

FHA Rural Housing Loans

The basic objectives of the Farmers Home Administration are to assist farm owners, senior citizens, and other rural residents and other persons who are or will be owners of land in rural areas to obtain decent, safe, and sanitary dwellings and to assist farmowners and owners of other land in rural areas who are engaged in farming to obtain essential farm service buildings and related facilities.

Funds may be used to provide sewage disposal systems for industrial homes and seed, fertilizer for lawn development.

There are many other purposes for which this loan may be made.

Diamond Mica Follows Pollution Regulations

For many years Diamond Mica Company has been one of the area's leading producers of wet-ground mica.

With the acquisition of the Hassett Mining Company of Micaville in recent years, they added the dry-grinding process to their activities. It is rather unusual for one company to be engaged in both processes.

Concerning their efforts

in the fight against pollution, Diamond Mica issued this statement:

"Diamond Mica Company has been declared in compliance with requirements of the N.C. Department of Labor and the U.S. Bureau of Mines health and safety regulations. We are also complying with pollution control regulations of the N.C. Department of Air and Water Resources. We will continue to make every effort to be a good employer and to be a good neighbor."

Earl Carlton Van Horn, the Vice-President of Diamond Mining, graduated in 1937 from UNC-Chapel Hill with the degree of BS Geology, and attended the University of Tennessee graduate school. He was for 15 years Geologist for the Tennessee Valley Authority. Later he was Geologist and Mining Superintendent for Hitchcock Corp. in Murphy, NC.

In 1952 he opened a private consulting practice in Economic and Engineering Geology at Murphy. He became highly respected in his profession and was on the Approved List of Consultants of the several states and Federal agencies, including the U.S. Geological Survey; U.S. Bureau of Mines; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Securities & Exchange Commission.

Since 1955, Mr. VanHorn has been General Manager of Diamond Mica Co. in Mitchell County.

Mr. Van Horn has always been active in the promotion of professional excellence in his field. He has also been, and still is, active in conservation, church, civic and masonic affairs.



Our lungs remove about one fourth of the oxygen from the air that we breathe in.



Before... Stand Of White Pine On W.O. Briggs' Farm

Trees Are Conservation Resource

By Ned Jests
Yancey County Soil Conservation Technician
Trees are one of nature's most important contributions toward conservation of soil, water and a quality environment. Conservation on woodland is therefore important. Conservation Districts and the Soil Conservation Service have always considered the cooperators' woodlands in development of resource conservation plans.

In Yancey County four-fifths of the land is forest land, 88 percent of which is privately owned. In addition to the land now growing trees we need to convert 5,289 acres of pastureland to trees and 4,102 acres now being cultivated to trees.

The Southland is the nation's woodbasket with abundant sunshine and long growing season—and nowhere in the south is the soils and the water more suited to growing trees than here in Yancey County. The South's first forest which the colonist at Jamestown first utilized 364 years ago provided enough lumber to build 100 million homes. This virgin timber had been essentially logged by 1910 with the exception of a few remote areas in the Appalachian Mountains.

The South's second forest began to emerge from the cut-over land and eroding fields in the 1930's. The Soil Conservation Service began planting the eroding fields in the 1930's. They planted the eroding hillsides and fields with a great deal of help from the CCC camps and others. The SCS worked with the individual landowners to prepare conservation plans with wise land use decisions to convert unproductive land to trees. At the same time the state forest agencies were getting results from their fire protection programs, and later took over the production of tree seedlings to sell to landowners who needed them.

The SCS has made its greatest contribution to the second forest working through the individual woodowner as cooperators of the Soil Conservation Districts. These cooperators have planted nearly 2,686 acres in trees



After... Picture Shows Properly Thinned Stand

and practiced a prescribed harvest and management system on 6,207 acres in Yancey. This reforestation and naturally regenerated timberland made the "Second Forest". For this reason, and contrary to early predictions the south's forest industry did not die. In fact this second forest has supplied over half our needs in this country through two world wars. A recent survey shows that it still has about fifteen billion cu. ft. more standing timber than it had in 1935.

The demands of the people here, as well as other areas, are rapidly increasing. Writers focus on the value of trees for lumber and other wood products, but conservationists along with an ever increasing number of small landowners are looking to trees to provide many other needs. They know that trees provide wildlife habitat, recreation areas, scenic retreats and help control air pollution. Trees are now planted and preserved to protect watersheds, to hold the soil and water in place, to beautify landscapes and homes, to provide Christmas trees and ornamentals, and also to provide shelter from wind, snow and noise.

Along with this need for more trees marches our rapid rate of progress that takes out more and more woodland for buildings, roads, and other developments. At this same time, according to the Southern Forest Resource Analysis Committee we must have more marketable trees. This report states that we must grow another forest they call the "Third Forest", which must produce two and one-half more wood on less land if we are to meet the

needs of the people. They recommend regeneration of the bare and poorly stocked acres, conversion of low quality oak and hickory to pine and the upgrading of most of the pine and hardwood. The Conservation Needs Inventory shows that we have 50,000 acres of land in Yancey that needs this kind of treatment. Much of it should be planted to the genetically superior tree stock now being developed by the forest agencies.

