

Blossoming Pear Trees and Old Cabins in The Pines Represent A Way of Farm Life Now Dying



This picture here is interesting for several reasons. Firstly, it's just plain pretty since pear trees always have had a foolish way of blossoming out before all the other trees were even waking up from their winter slumbers. The cabin in the pines behind the pear tree is also interesting because, from a distance, it is also part of a pretty picture and helps make part of the beauty of the scene.

There is another aspect, however, to both the pear tree and the cabin nestling in the pines—Both are fast passing from the Eastern Carolina scene. The tree standing in the middle of a large field is tolerated by few farmers but today with more and more emphasis on mechanical cultivation of the land and with an even greater emphasis on having each square yard of land under cultivation produce the maximum amount of what ever may have been planted trees in the middle of fields are becoming rare sights indeed.

On a hot July or August day to the plow hand or to the tobacco cropper these shady spots in the middle of a boiling hot field have been a welcome respite but today the efficient farmer does not tolerate such luxuries for himself or the hired man. The tree has had to go. It interferes with plowing and it interferes with the growth of crops around it.

The cabin in the pine is also part of a fast passing parade.

In Eastern Carolina after the Indians had been chased away all life centered about the farm, or plantation. After the War Between the States there was a big movement toward the cities and empty houses were left scattered about a great many of the older farms of the section. Then there was another return to the farm just prior to the beginning of the 20th Century and farm buildings were increased considerable until King Cotton was deposed in this part of the world and another movement was begun toward the towns and cities. The industrialization of the South, which brought cotton and knitting mills to so many southern communities brought the farm hands back to work the long, thankless hours that unorganized labor knew in the early part of this century.

Then the cotton mills folded up and a new king was born on the farms of this section, King Tobacco. This new king required a lot of attention and then again the masses from the factories sought relief on the farms to help produce this sticky, nasty feeling stuff that such a big percentage of the population of the world "simply cannot do without."

Next time you're riding in the country notice the number of empty tenant and sharecropper houses in every section of Eastern Carolina.

What has emptied them this time you may wonder?

This time it has been another child of industry: The Tractor. Now one man can tend better and more economically five times as much land than he could be-

fore the tractor became such a popular and necessary addition to farm life.

Today farming is a highly competitive business. The man who don't watch corners and who is not capable of keeping his overhead down soon finds himself out of the farming business.

Those empty old cabins in the pines and tall fruit trees standing in the middle of the field are fast passing from the Eastern Carolina picture; which may be a mark of progress but nevertheless they do represent an era that most persons past 30 look back upon with an over-size lump in their throats.

Farm Clean Up Now Saves Time Later When All Are Busy

"Every farm needs a spring clean-up, not only to improve appearances but also to remove hazards which may cause costly cuts, falls, or other injuries at any time throughout the year," suggests Joe Koonce, Jr., farm agent in Lenoir for the State College Extension Service.

Disorder is responsible for hospitalizing one out of every five accident victims, according to a study conducted by the National Safety Council. The largest single cause of injuries, other than the personal factor of poor judgment, is disorder. For this reason, the county agent says, "A place for everything and everything in its place" is a good safety slogan.

In cleaning up the home, remove accumulated papers and rubbish from all parts of the house. See that medicines, drugs, and insecticides are clearly labeled and kept out of children's reach. Provide suitable receptacles for knives and other sharp kitchen tools.

Check through the farm shop. Make sure that tools are in good repair and in their right places. Remove accumulations of barbed wire, glass, scrap metals, and debris, and trash—such as papers, scattered boxes and boards—which are fire hazards and ideal hiding places for rats.

At this season, says the county agent, many barns have become cluttered with items used during the winter. With the coming of spring it is important to find suitable locations or storage places for feed, tools, harness, and other equipment to keep alleyways and work areas clear. A little cleaning up now not only will provide a healthful environment but will help to save manpower vitally needed in producing food and fiber for the nation.

"Today's Home Builds Tomorrow's World" is the theme which North Carolina's 67,518 home demonstration members will use in observance of National Home Demonstration Week, April 29-May 5.



NEW TENNIS POWER . . . One of the rising female tennis stars the last few years has been Nancy Chafee (right). Here, she talks to Mrs. Jean Fallet, Amityville, N.Y., before trimming Mrs. Fallet in the U.S. indoor meet.

YOUR brain budget

1. What bird do you associate with heaven? (a) Bluebird, (b) Bird of paradise, or dove, (c) Mockingbird, (d) Peewee.
2. Give the missing member of the following trio of words: "—, stock and barrel." (a) Lock, (b) Keg, (c) Slave, (d) Water.
3. What is a razzback? (a) Kind of plow, (b) Species of chicken, (c) Species of hog, (d) A wild dog.
4. The Left Bank is part of which city: (a) Paris, (b) London, (c) Vienna, (d) Los Angeles.
5. Complete the title of "The Time of —," a play by Baroyan. (a) Your Life, (b) Of Man, (c) The Flood.

ANSWERS: 1. (a) Bluebird, 2. (a) Lock, 3. (b) Species of chicken, 4. (a) Paris, 5. (c) The Flood.

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