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## Lightning Threat Is Real; Safety Tips May Save Life

Lightning kills more persons each year than tornados and hurricanes together.

At a given moment, there are some 1,800 thunderstorms in progress over the earth's surface, and lightning strikes the earth 100 times each second.

Secretary John Tolson of the

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs cited these figures to alert North Carolinians to the dangers of lightning in thunderstorms.

Although specific data is not available for North Carolina, data assembled by the National Center for Health Statistics indicate that lightning kills about 150 Americans per year and injures about 250. Property loss -- fire and other damage to structures, aircraft damage, livestock deaths and injuries, forest fires, disruption of electromagnetic transmissions, and other effects -- is estimated at more than \$100 million annually.

Persons struck by lightning receive a severe electrical shock and may be burned, but they carry no electrical charge and can be handled safely. A person "killed" by lightning can often be revived by prompt mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, cardiac massage, and prolonged artificial respiration. In a group struck by lightning, the apparently dead should be treated first; those who show vital signs will probably recover spontaneously, although burns and other injuries may require treatment. Recovery from lightning strikes is usually complete except for possible impairment of sight or loss of sight or hearing.

These safety rules will help you save your life when lightning threatens:

--Stay indoors, and don't  
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## Changes In Clinic Dates

Please note two changes in the May Clinic schedule for the Yancey Health Department. Child Health Clinic will be May 15 instead of May 14; Maternal Nurse Clinic will be May 29 instead of May 15.

## Rescue Squad Organizers Ask Support

Early in April of this year, a meeting was announced in the Yancey Journal and on WK-YK Radio. The meeting was for those people in the Yancey County area who were interested in the organization of a Rescue Squad in the County. There were twelve individuals along with an employee of the North Carolina Insurance Commission, who explained the organization, purpose and functions of a Rescue Squad, at this meeting. Five persons were selected by the group to act as Directors and to make application for a Charter. Application was made and on the 17th day of April the Charter for the Yancey County Rescue Squad was granted.

On April 11 the five acting Directors met and discussed a set of By-Laws that had been formulated. Some minor changes were made in the proposed by-laws. A called meeting was held on April 25 at 7:30 p. m. in Room 3 of the Courthouse. Eleven of the original twelve people were present and the by-laws were read and unanimously accepted by those attending.

A public meeting is to be held May 15, 1973 at 8:30 p. m. in the Courtroom of the Yancey County Courthouse. Those people

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Yancey Ramp Festival Was Breath-Taking!

Members of the Yancey County Jaycees are shown frying a pan of "ramps", the wild onion-type vegetable that is sought out in the mountains of North Carolina each year at this time. The Jaycees held their annual ramp festival last Saturday on the Burnsville Town Square, serving the

overpowering vegetable with beans, slaw, potatoes, cornbread and of course, country music. All things considered, it was a breath-taking affair--and will be for several days for those who ate the odiferous vegetable, and for those who get within smelling distance!

## Yancey MHA Spokesman States Plans And Goals; Members, Guests Urged To Attend Annual Dinner

By Zoe Young

The Yancey County Mental Health Association will be holding its fifth annual membership dinner on Friday, May 18, at 7:00 p. m. in the fellowship hall of the First Presbyterian Church, served by the ladies of the church. Guest speaker will be Terry Madlin, Western Regional Vice President for the N.C. Mental Health Association. All members are expected to be present. All non-members who

are interested are cordially invited. For reservations call 682-2693 or 682-2059.

You may ask, "What is the Yancey County Mental Health Association?" We are sure many of you are not familiar with it. For this reason we would like to give a brief history of the Association, as well as some of our accomplishments and goals for the future.

The present Yancey County Mental Health Association was

organized in 1968 as an outgrowth of the Yancey County Mental Health Society. Much credit is also due to the Yancey County Home Extension Clubs, one of the sponsoring agencies.

The present Association carried on the Day Care Center for Retarded Children which was started by the Mental Health Society, and met in the basement of the Catholic Church staffed by Vista workers and volunteer personnel. In 1970, the State took over this responsibility and the Day Care program was moved to the Mica-ville Elementary School.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Luella Honeycutt the Association got off to a good start. After the work was well established Mrs. Honeycutt resigned as Chairman, and Rev. Don Elly was elected to take her place. In the fall of 1972 Rev. Elly resigned as President and Mrs. Wanda Edwards McNeil was elected to fill the vacancy.

