

Poole's Medley

BY D. SCOTT POOLE

Old people believed that snow fertilized the land and snows do improve the land because they cause the grass and weeds on it to decay which furnishes humus in the soil.

The first big snow I recall was in March 1864. A number of farmers had planted their corn crops, so it must have been late in the month when the snow came. It was a real blizzard accompanied by high winds.

The next big snow came in 1876, on Saturday, night before Christmas on Sunday and snowed until late Monday. It reached the depth of two feet or a little over. The ground was frozen and except on the roads where vehicles stirred it, it covered the ground until the middle of March.

On the 11th day of February, 1899, the next big snow fell. A very cold northwest wind drifted the snow considerably but it averaged a little more than two feet. It began falling on Saturday and continued until Monday and on Tuesday morning, the thermometer registered 14 degrees below zero.

The next two-foot snow came on March 2, 1927, 22 years ago. When the snow began falling, the weather wasn't cold enough for ice. It must have fallen very fast. I was up until 11 o'clock and it had not started. The next morning there was 18 inches and it finally reached the depth of two feet.

The first snow of the winter of 1894 came on Sunday night after Christmas on Thursday before. It was a five inch snow. There was no more snow until the first of February but between February and the latter part of March there were eleven more snows, anywhere from six to twelve inches deep.

In 1912, it snowed every two weeks in February and March until there were 10 snows that winter. The heaviest snow was near the middle of March.

Several times in my life I remember seeing clouds come up, looking like rain clouds. It would snow for a couple of hours, two to four inches. One of the prettiest I ever saw was since I came to Raeford. The sun was shining, and the air was full of snow. The clouds had moved to the East a little.

When there are severe cold spells in winter and deep snows, it does much toward destroying

the insects that prey upon the crops and in not having much snow for the past 22 years, insects are more plentiful.

The boll weevil makes news in the paper while he remains in the South. In 1921, they arrived in North Carolina. In 1924, they did lots of damage and then again this year, 1949.

North Carolina public schools did not get started right. A lot of money was actually wasted in cheap houses unfit for the purpose for which they were used.

Governor Aycock became famous as the "educational governor" about the turn of the century. He declared "we must have a school within the reach of every boy and

girl in North Carolina."

We have cotton, corn and tobacco allotments. The government is controlling us in how much we must produce. Our freedom and democratic form of government are endangered. A few years of prosperity will be poor pay for the loss of our political freedom.

Consolidation of schools cost almost all the school houses built following Aycock's school administration.

One thing the people of this country should do - they should build fish ponds and grow their own fish and furnish themselves entertainment and fish - It's a great pleasure as well as good business.

Plentiful Foods For Month Listed

Apples, winter pears, and dried beans and peas are first on the U. S. Department of Agriculture's plentiful foods list for January,

the home agent for the State College Extension Service, reported this week.

Winter pears are at their prime in January she said, and the apple crop, according to latest figures, is 50 percent larger than in 1948 and 20 percent bigger than the average for the past 10 years. Dried beans, USDA estimates, will set a record this year. Both dried beans and peas, classed as excellent protein foods by USDA nutritionists, are in ample supply on Southern retail markets, the home agent said.

Pick of the fruits from the standpoint of quantity will be cranberries, oranges, and dried prunes and raisins. For specialty foods, she suggests the plentiful tree nuts—walnuts, almonds, pecans, and filberts—as well as honey, sugarcane sirup, and molasses.

Turkeys remain in the plentiful class for January, and broilers and fryers are also recommended buys for January shoppers. For still another choice in meats, she suggested pork and pork products,

plentiful at reasonable supplies of eggs are other protein foods to be found on January markets in ample supply.

Good buys in green and canned vegetables for January, she reported, will include cabbage, spinach, celery, lettuce and canned corn.

Over 20,000 Cows Bred Artificially

More than a 70 per cent increase was made this year over 1948 in the number of North Carolina cows bred under the artificial insemination program, reports John F. Brown, extension dairy specialist at State College.

An estimated 21,000 were bred in 1949 as compared with only 12,600 last year, Brown says.

