

# Editorial And Opinion

## Spring Fire Danger

The pungent odor of burning grass, rubbish and brush drifts through nearly every suburban community in the country during spring months. But, more than 700,000 of these fires get beyond control, endangering lives and destroying property running into millions of dollars annually.

Moreover, they all but drive the local fire departments crazy, and cost town governments thousands of dollars in unnecessary fire protection costs. These costs come directly out of taxpayers pockets.

Burning over grass and brush areas may be beneficial spring clean-up of your property, but you should decide to do the job properly and safely before you start. The following pointers will help you remain on friendly terms with your neighbors as well as the fire department and may save you the cost of a fine or a lawsuit.

Collect the proper tools for effective grass fire control. These include a heavy shovel, wet brooms, and a portable pump tank extinguisher if possible.

Lay out lengths of garden hose equipped with a nozzle and connected to a good water supply if the area to be burned is near buildings. Transport barrels or tanks of water to areas where water lines are not available.

Be sure that sufficient help is standing by to lend assistance if needed. Stay in attendance until all fire is extinguished. Never allow children near the burning area; they may get burned.

Make sure that you observe local fire ordinances governing this type of burning. In suburban areas it is best to notify the fire department of your intention and the time you plan to burn—you may find this a legal requirement.

Always choose a day when there is no breeze, but be prepared for one to spring up any time.

Keep in mind that wind and weather conditions, as well as conditions of grass or brush makes this type of burning tricky and unpredictable. The job should be tackled seriously with full observance of all safety rules.

## The Beauty Around You

Any one who has a love of nature in his make-up, must agree that one would have to travel far to find the natural beauty that abounds in the County of Orange, State of North Carolina,—that is if he has bothered to explore. In fact this God given beauty can be "discovered" not more than twenty minutes ride from any point in this historic old Early American tramping ground.

Should this article excite your curiosity, and in turn the interest to explore, do not think it can be done without leaving the "beaten path". That is the catch! The rustic old mills, winding streams, old plantation sites with their slave quarters, are not to be found on the smooth highways that teem with those who want to "get somewhere quick". No, one must take the good (not always) sand clay winding roads that lure and beckon the driver to continue on just to see what lies around that next bend.

The next time you think about "taking a ride" don't hit for the highway, but rather set your course for the hundreds of out of the way places that will refresh your zest for living, renew your faith in mankind and cause you to thank God that He has made possible all this beauty in nature, that you can enjoy, so easily. Yes, it can be found right here in your Orange County.

## They 'Seen' Their Duty...

In this land of ours there are still evidences of responsibility being shown by our youth. Deserving of more than ordinary acknowledgement right here in North Carolina a recent item in the Warsaw-Faison News.

The senior class of the Rose Hill-Magnolia School has voted to give up the trip to Washington this year—a pilgrimage that has long been an annual institution, and one for which the youngsters worked throughout the preceding year with eager anticipation.

As the story goes, one of the seniors was dispatched on an errand of some miles to attend to class business. A teacher loaned her car. It went out of control in the hands of the young driver and landed in the ditch, \$312 worse off for the experience. (According to the police, the tires were smooth, the road slick from rain, the driver neither reckless nor speeding.)

So, the class voted to repair the teacher's car—and stay home.

In so doing, these kids displayed a sense of citizenship that not even a trip to the National Capital could have given them. But, by the same token, it suggests how much such responsible young Americans might have learned, had their dream-journey not been punctured.



(Continued from page 1)

ways more oneness of opinion in the upper than in the lower body.

**SPRING - STRUCK . . .** Members of the Legislature were described by United Press Correspondent Edward Cornish last Saturday as being "frisky". He referred to them further as being "spring-struck". Could be, for it's been a long, hard, wet winter. They say that back there in the Hurricane section of Wake County—usually referred to as the "Harricane" in the days when water-clear whiskey was preferred over the colored variety—they have been "closed in" by the wet weather. The Scott roads didn't reach out to the Harricane. Reports are that a lot of those farmers haven't been able to get to town since Fair week.

But the way bills—parking meter, milk commission, nurses, garnishment, wage and hour, etc.—were flying and being shot down last week, it certainly didn't look as if the Legislature was bothered too much with spring fever. Some committees were meeting at 9 o'clock in the morning, with the Finance and Appropriations groups preparing for long afternoon sessions.

However, spring did move into Raleigh last Friday, officially, and there's bound to come a slowing down until the supply lines catch up. As John Charles McNeill wrote 50 years ago (springs don't change much): De bullbat gins to beller across de shimmering hill. 'Tain't long befo' a feller kin hear de whuppoorwill. De Hawk sets 'roun' en watches de biddies wjd de hen, er-scratchin' in de doodle dust, 'ca'se springtime's come again. Dirt - daubers soon be squealin', shapin up deir mud, a sorta sleepy feelin' gits a gwine long yo' blood, till you lose yo' holt en dozes, en jerks, en wakes up—den de fus' thing you knows is dat de springtime's come again.

**WHITTILING . . .** The Appropriation Committees' biennial spring whittling bee is now well underway. Many a State department and institution head will soon find himself holding the short end of the financial stick as the Legislature strives grimly to trim the cloth to meet the pattern.

