

# State Highway Commission Is Head Of Largest Network Of Roads

Raleigh—North Carolina's Highway Commission supervises the largest state system of roads in the United States.

The Tar Heel road network embraces 63,000 miles of double-lane boulevards, regular hard-surfaced highways and remote rural roads, spreading over mountains and rolling hills, through cities and villages sandy lowlands and swamps.

Only three states — Virginia, West Virginia and Delaware — have direct jurisdiction over all rural roads as well as highways. North Carolina's 63,000 miles exceeds the mileage managed by highway departments in these states and all the others in the Union.

This diffuse responsibility means that roadbuilding is extra big business for North Carolina's Highway Commission, especially with a \$200,000,000 secondary road program just picking up full steam.

Many Tar Heels know little about the functioning of their State Highway Commission and even less about its history.

By statute the Highway Commission has a task which includes the building of roads with its own forces, the supervision of road construction in charge of private contractors and the maintenance of the State's 63,000 miles of roads and highways.

To do this job it employs about 8,000 regular and approximately 3,000 temporary workers. The size of the payroll varies with the roadbuilding season. Construction has been at peak capacity recently because of the mild autumn.

The Commission itself comprises a chairman and ten members, one from each of ten designated highway divisions. The Governor appoints both chairman and commissioners for four-year terms. Working directly under the commissioners is a State Highway Engineer. He supervises an engineering staff consisting of engineers who handle equipment, maintenance, construction, roadway planning, bridges, statistics

and planning, materials and testing and roadbuilding activities in ten highway divisions. All subordinate positions of an engineering nature come under the authority of these department heads. Heading administrative departments are a general counsel, an auditor, director of safety, purchasing and prisons and two administrative assistants to the chairman, one for personnel and the other for public relations.

The Commission derives its income from automobile use taxes and federal aids, especially the gasoline tax, but the expenditure of these funds comes under the careful scrutiny of the Legislature, the Budget Bureau and the personnel department. Each biennium the Legislature authorizes the expenditure of certain funds for road construction, improvements and maintenance. Each expenditure must be approved, as it is made, by the Budget Bureau, and this strict supervisory system effectively safeguards the management of a budget which reached \$85,201,539.79 during the 1948-49 fiscal year.

## Nine Tar Heels Win 4-H Honors

A record-breaking total of nine young North Carolinians received national honors at the 4-H Club Congress in Chicago last week, according to Miss Mary Sue Moser, assistant club leader for the State College Extension Service.

Seven of the nine will receive college scholarships valued at \$300 each. Another, Joan Penland of Clay County, winner in recreation and rural arts, received a free trip to the Club Congress. Ralph Brown of Iredell was a national winner in health, but no prize was offered in this project.

The scholarship winners are Carolyn Miller, Iredell, winner in girl's records; Pauline Howe, Gaston, home improvement; Wesley Manning, Pitt, farm safety; Nancy Pritchell, Guilford, poultry; Margaret Lee Stevens, Wayne, food preparation; Doris Strickland, Halifax, canning; and Evelyn Waugh, Surry, clothing.

The awards are made possible by national business organizations which cooperate with the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, Inc., and the Cooperative Extension Service in sponsoring the 4-H Club program for teen-age rural youth of the na-

tion. The State's 4-H livestock judging team also made a good record in Chicago, placing 10th among 30 or more teams from throughout the nation. One member, Vance Vines, won an individual placing of eight in the nation. Other team members were Glen Reese, Bobby Gene Norris, and Hugh Hagaman, all of Watauga County. They were coached by C. H. Kirkman, assistant county agent.

Twenty-six State projects winners from North Carolina attended the Club Congress. They were accompanied by Miss Moser and Fred H. Wagoner, assistant State leader; E. L. Norton, northeastern district agent, and Miss Rita Du Bois, extension nutritionist. The group returned home Saturday, December 3.

## GI Bill Gives Acts Education

Nearly half a million World War II veterans who did not complete grade school before the war have been given the chance to further their education through the GI Bill, according to Veterans Administration.

The figure is based on a VA sampling which disclosed that eight percent of the 6,000,000 veterans who so far have taken GI Bill training did not have an eighth grade education at the time they started their GI courses.

The sampling was made as of June 1, 1949.

The 6,000,000 total includes 2,200,000 veterans who were in training on June 1, and 3,800,000 who had previously been enrolled but who were not taking training on that date.

Of the veterans enrolled under the GI Bill at that time, 10.8 percent or 240,000, had not finished elementary school when they started.

Of those not then in training, 6.6 percent, or 254,000 veterans, had had seven years or less of schooling.

Nearly one-third of the 254,000 veterans taking institutional on-farm training on June 1, or 30.9 percent, had not completed the eighth grade when they entered their courses.

