

The News-Journal



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State Highway Work Report For Hoke Is Given

The State Highway Commission has completed 84.99 miles of paving and built three bridges since June, 1954. In the Eighth Highway Division, Commissioner Forrest Lockey of Aberdeen reported this week.

The Eighth is composed of Chatham, Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Randolph, Richmond, and Scotland counties. Division headquarters have recently been moved from Asheboro to a brand new office building in Aberdeen. T. G. Poindexter is division engineer; T. C. Johnston is assistant division engineer. John G. Hall is district engineer at Asheboro; E. T. Brumby will be district engineer at Rockingham.

In Hoke County, a bridge was built over NC 211 and Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad at Raeford. The new bridge is 235.5 feet in length and has a 28-foot wide roadway. The Raeford by-pass for US 15-A was surfaced with sand asphalt for 1.66 miles. The

bypass is 24 feet wide. The road, which is on the secondary highway system, from the north end of the Raeford by-pass to US 15-A was resurfaced, 24 feet wide, with sand asphalt. The improvement is 3.4 miles in length. US 15-A was resurfaced with sand asphalt, 22 feet wide, from the west city limits of Raeford for 0.8 mile to the junction of NC 211. US 15-A was widened to 24 feet and resurfaced with sand asphalt from the Scotland-Hoke County line for 3.33 miles to the west city limits of Raeford. All this work was done under contract by the Balkenger Paving Co.

Other work in Hoke included surfacing with sand asphalt the following 18-foot wide secondary roads, and their lengths: from Rockfish Creek north of Raeford to Ft. Bragg Reservation, 2.4 miles; from Turnpike Road at Buffalo Creek north to Montrose Road, 1.5 miles; and from Turnpike Road north to NC 211, 0.5 mile west of Timberland, 2.8 miles. This work was done under contract by Blythe Brothers Co.

State highway forces paved the following 18-foot wide county roads, and their lengths in Hoke County: from Five Forks to Camp McCall Road, 5.4 miles; from

Camp McCall Road toward Ashley Heights, 1.7 miles; from Rockfish-Raeford Road north to US 15-A, 1.3 miles; and from Rockfish northeast to Cumberland County line, 0.7 mile.

Commissioner Lockey commended the State highway and contract forces for the fine work completed in his division since June.

FMC Homecoming Next Saturday

Miss Peggy Shinn, new president of the Flora Macdonald College Alumnae Association, has announced an interesting program for the annual Homecoming Day at the college on November 26.

Miss Shinn, a graduate of 1945, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Shinn of Leaksville-Spray, and is presently employed by the Carolina Iron and Steel Company in Greensboro.

The morning program at Flora Macdonald next Saturday will be highlighted by an address by Halbert M. Jones of Laurinburg, prominent North Carolina business man, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Flora Macdonald.

An interesting feature of the program will be Scottish dances and bagpipe music, by Vivian Morrison of Nova Scotia, Canada, a member of the freshman class at FMC, and champion Sword Dancer (with medals to prove it!) of Nova Scotia.

At the social hour in the college parlors after the luncheon, two interesting "firsts" will pour coffee—Mrs. J. W. McLaughlin of Raeford, who was a member of the college's first faculty in 1896, and Mrs. S. B. McLean of Charlotte, a member of the first student body the same year. The morning program will begin at 11 o'clock.

State's Cotton Crop Next To Smallest In Over 60 Years

Cotton production from the 1954 North Carolina crop is forecast at 355,000 bales as of November 1. Such a crop would be 21 per cent, or 94,000 bales, less than production last year and 30 per cent, or 151,000 bales, below the 10-year average crop. With the exception of the disastrous crop of 1950, when only 181,000 bales were harvested, the 1954 crop is expected to be the smallest for the State since 1892.

Picking operations are about over — this being one of the earliest harvests of record. Except for the brief interruption caused by Hurricane "Hazel", the 1954 harvest season has been almost ideal for picking cotton. Fortunately, most of the cotton had been gathered prior to the hurricane and for the State as a whole losses from this storm were not too serious.

Census report as of November 1 shows that there were 7,160 bales of cotton ginned in Hoke County from the crop of 1954 prior to November 1, as compared to 10,954 bales ginned from the crop of 1953. This is a drop in this county to only 65 per cent of last year's crop.

Yields were cut sharply in Piedmont counties by severe drought conditions, but are turning out above average in most of the Coastal producing counties.

GARDEN TIME

Now that cold weather is approaching the deciduous trees (oak, maple, poplar, etc.) are beginning to lose their leaves. This often presents a problem for the home owner both in town and country who wants to have a neat yard or lawn. The usual procedure is to rake up the leaves and burn them. As deficient as our garden soils are in organic matter, burning leaves is wasteful. It is true, of course, that the leaves must be removed from the lawn — especially newly planted grass — or they will smother the grass out.

The wise thing to do is to rake the leaves and make a leaf compost. Pile and rot them so that they can be spread on the garden and incorporated with the soil or used as a mulch around shrubs. Leaves are difficult to rot if they are just raked up into a pile. The compost pile should be built up in layers about a foot deep. Each layer should be thoroughly wet down and a small amount of a fertilizer high in nitrogen sprinkled over the leaves — about one cup per 10

square feet of leaf pile surface. A complete fertilizer such as a 6-8-6 or 8-8-8 can be used or sulphate ammonia or nitrate of soda will be satisfactory. Along with the fertilizer each layer of leaves may be covered with about an inch of garden soil. The fertilizer and garden soil serve as rotting agents. When the pile of leaves has been built up to the

desired height — usually about 5 feet — it is covered with a thin layer of soil and allowed to stand for 8 to 12 months. During this time it must be kept wet. The result will be a thoroughly rotted mass of leaves which we call leafmold.

This is not fertilizer like stable manure but is an excellent soil conditioner and a valuable sup-

plement to most garden soils. Leafmold is usually very acid in reaction and unless you are using it around acid loving plants such as azaleas, lime should be added.

On large lawns leaf raking is a tedious chore. For those who can afford it there is available a machine which picks up the leaves, grinds them up into fine

particles and spreads them back over the grass in a form that will be beneficial rather than harmful. Perhaps that is the best solution to your problem.

Despite serious drought in some parts of the country, total farm output in 1954 is expected to be only about 2 per cent below the highest record.

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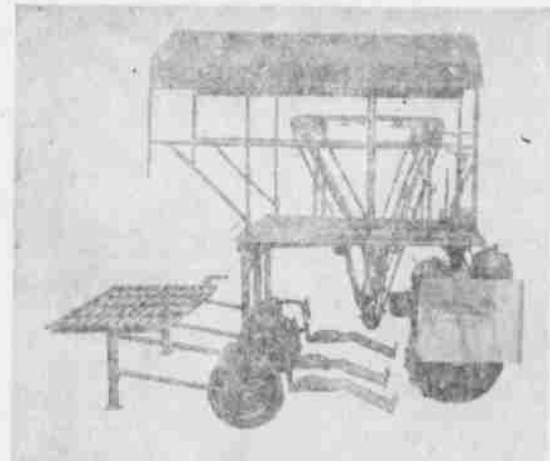
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