U. S. Forest Service.

Kircher states that through negotiations between Forest Service officials in Washington, and the Office of Director of Food Production, the harvesting of wood products from farm woods has been assigned definite war unit ratings along with other agricultural crops. Classification of these items has been transmitted to local Selective Service Boards through Selective Service Release 175. Any of the following quantities of forest products constitute recognition of one war unit:

- (1) 10,000 bd. ft. of logs delivered to local mill (includes piling).
- (2) 5,000 bd. ft. of logs sawed in small mill (on farm or nearby).
- (3) 200 hewn railroad ties.
- (4) 500 fence posts.
- (5) 15 cords of pulpwood, fuelwood, bolts for excelsior, handles, etc.
- (6) Naval Stores—200 faces.

Forest Service officials state that timber production in 1942 was some 6 billion feet under requirements for Army, Navy and other military uses, and that with the increased use of wood as substitutes for strategic metals in the production of bombing planes, transport ships, barracks and other construction, it will place heavy demands on available sources of wood supplies during the present year. The necessity for increasing the total timber production through cutting and primary processing of timber by farm labor makes it necessary to provide war unit credits for guidance of selective Service Boards.

Do your part. Contribute to the 1943 Red Cross War Fund.

Navy Recruiter Here February 26

ASHEVILLE, Feb. 16.—Chief Petty Officer, W. S. Baskerville, of the Asheville Navy Recruiting Station will be at the Post Office Building in Franklin, N. C., on Friday, February 26, 1943, to interview and examine applicants for the U. S. Navy.

Enlistment is now open to all men who are 17 years of age and between the ages of 38 and 50.

Chief Baskerville said yesterday that the Navy has recently added several trade schools and more recruits than ever before are now being sent to trade schools and excellent opportunities are now open to ambitious young men who desire to prepare themselves with a trade which they can use after the war.

Women who desire to be enlisted in the WAVES or SPARS, the woman organizations of the Navy and Coast Guard, respectfully, may see Chief Baskerville for information concerning requirements and other proper procedure for completing enlistment.

Oak Dale

We are getting along nicely with our B. T. U. We have changed it from Sunday night to Sunday afternoon. A larger crowd attends, especially the older folks. We are glad to have them and hope more will come when the weather gets warmer.

Miss Louise Roper is spending a few days with her sister, Mrs. Howard Higdon, of Iola.

A high school in Hazelton, Pa., started a tin can collection contest between rooms and wound up the week with 29,000 cans.

Pvt. Howard J. Roper, who was stationed at Camp Butler, has been transferred to San Francisco, Calif.

Rev. N. E. Holden attended his regular preaching service here Saturday and Sunday. A large crowd attended.

Want to help? Sign up for the 1943 Red Cross War Fund.

EXECUTRIX NOTICE

Having qualified as executrix of Florence C. Bascom, deceased, late of Macon county, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 5th day of February, 1944, or this notice will plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 5th day of February, 1943.
LOUISE BASCOM BARRATT,
Executrix.
F11-6tc-M18

NOTICE OF SUMMONS

Macon County, North Carolina, In the Superior Court, MACON COUNTY

vs. Unknown Heirs of R. C. Slagle

The Defendants, Unknown Heirs of R. C. Slagle will take notice that an action entitled as above, has been commenced in the Superior Court of Macon County, North Carolina, for the purpose of foreclosing a tax lien on property in Macon County, North Carolina, and in which the defendants have an interest, and are proper parties thereto.

It is further ordered by the court that the defendants, Unknown Heirs of R. C. Slagle, are required to appear at the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Macon County, North Carolina, at his office in Franklin, on the 9th day of March, 1943, and answer or demur to the complaint of the plaintiff, or the relief demanded in said complaint will be granted.

This the 6th day of February, 1943.

A. R. HIGDON,
Clerk Superior Court.
JONES & JONES,
Attorneys.

Feb11-4tc-M4

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