



Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture

Of course trains still run on wood—3,000 cross ties go into a mile of track."

—Tobacco, which accounts for more than 50% of cash farm income in North Carolina, occupies only 9% of the state's cropland.

—Grapefruit are so-called because they sometimes grow in clusters.

—Psittacosis is a parrot disease fever, communicable to man.



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AROUND THE DISTRICT

By George Vitas

Television is new and we are learning about it all the time. For instance, Ivan Lewis, who lives at Indian Grave Gap on the Tennessee-North Carolina line came in the other day and told us something about the behaviour of his TV set that has us puzzled. He said his set worked great all winter long until spring came and the leaves in the surrounding National Forest began to bud out. Then, he said, he noticed that the picture commenced to get flutery and as the new green leaves became larger the set became increasingly agitated. "But if you really want to see the set act up," he said, "you ought to be around when the wind starts stirring those leaves on the trees—the picture shimmy's all over the place." Well, this is another one of the many things we don't know about. If we were to crawl out on a limb and speculate, we would say that in some unexplainable manner the growing leaves are creating an electronic disturbance in the atmosphere which seems to be intensified when the wind shakes the leaves up a bit.

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And while we are on the subject of trees and television: Several months ago they had one of these devastating forest fires to which Southern California is so often subjected. Hundreds of fire fighters were needed. Forest Rangers found out that the quickest and most effective way to get volunteer forest fire fighters quick was to go on a Los Angeles television station and make an appeal to the people. The response was excellent.

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And out in Australia, as a forest fire prevention stunt, they televised a going forest fire from a plane. The reaction of folks sitting in the security of their homes while they watched a forest fire race through the trees was one that left a lasting impression.

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Every once in a while a tragedy strikes in the District. Several days ago, C. O. Ray, who is one of our National Forest neighbors living at Celso, lost his home and everything it contained in a fire of undetermined origin. With the help of his friends and neighbors, Mr. Ray, who has a family of seven, hopes to rebuild.

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Last Friday we attended a joint meeting of North Carolina and Tennessee citizens at Spruce Pine, to discuss plans for the coming Roan Mountain Rhododendron festival, scheduled for June 21. At that time, not only the festival with its beauty contest and other events will be held, but the newly built North Carolina and Tennessee highways to the top of Roan will be dedicated. We have been attending these meetings for three years and are very much impressed with the sky-rocketing interest in the Roan Mountain development. The cities of Newland, Burnsville, Bakersville, Spruce

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For success in canning low-acid vegetables and meats, you need to have your pressure canner in good working order. Two important points to check before each canning session are: First, test the canner to see that no steam, or very little, leaks out where cover and kettle join. If too much leaks out, you may not be able to maintain the pressure needed and the canner may boil dry and be ruined. Second, check the dial face gauge to find out if it accurately registers the pressure inside the canner. If the gauge is five pounds or more off, you need a new one. To prevent food spoilage, not only must jars be sealed air-tight Pine, Elk Park and Banner Elk all had from 4 to 23 representatives at the meeting. A total of 71 attended.

but in addition the whole canning process must be conducted under the most sanitary conditions. Cleanliness is absolutely essential. All jars and their tops should be washed in hot, soapy water, rinsed with hot water, and turned upside down on a clean towel or kept in hot water until it is time to fill them.

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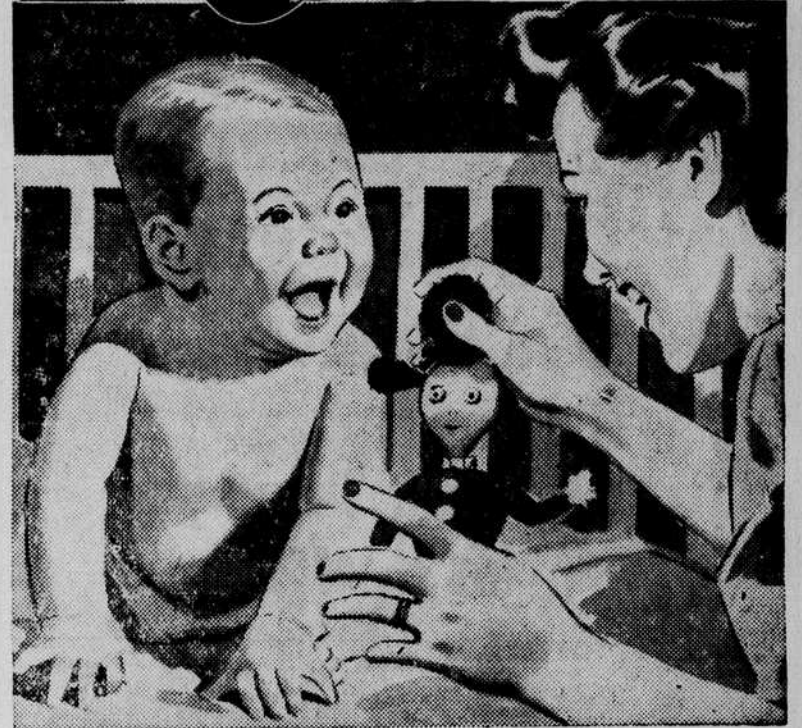
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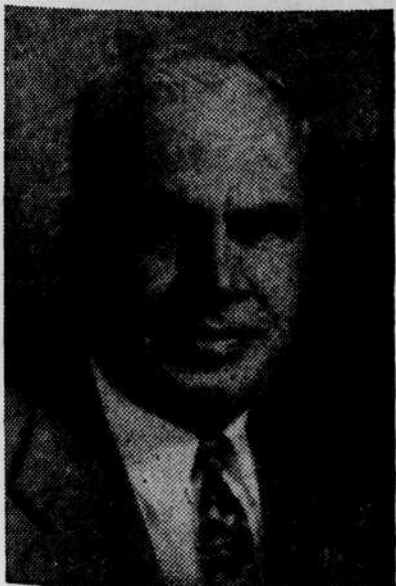
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