

# Poole's Medley

BY D. SCOTT POOLE

There were several grist mills to grind corn in our community in my boyhood, and I have been informed that it was so in other communities in this state, but these are numbered with the things of the past. Corn is ground now in several towns and cities, and neatly put up in 10 pounds and larger packages.

We boys of our community used to take a bushel of corn to mill, and we had a chance to fish until our corn had been ground.

We arose before clear daylight every morning, fed stock, and did other chores about the house and barn, ate breakfast and went to work until the horn, or other signal called us to dinner.

We shoveled both sides of four acres of cotton on an average each

day, plowed out two acres of corn, cut with a cradle four acres of wheat or oats.

These combines, disks and tractors do more work, and make work easier.

The drudgery of farm life has been removed, and life is worth more to the average citizen now than it was even a few years ago.

I do not believe the manner of giving out knowledge has improved, for there is no way but the commonsense way. But in nearly every essential thing, there has been progress made, and enjoyment added to our manner of life.

I have been wondering why there are not more thunderstorms these times. I well remember how terrific thunderstorms were in the olden days. You could not determine whether there was one thunder peal or several.

Unless the electricity is gradually carried away to the earth by guy wires, we do not understand

why we do not have more electrical display. I have seen many awe-inspiring thunderstorms.

There are 100 counties in this state, and it is likely the number will be change any time. Hoke was small to begin with.

To prove our position: No citizen would have less or more business at the county seat, and, as we have said before, the mileage, the largest single item on the county expense, would be increased, and so would the time required to attend any business for the number of courts would be increased.

I remember when the average yield of corn in North Carolina was five bushels, so reported by the Agricultural Department. Reason: The farmers were unable to buy fertilizers, or to improve their soils.

Two locomotives were placed on a railroad track in a prairie portion of Texas, facing each other. The engineers had everything ready, started their locomotives wide open, and jumped off. The locomotives had about two miles in open country to run before they met and they acted, it was said, a good deal like two big dogs fighting. The spectators, thousands of them, paid \$4 to see the show

The railroads in North Carolina were nearly all built since the Civil War. The Aberdeen and Asheboro was built since 1896. The Mt. Gilead branch was completed in 1897.

There was a lot of timber in Montgomery swapped for rations while they were cutting the right of way. That branch road from Biscoe to Mount Gilead would make a snake's trail look straight. But it did the work waking up Montgomery County, which had been slumbering for a century.

Troy built from 155 population in 1895 to 1800 population in 1898.

## State College Answers Timely Farm Questions

QUESTION: I am considering the purchase of a mechanical cotton picker. How much can I expect it to save me in harvesting costs?

ANSWER: The amount mechanical harvesting will save depends upon how much you use the harvester. Of course, the main expense in mechanical harvesting will be the original or "fixed" cost of the machine. This cost remains the same whether you harvest one acre or a hundred. But of course, if you harvest a hundred acres, the cost per acre for the machine will be much smaller.

A recent study of mechanical cotton picking in the Mississippi Delta has shown that if hand pickers are paid at the rate of \$2.65 a hundred pounds of seed cotton or less, the costs of harvesting are about the same for hand and machine. But if hand-picking rates are \$3.00 or more, there will be a big saving by the use of the mechanical picker. The study also showed that many of the 600 to 650 machines in the Delta region are still being used experimentally at a fraction of their capacity. Economists suggest doing custom work, if the owner's personal acreage of cotton is limited.

QUESTION: I've often heard it

Everyone thinks a town is getting better if the population increases.

There is not steel enough in the razor blades they are making now to interest a whisler. They just haven't the strength to cut.

I do not understand the high prices of so many things we all have to buy for our living. Coffee for instance. The price of many things must have got hung up and can't come down.

said that when you apply extra nitrogen to corn, you get more of an increase in stalks and leaves than in grain. Is this true?

ANSWER: No. Recent studies conducted by the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station have shown that nitrogen application increases grain yields three to four times as much as the weight of stover stalks and leaves. In fact, the corn grain represents the biggest proportion of total plant weight when the nitrogen rate is high. These studies showed that when no nitrogen was used, there were about three pounds of stover for each pound of grain. At the highest nitrogen rate, there was a little less than a pound of stover for each pound of grain.