On the same date, 15.8 percent of the 447,000 on-the-job trainees and 7.7 percent of the 1,371,000 veterans in educational institutions



After more than four years of extensive study and tests, the State of North Carolina recently purchased 20 Athey Force-Feed Loaders, shown above, as part of the highway maintenance program. These modern loading tools will soon make their appearance on many miles of roads, dispatched from six headquarter cities to various sections of the state.

The State engineers' first experiment with the Force-Feed Loader method was in 1945. One machine was tested there for over a year; and, on the basis of this operation, four more machines were added in 1946 to further expand the experiment on a wider scale. The recent purchase of 20

had gone no further than the seventh grade at the time they began GI Bill training.

## HOKE HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

On Friday of this week Miss Mayme McKeithan's art classes will display their Christmas paintings. The exhibit will be in Miss McKeithan's room and the public is invited to come see the work that the pupils have done.

On Thursday of this week a representative from the Dedmar Studios in Charlotte will visit the school for the purpose of making group pictures for the "Ekoh", the high school yearbook. Mrs. McLean is faculty adviser and Mary Sue Upchurch and Fanette Gore have charge of the photography.

Mrs. W. T. McGoogan attended a Tri-County Meeting of home economics teachers in Laurinburg on Tuesday afternoon. Mrs. McGoogan participated in the discussion.

shown. Mr. Douglass spoke on "Forestry". Miss Hall presented awards to Betty Jo Lovette for food preparation and clothing, to Freida Moss for work in frozen foods, and to Gretchen Hine for dress making.

Messrs. Foster and Callahan, representatives from the Fayetteville office of Employment Security Commission, administered General Aptitude Battery to members of the senior class Thursday, December 8. The results of these tests will be interpreted for the pupils by Miss Watson, Guidance Counselor. The results will be used for guidance purposes.

School will recess Tuesday, December 20 for Christmas holidays and work will be resumed on Monday, January 2.

In connection with a unit on "Transportation and Communication" Mrs. Cameron's history classes saw a movie, "Behind Your Radio Dial." This movie gave a brief history of radio, showed how a radio program is prepared and produced, and how its influence reaches into every phase of American life.

## Home Agent's Narrative Report For November

"Making Tufted Bedspreads" was the demonstration given at the 13 Home Demonstration Clubs in Hoke County in November.

Leaders gave the demonstration at all of the meetings. One hundred sixty-two (162) club women were present. As a result of the meetings quite a number of spreads and tufting materials have been ordered by the women.

Frieda Moss of the Hoke High School 4-H Club represented Hoke County at the Better Methods Electric Congress which was held at the Carolina Hotel in Raleigh on November 5, 6 and 7. Frieda received her trip with all expenses paid.

The Home Demonstration Club Achievement Day Program was held in connection with the Annual Farm Bureau rally on November 4. Congressman C. B.

Deane of Washington was the speaker. The club women assisted in preparing and serving supper to the 350 people attending. Reports of the years work in Home Demonstration Clubs were given. The Mildouson Club received the \$25.00 Savings Bond presented by the Hoke County Farm Bureau to the Club making the greatest progress in 1949.

Annual narrative and statistical reports were compiled in November.

The Home Agent attended four 4-H Club meetings in November. She spent five days in November attending the National meeting of the Home Demonstration Agents Association in Chicago.

Josephine Hall, Home Demonstration Agent.

## 100 Chicks Will Pay For Year At College

A 12-year-old 4-H Club girl who has just completed her 1949 poultry project says the return from 100 chicks will pay a year's expenses at college.

The girl is Ellen Barrow of Jones County, whose project was supervised by G. T. Wiggins, assistant county agent for the State College Extension Service.

Following is an account of Ellen's project work in her own words:

"The chicks given me were properly taken care of with only three dying. I have furnished chickens and eggs for family use which paid for the grain fed to them. Ten chicks were cockerels which I sold for \$15, and 12 were returned to the farm agent to be sold.

"The remaining 78 have laid 11,016 eggs, 8,719 of which I sold for \$365.80. I received \$10 prize money. I had enough money to pay for the starting and growing mash.

"After all the expenses have been deducted and I sell the remaining chickens, I will have enough money to purchase five \$100 government bonds, which I believe will pay my tuition, room and board for one year in college.

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**FIRST**  
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\*1949 results based on incomplete but conclusive nationwide registration figures. All other facts listed here are based on complete and official nationwide registration figures.

**FIRST**  
in passenger car sales for total 19-year period, 1931 to date

**FIRST**  
in truck sales for total 19-year period, 1931 to date

**FIRST**  
in truck sales for '49\*  
(Outselling the next 2 makes combined)

**FIRST**  
in truck sales for all postwar years

**FIRST**  
in total number of trucks on road today

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