

Fishing in Pollock Swamp, Main Channel Just Above N.C. 32

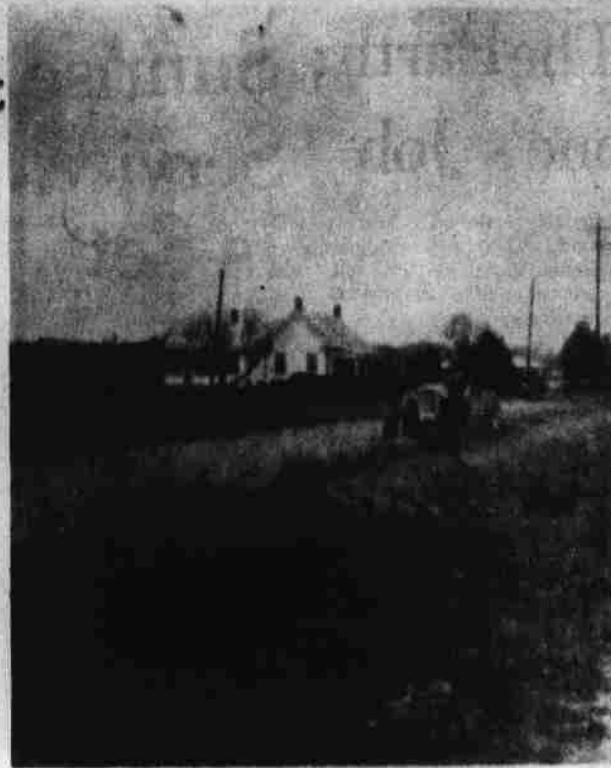
Office Staff Attends Meet

Mrs. Eleanor Wood, Mrs. Doris Chamblee and Mrs. Dianne Davis, office assistants of the Federal Land Bank Association of Ahoskie-Elizabeth City and Mrs. Julia Roebuck, Mrs. Joyce Barcliff, Mrs. Margaret Godfrey and Mrs. Shirley Yates, office personnel of the Albemarle Production Credit Association have just returned from Raleigh where they attended a Seminar for Office Personnel for Federal Land Bank Associations and Production Credit Associations, according to L. Gary Taylor, Vice President of the Federal Land Bank Association, and Roy Miller, President of the Albemarle Production Credit Association.

"The Seminar was conducted to keep Land Bank and Production Credit Credit Association abreast of the latest developments in Farm Credit". The Conference was conducted by The Federal Land Bank and Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of Columbia, South Carolina. Instructors were R. A. Darr, President; Frank L. Barton, Vice President and Secretary; John L. Marshall, Vice President; J. E. Wilson, Vice President; and J. Fred Taylor, Vice President.

Some of the more important topics presented during the conference included Objectives and Future of Farm Credit, Accounting and Operations and Your Good Public Relations.

"In the four state district of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, the Federal Land Bank of Columbia makes a long-term loans through 46 farmer-owned Federal Land Bank Associations and has loans outstanding to over 44,500 farmers, growers, ranchers and rural homeowners totaling more than \$1,040-million," Taylor said. The Federal Land Bank Association of Ahoskie serves the long-term credit needs of farmers, growers, ranchers and rural homeowners in Northeastern North Carolina with more than \$14-million in long-term credit.



Farmers Return To Drying Perquimans Fields

Channelization Is Solution

By FRANK JETER, JR.

Channelization is only one of several possible solutions to water management problems in North Carolina, and is not the first choice in any case. This was emphasized recently by State Conservationist Jesse L. Hicks of Raleigh, who heads the Soil Conservation Service in North Carolina, in his remarks to the annual convention of the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Hicks said that many North Carolina areas have water problems—usually "too much rather than too little," in contrast with some arid parts of the U. S., and that several possibilities are always considered in making recommendations to landowners.

"No matter where the land may be, we first look at land treatment—such as field strips, sod waterways, stripcropping, tile drainage, forestry practices, field ditches, minimum tillage or cover crops," he said, adding that farmers have "an impressive record in land treatment."

"After land treatment," Mr. Hicks said, "we next explore the feasibility of flood prevention dams, well suited to some terrain—particularly in the Piedmont or Mountains. These can be very effective, and often provide recreation benefits."

"In Eastern North Carolina," he continued, "There are very few dam sites in the flat terrain, so the use of dams is very limited. Sometimes we can use dikes or levees for water control. I want to emphasize that channel work is recommended only as a last resort after all other alternatives have been considered, including the greatest feasible use of land treatment measures. But sometimes channel modification is the only resort in the Coastal Plain."

Hicks also explained that

watershed projects, wherever located, are for existing croplands and for flood protection on adjacent lands. "They are not aimed at swamps or other natural areas, or at bringing new cropland into production."

The state conservationist told the Raleigh convention that "When you see the word 'channelization,' it usually has the word 'stream' in front of it. Perhaps we need a factual look at this concept."

"Channel modification on North Carolina Projects completed up to March, 1972, involves a little less than 800-miles—actually 778.2. I've seen some larger figures quoted and wondered where they came from. There is a small amount of stream channelization included in this figure—19.4 miles out of 778 miles, or 2.5 per cent of the total, that actually affects natural perennial stream."

Another segment of perennial flow totals 215 miles, or 27.7 per cent and involves enlarging man-made ditches or previously modified channels.

"Clearing and snagging" or removal of debris within the channel section of man-modified channels totals 103 miles, or 13 per cent of the total.

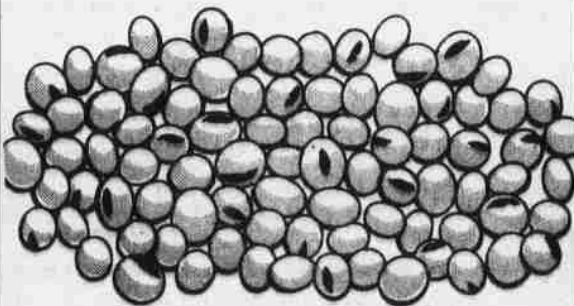
Some channel work involves streams or channels which do not have a

continuous flow of water. These are classed as "intermittent." These include newly constructed ditches, and amount of 183 miles or 23.6 per cent. Finally, a large category of ephemeral flow channels have water only in periods of surface run-off, perhaps after a period of heavy rainfall. This is almost one-third of the total—32.9 per cent.

The state conservationist told the convention that the last two categories—with intermittent or ephemeral flow of water—are more than half the total of work done, with 439 miles of channel out of the total of 778.

"So those who say 'stream channelization' are often talking not about streams at all, as most of us think of them, but a collection of ditches, previously altered streams—some going back 50 years or more—and only a few miles of actual natural stream in North Carolina," Mr. Hicks said.

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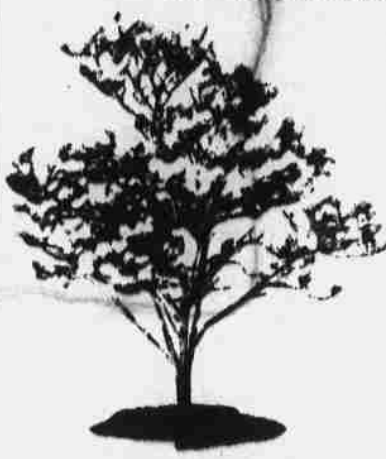
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