

Despite Wet Winter, Forest Fire Danger Here

"Even with all the rain and snow we had in January and February, the forests are beginning to dry out. As strange as it may seem, North Carolina is now entering the worst time of year for forest fires," according to Hoke County Forest Ranger Robert Jones.

"The arrival of warmer weather also brings lower relative humidity reading. When coupled with the typical March weather, the forces of temperature, humidity, and wind have a great drying effect on the forests," Jones said.

"We are not advocating more rain, not yet, but the longer we go between rainfalls, the drier the forests will become and the greater the chance of forest fires."

Spring months are normally the "hottest" months for N.C. Forest Service fire control crews. This is

the period when people burn off their fields, debris and trash piles, gardens, and fire activity in general increases.

According to Jones, most forest fires are preventable. "As a matter of fact, about 992 of the forest fires in North Carolina each year could be prevented. As an example, the largest single cause of forest fires in the state -- 372 in 1978 -- resulted from people burning debris: brush piles, fields, trash, etc.

"If people would take a few extra minutes to make sure their fire will not escape, to disc a line around the field before burning, to have enough help and the proper tools to control their fire, to check the weather before they light that fire, we would have a lot less forest fires."

"In some cases, when we have

severe fire weather -- that is, low humidity, high or gusty winds, warm of hot temperatures, and a long time since the last rain -- it would be better for people to wait until fire weather conditions improve before burning."

The best time to burn brush and debris, or fields, or gardens is late in the afternoon after the winds have died down and the humidity begins to rise, he said.

A day or two after a good rain is ideal, since the material you are burning has had enough time to dry a bit, but the surrounding area may still be moist Jones added. Of course, any burning done in or within 500 feet of a wooded area requires a burning permit, Jones said.

North Carolina law requires a burning permit for any burning in or within 500 feet of a wooded area between the hours of midnight and 4 p.m. Burning permits may be obtained from the county forest ranger or any of his burning permit agents. In some areas, local ordinances prohibit any outdoor burning or require additional authorization.

"Having a burning permit from the N.C. Division of Forest Resources does not relieve the individual from having to comply with other laws and ordinances," Jones said.

And what do you do if you spot a forest fire? According to Jones, the best thing is not to try to fight it yourself, but report it to the nearest fire tower or Forest Service office.

"Most people are not trained or equipped to fight a fire, and you could do more harm than good," he said. "If you discover a forest fire, call us. If you don't remember our phone number, call the nearest fire department or law enforcement agency and they will contact us."

"I can't say enough good things about the help we receive from the volunteer fire departments in Hoke County," he added. "Each year they handle by themselves or help us with a number of brush and grass fires."

"We all agree that it is better to prevent a fire than have to fight one."

"Smokey Bear's message is just as true now as it was 30 years ago: 'Only you can prevent forest fires.'"

B.C. Moore Opens 73rd Store

B.C. Moore and Sons, Inc., has opened its 73rd family fashion and home center, James C. Crawford, Jr., president and chairman of the board of the company has announced.

The new store is in Fitzgerald, Ga., in the Village Shopping Center.

During the first week of March, Moore's opened its 72nd store. It is

in the Brewton, Ala., Brewton Heights Shopping Center.

Moore's has announced plans to remodel and redecorate several of the other stores, and the Lancaster, S.C., store is being moved into a building larger than its previous quarters.

Moore's corporate headquarters is in Cheraw, S.C. The chain has stores in the Carolinas, Georgia, and Alabama.

RCD Students Give Play

During a recent morning assembly at Robeson Country Day School, the seventh-grade class presented a play, "The Electric Sunshine Man."

The musical score was composed by John F. Wilson with lyrics by Grace Hawthorne. Directing the performance were Mrs. Lucy McManus and Mrs. Joe Loflin, with musical direction under the leadership of Mrs. Janice Wilson.

The presentation, which was a musical, biographical sketch of Thomas Alva Edison, was attended by the student body, parents, and invited guests. Following the performance, seventh-grade students, their parents, and guests attended a luncheon held in the school's parlors.

