

# What Happens To Rain? Answer Is Sought

## Study Being Made By Scientists

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N. C. Agricultural Experiment Station

What happens to the rain? In a new experimental project still being set up in the Waynesville area, scientists of the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station have set out to learn the complete answer to this question.

By using specially constructed apparatus and measuring devices, they hope to measure the exact amount of water that runs off, the amount lost in evaporation, and hence the amount used by growing plants.

Dr. W. W. Woodhouse, soil fertility expert with the Experiment Station at State College, heads the committee which directs the study. Other members are Dr. P. P. Lutz and W. D. Lee of the State College staff.

On-the-spot supervision is in the hands of M. J. Gilbert, young University of California graduate who came to North Carolina a year ago especially for this assignment.

Mr. Gilbert has his headquarters at the Mountain Experiment Station near Waynesville.

The Tennessee Valley Authority, which is cooperating in the project, will soon name a hydrologic engineer to supervise the installations.

The studies are to be made on a series of small "watersheds" or amphitheater-shaped ravines.

Though this kind of topography is fairly common in the mountainous country surrounding Waynesville, the scientists are having considerable trouble finding watersheds that fit their needs.

In the first place, the watersheds must come in pairs, close enough together that the rainfall will be the same on each.

In addition, the paired watersheds must be of the same shape, the same size, the same degree of slope.

The soil and underlying rock

## A JET PLANE CAME CALLING ON HIM



IN THE SHAMBLES of what once was his upstairs bedroom in Detroit, Herman W. Miller, 64, thanks his lucky stars he is still alive. Miller was asleep in the bed on which he is shown sitting when the auxiliary tank of a jet fighter plane crashed through the roof and continued on to the basement. Extensive damage was done to the home. (International)

formation also must be as near identical as possible.

### Search for Cooperators

Finding paired watersheds is only part of the problem. To make the study of maximum usefulness, the scientists want to locate their experiments on both Haywood and Halewood soils, the two types most common in that area.

They also want results from two different kinds of slopes—steep, 30 to 60 degrees; and moderate, 10 to 30 degrees.

Such exacting requirements have led Mr. Gilbert and his co-workers to search much of the mountainous area around Waynesville.

Even after they have found paired

watersheds of the desired soil and slope, there still remains the problem of enlisting the cooperation of the land owner.

Since the tests will last a minimum of ten years, owners are naturally hesitant to sign away title to their land for that length of time.

At present, the search is about half complete.

Two of the four pairs planned have definitely been located—both on Halewood type soils. One pair is on property belonging to the Mountain Branch Station, the other on the farm of G. C. Palmer in the Crabtree community.

Since the other two pairs must be on Haywood soils, Mr. Gilbert says they are likely to be east of Waynesville.

Haywood soils generally occur at lower altitudes than Halewood, he explains.

**Install Measuring Devices**  
As rapidly as the watersheds are selected, Gilbert moves in his crew of workmen to clear off remaining trees and shrubs.

He then installs the several measuring devices needed.

The main installation is a steel dam, constructed across the mouth of the ravine at the bottom of the watershed. It must stop all subsurface as well as surface water.

To check the amount of water that sinks into the soil and there used by plants, the scientists are installing electrically operated meters at several locations on each watershed.

These meters show the soil mois-

## MORE ABOUT School Board

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the school bond issue. The conference with Mr. Gudger was to find out how much can be done with the funds that would be available in the light of current construction costs.

Early during the meeting, the board members heard an Allens Creek delegation headed by K. Allen, Gordon Hendrix and Mrs. Allen submit a request for the building of a new addition to the Allens Creek School.

The representatives from the community also sought information in regard to when school funds would be available.

The meeting adjourned after the board approved the elections of county school principals for the next school year.

Mr. Messer said the next board session would be held when information about the school funds was obtained.

Attending the session were Board Chairman R. T. Messer, and W. V. Davis and Homer V. Cagle, members.

A record production of 8,100,000 bushels of Irish potatoes was harvested in the State in 1946. The crop totaled 36,000 acres and yielded an average of 225 bushels per acre.

ture content at any given time. The final measuring device is a thermometer.

### Try Different Crops

Once the installations are complete, Mr. Gilbert will start the long-term cropping cycle which is planned for the watersheds.

He hopes to try out six different crops: Corn, small grain, poor pasture, highly improved pasture, abandoned pasture and deep-rooted crops such as alfalfa. Two or three years in each crop add up to the long-term project ahead.

These cropping tests, involve a very practical problem in mountain farming.

Lacking level crop land, mountain farmers are forced to clear hillside up to 60 degrees in slope. Experience has shown that once the forest growth is removed, erosion sets in.

With their accurate measuring instruments, Mr. Gilbert and his co-workers will be able to say just which crop holds the most moisture, and which permits the most run-off and soil loss.

### A Basic Study

Gilbert emphasizes that although the study will probably yield much information of use to farmers, it is primarily a basic scientific study. "Our aim," he says, "is to find out what happens to the water. We hope someday to be able to predict what will happen to the water when soil of a given type and slope is planted to a particular crop."

One interesting sideline of the study will be an attempt to relate moisture performance on small plots to that of a full-size watershed.

The investigators hope to uncover enough information so that the next time they want to study soil moisture and run-off under a new set of conditions, they will be able to use small plots instead of the 30 to 50 acres involved in this study.

## MORE ABOUT Flag Day

(Continued from Page 1)

the school band would play patriotic selections at the end of the parade in front of the Court House, and that the flag ceremonies would be held at the steps.

Before the parade starts, members of the Elks Lodge will meet at the Temple at 7 p. m.

In the ceremonies, each of the flags played a part in the founding of this nation will be brought to the Court House steps by a color guard of National Guardsmen.

Dr. Hugh Daniel of the Lodge will deliver the response, explaining the significance of each flag, while the commentary will be made by Frank Knutti, chairman of arrangements for the Elks.

Taking part in the ceremonies will be Waynesville Mayor J. H. Way, Jr., a member of the lodge.

Mr. Knutti, who is manager of Station WHCC, said the ceremonies are scheduled to be broadcast.

Harvesting of the commercial tomato crop in North Carolina is expected to begin about the middle of June.

## Pvt. Joseph Mintz



PVT. JOSEPH E. MINTZ, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mintz of Waynesville, Route 1, is serving with the armed forces in Germany. Pvt. Mintz volunteered for service in the army in July of 1948 and received training at Fort Jackson Camp Belvoir, New Jersey before going overseas.

## WNC County Office To Meet Here June

### MORE ABOUT Robbery

(Continued from Page 1)

was William C. Conley, 20, of Chicago, an unemployed merchant seaman, denied any theft, explaining he found the slow point on the railroad tracks.

By the tracks also, officers found a sack of food stuffs, and a woman's handbag.

Jerry Liner, owner of the company, said he had identified the watch and pocketknife as property of the store. He added that entry was affected through an unlocked rear window.

Conley was still held in the county jail today for investigation.

### MORE ABOUT D. A. Jaynes

(Continued from Page 1)

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