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MAX CAMPBELL, Editor

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959 Lose Driving Licenses In April

During April, 959 persons lost their driving licenses in North Carolina because of drunken driving, the Motor Vehicles Department has announced.

This compared with 874 persons who lost their licenses for the same offense in April of last year, and brought total drunken driving convictions for 1948 to 3,359.

Revocations and suspensions processed during April totaled 1,381. That included 93 persons caught driving drunk outside the State; 50 for driving drunk and miscellaneous; 35 for driving after license had been revoked; 49 for speeding over 75 miles per hour; 41 for transporting liquor; 21 for larceny of automobile, and 15

for being habitual violators of the traffic laws.

Thirteen persons lost their driving privileges for failure to comply with the new Financial Responsibility Act; 17 had their licenses revoked for three years for a second conviction of driving drunk.

Seven persons lost their right to drive on account of two offenses of reckless driving; 5 for reckless driving and miscellaneous; 4 for incompetency; 7 for two offenses of speeding over 55 miles per hour, and 4 for hit-and-run.

In addition, 530 other drivers were convicted on charges of reckless driving, bringing reckless driving convictions for 1948 to 1,456. However, reckless driving requires no revocation or suspension on first offense.

A total of 6,986 other persons were convicted for traffic violations on North Carolina streets and highways during April, but these offenses did not constitute revocation or suspension.

The leading offense in this class was speeding, with 2,205 convictions, as compared with 1,624 for April of last year. This brought to 9,534 the total number of persons convicted of speeding so far in 1948.

Farm Production Costs Reach New High Peak

Farm production costs reached a new high during the past winter and will probably continue high through 1948, according to Charles E. Clark, Extension farm management specialist at State College.

Quoting a recent report from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, the specialist said total out-of-pocket operating expenses of farmers have risen 9 to 25 per cent each year since the 1935-39 period. The index of prices of all commodities except labor used in farm production has nearly doubled since 1939.

During the last four months of 1947, the index averaged 196 compared with 160 for the same period in 1946. The average index for the first quarter of 1948 was 202 compared with 169 last year.

Farm wage rates are now more than three times their 1935-39 level.

Farm land rentals and land values have continued to increase. Land rentals are over three times the pre-war level and higher than for any previous year. Land values are prac-

tically at the 1920 peak reached in the boom that followed World War I. In comparison, although prices received for farm products reached a record high in January, there has been a general decline since, and prices of some few products are actually down to pre-war levels.

SOIL CONSERVATION NOTES

Clarence Chappell in the Belvidere Community is plowing under some good cover crops. Mr. Chappell used Crimson Clover on some fields and

on others he used a mixture of Crimson Clover and small grains. These cover crops will add a lot of nitrogen and organic matter to his soil, and they have also furnished a large amount of winter grazing.

Luther Winslow in the Whitestone Community is having a ditch cut with a dragline to drain some new ground. Soil Conservation Service Technicians working with the Albemarle Soil Conservation District surveyed the ditch for Mr. Winslow. Freeman Long in the Hertford

Community has a good stand of Ladino Clover in his permanent pasture which he seeded last fall. Mr. Long fertilized his pasture at seeding time according to recommendations based on soil tests by the N. C. Department of Agriculture.

J. H. Newbold has a good stand of Kudzu. It was planted near the river shore to help control erosion in one of his fields.

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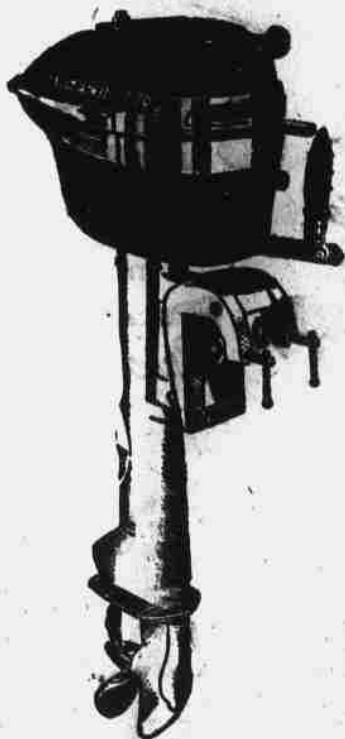
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