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SEEMS GROUND HOG RIGHT - SO FAR

Raleigh - "We'll have another three or four weeks of winter driving hazards according to what our friend Mr. Groundhog predicted on February 2, "Motor Vehicles Commissioner Edward Scheidt declared this week.

"Without a shadow of doubt there'll be some rough days and nights - weatherwise - for the drivers of motor vehicles all through February and perhaps into March," he warned.

The vehicles official added, the amount of daylight is perceptibly a bit longer now than a few weeks ago, but still much of our driving is done during hours of darkness. When bad weather is combined with darkness, visibility is reduced for drivers. This means that the driver himself should be alert physically and mentally, watching constantly for hazards that might elude him. It also means keeping windshield wipers in the best possible operating condition. Wiper blades that streak are a threat to safety."

Commenting on the use of "fog lamps," the commissioner said such lamps should be used sparingly. They should not be used in lieu of headlights unless absolutely necessary in case of rain, snow or fog - or in other emergency conditions like dust storms.

Concerning inadequate traction, Scheidt had this to say:

"Traction is tricky on slippery pavement. No one yet has improved on the simple rule, slow down. A driver has just got to reduce his speed on icy highways if he wants to feel safe and if he wants to be safe. Even those who have managed to get through the winter this far without a skid accident had better watch themselves pretty carefully - as well as watching out for the mistakes on the part of other drivers or pedestrians."

Scheidt concluded, "temperatures are starting to climb some days now, but chances are there will still be many below freezing days ahead, and it's important to bear in mind that ice gets more slippery as the temperature rises."

Uncle Pete From Chittlin Switch

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:
I see by the paper where Secretary of Agriculture Benson says the Lord is on his side in his squabbles with the farmers. I ain't never took sides in this controversy between Benson and the farmers, but if he's quoted correct, I got to say a few words about this statement.
It's funny how politics work on fella's that git in office. When they git pushed up in a corner, they all claim partnership with the Lord. I recall a few years ago, when a fella down in a small town in Alabama got elected Mayor, the Baptist called a meeting and held a prayer service for the town. This fella's name was Rush Burton, and when he heard about the prayer service, he allowed as how him and the Lord would just ignore the matter. He hadn't got in office good yet he started claiming partnership with the Lord.

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Race Between Science And Death For Child With Rare Heart Defects Underway

A three-year old child with a rare combination of heart defects is the prize in a race between scientific research and death. She is Laura Jean, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Lambert of Route one, Hickory, who was born with three serious heart abnormalities: tricuspid atresia and interatrial and interventricular septal defects.

Modern surgery could handle the latter conditions, but a technique to correct deformity of the tricuspid valve is still in the experimental stage. The question today is: will Laura Jean live long enough for medical research to perfect the necessary operation? She has already outlived by many months the time originally given her by physicians.

In Layman's language, tricuspid atresia is a constriction in the valve leading from the right auricle of heart to the right ventricle. Blood from all portions of the body is received in the right auricle, pumped through the tricuspid valve into the right ventricle and is then pumped to the lungs for oxygen. When the tricuspid valve doesn't work properly, blood backs up in the right auricle and puts great pressure on this chamber of the heart. In addition, not enough blood gets to the lungs to be properly oxygenated.

Complicating the picture further are the interatrial and interventricular septal defects, which are unnatural openings between the right and left sides of the heart. They allow the blood to pass back and forth aimlessly, mixing of venous with arterial blood, some of it being repeated, unnecessary trips to the lungs.

What this means to Laura Jean is a definite lack of growth and some cyanosis, or "blueness" in the color of her skin. As she tries to increase her activities, she may experience shortness of breath, dizziness, blackouts and other symptoms common to cases like hers. In addition, children with these defects are more susceptible to infections such as colds, flu, and pneumonia, as well as other diseases.

Laura Jean, however, is lucky to have a mother who has given her careful attention. Mrs. Lambert is a former laboratory technician and office nurse and, at the first sign of a cold or slight infection, she takes Laura Jean to her physician. Dr. Dewitt Trivette, who gives her proper treatment. It is believed that this accounts for the fact that the little girl has lived well beyond the time thought possible. Most other children with defects like hers die within a year of birth.

