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Sudden Temperature Drop Ends Spring Blooms

Overnight the temperatures in Yancey County dropped from an exceptionally warm-for-spring 80 degrees to a freezing 20 degrees, as Friday's all-day torrential rain changed to snow early Saturday morning. Fruit trees and flowering trees and shrubs which had budded and bloomed

in the unseasonably warm weather, lost their flowers and have their fruit crops endangered by the sudden severe drop in temperature. Pictured above is a Japanese Magnolia Tree, one of several at the home of the Ernest Briggs, in full bloom during Saturday's snow.

Body Of Parachutist Is Recovered In Nolichucky After Seven Week Search

Heavy rains over the weekend resulted in the recovery of the body of Laura Watson of Spruce Pine who disappeared seven weeks ago following her first parachute jump as a member of an East Tennessee State University Jump Club.

Miss Watson's open parachute was sighted about 8 a. m. Monday and recovered from a small island in the swift flowing Nolichucky River about 1:30 p. m. by helicopter. Heavy rains caused the Nolichucky to rise 16 feet above its normal level and the resulting rapids dislodged the body from the river bottom forcing it to the top.

The Jonesboro rescue squad, who has had men searching the river daily since the coed's disappearance, could not cross the rapids by boat and finally had to resort to a helicopter for recovering the body. Recovery was made approximately nine miles from the point where Miss Watson went into the river after missing her jump target by 300 yards, landing in the river.

Since February 4 when the Spruce Pine woman disappeared, search efforts have been undertaken along the 20 miles of the Nolichucky River by thousands of volunteers from a four-state area.

Ladies' Night Banquet Scheduled For Monday

The Burnsville Men's Club will hold its annual Ladies Night Banquet on Monday at 7:00 p. m. at the Community Building. This social occasion is a traditional event of many years standing in Yancey County, held every March.

Members, former members, prospective members, together with their wives and other guests are all invited to attend. Tickets may be obtained from club members.

The only club business to be conducted at the dinner will be the brief ceremony of installation of new officers who will serve for the coming year. The new club president is Carlisle Bledsoe, who will take over from Herb Allen who has served the past year. The new vice president is Hazen Led-

ford, and the incoming secretary Vernie Wilson.

Entertainment at the affair will be a "womanless wedding," staged by club members, with technical advice regarding the wedding ceremony furnished by John Martin. The cast of characters will be: Bride-Roy Ray; Groom-Charlie Rice; Preacher-Dover Fouts; Bridesmaid-Garland Wampler; Ring Bearer-Charles Gillespie; Best Man-Arthur Letterman; the Bride's father-Oscar Deyton. Music will be furnished by Mr. and Mrs. Vernie Wilson.

Dinner will be served by the Woman's Society of the Newdale Methodist Church. In order to determine in advance the number of meals to be served, those planning to attend are urged to contact one of the ticket sellers before the end of the week.

Funeral services for Miss Watson were held Wednesday in Central Baptist Church. The Rev. Maurice Gilliam officiated and burial was in Spruce Pine Memorial Cemetery.

Surviving are the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Watson of Spruce Pine; two sisters, Mrs. Nancy Burleson of Spruce Pine and Martha Watson of the home.

Dramatics Class Presents Play

The Dramatics Class at East Yancey will present The Down Staircase, a two act comedy on Friday night, May 4.

This play is about a young teacher beginning her teaching at Calvin Coolidge High School. Sylvia, the teacher, is happy to be at the school and she is also eager and optimistic. This play shows the humor, seriousness and troubled spots that teachers and students encounter.

Here is a list of some of the cast and students who are to play the parts: Dr. Max Clark, Danny Hughes; Sylvia Barrett, Susan Laughrum; Paul Barringer, Cleve Piercy; Bea Schachter, Terri Jordan; Joe Ferone, Mark Jordan; Alice Blake, Karen McIntosh; Harry Kagan, Mark Bledsoe; Rusty O'Brien, Russell Wilson; Elizabeth Ellis, Susan Wilson; Lou Martin, Faron Silvers; Lemmie Newmark, Milton Higgins; Edward Williams, Kenny Shade; Samuel Bester, Richard Banks.

The Director is Mrs. Elizabeth Westall; Student Director, Robert Howard and Stage Manager, Darrell Briggs.



