



Essay Winner

Essay Winners Are Announced

The annual State Poster and Essay Contests, sponsored by the Education Committee of the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, were recently held in Raleigh, with a trio of outstanding young prospective conservationists placing first in their events.

Taking firsts in the Poster Contest were Todd Lay, a fourth grade student from Fines Creek School in Haywood County, and Cynthia Darlene Saunders, a fifth grader from Chowan Academy in Chowan County.

For their victories in the competition, the poster contest winners each receive a \$50 saving bond; second place winners receive \$25 savings bonds. Second place winners in the poster contest were Edward Modlin, a fourth grader from Perquimans Central Grammar in Perquimans County, and Sherry Owen, a fifth grader from Beaverdam School in Haywood County.

Judges for the contest

were: Mr. Jesse L. Hicks, State Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service; Mr. Steven G. Conrad, Office of Earth Resources; Mr. Travis E. Hendren, Agricultural Education Consultant, N.C. Department of Public Instruction; Mr. Frank Thorne, Staff Forester, Ranger Training, N.C. Forest Service; Mr. Louis E. Aull, Extension Agronomy Specialist, Non-Farm Use; and Dr. Joseph A. Phillips, Extension Agronomy Specialist, Soil Management.

The State Poster Contest represent the culmination of competition that began on the district level, with district winners in each of the ninety-two soil and water conservation districts advancing to competition in one of eight Areas of the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Each Area winner than became eligible for the State Contest in Raleigh.

Fourth and fifth grade students were eligible for the State Poster Contest.

County Teachers Get Sneak Peak

For three days in August, beginning Monday, August 20, and running through Wednesday, August 22, teachers in the Perquimans County schools will have an opportunity to "sneak preview" instructional television programs planned for the fall season. "The purpose of the preview," says Mrs. Reta Richardson, Chief Television Services Consultant for the State Education Agency, "is to enable teachers across the state to decide which of the educational programs they can use for their students."

Several new series have been added to this year's in-school TV schedule. "Inside-Out" is a nationally produced series in health education for 8-to-10 year-old children. The series consists of thirty fifteen-minute dramatizations that focus on important elements in children's lives, such as growing, loving, enjoying, fearing. Presenting true-to-life episodes involving human emotions, the programs end without resolving problems, thus allowing students to discuss their feelings, explore their own reactions to the situations, and arrive at a better understanding of how people's emotions affect the way they behave.

Another newcomer is a series entitled "Animals & Such," designed for use with fourth, fifth, and sixth graders. The sixteen fifteen-minute programs in this series can be used by teachers to introduce the life sciences to their students.

In the area of social studies, four new series will be broadcast for classroom use. "Stories to Talk About" offers five short animated films for children in kindergarten through third grade. Each film introduces a basic social concept such as specialization of labor, taxation, laws, and independence. "The Many Americans," a series of six programs, is suitable for use in the fifth grade. Each film presents a drama which reveals some of the human conflicts of a minority group in American society. "Comparative Geography" is a series of four programs designed for use in the fifth and sixth grades. Each program visually documents the comparisons of regions which are physically similar, but culturally different. "Man and the World," recommended for use in the seventh grade, offers twelve programs to supplement the study of Africa and six programs in a documentary format about Asia. Each program is a documentary

For junior and senior high school, two new series are available. "A Matter of Fiction" is designed to stimulate reading motivation and literature appreciation. Each of the fifteen twenty-minute programs treats one or more pieces of literature just enough to whet the students' desire to read the books. It has been designed by John Robbins, a North Carolinian who last year introduced a similar program called "Cover to Cover" for fifth and sixth grades.

"The Introduction to the Performing Arts" will provide students an opportunity to see and hear the performances of artists in their own classrooms. One of the series, entitled "Black Music in America," includes priceless filmed performances of such musicians as Louis Armstrong, Mahalia Jackson, and Nina Simone.

"In response to the success that teachers have had over the past two years with 'Ready? Set...Go! Level I,'" says Mrs. Richardson, "the State Department of Public Instruction is adding the Level II series this year for 7-to-9 year-old children." Each level of the series offers thirty televised lessons, which sequentially build a primary physical educational program that stresses basic movement and self-discovery.

A total of twenty instruction series will be available over UNC educational television this fall for teachers of all grades. UNCET will be broadcasting over seven stations in the state.

Protection Act Passed

"Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973" (S. 1888) this bill embraces new concepts of encouraging production of basic grains and cotton. This is a four-year bill, starting with 1974 crop and continuing through the 1977 crop.

Farmers are induced and encouraged to produce wheat, feed grains (corn, grain sorghum, barley, rye, and oats), and cotton.

There is a separate target or guaranteed price provision for 1974 and 1975 of \$2.05 per bushel for wheat, \$1.38 per bushel for corn, and 38 cents per pound for cotton (with adjustments in 1976 and 1977) which is a price or income assurance feature for producers in order to allay their fears that excessive production could force farm prices and income to fall drastically.