Laura Jean's chances for life lie entirely in the hands of heart researchers. She is not the only child involved in this race against time for corrective measures to be found that will restore them to health and normal life expectancy. Much of this research is financed directly through funds raised during the annual Heart Fund drive conducted by the American Heart Association through its state affiliates and their chapters. This provides an opportunity for everyone to make contributions that will buy months, years, even lifetimes for children whose conditions today mark them "hopeless".

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N. Carolina Stands Little Chance Of Flooding Eggs And Broiler Market With More Production

North Carolina farmers could not produce a single egg and the total market in the United States couldn't even know North Carolina was not producing eggs.

Dr. C. F. Libeau, Extension Poultry and Egg Marketing Specialist, said today that North Carolina produces but three per cent of the annual egg production in the United States. Each year, he points out, the national average increase of eggs is three per cent.

Libeau's remarks came when he said North Carolina could produce enough eggs to "flood the market." He says that in his opinion North Carolina's trouble is not producing enough eggs to flood the market but not producing enough eggs to market.

North Carolina has a total population of four and one-half million and it is remaining about the same. According to figures as compiled by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, enough eggs to feed the population of North Carolina are not produced in the State. Each year between 10 and 20 per cent of the egg consumption is imported. For Eastern North Carolina, Commissioner L. Y. Balfour says the average is higher, probably around 30 per cent.

Dr. Libeau says that what North Carolina farmers need to do is to "really get into egg production."

Sochacki says the premium rates for the permanent plans are higher than for the term policies at the same age of issue, but they remain static. Term policy premium rates, on the other hand, increase every five years until they may become prohibitive at advanced ages Sochacki says.

Sochacki adds that permanent plans have certain values which term policies do not have. These include a loan value, a cash surrender value, and an extended insurance value. The latter will keep a policy in force automatically for a stipulated period after a policyholder has failed to pay premiums.

Term policies, on the other hand, provide only insurance against death and then only so long as premiums are timely paid. They have no extended value as a cushion against lapse, or loan value for emergencies.

Sochacki says World War II term policyholders who wish to take advantage of easy-stage conversions may obtain full information at the local VA Office, 806-7 Wachovia Bank Building, Goldsboro, N. C.

Some indication of just how much egg production is needed and the market which is available is seen through Dr. Libeau's statement that 1,000,000 laying hens "wouldn't effect the market at all."

It is estimated that 100,000 laying hens will yield approximately 1,000 cases of eggs weekly. There are numerous markets available which will take this many eggs every week on a contracted basis.

What an increased egg production, which would be effective in North Carolina, would mean to the income of Eastern Carolina is seen by an annual gross income of \$2,000,000; or, for 1,000,000 hens, \$2,000,000.

The same principal of "producing too little" is involved in broiler production. Last year, North Carolina produced approximately 20 per cent of the total United States production.

Some counties, such as Duplin, have gone into the broiler business during the past few years on a large scale. Production during 1954 was about 5,000,000 broilers. Production during 1953 will total over 15,000,000 according to County Agent Vernon Reynolds.

Dr. Libeau points to Georgia, the biggest broiler producing state in the United States, and says that the last census from Georgia showed that 88,000,000 broilers were added to the State's total last year - a 23 per cent increase, and that Georgia producers received a higher price than did North Carolina producers.

When production increases production cost for the whole country goes down, and net profits rise.

With more broilers produced in North Carolina, processing plants could be constructed in North Carolina, and thus, make a higher profit for producers because of less transportation cost.

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Easy-stage Method Of Converting GI Insurance To Permanent Plan Available

An easy-stage method of converting GI term insurance to permanent plans is available to any of the 3,200,000 World War II veterans who cannot afford to convert the full amount of their term policies, says Walter J. Sochacki, Officer-in-Charge of the local VA Office, 806-7 Wachovia Bank Building, Goldsboro, N. C.

Mr. Sochacki says the law and VA regulations permit these term policyholders to convert as little as \$1,000 the first time and then any amount thereafter they wish in multiples of \$500.

By converting \$1,000 a year for 10 years, the full amount will be in permanent plan insurance within a decade Sochacki points out. Annual dividends may be used in the process to reduce the cash outlay to the policyholder at the time of conversion, he adds.

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