Anson and Jackson are the latest counties to organize artificial breeding associations. With these two units, Brown says, the State now has 50 associations serving farmers in 56 counties.

Vacuum cooling offers an extremely promising method for conditioning certain vegetables for shipment, recent tests by plant scientists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture show.

As of last June 30, about 78.2 of the nation's farms were electrified.

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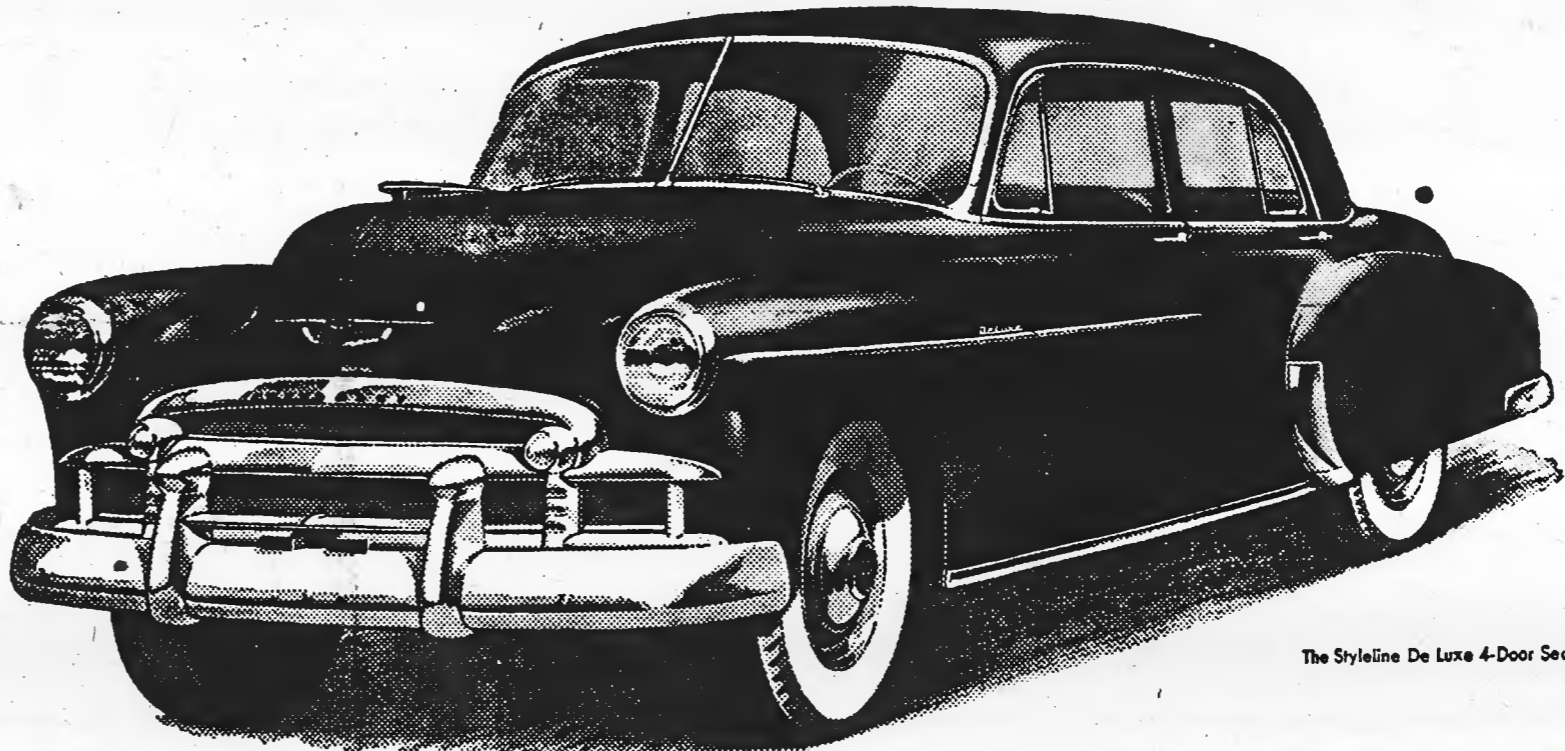
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