

New Building Going Up On Tidewater Test Farm

By JAMES L. BOND

A new building of cement block construction with sheet metal roof is going up at the Tidewater Experiment Station on U. S. highway 64 between Plymouth and Roper which when completed will be used as an implement shed, machine shop and a place to do experimental work on potatoes.

The work was begun the first of December and is expected to be completed by the end of January, barring any holdups of materials. It is being done under the direction of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture on what is known as a forced account. Personnel of the station are authorized to do their own building rather than have it done on a contract basis. The work is being done under the supervision of J. L. Rea, assistant director in charge of the station.

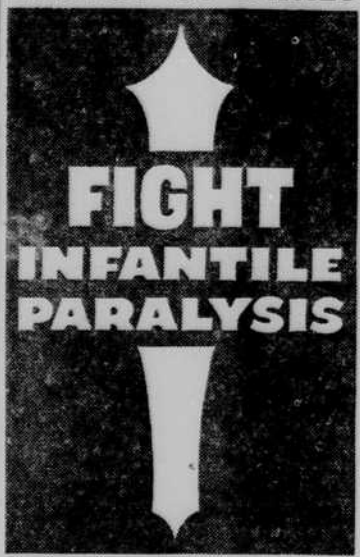
The new construction ties in by a rear ramp with the present machinery shed, also of cement block construction, and when completed will give the Washington county station the best machinery storage of any experiment farm in the state, according to state heads of the experiment station program.

The new building will have approximately 8,500 square feet of floor space and will include a wood working shop and two wash rooms in addition to the machinery shed and storage space. The floors will be of poured concrete. There are 5 white and 2 Negro families living on the farm which is one of seven in the state owned and operated by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. Recent construction on the place includes a new cattle barn, a silo and 5 experimental storage barns. Planned construction in the near future includes a fertilizer house and a general crop storage building.

The present station consists of

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a tract of 1995 acres and was established in 1943. Various soil types are included in the vast tract. The station supplanted the old Blackland Station which was operated at Wenoona by the Department of Agriculture from 1912 through 1944. The personnel, livestock and equipment of the Blackland Station were moved to the Tidewater Experiment Station following the construction of several new buildings and the putting up of fences.

There are 350 acres of cleared land in the tract and Superintendent Rea says there are plenty more acres that can and will be cleared. Twenty-five acres of new land were cleared during the past fiscal year, Mr. Rea stated. Also, 35,000 cubic yards of excavating on ditches was done during the year.

There are about 1500 acres of wasteland in the huge tract, a few acres of this land having a fair stand of pine timber. Some of the timber is to be sawed up into lumber for use on the farm.

Grassing on the farm is being done as quickly as possible in order to afford plenty of good grazing for the herds of beef cattle.

sheep and swine. Thirty acres were grassed during the past year. It is planned to grass 25 acres more during the present fiscal year, the superintendent stated. "We are trying to get it done at the rate of at least 25 acres a year," Mr. Rea added.

Pasture land is being seeded by Ky. 31 Fescue and Ladino clover with experimental pastures being seeded to fescue, orchard grass, red top, white dutch and Ladino clover.

Range research experiments are being carried out in grazing native forage and out in the open as compared with native forage in timber. There are 20 such pastures of one acre each on the farm. Also, there are 5 acres in fire lane studies with both narrow and wide lanes seeded in various grasses and in clover.

On the farm there are 18 different sheep pastures where grazing results are being studied using phosphate as compared with pastures not using phosphate. This is a long range program being conducted in cooperation with the regional laboratory at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

The front part of the farm is devoted to agronomy and horticulture with the back land given over to drainage experiment work and animal husbandry. Drainage work is being conducted on some 60 acres using every type of ditch. There are 700 water wells having electric pumps and ditch types include open, blasted (dynamite) V-drained and tile-drained ditches. Drainage experimental work is considered of great importance to this immediate section as the county has much low, poorly drained land which must be properly drained in order to increase productivity to a degree that will allow crops to be grown with profit.

Meeting of Future Homemakers Held

The regular monthly meeting of the Future Homemakers of America was held in the Home Economics Department of Plymouth High School Monday night.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Jackie Mizelle.

Two new officers were elected: parliamentarian, Anna Mae Peckham; and song leader, Faye Smith. Committees were appointed to outline the program of work for the remainder of the year. The committees are:

Program of work: Lucille Hooker, chairman; Alvania Maitland and Elsie Sawyer.

Finance: Betty Riddle, chairman; Faye Smith and Peggy Darden.

Constitution and By-laws: Peggy Mizelle, chairman; Anna Mae Peckham and Marie Singleton.

Degrees: Paula Swain, chairman; Jean Turner and Lorraine Ragland.

Recreation: Joy Harrison, chairman; Joanne Campbell and Pat Hammons.

Public Relations: Phyllis Bishop, chairman; Virgil Davenport and Jean Jackson.

Membership: Peggy Styons, chairman, Marlene Painter and June Bateman.

Projects: Priscilla Ange, chairman; Virginia Heyne and Rita Bateman.

The duties of the officers and the various committees were outlined and a possible program of activities for the year was discussed.

The meeting was then adjourned and refreshments were served by the chapter advisor, Miss Carolyn Brinkley.—Phyllis Bishop, reporter.

Average Milk Production Per Cow Higher Than 1948

North Carolina's 359,000 milk cows on farms produced an average of 340 pounds of milk per cow during November. This compares with a production of 328 pounds per cow during November, 1948.

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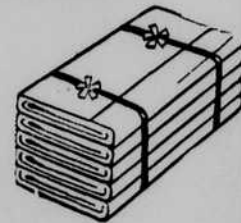
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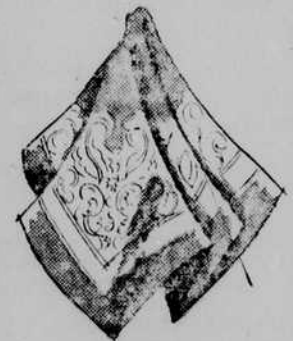
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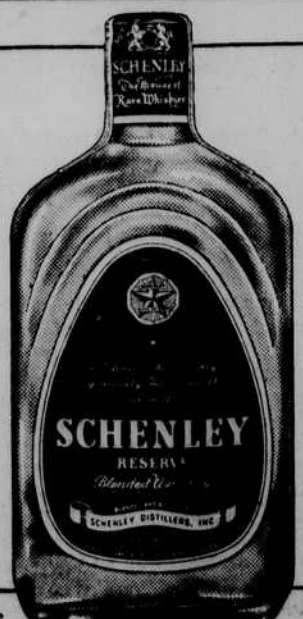
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