

THE HYDE COUNTY HERALD

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NORTH CAROLINA LOSES MILLIONS ANNUALLY BY WASTE OF FOREST FIRES

In Our Region Millions Have Been Wiped From Forests Through Destruction Of Timber Through Carelessness Of Hunters, Woodsmen, And Through Lack Of Adequate Program To Deal With Fires.

Ninety-nine per cent of the forest fires in North Carolina are preventable, according to W. K. Beichler, Chief of Forest Fire Control in the State. During 1943 alone, fires destroyed upwards of a million dollars worth of timber, and more than 4,000 acres were burned over. More than a million dollars worth of timber was destroyed the year before.

Except for lightning, other forest fires could be prevented if hunters, woodsmen and others would be more careful. Much of the damage is caused by hunters who come from distant places, many of them more or less hilarious when they get to the woods, and who have no interest in any sort of the property or the welfare of those who depend upon it for a livelihood.

Here in eastern North Carolina we have seen many instances where fires have stricken large areas from the tax books, causing the taxes of the average citizen to be increased to make up the deficit. We have seen valuable timber destroyed, which reduces production of lumber and a reduction in employment of the people. We know that valuable fur-bearing animals and other game which helps the people are destroyed.

And the fire protection measures are altogether too inadequate, considering the value of property involved. Despite an occasional fire tower, and a semblance of patrol that can do little should a fire break out, we see annually in our region fires more destructive than ever. It is apparent that a greater expenditure for fire prevention under the direction of trained, experienced fire fighters seriously interested in conservation would be a wise investment.

Returning to the general thought, which is apparent to any discerning man, we present some of the observations as quoted from Mr. Beichler's report, and which should be of vital interest to the people of this section as well as the whole state. The figures cover only those counties under forest fire protection.

Lightning, the only cause of a forest fire not under man's control, caused only 22 of the total of 3,773 fires last year. Worst offenders were the smokers, causing 1,215, and next were debris burners, causing 734. Next were of incendiary origin, 692; campers and hunters, 467; railroads, 214; lumbering, 86; and miscellaneous causes, 348.

Slight Decrease
Of the 302,655 acres burned over, 188,869 were of young growth, merchantable timber 86,447; open land, 27,339. This was about 200,000 acres less than burned over the previous year.

Although the area under State protection, now about 12,500,000 acres of the state's 18,400,000 acres forested area, has increased in recent years, the percentage of area burned has steadily decreased, which is a true sign of progress. The state's forest fire control program during the last year was financed largely by State and County appropriations, and by federal funds under the Clarke McNary law to the extent of 31 per cent. It formerly was 50 per cent.

Attention was called to the rise of North Carolina in the matter of percent-of-protected-area-burned from last place among southern states as of August 1941 to a strong third position as of August 1943. Figures thus far available indicate that this will prove true for the full year.

In dollars and cents the year 1943 showed forest fires destroyed \$621,000 worth of products and potential production, as against \$1,020,000. This record was achieved at a disadvantage as to trained personnel, as the armed services and higher wages have claimed some of the staff. In order to continue this good performance, the public will have to lend every possible cooperation to save wood products needed for war purposes, stated Beichler. His program follows:

Farmers and Ranchers: Before doing any brush or pasture burning (Please turn to page 4)

A STORY THAT SHOULD INTEREST ENGELHARD FOLK

Other Towns Build Up Fire Departments As War Protection

Engelhard has no fire department today and the engine is for sale. The town commissioners have refused to buy the equipment and the citizens have sat by—except a few business people who pay most of the town taxes—apparently approving. One argument of those who oppose having adequate protection in the Hyde County metropolis is that there is no one to man it in war times, and little use for it.

But while Engelhard sits by doing nothing about a situation that might be taken by an outsider as a degenerating spirit, others are busy building up fire protection—building it up in war and for civilian defense and post-war protection. We re-print here an inspiring story from the "Civilian Front," Civilian Defense publication, which was handed us by Mrs. S. M. Gibbs, chairman of Civilian Defense in Hyde County, who has been interested in keeping the fire engine at Engelhard. It follows:

CD Stimulates Establishment Of Small Town Fire Groups

Boston, Mass.—A "valuable result" of Civilian Defense has been to stimulate small communities to start fire departments, according to Col. Howard Robbins, United States Director, Region I, Office of Civilian Defense, Boston.

Losses Cut Down

"In addition to the large communities, which have increased their fire protection by adding OGD equipment and auxiliary firemen," said Col. Robbins. "I find that many small-sized places, either independent municipalities or sections of large cities and towns, have organized new volunteer departments. For years they have been dependent on the bigger communities.