Leading the cast in the role of Thomas Edison was David Skinner. Jim Townsend portrayed the patent clerk, and supporting roles of invention factory workers were played by Gene Cottrell, Gary Parker, Bryan Locklear, and Raymond King. Additional members of the cast included Robbie Benton, Michael Breeden, Carmen Fowler, Franklin Fowler, Cindy Gibson, Nellie Henderson, Annie Hughes, Lee Hughes, Lisa Inman, Elisabeth Lee, Wade Maness, Susan McKay, Anne McLean, Laura McLeod, Deidre McPheters, Betsy Morton, William Shook, Brenda Sprague, and Kelly Wickler. Taking part in choreographed

numbers were Betsy Morton, Laura McLeod, Lisa Inman, Nellie Henderson, Bryan Locklear, and Robbie Benton.

Elders'

Tour Set

The Raeford Senior Citizen Friendship Club members will have their annual spring tour on Tuesday, April 3.

They will leave from behind the Methodist Church in Raeford at 1:30 p.m. to go to the western part of the county to see the new Entremont-Carolina horse training facility.

George Stribling, manager and trainer, says they already have 30 horses in the large barn there.

The second stop on the tour will be the new log cabin on Highway 211 south of Raeford. From there the group will travel to the Crawley greenhouses at Arabia. This is a growing business with several new greenhouses added recently.

The last stop will be in Raeford where they will tour the new fire department.

It is hoped that a bus will be available for the trip. If one is available, each person will be asked to pay 25 cents or 30 cents for transportation.

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Shows Daily 3:10-7:10-9:15
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STARTING FRIDAY 3/30
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(R)
Shows Daily 7:15-9:05
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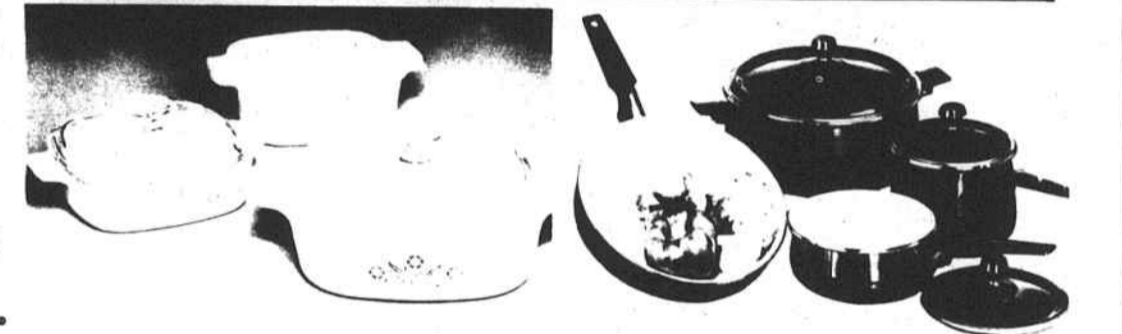
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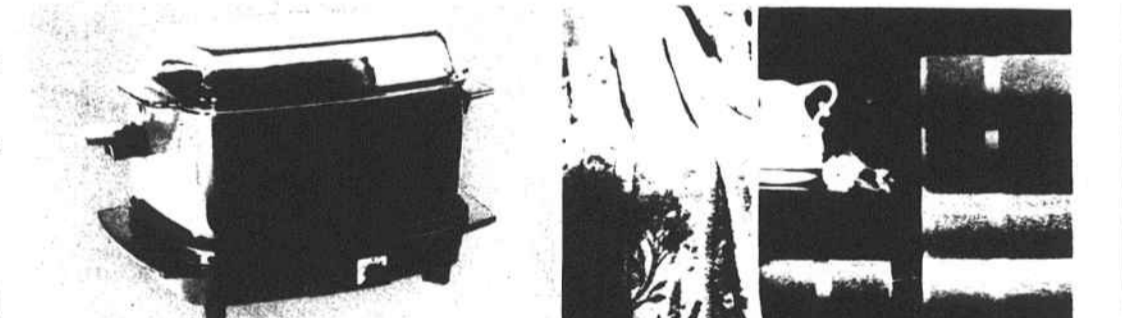


CORNING'S VERSATILE TRIO SET IS SALE PRICED AT OVER 15.00 OFF

SAVE AN INCREDIBLE 30% ON THIS 7-PIECE WEST BEND COOKWARE SET

IF PURCHASED SEPARATELY REG. \$1.99 VALUE **16⁶⁶** Corn flower design. Set includes 1 and 1 1/2 qt. saucepan with a plastic and glass cover and 2 qt. covered saucepan.

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