There is target price escalator provision applicable to 1976 and 1977 crops. Target prices in 1976 will be the 1975 target price adjusted for changes in farm costs from 1975 to 1976, modified for changes in yield per acre. A similar adjustment will be made in 1977 based on the adjusted 1976 target price.

Farmers are to receive their income from the marketplace normally, and only if prices fall below target prices would they receive any Government payments. These deficiency payments would normally cover farmers' costs for production.

Dairy support level is raised by 5 percent, up to 80 percent of parity, for the remainder of the current marketing year and for the next marketing year which begins on April 1, 1974. The increased support level is about where present prices are now. This provides a better guarantee to the dairy industry and thus to the public in the form of adequate dairy supplies.

Payments that can be made to an individual farmer, in the event any payments are needed, are limited to \$20,000 per person as compared to \$55,000 per crop under the Act of 1970.

This Act replaces the Agricultural Act of 1970 which will expire on December 31, 1973. The goal of the Act of 1970 was to adjust production to work down the surpluses and to supplement farm income through payments to farmers to set aside portions of their cropland. The production adjustment authority is carried forward from the Agricultural Act of 1970 if it should be needed in the future. However, Secretary Butz has announced that there will be no set-aside in 1974.

The bill repeals the present 75 cents a bushel processing certificate cost on wheat and will reduce the cost to bakers and millers approximately \$400,000,000 annually.

Non-recourse loans are continued with loan levels being raised from \$1.00 to \$1.10 on corn; from \$1.25 to \$1.37 on wheat; and from 19 1/2 cents on cotton to about 25 cents a pound.

A long-term conservation program is established which will be implemented in lieu of the former REAP and Water Bank Act program which were terminated during 1972-REAP because of its heavy orientation to short-term, production-enhancing characteristics, and Water bank because it overlapped with programs with which it interfaced.

The bill establishes a forestry incentives program to encourage development, management, and protection of non-industrial private forest lands, with the following features:

+ Appropriations of not more than \$25 million annually are authorized. Priority for fund distribution among and within States will be determined on factors such as acreage of commercial forest lands, potential productivity and eligible ownerships.

+ Financial and technical assistance will be offered to the land owners under an owner-government contract.

+ Contracts are limited to tracts of 500 acres or less, unless the Secretary finds significant public benefit from a contract for a larger area.

+ The private sector, nur-

series, and forestry and conservation consultants will be utilized to the greatest possible extent. Periodic progress reports will be available to the Congress and the public.

The bill revises the food stamp program to offer more services to more people in more ways:

+ The program is to be extended to every area of the country by June 30, 1974, unless a state can show it is "impossible or impracticable."

+ Coupon allotments will be adjusted semi-annually, effective January 1, 1974, for food price changes.

+ Elderly, blind, and disabled persons who receive benefits under the new federal program of supplemental security income may still be eligible for food stamps if their income under the new program is less than they would have received under the old welfare system. The elderly may use food stamps to pay for meals served in non-profit central dining facilities where meals are prepared especially for older people.

+ Drug addicts or alcoholics who are under the supervision of a certified treatment or rehabilitation program may use food stamps for home-delivered meals.

+ Food stamps will buy any food, domestic or imported, and seeds or plants for use in home garden to produce food for the household.

+ Food stamps may be deducted from public assistance checks.

+ Food stamps must be issued twice a month.

TERMITE DAMAGE

It is estimated that the cost of termite damage in the U. S. is 500 million dollars a year. Half of that amount, 250 million dollars, is paid to pest control operators and the remainder is paid for replacing wood in houses, says W. C. Warrick, extension housing specialist, North Carolina State University.