"The new facilities have been obtained by hard local work. As a result, fire losses are being cut down and an extensive mutual aid network has been built up. This will be one of the most valuable contributions of Civilian Defense to the post-war period."

In praising the fire organization throughout New England, Colonel Robbins mentioned as a particular example the Pinardville section of Manchester, N. H., which is typical of scores of smaller places.

According to local authorities, Pinardville has a fire department all its own because the people themselves had an ambitious and never-say-die attitude. In the past the Manchester Fire Dept. has had to run several miles to fires in the Pinardville section.

With no municipal funds available, several thousands of dollars were raised at parties and bazaars to buy materials, and volunteers erected a one-story fire house. Unable to secure priorities the people bought a second-hand truck and had it converted into a first-class piece of apparatus.

The Pinardville department has 20 volunteers, with Leo Courchesne as acting chief. Men were trained by experienced firemen.

HYDE GIRL MAKES HONOR ROLL AT MARS HILL

Mars Hill, Feb. 18.—The name of Miss Mary Elizabeth Mason, daughter of J. R. Mason, of Swan Quarter, appears on the second honor roll released at Mars Hill college recently.

To be eligible for the second honor roll one must make a grade of C or above on all credit courses and 30 quality points. Of the 657 students enrolled at the college during the fall semester 39 made the first honor roll and 99 made the second.

LAY MEETINGS HELD IN SWAN QUARTER CHARGE

A number of Lay meetings have been held in the Swan Quarter-Fairfield Methodist charge recently with H. G. Guthrie principal of the Swan Quarter school speaking. Meetings have been held at Fairfield, Epworth, and Providence churches. D. L. Berry of Swan Quarter is charge Lay leader. Rev. C. W. Guthrie is pastor.

GIBBS - GIBBS

Miss Alma Gibbs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gibbs, of Rhoderville, and Edgar Gibbs, son of Harvey Gibbs of Rhoderville, were quietly married Friday night, February 18, at the home of Walter P. Armstrong. They will make their home with Mr. Gibbs' father in Rhoderville.

"NO PERSON SHALL LACK MEDICAL CARE"



GOVERNOR J. M. BROUGHTON who says of a recent program submitted the University in connection with a report of a committee of eight eminent North Carolina physicians: "No person in North Carolina shall lack adequate hospital care or medical treatment by reason of poverty or low income." The Governor strikes a high note by reason of his concern for the welfare of all people and his influence behind the program for the training of more doctors at home, and aid for needy afflicted will go a long way toward a better state.

POULTRY SCHOOL IN HYDE MONDAY WELL ATTENDED

State College Specialists Were On Program; Prizes Given For Best Eggs

Approximately 50 farm people attended the one-day poultry school in the Agriculture building in Swan Quarter Monday and county farm officials were well pleased with the results of their first efforts to hold a school of that kind.

Four State College specialists were present and gave interesting talks. C. F. Parrish, extension poultry specialist, had charge of the meeting. He spoke on "The 19 Major Points in Successful Poultry Production."

Dr. Roy Dearstyne of the college spoke on "Feeds and Feeding." "Marketing" was the topic of T. T. Brown and C. J. Maupin talked on "Breeding Better Chicks."

A program of questions and answers was held during the afternoon with the farm folks asking questions and the specialist answering.

The program began at 10 o'clock in the morning and continued through 3:30. Members of the Swan Quarter Home Club sold dinner at the scene of the meeting.

Prizes were awarded for the best white and brown eggs exhibited. There were 17 entries. E. K. Mann of Swan Quarter won first prize, a bag of feed donated by A. Cahoon's FCX agency, for best dozen white eggs. W. E. Nobles of Scranton won second prize of 50 baby chicks given by Johnson McKeel Hatchery, Belhaven.

Mrs. S. W. Weston of Swan Quarter won first prize for best dozen brown eggs and was given a bag of feed, donated by J. D. Dawson Co. Mrs. J. E. Bonner of Swan Quarter took second place in this contest and was awarded 50 baby chicks from Johnson-McKeel's Hatchery. A special prize was awarded to Mrs. E. E. Hodges of Rose Bay for having more poultry on the farm than any other farm represented at the meeting. She was given a two gallon water fountain, donated by Voliva Hardware Company.