The Soil Conservation Service is ready to assist groups and individuals to plan their woodlands along with all the other renewable natural resources they own or control to reach soil and water conservation objectives with quality standards that support their objectives and those of their community, state, and Nation.

Effects Of Soil Erosion

By Charles Stamey Jr.
Extension Aide

Man himself, in a short time, has changed the face of Mitchell County. He has cut down forests, polluted streams, exterminated animals and with his plow, laid bare the soil and exposed it to the mercy of the wind and rain.

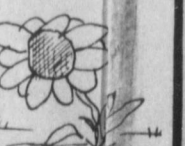
When we destroy our forests without saving the young trees or without replanting, we lose more than just timber. Our birds must go elsewhere to live, for they cannot live without the shelter of the trees. The loss of birds that feed on insects have sometimes led to a great increase in destructive insects.

While the trees stood, they protected the soil from the full force of the rain. It soaked gently into the ground and the roots of the trees held it there. But with the trees gone, the water runs quickly off the surface and carries the topsoil into the streams and rivers.

Cultivation of the soil is the chief cause of erosion. If soil is plowed or dug up, erosion will occur where there is nothing to hold it in place.

The farmers can help by planting in strips a cultivated crop such as corn, sorghum or pepper then a strip of grass. Contour plowing can be used on sloping land. The furrows are run so to curve around the hill, instead of going straight up and down hill. Strip farming can help erosion and reduce pollution run-off.

Help and details how to conserve your soil can be obtained from your County Agricultural Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service Office or ASCS Office in Bakersville.



ECOLOGY

Environmental Quality In Extension's 5-Year Plan

By Wm. C. Bledsoe
Extension Chairman
The Yancey County Extension Service revealed its 5-Year Plan in a program for the people, January 31st, 1972. The 5-Year Plan is called IMPACT '76. Environmental quality is one of 6 areas of concern included in the program which was planned with the assistance of more than 50 county citizens and leaders.

The benefits of clean water, pure air and un-contaminated land are recognized widely. Waste production is an integral part of life processes and becomes a more critical problem with increased affluence and demand for natural resources.

Extension seeks to meet the demands for a vigorous educational program in prevention, abatement and control of environmental pollution. Clientele groups such as youth, homemakers, and commercial farmers and industrialists have been and will be contributing to the program implementation.

In the recent past, the County Extension Service has fulfilled an educational role in active involvement with environmental problems. The youth groups, homemakers,

farmers and rural communities have responded to the need to "do something". All of the county's 4-H clubs have had educational programs concerning the environment. They have conducted water-course and roadside "clean-ins" and "clean-outs". Extension homemakers clubs have provided leadership to clean up neighborhoods and beautify roadsides with clean-up and flower planting. The community development clubs have taken inventory of environment assets and attacked priority problems such as sewage, solid waste disposal and junk auto removal. Farmers have altered insect control programs to conform to recommended practices of pesticides and chemicals. Certain chemicals such as DDT are not used at all. Each agricultural extension worker maintains an Agricultural Chemicals Handbook which is updated to the day according to Environment Protection Agency regulations. All recommendations to farmers and home owners are therefore made in accordance with the latest changes in regulations.

Yancey County's Extension Service has big plans for the future. We are fortunate to have a comparatively small air pollution problem. Extension will seek to interpret requirements for air pollution control to home owners and the agricultural community as provided in Impact '76.



Parallel Strips On The Farm Of Guy Wilson Adjacent To Rural Church - Beautiful Mountains In The Background

'Agriculture Is The Most Healthful, The Most Useful, And The Most Honorable Employment Of Man.'