Ron Kelley

New Recruiter Serves Yancey

Radioman Second Class Ron Kelley has recently been assigned as the Navy Recruiter for Yancey and Madison Counties. In his eight years of active Naval service, Petty Officer Kelley has served aboard two ships and two overseas shore stations. His first overseas tour was in the Panama Canal Zone where he met and married the former Carmen Morales. They have two children; Jeff age five and Donna, seventeen months.

Ron and his family come to Western North Carolina from the U. S. Naval Communications Station, Londonderry, Northern Ireland, but claim Greenville, South Carolina as permanent residence.

Ron will be in Burnsville every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Anyone interested in the Navy can see him there or call collect to Asheville, 253-1931.

Demonstration

The Yancey County Extension Service will give a demonstration on how to install hidden zippers, at 2:00 and 4:00 p. m. Monday, March 26th at Ye Olde Fabric Shop, Burnsville.

New Officers Appointed To Salvation Army Post

Lt. and Mrs. Richard D. Brittle have been appointed officers in charge of the Salvation Army in Yancey, Madison and Cooke Counties.

They recently replaced Lt. and Mrs. Wayne Langley, who were moved to Salvation Army headquarters in Washington, N. Carolina.

Lt. and Mrs. Brittle will conduct services at Sleepy Valley, Bonnie Hill, and Little Creek churches. Headquarters are located in Hot Springs, N. C.

Lt. and Mrs. Brittle were married in January, just before receiving their assignment to head the Salvation Army Mission locally.

Mrs. Brittle, the former Gloria Faye New, is a native of Anniston, Alabama. Lt. Brittle is a native of Roanoke, Va., and lived in Bristol for 15 years. He has been a resident of Charlotte. Lt. and Mrs. Brittle are both

ordained ministers, having achieved the rank of Lieutenant after two years training at School for Officers Training in Atlanta, Georgia.

After being ordained, Lt. Brittle worked as an assistant pastor of the Salvation Army Corps in Anderson, S. C., from June until January.

Mrs. Brittle worked as an assistant pastor at Salvation Army Corps in Goldsboro, N. C., in Newbern, N. C., after receiving her training.

Lt. and Mrs. Brittle are presently making plans for a visit to this area by Commander William Chamberlain, commander of the Southern Territory of the Salvation Army.

(Editor's note: the following article concerning the meaning and work of the Salvation Army was written by Lt. Brittle.)

What is the Salvation Army? (Cont'd on page 3)



Lt. And Mrs. Richard D. Brittle

Ranger Column:

Exhibit Wins First Place

Men from the Toecane District recently helped construct an exhibit at the Southern Living Show in Charlotte. The exhibit depicted the four National Forests in North Carolina with plants from the Coastal Plains, Piedmont and Mountain regions of the state. The mountains were represented by a 12 ft. waterfall, a pool, and a stream with several live trout. All of the mountain plants used in the exhibit came from the National Forests in the Yancey and Mitchell county area. The exhibit won first place in the "Most Creative Garden" division at the show.

The Toecane crew, headed by Elaine Ray, spent several weeks collecting plants, moss, rock and even logs for the exhibit. Many of the plants were taken to a green house and forced to bloom in order to give the exhibit the appearance of springtime in the mountains.

Several trips by truck were needed to haul all the exhibit material to the Merchandise Mart in Charlotte. Here, Landscape Architects joined the Toecane crew to weave this material into a mountain forest. After the Forest was complete and the mountain stream and pool

were filled with water, the Rainbow, Brown and Speckle Trout were added to round out the mountain setting.

While the Southern Living Show was in progress Elaine Ray, Talmadge Woody, Harold Rivers and Jean Robinson served as information specialist for the exhibit. They attempted to answer the many questions pertaining to plant life, trout habitat and National Forest activities.

There were over 100,000 people attending the exhibit in the two week period it was in progress. There were a number of local people who made the trip to Charlotte, among these were about 50 Burnsville Lions Club members and their families.

Variety Show

There will be a variety show at Micaville Elementary School on Friday, March 23 at 7:30 p. m. The show is sponsored by the Micaville P. T. A. Admission is 50¢ for children; \$1.00 for adults. There will be lots of local talent!

Everyone is welcome to attend.



First Place Ranger Exhibit At Southern Living Show In Charlotte