WAR TIMBER NEEDS CONTINUE

Contrary to public opinion, the war needs for forest products have not decreased since military housing requirements in this county have been largely met. The need for forest products in munitions, aircraft, ships, trucks and many others of the 1200 war uses for wood have materially increased beyond what was required last year.

The three major forest products produced in this area are lumber, pulpwood and veneer. All three play a vital part in the war effort. Timber owners and operators, wishing to aid in increasing the current production, can get information and advice from the nearest County Agent, Federal or State Forester.

Buy War Bonds and Stamps.

PLANE OBSERVERS GIVEN MEDALS AT ENGELHARD

Presentations To Be Made In Meeting at High School Next Thursday Night

A meeting of airplane observers of the Engelhard Observers' Club will be held in the Engelhard school auditorium next Thursday evening for the purpose of presenting pins to those people who have helped man the post since Pearl Harbor.

All observers are urged to attend the meeting and the public is invited to be present also. The presentation of the pins will be made by an officer of the Ground Section of the Army Air Corps. An interesting movie, "The Battle of Britain," will be shown.

S-Sgt. Charles Lehner of Norfolk, who visited the post recently, stated that he would like to see a large crowd out at the meeting.

Mrs. S. M. Gibbs is helping with the arrangements for the program. Some local leaders including Mayor J. M. Long and Chief Observer R. S. Cox are expected to be present.

NEBRASKA HOME CLUB GETS OFF GOOD START 1944

Has One New Member At First Meeting; Reports Many Projects

The Nebraska Home Demonstration club had its first meeting of the new year Wednesday, February 16, at the club house with 18 members and 1 new member present.

A pair of pillow slips and \$1.40 were contributed to the Loan Kit sponsored by the club.

\$3.00 was given in defense stamps for the club's album which is almost enough for a \$50.00 bond. A \$100.00 bond has already been purchased.

The club is sponsoring a letter box for the boys in service from the Nebraska community.

"Gardening" was the study of the month which was very interesting in the way Miss Roach presented it.

Mrs. Preston Mooney, Garden Leader, during the recreational part of the meeting led a skit assisted with 9 other members on "Growing Vegetables," which was enjoyed immensely.

The club enjoyed tasty refreshments served by the hostess, Mrs. Bessie Boomer.

RATION REMINDER

Gasoline—In 17 East Coast states A-9 coupons are good through May 8. In states outside the East Coast area A-10 coupons are good through March 21.

Tire Inspection—For A coupon holders, deadline is March 31. For B and C coupon holders, deadline is February 28.

Sugar — Stamp No. 30 in Book Four is good for five pounds through March 31. Stamp No. 40 in Book Four is good for five pounds of canned sugar through February 23, 1945.

Shoes — Stamp No. 18 in Book One is good for one pair, Stamp No. 1 on the airplane sheet in Book Three is good for one pair.

Fuel Oil — Period 4 coupons are good through September 30.

Meats, ats—Spare stamp No. 3 in Book Four is good for five points worth of pork (except lard) and all types of sausages through February 26. Brown stamps V, W, and X in Book Three are good February 26. Brown stamps Y and Z are good through March 20. Red 10-point stamps A8, B8, and C8 in Book Four are good February 27 through May 20. Waste kitchen fats are redeemed at two ration points plus four cents a pound.

FARM LABOR SHORTAGE TO BECOME MUCH MORE ACUTE BECAUSE OF DRAFT ORDER

One Half Of Farm Deferred Men In Hyde County Expected To Be Called For Service Unless Ruling Relaxed; Many Acres Of Farm Lands Will Become Idle As The Result.

FAIRFIELD 4-HERS ENTERTAIN HOME CLUB MEMBERS

Demonstrations And Talks All Center On Topic Of Gardening

The Fairfield 4-H club presented a team demonstration on "Growing Vegetables for Transplanting" at the Fairfield Home Demonstration club meeting held Thursday, February 17.

4-H members putting on demonstrations were Lydia Midyette, Jean Cuthrell, Evelyn Clark, Curtis Blake and Gene Midyette. They showed container, how to mix soil for best plant bed, planting the seed in rows, how to water bed correctly, the thinning of plants and how to transplant correctly.

An informal discussion on "The 1944 Victory Garden" was led by Miss Iberia Roach, home agent. This was very timely, since many interesting findings were released from experiment station and reported which should be very profitable to the 1944 gardeners.

A very appropriate, devotional was given by Mrs. Franklin Midyette.

During the recreational hour, the garden leader, Mrs. Guy Cutrell, led a playlet on "Growing some of our common vegetables," in which ten women represented vegetables and an attractive set of animated vegetable charts were used also.

