

# Merry Christmas

## THE YANCEY JOURNAL

VOL. 2, NO. 51

BURNSVILLE, N.C. 28714

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1973

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### Heavy Snowstorm Hits Yancey

Winter came to the mountains in earnest last Saturday night when the ground was blanketed by a heavy snowfall. The snow continued to fall all day Sunday and through-out Sunday night, causing hazardous driving conditions and closing Yancey County schools for two days. Low temperatures notwithstanding, however, the snowfall lifted spirits as always by its sparkling, breath-taking beauty. And the children, perhaps, enjoyed it most of all--for Christmas is almost upon us and snow and Santa go hand in hand.

### Forest Service To Limit Off-Road Vehicle Use In National Forest Lands

By the end of 1976 owners of off-road vehicles, dune buggies, amphibians, scooters, four-wheel drive and all-terrain vehicles will have designated areas and trails in the National Forests System lands where they may or may not operate.

The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, announced that it is beginning a process to establish controls over use of off-road vehicles on all 187 million acres of National Forests, grass lands and other lands administered by the Forest Service.

Supervisors of the 155 National Forests will have until December 31, 1976 to establish places where off-road vehicle use will be allowed, curtailed to some degree or

prohibited. Before final decision is made, the public will be given an opportunity to review and comment on areas proposed for use or where restrictions or closures are involved.

The program of designation for full, limited or no use by off-road vehicles is an outgrowth of a 1972 Executive Order to set up a system for controls which would minimize damages to natural resources, protect public safety and reduce conflicts among users on public lands.

Forest Service Chief, John R. McGuire, says the regulations will build on closure actions which have already taken place in the National Forest System over the years as the result of the explosive increase

in use of off-road vehicles. He noted that approximately 8,000 miles of trails outside wilderness and primitive areas now are closed to avert resource damage or to provide for special management objectives, such as hiking areas, nature trails, national scenic trails, trails leading to wilderness and trails limited to travel by foot and horse.

An Environmental Impact Statement developed for this action estimates the cost of putting the regulation process into effect will total \$3.5 million.

### Air Unit Is Considered

The organization of an air exploring unit is being considered for this area. This would serve as an opportunity for young people to learn to fly an airplane at very little or no cost to them. This organization will be led by Dr. J. G. Braswell of Spruce Pine. Dr. Braswell became interested in flying while serving as dental officer aboard a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier, the USS Hornet. His pilot patient buddies would take him flying with them and began teaching him flying at this time. He presently holds a private pilot license, commercial license, instrument rating and is working to complete his certified flight instructor rating.

Dr. Braswell would welcome any adult volunteers who have had pilot training to assist him in this project.



We would like to extend Season's Greetings to our friends. Wherever you are--may your holiday be a happy one!

Ed and Carolyn Yuzink

### Yancey Employers May Pay More Unemployment Taxes

The manager of the Employment Security Commission office here learned this week that some employers in the Mitchell and Yancey County area will pay increased unemployment insurance taxes during 1974.

The Employment Security Law requires the change because wages and employment in North Carolina have grown faster than the State's unemployment insurance trust fund, reports Mr. Nichols.

The trust fund, which contains money available to pay unemployment insurance benefits in North Carolina, is supported through employers' payroll taxes. It's considered by UI authorities as the strongest in the nation, so the tax increase is not expected to be pronounced. Mr. Nichols explained that in most instances, the tax increase should amount to two-tenths of a percentage point.

Employers covered by the law pay a tax on the first \$4,200 earned by each covered worker. In 1972, Mr. Nichols said, the average unemployment insurance tax was .8 percent, the fifth lowest in the nation and about one-half the UI tax paid by the average U.S. employer.

Individual employer tax rates are determined by comparing a company's unemployment insurance account balance to its taxable payroll.



Hi ~ 53°  
Low ~ 9°

### Register For Primary

The Board of Elections office will be closed all of Christmas week. Those wishing to file for office in the May 7, 1974 Primary may do so anytime from now on until 12 noon on Monday, February 25, 1974.

County offices subject to the 1974 Primary are: three County Commissioners (two year terms), Sheriff and Clerk of Court (each for a four year term). The filing fee, by law, is 1% of the annual salary.

The Board of Education, which by legislative action in 1973 was removed from party politics and put on a non-partisan basis, will have two vacancies to be voted on this May at the same time as the general Primary. This will be a final election, and the two so elected, without party designation, will serve a four-year term.

The Elections office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 to 1. Voters are reminded to notify the office whenever they move. Be sure you are registered in the precinct in which you reside.



### Jaycees Honor Cannon

Yancey County Jaycees honored Issie Cannon at a dinner on Monday night, December 17. Larry Riddle, Jaycee President, awarded him a plaque which read in parts "For Outstanding Service and Dedication to Yancey County." A member of the Fire Department and the Yancey County unit of the North Carolina Radio Patrol, Issie was recently named "Citizen of the Week" by WKYK Radio. He has actively participated in numerous civic services in Yancey and is well known for his spirit of cooperation in any worthwhile endeavor. He and his wife, Minnie, reside in Burnsville. They have two children.

### Notice

Property owners in Yancey County who have not paid their 1973 Ad Valorem taxes before the first day of January 1974 will incur additional interest. After the first day of January 1974 a penalty of 2% of the 1973 Tax will be added. After the first day of February 1974 and for each month thereafter additional interest of 3/4 of 1% will be added to the 2% added in January.

### Mayland Technical Institute Publishes Fall Dean's List

The following students at Mayland Technical Institute, based on their academic standing, have been named to the Dean's List for the Fall quarter:

Business: LeRoy Bishop, Ida Blankenship, Wallace Boone, Joseph Bowman, Connie Buchanan, Quentin Buchanan, Larry Carpenter, Randy Duncan, Billy Goforth, Ronald Gregory, Donald Hensley, Reuben Higgins, Teresa Huskins, Frank Johnson, Joseph McGuire, Harold Penland, Nancy Pitman, Sherrill Pitman, Anna Lou Robinson, Deborah Robinson, Eugene Sutphin, Tracey Sturgill, Burton Taubman, Regina Thomas, Tommy Thomas, Miranda Whitson, Dennis Woody.

Automotive Mechanics: Donald Blevins, Tony Crowder,

Mike Grindstaff, James Miller, Dale Osborne, William Pauley, Laura Schwartz, Marvin Stamey.

Electrical Installation: Robert Bennett, Billy Buchanan, Rodney Deyton, David Greene, Mike Hise, Derrell Pitman, Donald Reeves, Cecil Rice, Alfred Westall, Archie Wright, Garrett Yelton, Robert Young.

Light Construction: Jimmy Byrd, Raymond Cantrell, Carol Conger, Daniel Fox, Randy Hall, Robert Hollifield, George Ingram, Roy Laughrun, Leona Markman, Guy Miller, Willie Eugene Murphy, David Queen, Jerry Thomas.

Practical Nursing: Patricia Brock, Starlett Diffenderfer, Annie Ruth Ledlow, Jane Ann McKinney.



### Christmas Party For Children

The Yancey County Jaycees and Company E, 1st 518th Training Brigade co-sponsored a Christmas Party last week for children in the county who needed a special little "boost" for Christmas. The party was held at the Armory in Burn-

ville on Sunday, December 16, from 1 to 4 p.m. A special treat for the kids was a visit from Santa Claus, who distributed several gifts apiece and gave out fruit and nuts and some clothing. The children had a wonderful time.