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Rural Carriers—C. Presnell, P. Banks, L. King, J. Allen, L. Slagle, G. Gardner



Postal Employees—Bruce Smith, Peggy Shepherd, Mary Pate, And Harold Anglin

Yancey Post Office Holds Postal Week Observance

April 29 - May 5 is being observed throughout the nation as Postal Week. The Burnsville Postal employees held their own celebration on Tuesday, May 1st at the post office building on the square.

As part of the day's events Howard Young, the newly appointed Burnsville Postmaster was presented with his certificate of office by Asheville Sectional Center Postmaster, R. E. Wolfe. Also at the presentation was John D. Sigman, Superintendent of Mails from Asheville and Burnsville Mayor James Anglin.

Young said that Postal Week is being observed to give credit for the services performed by rank and file postal employees.

Participating in Tuesday's observance were the Burnsville rural carriers, Clarence Presnell, Phillip Banks, John Allen, Gene Gardner, Lawrence King, and Lee Slagle. Also participating were Burnsville post office clerks Peggy Shepherd, Mary Pate, Bruce Smith and Harold Anglin, assistant to the postmaster.

All day Tuesday these employees served refreshments to and greeted local citizens at the post office.

On being presented with his certificate of office, Young said, "I am extremely pleased to be the Postmaster of the Burnsville office and hope that

the next 10 years will be as happy for me as the last six months. Anytime the people of Yancey County have a question or postal problem, I will be happy to assist them in any way. I want everyone to feel free to call on me at anytime."

As a tribute to the nation's postal employees, 10 stamps reflecting the services performed by postal people are available for purchase this week. The stamps, all on the same sheet, are unusual, as there is a message on the reverse side of each one.



John Sigman, Mayor James Anglin, Postmaster Howard Young, And R.E. Wolfe

WNC Community Development Program Underway; 1973 Competitors Include Two From Yancey County

The Western North Carolina Development Association held a luncheon at the Sheraton Inn in Asheville on April 25th at which their theme for this year, "Clean Sweep '73" was expounded. The meeting was attended by Eloise Briggs, Yancey County Beautification Coordinator, and William Bledsoe, Extension Chairman from Yancey County. Discussed at this meeting also, was the 1973 Western North Carolina Community Development Program, now getting underway for this year's competition.

A total of 31 organized community clubs in 12 counties and the Cherokee Indian Reservation have made official entry in the 1973 Western North Carolina Community Development Program to date, according to Ms. Dot Grindstaff of Asheville, the chairman of the improvement program for the Western North Carolina Development Association. A large number of additional areas are expected to enter before the May 15 deadline.

Two community clubs in Yancey County have entered the

program at this time. These are Green Mountain and White Oak Creek.

The WNC Community Development Program, now in its 24th year, is a self-help grassroots program which encourages people to organize and work together in community groups on making their areas better places to live. A total of 84 communities were involved last year.

Accomplishments of the organized community clubs have included the erection of community centers, building playgrounds, forming volunteer fire departments, organizing youth programs and hundreds of other improvement projects.

The program is sponsored by the agricultural agencies in each county in cooperation with local sponsors and the WNC Development Association. Area awards of \$6,450 will be awarded next fall to those communities which make the greatest progress during the year and an estimated \$10,000 in local prizes will be presented in the counties.

A special feature of the Com-

munity Development Program is a community beautification contest. Purpose of this special competition is to focus attention on clean up, fix-up projects and stimulate community effort and pride in improving the physical appearance of the communities. Emphasis in this project includes "clean sweep" roadside campaigns, junk

car removal, improved landscaping of homes and of other buildings, cleaning up streams and banks, removal of dilapidated buildings and other "eyesores".

Special awards are being offered in the beautification program to recognize those communities doing outstanding work

Westall Injured In Shooting Incident Monday Afternoon

According to Yancey County Sheriff Kermit Banks, a Monday afternoon shooting incident at Mathis Service Station in Mica-ville resulted in the injury of Elmer Paul Westall, 51, of Route 5, Burnsville by the operator of the station, Joseph W. Mathis.

Westall was shot one time in the stomach with a 38-caliber pistol. He was taken to Spruce Pine Community Hospital where he underwent surgery and according to a spokesman, his condition is "stable".

Sheriff Banks said that no charges have been filed pending further investigation.

According to Mathis, Westall entered the station at 4:15 and allegedly attacked him, knocking him to the floor. During the scuffle, Mathis said he was able to get a pistol he kept in the station. He fired four shots, one of which struck Westall.