—George Washington

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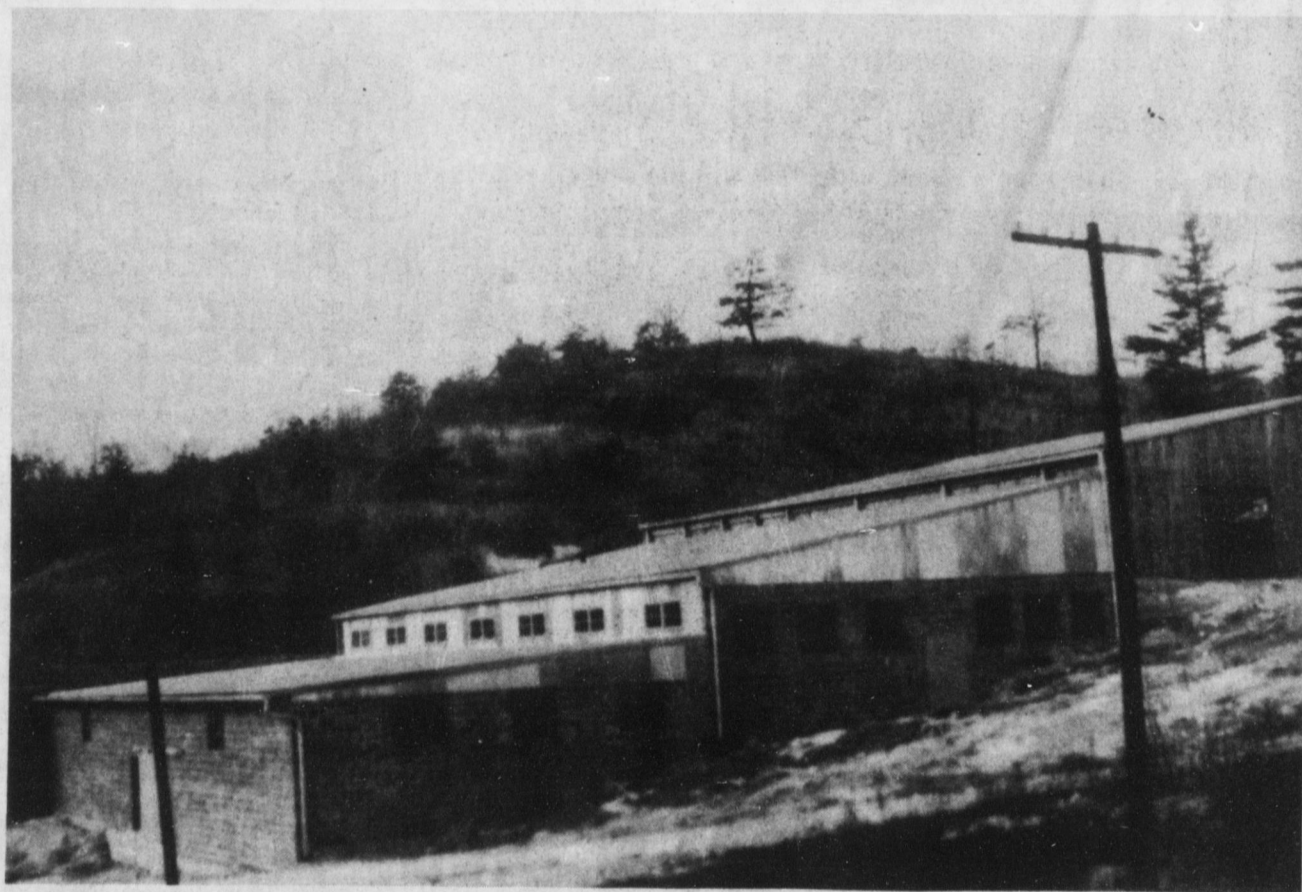
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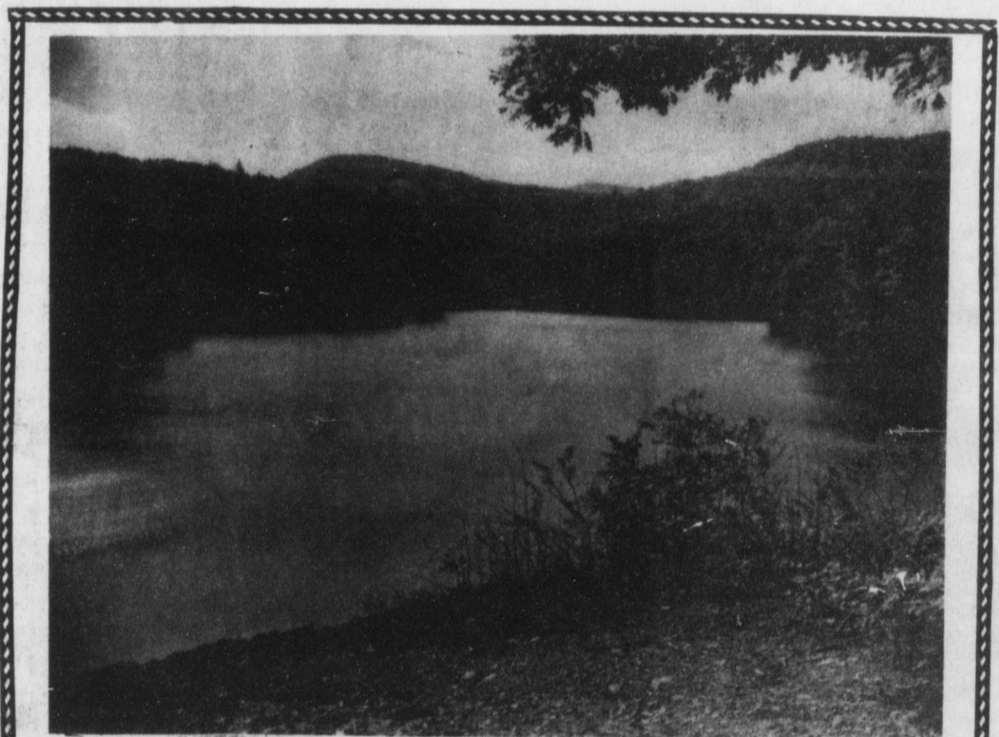


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DIAMOND MICA COMPANY

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ground mica products



View Of Deer Park Lake Planned And Designed By SCS Technicians

'Any Nation Is Rich So Long As It's Supply Of Soil Resources Is Greater Than The Needs Of It's People.'

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