

**SOIL EROSION IN THE TENNESSEE RIVER BASIN**

A preliminary survey of the Norris Dam watershed of the Tennessee River Basin reveals a great amount of soil erosion.

Approximately 60 per cent of the 1,856,000 acres which constitute the drainage area of the Clinch and Powell Rivers and Cove Creek, and other streams that feed the reservoir area above the Norris Dam site, is in forest. Of the remaining 742,000 acres, which is now or has in the past been cleared for cultivation, some 60 per cent is, to quote Mr. Richards, "absolutely destroyed for farming," the soil washed away and the ground so ruined that it is of no further use for agricultural purposes.

In other words, some 445,000 acres of waste land, or one quarter of the surface of the watershed above the dam site, constitutes a serious menace to the proposed power and flowage control project. Silting, according to engineers' figures, is taking place in this region at the rate of about 1 per cent a year. Erosion and washing away must be halted or the Norris Dam will fill up 25 per cent in that number of years, thus becoming very harmful to the purposes of the development.

Most people think, according to Mr. Richards, erosion is washing away in gullies. Erosion is a progressive process. It begins with sheet erosion, which is the washing away of the top soil over the whole surface area. When carried far enough, sheet erosion develops into gullies, which is the case so pronounced in many parts of the Valley. The study of erosion, then, not only pertains to gullying, the

ultimate stage, but, what is really more important, to the prevention of sheet erosion.

"It is difficult for the public to realize the extent and rapidity of erosion," comments Mr. Richards, adding: "In a single rain storm, for instance, a careful study made by Mr. Bennett showed that top soil was washed away from the fields of one particular farm at the rate of 39 tons, not per farm but per acre!"

The erosion problem is particularly acute in the Tennessee Valley. The Tennessee River and its tributaries are literally "running away" with the land. In the case of the Norris Dam area the immediate objective of the Authority's Forestry and Soil Erosion Department, of which Mr. Richards is chief, is not so much to protect the land and to prevent floods, although these are vitally important also, as it is to keep the silt from quickly rendering inefficient a great dam built with public money. Yet it must be apparent to everyone that there is a necessity for well-planned and managed forestry and soil erosion work, not only in the Tennessee River Basin but in many parts of the country. Increased population and sound national economy call for such work at this time.

No man in the world can have every thing he wants. The billionaire finds that out when he wrecks his health struggling for more money.

An old maid does not care so much for brains or money when she wants a husband. Appearance is what counts and the sooner the better.

**SCHOOL COSTS CUT BY MAIL INSTRUCTION**

The Office of Education, Department of the Interior, has recently issued a bulletin entitled "High School Instruction by Mail." Prepared by Walter H. Gaumnitz, specialist in rural problems, this bulletin is one of a series which outlines potential economies in education.

Education by correspondence, recognized by many schools as an efficacious and economical means of attaining an education, tends to give more and better schooling to isolated rural children than it is possible for them to get under existing conditions.

This instructional plan reduces the per capita costs by eliminating small high school classes, and yet gives opportunity for enrichment of curriculums in such situations, it is pointed out.

In Ohio, lessons by mail, together with a "tutorial system" are utilized successfully to cut down per capita cost.

In Nebraska and some other states instruction by mail in rural schools has been greatly expanded. It has been found to more adequately meet educational needs of gifted and other children, especially vocational training. Post graduate studies also have been made available cheaply for those who desire them.

Higher institutions of learning in 32 states offer a large and rich list of courses which includes literature, mathematics, bookkeeping, agriculture, Latin, music, psychology, rural management, geography, history, chemistry, journalism and hundreds of other courses. The 180 high schools using correspon-

dence courses are distributed over more than 30 states. The use of this type of instruction is most common in Nebraska, Michigan, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

Benton Harbor, Mich., Newton, Iowa, and many Nebraska schools have used correspondence lessons successfully for a long time. They regard them as a permanent feature in their programs. Several studies have shown that correspondence pupils do fully as well or better than those attending classes. Correspondence students usually have a definite goal, and have as their objective proficiency and success in their work. Such studies conclude that correspondence instruction can be conducted with success.