QUESTION: My feed dealer is selling a new dairy feeding mixture made up largely of sweet potato meal. He tells me it's as good as corn. Is he right?

ANSWER: Well, he's pretty close to right. R. K. Waugh, head of the dairy husbandry section at State College, has just completed a feeding trial at Willard Branch Experiment Station with sweet potato meal. He says that except for a low protein content, dehydrated sweet potato meal is nearly equal to corn in milk-producing qualities.

## Farmers Advised To Defoliate Their Cotton

Recent heavy rains and continued attacks of boll weevils are further reasons why farmers should begin preparing to defoliate their cotton, says J. A. Shanklin, Extension cotton specialist at State College.

In most areas, Shanklin said, cotton is mature enough now where it would be safe to apply the defoliant. A good check to determine the time of applica-

tion would be to wait until bolls expected to mature are at least 20 days old. One application of 20 to 30 pounds of cyanamid dust per acre should be sufficient to do the job.

Shanklin recommends that the dust be applied early in the morning before the dew has dried off the cotton plants so the defoliant will stick to the leaves. Another good time to apply the dust is after a light rain while the plants are still wet. Any dusting equipment that is suitable for using in insect control will work satisfactorily in applying the defoliant.

Farmers in some of the western states have obtained good results with some of the liquid defoliants, the specialist said; however, there has not been enough experimental work conducted with such sprays in this state to justify their use.

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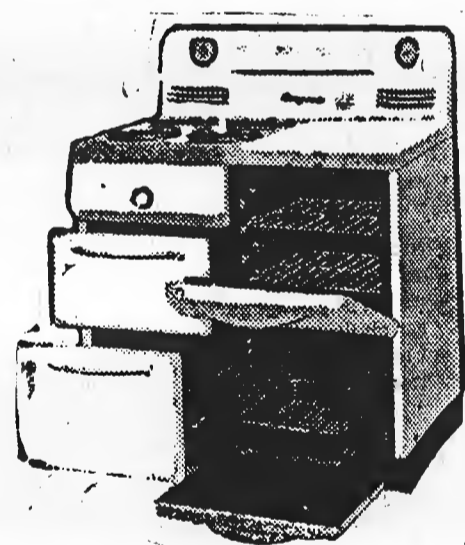
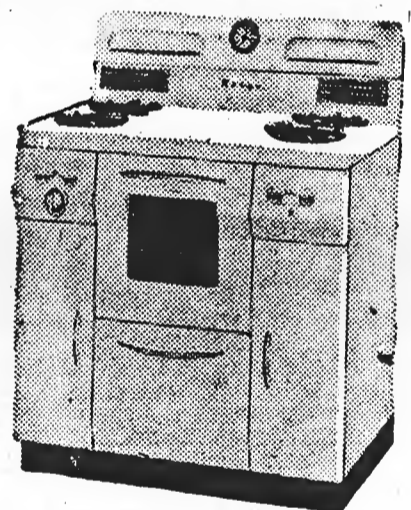
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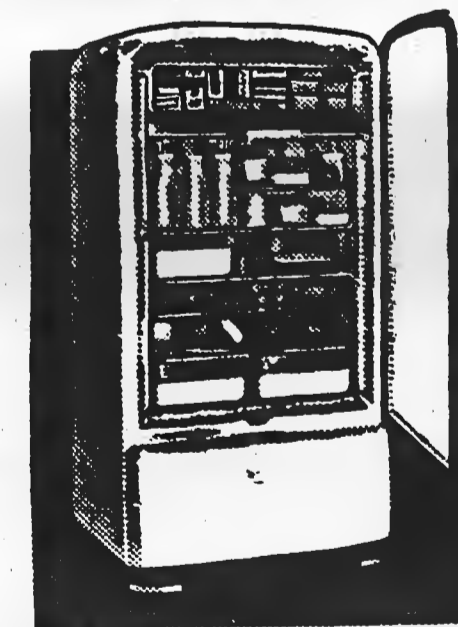
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