Capital Letters

By THOMPSON GREENWOOD

GUANO—Due to the fact that this State grows 67 per cent of all flue-cured tobacco produced in the nation and 48 per cent of all tobacco grown in the U. S., North Carolina uses one-sixth of all fertilizer sold in this country.

In fact, farmers of this province bought 1,511,822 tons of fertilizer in the calendar year 1945. Figuring that this fertilizer cost the farmer an average of $33 per ton (tobacco fertilizer would average around $35), North Carolina agriculturists spent $49,890,126, or right at $50,000,000 for fertilizer in 1945.

That's a lot of money—even for you and me.

WEST—In many states in the Pacific Northwest less than 1,000 tons of fertilizer is used during each year.

And in many of the agriculture classes out there the instructors keep three or four sample bags of fertilizer just to show the students its composition and yaried uses.

You see, by the time those Northwestern states had been settled we knew a great deal more about the soil than when we were going wild on cotton here in the South 100 years ago. Those farmers profited by our mistakes.

It is only in recent years that Southern farmers as a whole have found it is necessary to put just a little something back into the ground now and then.

2,000—If you think you use a lot of fertilizer, you should get in touch with some Eastern North Carolina tobacco farmers, some of whom used 1,800-2,000 pounds to the acre last year.

Agronomists will tell you without fear of refutation that the use of fertilizer will give you a better return on your investment—under proper circumstances — than anything else.

CARRIER BOYS—Dr. C. C. Crittenden, director of the State Department of Archives and History, is a paper boy these days. His son, who delivers a Raleigh daily, has been ill with the flu (like most everybody else, apparently), so Dr. Crittenden has been singing the news.

Also a newspaper boy now is Howard Satterfield, professor at State College and whose son is sick.

The neighbors out on Park drive have been getting good laughs from watching these two "boys" nod solemnly as they meet each other on their respective routes.

221 DIVORCES — Wake county had 221 divorces during 1945—a record and a gain of 19 over 1944. But Wake still has quite a few more marriages than divorces. Isn't that fine.

It is an ironical and shameful fact that in this country where we talk of love all the time, sing about it all the time, hear songs about it on the radio every hour of every day and night in the year, read about it in the newspapers and magazines and books all the time, and see it in the movies every day, we have more divorces from lack of love than any other land on earth.

THE FOLKS WHO HEARD AND SAW AGRICULTURE SECRETARY CLINTON P. ANDERSON IN RALEIGH LAST WEEK were very much impressed with him. He's a good speaker—much better than his boss, H. Truman, who garbled his talk over the radio last Thursday night. Anderson has poise and self-assurance, and you are going to hear more from him.

He threw several nice bouquets at Agriculture Commissioner Kerr Scott, who planning to run (or may be already running) for re-election. Scott, who is now planning to run (or may be already running) for re-election. Scott and Anderson becam fast friends at the annual meeting of the National Association of Commissioners of Agriculture held in Memphis—and at which Scott was elected vice-president of the association.

LT. GOV. L. Y. BALLENTINE was in a class by himself at the luncheon honoring Secretary Anderson last Friday. Dr. Clarence Poe, who introduced the special guests, said the hall was full of farmers and politicians, adding that Ballentine, however, was both farmer and policitian. Stag does mix the two rather well, and it is hard to say at which he is better—although the latter label seems to be going in the lead at this particular time.

TIME MAGAZINE carried a Lincolnesque picture of Governor Gregg Cherry in last week's issue. The magazine, in alluding to Cherry's commutation of 14-year-old Negro Ernest Brooks' sentence from death to life imprisonment, quoted Cherry as saying: "The crimes are revolting, but a part of the blame . . . arises from the neglect of the state and society to provide a better environment . . . Our public schools equipped with capable teachers and an effective compulsory-attendance law, would do much to correct delinquency among all races."

Brooks was convicted of breaking into a Wilmington home and raping a woman who was seven months pregnant . . . rape and burglary, both punishable by death.

Even Time makes mistakes. In sending in the story to the mag, C. A. Upchurch, Jr., of Raleigh, told them plainly seven months. They raised it to eight. And in reporting Time's report, the Raleigh News and Observer said that Brook had been convicted of murder and rape of the woman, who now is still living in apparently good health at her home in Wilmington. Well, well.

AS YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW, the rationing of paper is over for magazines, and they are going hog wild with their illustrations and features. The sex angle is given the big play, in the women's magazines particularly, and in the current issue of Cosmopolitan a n—k—d woman (hold on there!) illustrates one of the stories, and she's looking in one of these mirror contraptions so as to give you a betterview.

SENATOR BAILEY, LOOKING PALE AND WAN, was introduced at the luncheon honoring Anderson as the Elder N. C. Senator and Senator Hoey as the Youthful Senator. Hoey is a little younger than Bailey.

In reporting it, one of the dailies which has never been very favorable toward Senator Bailey inadvertently had it this way: "Dr. Poe introduced Senator Bailey as "Senator Bailey." Immediately after, he introduced North Carolina's "useful junior senator," Clyde R. Hoey.

You can imagine how this mistake made Senator Bailey feel. Scallions!

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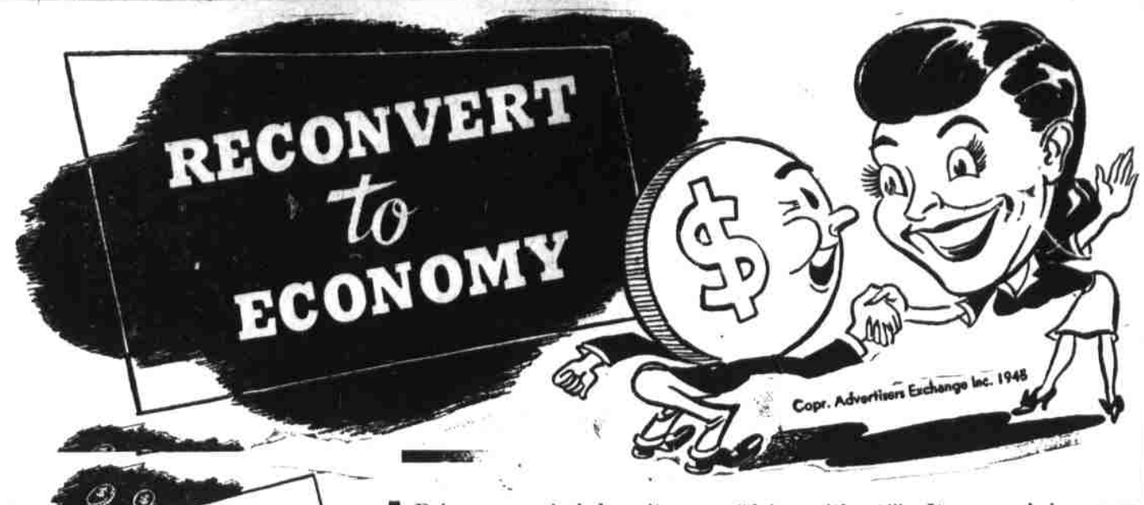

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