The club made a generous contribution to the Friendship chain, for the women across the sea.

The hostess, Mrs. Franklin Midyette and Mrs. Frank Young, served delicious grape juice and cakes.

LIBERAL SHOTGUN SHELLS PROMISED FALL HUNTERS

It may not come true, but sounds good to local hunters who paid \$6 a box for shells this winter, but the following article printed in many papers under a Washington date-line speaks for itself: Liberal supplies of ammunition for shotguns, rifles and other small arms will soon be made available to civilians and by next fall, when the hunting seasons open, the ammunition supply situation nearly will have reached a peace-time basis, it was learned today. Since early in the war shells and cartridges for civilian use have been sharply curtailed.

Officials of the War Production Board explained that the big three—Winchester, Remington and Federal Cartridge Companies—have produced such a big supply of ammunition for the armed services that cutbacks in military orders are soon to be inevitable.

In order to keep these plants running—and to be ready to turn out more ammunition for war purposes, if needed—the Office of Civilian Requirements and the War Department are preparing a program for continuation of manufacture, but the product may be diverted into civilian channels.

This means, officials said, that the farmers throughout the country can soon count on having adequate supplies of ammunition to shoot wolves and other predatory animals and birds that prey on their livestock and crops.

Informed officials said that supplies should begin reaching dealers in the Mid-West within sixty days. Virtually the entire output for the next four or five months will be sent into the seven-state area between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains.

It was said that enough ammunition will be available to Eastern hunters by the time the season opens to care for their needs.

RETURNED TO CAMP

Sgt. Andrew J. Equils has returned to Camp Rucker, Ala., after visiting his father, George Equils at Scranton, and his sister, Rachel Equils at Swan Quarter. He visited his brother, Pvt. James E. Equils, stationed at Ft. Jackson, S. C., on his way back to camp.

HOME CLUBBERS TO MEET

The Engelhard Home Makers club will meet next Wednesday afternoon at the Town Hall. All members are urged to attend and visitors are welcomed.



Released by Western Newspaper Union.

ILL OF RIGHTS' AND U. S. DEMOCRACY

WASHINGTON.—The Roosevelt action which range the wildest reaction in his current program was his second Bill of Rights. He listed eight:

The right to a good job, wage, fair price, business freedom from monopolies (and foreign cartels), a decent home, medical care, social security, education.

This new Bill of Rights is not a list of new rights. They always existed (with the possible exception of reign cartels, formerly beyond their reach). They exist today.

Every man has a "right" to a good job, home, medical care, and so on. He has long had laws for business freedom against monopolies, have something of a social security system, and an unequalled educational system.

The only difference of opinion which will cause any dispute is whether the federal government all furnish them—that is, material—and directly provide more of them, as Mr. Roosevelt apparently wishes.

Formerly, the working theory of his democracy was that each man would be given the opportunity to provide them for himself—that is, to earn enough to pay for his home, medical care, and so on.

Here now, planning for a fresh start at the end of the war, the question must arise as to which of these "rights" is best to follow—not just "politically," but what is most "rational."

If Mr. Roosevelt is going to undertake in peacetime to have the federal government itself furnish each man each job, fix his wages, fix his farm price, build his home, provide his medical care and direct his education—as is being done now in wartime—this nation will be totalitarian, not democratic.

A FEW POINTED QUESTIONS

But that is an academic argument. Even though it is the most decisive focal point of all questions today. What the citizen now will want to figure out for himself is:

Will it be better for him that way? Will the common man, the average citizen, get more out of it? Will he get more by having the federal government provide all these things (Continued on page 4)

NEWS OF OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM

BACK FROM PACIFIC WAR

Ray Mitchell Spencer, U. S. Navy, just back from the Pacific war, has been visiting relatives at Scranton.

BEER YIELDS EIGHT MILLIONS IN TAXES

North Carolina's beer industry paid \$8,077,438.24 in Federal, State and local taxes in 1943, according to figures compiled by the Brewing Industry Foundation's North Carolina Committee.

The Federal Government collected \$5,148,474.58 in barrel and license taxes; the State \$2,773,963.66 in crown, lid and license taxes; and local units \$155,000 in license fees.

ENTERTAINS AT BRIDGE

Mrs. J. W. Miller entertained at bridge on Thursday night of last week in honor of her mother, Mrs. Oscar Aichel.

Every soldier requires 250 pounds of cotton, or about 10 times what the average civilian wears. "King cotton has gone to war."