A list of high schools which have used correspondence lessons is given in the new Office of Education bulletin, as well as many annotated references to other discussions of the problem. The publication is listed as Bulletin 1933, No. 13, and is available from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., price 10 cents.

They talk about the school girl complexion when they ought to say "a complexion like a school girl used to have."

One town out in Kansas is so chinchy the board of censors recently failed to pass a movie film entitled "The Naked Eye."

Fluke means a fellow who has fallen down on the job. There are a lot of flukes.

Obsolete American words: "Here's that ten dollars I have been owing you for a month."

**BRUINS SCHEDULE HARD CAGE GAMES**

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of size and height, and with the younger men forcing the veterans to hustle to hold their positions, Mercer should have a most successful season.

**Squad Handicapped**

The squad will probably be handicapped in its first few games by a lack of teamwork, as Coach Lake Russell has not had time to work the squad into the proper shape. Only three days of practice were held before the opening game with Chattanooga, but the Bear machine gives promise of developing into a smooth outfit before the season is far under way.

And Mercer will certainly need a strong team as some of the best teams in the south will be met during the coming campaign. The world champion Celtics will come down to Macon on the 16th of January, and games with Florida, Georgia, Tech, Chattanooga, Clemson, Furman, and other strong teams of the Southeastern and S. I. A. A. conferences will be played.

A definite squad has not been selected as yet by Coach Russell, and the large squad of candidates are waging a merry battle for positions.

Following is a list of candidates: "Cotton" Harrison, Nat Reasor, Bowie Gray, Cooper Etheridge, Gordon Reddick, Gene NeSmith, Jimmy Wasden, Henry Allen, David Hazlehurst, Hollis Stanford, Charlie Cooper, Robert Bale, Ralph Hampton, Tom Porter, Whatley Roberts, Jack Lee, Maxey Walker and Tom Aldred.

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**NINETY EIGHT MAKE FALL HONOR ROSTER**

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O. Allen, Albany; James F. Anderson, Cobutta; Grady Colson, Glenwood; Charles Cooper, Perry; Kermit Dekle, Coolidge; Aldon Etheridge, Warthen; James Fleming, Newnan; Charles Fulghum, Abbeville; Howard P. Giddens, Nashville, Ga.; George Grant, Forsyth; Erwin M. Gross, Far Rockaway, Long Island, N. Y.; Tom Hardman, III, Commerce; Wyman D. Harris, Butler; Joseph Hays, Midland City, Ala.; Charles H. Herndon, Toccoa; Jack Hill, Jr., Cartersville; Edwin Hood, Sandersville; Mary Blanche Hyde, Sparta; Will Johnson, Jr., Cuthbert; Madison W. Johnson, Miami, Fla.; Joseph M. Lacy, Pelham; Robert E. Lee, Jr., Fitzgerald; Thomas E. Lee, Dallas.

George Meeks, Forsyth; Oliver Mixon, Ocala; Martha Page Morton, Gray; Jack Murr, Americus; Joe Popeko, Akron, Ohio; Joseph E. Pryor, Summitt, N. J.; William T. Quarles, Buenos Aires, Argentina, South America; Mainus Rawls, Jacksonville, Fla.; George Sears, Alamo; Emory C. Teel, Cuthbert; Cecil F. Thomas, Baxley; James H. C. Thomas, Milner; Charles B. Thompson, McDonough; James M. Thurmon, Atlanta; Cecil Underwood, Mystic; Clifford Walker, Zebulon; Carlton Warnock, Tarrytown; Jim Roe Williams, Forsyth; G. D. Wilson, Conyers; Edison Yates, Sandersville.

We ought to learn something from the errors we make, but about the only thing we learn is that they cost like the deuce.

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