Looking over some of the funds set up for State schools last week, we were surprised to find that the Veteran Educator B. B. Dougherty and his Appalachian State Teachers College at Boone are apparently taking a pretty severe licking this time. We have seen Dr. Dougherty squeeze more out of an educational dollar than probably any other man living. We have seen him in Raleigh working for Appalachian, the school he and his brother, the late D. D. established, when he was hardly able to walk and was forced to use a five-foot-long hickory stick as big as your wrist for assistance in getting around. He will come as near being the father of our consolidated, bus-operated school system as any man living.

Well, the budget people have set up for ASTC an average of \$222 per student for the next biennium as against East Carolina's \$295; West Carolina, at Cullowhee, \$459; Woman's College of UNC, \$579; Pembroke, \$665; Elizabeth City (colored) \$305; Fayetteville (colored) \$316, etc. Somebody has slipped a cog on Appalachian which for a generation now has been like a beacon sending beams of light into the dark coves and green valleys of Western North Carolina. Another thing, Appalachian has more graduates teaching in our public schools of the State than any other college in North Carolina.

Dr. Dougherty's case is serious. He is fearful the accrediting agencies may give his school a hard time if something isn't done. But scores of other men and women representing other State schools and agencies are also working, prodding, pulling, pushing in an effort to persuade the Appropriations Committees to see their needs. We have chosen the case

## Malenkov Goes West



## Garden Time

Robert Schmidt

I have had several phone calls during the past week asking me when I am going to plant my dahlias and what to do about dahlias that were left in the ground over winter and are now sending up stems.

If you grew dahlias last year and left them in the ground over winter they should be dug up now and divided. Even if you want only one plant, divide the clump, plant one division and give the others away. Leaving the clump in the ground will give you several main stems, a lot of early flowers and usually poor flowers in the fall when they ought to be at their best.

In digging the clump be careful not to break the necks of the tuberous roots. Some varieties have very slender necks. In dividing the clump, which is best done with a long slender knife blade, you must leave at least one bud or eye and one root with each of Appalachian because it seems as sincerely severe as any.

It's dog-eat-dog and devil take the hindmost from here on out.

division. You will find the buds on the main stem or at the base of the stem—not on the root itself.

If long sprouts have developed, they may be cut back to about one-half inch of the stem or eye. Usually you can get from three to five divisions from each clump. These divisions may be planted now or can be kept in a cool place, covered with peat moss or dry sand until the proper planting time.

I rarely plant before May 1 here at Raleigh. My advice would be to plant during early May in the central and western portions of the state, and about May 25 to June 1 in the extreme eastern portion of the state.

How can you grow large dinner plate size dahlias? You must buy varieties which naturally grow large. There are hundreds of varieties ranging in size from one to 17 inches in diameter. Culture and removing the buds will increase size to a limited extent, but if you want the big ones you must buy the proper varieties.

## Legislative Summary

### Long Sessions Ahead As Solon Get Down To Important Business

(Note: This is another of a series of weekly summaries prepared by the legislative staff of the Institute of Government on the work of the North Carolina General Assembly of 1953. It is confined to discussions of matters of general interest and major importance.)

could withdraw only by special order of the General Assembly. Meanwhile, the House became entangled in parliamentary procedure in its consideration of SB 280, a substitute bill for delegating power to county commissioners to fix salaries for all county employees (provided that no increase in reduction exceeded 20% in any year). After members finally terminated that the bill should apply to about 40 counties, the House sent the bill back to committee for a last-minute check on amendments. Efforts by realtors to amend the bill to require a referendum before a public housing project could be constructed, met vigorous opposition from groups favoring public housing as a means of improving standards of living. Commencement on the bill was postponed. Substantial amendment to the ban redevelopment law is proposed by HB 830. The principal change recommended would permit the State to condemn land for redevelopment purposes if as much as two-thirds of the area concerned is blighted.

At the end of ten and one-half weeks the 1953 General Assembly still has much left to be done. Afternoon or night sessions are not far off, for despite lengthy sessions, more bills are reaching the House calendar than can be considered on the floor.

After deciding to conduct open sessions in their consideration of the biennial appropriations bills, the joint sub-committee met this week to approve some minor requests and disapprove others, with a promise to begin work next week on the major budget items, including requests for the University of North Carolina, the public schools and mental hospitals. Although there has been no concrete pronouncement of the fiscal policy of the State for the next biennium, scattered rumors indicate that some agreement may be in the offing. Final approval is expected this week for SB 334, making an emergency appropriation of \$341,155 for Memorial Hospital at UNC, in line with Governor Umstead's request on Monday.

**Local Government**

One day after North Carolina cities had proposed a method for better enforcement of municipal parking regulations to the General Assembly, HB 884 was introduced to abolish parking meters. Persons owning cars found parked in violation of any traffic regulation would be deemed prima facie guilty of the violation if HB 850 were passed, but they would have the opportunity to prove their innocence. Legislative sentiment against parking meters as a regulatory device suggests that traffic congestion in cities may get worse before it gets better. A compromise proposal for helping small towns spend street funds more effectively was introduced on Friday. Towns under 5000 could request the SH&PWC to construct and maintain their streets out of Powell Bill allocations, but once a town elected to contract with the highway department, it

**Election Laws and Senatorial Districts**

Proponents of Senate redistricting and House reapportionment argued without opposition in a public hearing before a House committee on Wednesday. Despite the constitutional mandate and gubernatorial

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