The goal of the Yancey County Mental Health Association has always been for the betterment of the mentally and emotionally ill of the county. Thinking of the mentally ill we are inclined to consider only those admitted to mental hospitals, and not the many who need psychiatric care and counseling and are not admitted to such institutions. The first step taken by the Association was the establishment of a mental health clinic in 1969 in the public health building. A drug program was added in 1970. This program has benefited hundreds in the county and has been instrumental in allowing many people to receive treatment in their home. Patients are referred to the clinic

by their doctors, an agency and Broughton Hospital. One of the functions of the clinic is follow up of patients returning from Broughton. Patients going to the clinic are able to consult with a psychiatrist once a month. Through an arrangement with Broughton Hospital, Blue Ridge Mental Health Center and the local drug stores patients are able to purchase drugs at cost plus fee for filling prescriptions. The mental health clinic has grown from one clinic a month in 1970 to five clinics monthly

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## Authorities Warn: Protect Mountain Environment

The quality of old-time mountain life is something special. It's why people are leaving the cities and coming to the mountains, Cratis Williams thinks.

"Modern man has lost the technique of enjoying time for itself, a technique the native mountaineer still enjoys. Many of us grew up on the mountains and on a farm, and we could sit and enjoy a morning if it happened to be the kind of morning we couldn't work in the fields, without feeling compelled to engage in conversation if there was no subject of interest to us," he said.

Williams, dean of the graduate school at Appalachian State University, was one of seven panelists here Monday who looked at the quality of mountain living as it's being affected by a development boom. In the forum, the first of a series to be sponsored by the Appalachian Consortium, folklorists and developers and planners agreed that if more urbanization comes to the mountains without careful planning, it's going to destroy any special charm that mountain living still holds.

"Without planning and zoning regulations to protect the people from uncontrolled development, the quality of life in our mountains is going down faster than the standard of living is going up," said panelist John Shore, coordinator of the Planning and Zoning Education Program for Northwest North Carolina.

"But there's an ethic of the land emerging among our people. They're more willing to invest their money in a second home in a place they know will be protected environmentally, and developers are beginning to make money by advertising that they're going to protect the environment," Shore said.

Still, Shore contended, people in the mountains are doing a better job selling their land

than planning for the consequences of it.

One major resort developer in the mountain has built only one tenth the number of homes planned for a certain community, and already it has discovered a water shortage, Shore said.

"They're still selling land, though, and people who are coming to the mountains to escape problems of urbanization are going to find the same problems here in the mountains in just a few years," he said.

Panelist Rebecca Shields, a sophomore at Warren Wilson College, said the quality of mountain life, "from a young person's point of view, is stagnant. Are mountains just for retired people? I think that youth is the forgotten generation in the mountains. There's no place to swim, no place to play tennis, there aren't enough parks, and there's no cheap transportation like busses that young people can afford," said Miss Shields.

"Only the people themselves can tell us what's happening to the quality of the lives they live, and we're trying to give them an opportunity to speak out at other forums like this one," said Borden Mace, director of the Appalachian Consortium project which is studying the effects of urbanization on the Southern Appalachians.

## Youth Injured In Accident

Pete Hensley of Bald Creek was injured Monday night when he was struck by a truck while walking along Highway 19-E at the Jack's Creek intersection.

The accident occurred at 9:30 p. m. Hensley was taken to Yancey Hospital, then transferred to Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville.

The attending physician said Hensley suffered a broken leg in the accident.



Bald Creek Students Tour Burnsville

The first and second grade classes of Lola Hensley and Doris Tomberlin from Bald Creek Elementary School visited the town of Burnsville Monday afternoon. Included in the tour were visits to Northwestern Bank, the Yancey

Journal, Post Office, Board of Education and Burnsville Mill of Mohasco. The group of students from the Bald Creek school was accompanied by several parents and by Principal, Ronnie Proffitt.



New Officers For Chamber Of Commerce

Ardell Sink (left) was installed as the president of the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce for the coming year as a new slate of officers were elected last Thursday at the May meeting of the Chamber. Sink succeeds Mack Ray as president of the Chamber of Commerce. Olin Shepherd (right) will continue in the position of vice-president and Grace Banks will continue as secretary.