Sheriff Banks said that he has not talked with Westall since the shooting incident occurred.

Rapids Of Nolichucky River Claim Two Lives As Rubber Raft Capsizes In Rain-Swollen Waters

Riding the rapids of the Nolichucky River, an exciting experience which has been enjoyed for years by many Yancey County residents, proved fatal last Saturday to two young people from Knoxville.

The rubber raft on which Dennis Rankin and Jeannette Grone were "shooting the rapids" with four of their friends, capsized in Yancey County about 1/2 mile down the river from the entry point at Poplar. The Rankin youth and Miss Grone were swept downstream by the powerful current of the swollen Nolichucky, but the other four, Larry Bowers of Elizabethton, Paul Fisher, Waverly Cabrera and Homer Cabrera of Knoxville were washed ashore and returned to Poplar to summon help.

The bodies of the two young people were recovered from the river around 3:00 p. m. by members of the Erwin Rescue Squad.

A Spruce Pine Rescue Squad and local citizens were conducting a search when notified the bodies had been recovered near

Erwin, Tennessee. Everyone in the rafting party had been wearing life jackets, but they were of little aid because of the rapid current in the rain-swollen waters.

Members of the Leonard Hughes family had gathered for a fish fry at Jones Branch when they saw the raft go by. Hughes said his two sons, Franklin and Carol, went to the Chestoa Bridge after Leonard spotted a life jacket. Leonard and Franklin watched the girl's body while Carol summoned the Rescue Squad.

The girl's body was removed from the river about a mile below the Asheville-Highway bridge and the Hughes brothers found Rankin's body lodged under a log about a quarter of a mile above the bridge.

Rescue Squad members, using boats, brought the body to the bridge.

Sue Cooper of Unaka Springs said the youths came to her home Saturday morning and asked if they could leave a car there. Then they all got in one car and went to the Nolichucky. Bowers said they entered the river around 2:00 p. m.

He said they were all students at the University of Tennessee and that Miss Grone, originally of Erlanger, Ky., worked as a physical therapist at East Tennessee State Hospital. Assisting at the scene were

trooper Don Cole and Chief Deputy Leroy Callahan and members of the Sheriff's Department of Erwin. Yancey County Sheriff, Kermit Banks,

and other local residents were on their way to help with the search and rescue operation when word was received that the bodies had been found.

Dr. Sargent Receives Honor Certificate From President

Dr. W. A. Y. Sargent of Burnsville recently received recognition for his work with the selective service system from the President of the U. S.

A Certificate of Appreciation to Dr. Sargent from the President "in grateful recognition of valuable service contributed to the Nation and the Selective Service System in the administration of the Military Selective Service Act of 1967". The certificate was also signed by Governor James Holshouser, by State Director of the Selective Service, William McCachren, and by Acting Director of Selective Service, Byron Pepitone.

A Meritorious Service Award from State Director McCachren was also presented to Dr. Sargent "in recognition of meritorious service of benefit to the nation and the selective service system."

The two awards were presented to Dr. Sargent, who has served 12 years as Local Board

Medical Advisor, by Phillip Westall, Chairman of the Local Board #101, and by board members Clarence Bailey and Paul Ayers.

In making the presentations to Dr. Sargent on behalf of the President, the Governor and the Selective Service System, Westall said that the awards were given in behalf of Sargent's "unselfish services to your community and nation while serving as Medical Advisor of Local Board #101."

Dr. Sargent, who graduated from the University of Vermont Medical School in 1930, has been a practicing physician in Yancey County for 20 years, 12 of which he has served as Selective Service Medical Advisor. Before he and his wife, Frederika came to Yancey County, Dr. Sargent practiced seven years in Tennessee and Kentucky, five years as a medical doctor in the transportation corp. during World War II, and five years in New York.



Yancey Farmers Receive Recognition

Yancey Farmers working with Extension tobacco experimental plots received recognition at a Burley Growers Luncheon at Asheville's Holiday Inn Friday, the 27th. Pictured above are Luther Ayers, Walter Edwards, Fumey Todd, Extension Tobacco Specialist, N. C. State University; Jim

Adkins, James Westall, and Harold Ross, Tobacco Specialist, N. C. State University. Not pictured were Ed Hensley, Britt Holloway, Laurence Grindstaff and Bruce Bailey. The farmers were accompanied by W. C. Bledsoe, County Extension Chairman and John Blair, Agricultural Extension Agent.

Notice

Next week's edition of The Yancey Journal will include a list of the professional personnel who have been re-employed for the Yancey County School Unit for the 1973-74 school year.