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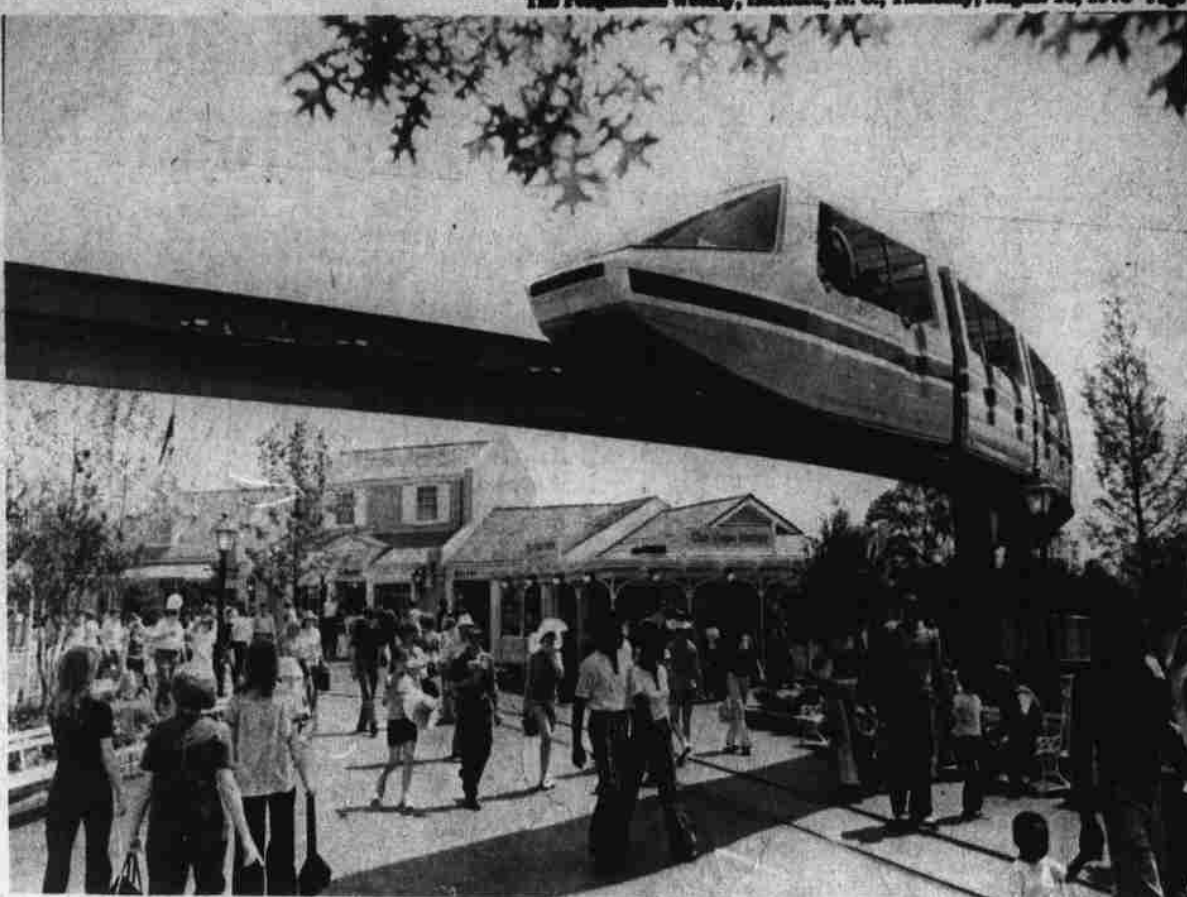
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Gas Shortage Not A Backroom Gimmick

It didn't take a back-room meeting of conspiring, cigar-smoking oil executives to create today's gasoline shortage, says a North Carolina State University economist.

According to Dr. Edward W. Erickson, a specialist on the economics of the American petroleum industry and a former staff member of a national Task Force on Oil Imports, "stupid government policies" are to blame for the current energy crisis.

"If oil companies find themselves a few percent low on petroleum supplies, as they did this year, they will naturally supply their own stations before the independents," the NCSU associate professor of economics said in a recent interview.

Erickson, whose decade of research on future energy supply and demand through energy modeling has attracted widespread attention, has been invited to speak at the 1973 World Energy Conference in

Alma-Ata, Russia in early September. Representatives from 13 foreign nations will hear him discuss "The Estimation of Fossil Fuel Demand."

NO BANDWAGON

Unwilling to jump on the bandwagon with those accusing oil companies of contriving current energy ills, Erickson is quick to point to four critical policy areas which have led to today's imbalance of energy supply and demand. The four include: the Federal Power Commission's control of the price of natural gas at the wellhead, a reluctance to relax oil import limits soon enough and fast enough, environmental controls, and hucksterism on the part of the Atomic Energy Commission regarding nuclear power.

Detailing the policies, Erickson said, "The low price of natural gas at the wellhead, as regulated by the FPC, has discouraged new gas discoveries. It has not been

profitable for companies to search for more of the fuel at current prices. Thus, discovery of new supplies has not kept pace with demand."

Two alternate policies could alleviate the gas shortage, he noted. "Either all price regulations that are limiting supply could be removed, allowing the price of gas to seek its own level. Or additional regulations on the field market could be imposed, setting priorities on fuel for hospitals, homes and businesses. Since this alternative would not directly encourage private business to seek new gas sources, a government operation, financed with taxes, would be established to do so," the NCSU economist said.

Noting that support is strong for both plans, Erickson favors removing regulations, even though the price of natural gas would increase substantially. His reasons are twofold. First, it seems illogical to solve a regulation-created crisis by

means of more regulation. Second, individuals are generally better decision-makers than government bureaucracies, he said.

FREE MARKET

"Letting prices rise to eliminate shortages means that individuals will make fuel-use decisions on the basis of costs and needs that particularly affect them," Erickson added. "Reluctance to remove oil import restrictions has not only heightened oil shortages, but has also slowed the construction of oil refineries," he said. Refineries are oil specific, or can process only certain types of fuel. "Uncertainty as to where oil will be available has discouraged building expensive refining facilities," he noted.

Environmental controls too have taken a higher than normal toll on energy supplies. Pollution control devices on cars, for example, have created a higher demand for fossil fuel energy, Erickson pointed out.

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