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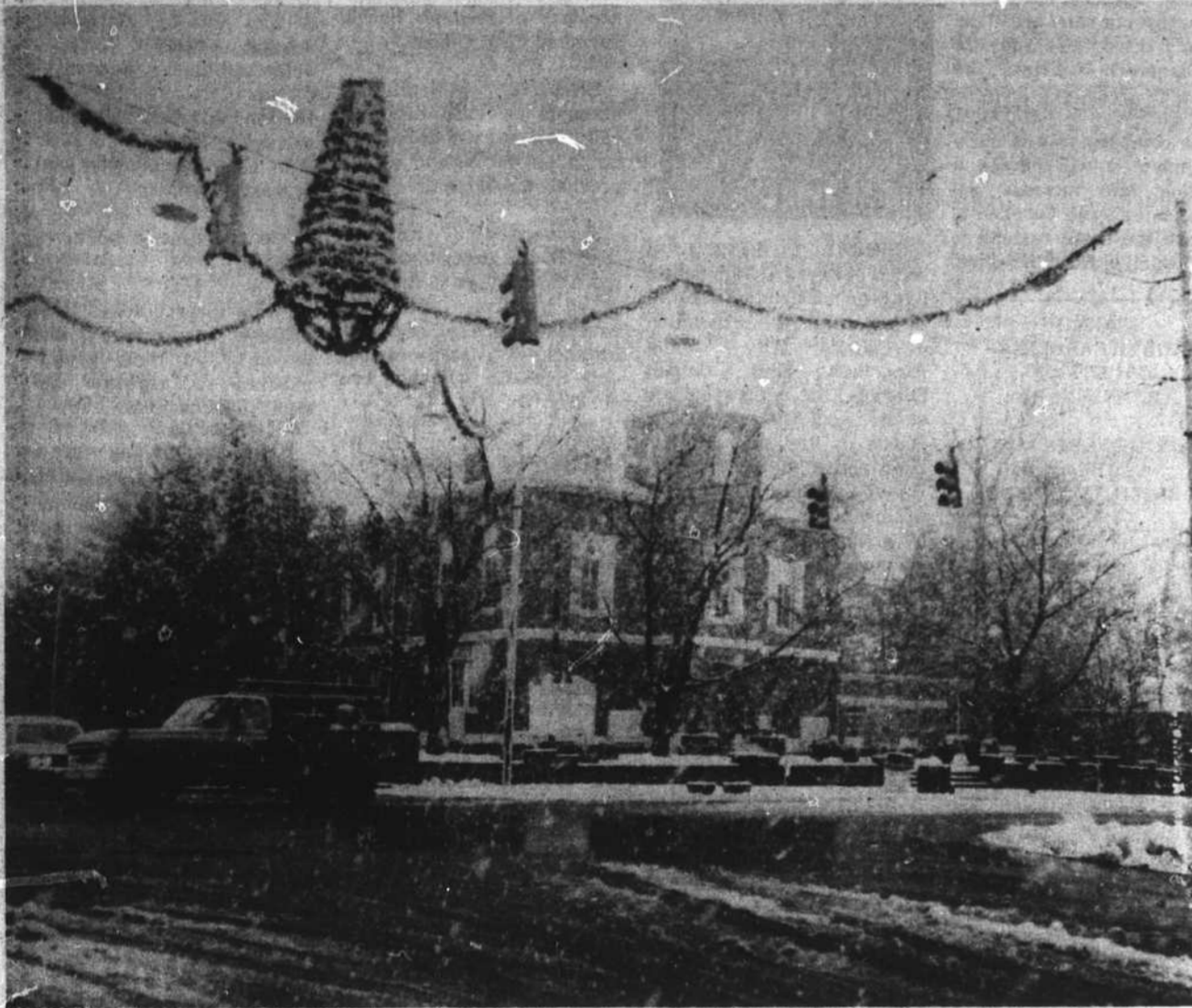
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Court House across Brevard's square shows dimly through heavy and swirling snowfall.

Community Awards

Lunch Dec. 7

Several hundred rural and civic leaders from 18 Western North Carolina counties are expected to be present on Saturday (Dec. 7) for the annual community awards luncheon of the WNC Development Association at the Asheville Civic Center.

This will be the 25th annual meeting of the nationally recognized area development program.

The event, starting at 12 noon, will honor the community clubs judged to have made outstanding progress in the 1974 WNC Community Development Program. The annual improvement contest is sponsored by the 18 county development association jointly with the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service, along with other agencies. Recognition awards, totaling \$20,000 this year, have been provided by county and area business firms and organizations.

Featured speaker at the luncheon will be J. Phil Campbell, U. S. Under Secretary of Agriculture. He will be introduced by James A. Graham, N. C. Commissioner of Agriculture.

George H. V. Cecil, president of the Biltmore Company and a founder and former president of the WNC Development Association will preside at the meeting. Past presidents of the organization during its 25 year history will be given special recognition.

Oaths Given To Elected Officials

Transylvania County's recently-elected officials took their oaths of office from Judge Robert T. Gash in Superior Court at Brevard on Monday morning.

Elected officials formally entering office were Clerk of Court Marian H. McMahon, Sheriff Milford Hubbard, School Board Members Jerry Cabe and Eugene Morris, and Soil Conservation Committee members Willis Brittain, Randal Lyday, and Jones Garren.

Chief Deputy Charles R. Pettit also took the oath during the special session of court, as did Assistant Clerk of Court Carolyn McCall, and Deputy Clerks Dottie H. Hutchins, Diann C. Hall, and Kay C. Hunter.

Connestee Lot Owners: Want \$3.9 Million Loan?

The Land-Of-Sky Regional Council, Region B, at the request of Transylvania Commission Chairman Bill Ives on Friday approved a review of a \$3.9 million federal loan to Connestee property owners for the purchase of their utilities from the Connestee Development Corp.

Last Rites Tuesday For Paul Smathers

Paul Pickens Smathers, 81, of 66 Franklin St., a pioneer in the automobile industry in Western North Carolina, died Saturday in a Brevard hospital after a brief illness.

Mr. Smathers attended Buncombe County schools and the Asheville School for Boys.

He was a Southern representative for ACME Manufacturing Co. of Cadillac, Mich., and co-founder of Whitmire-Smathers Motor Co. of Asheville.

Mr. Smathers was founder and operator of Smathers Manufacturing Co. in Brevard, who designed and produced one of the first small utility tractors.

He was a charter member of the Brevard Kiwanis Club and Brevard Chamber of Commerce.

Duke Power Company Asks New Rate Hike

Duke Power Company on Friday filed a revised rate increase request which would raise its retail electric revenues in North Carolina by 23.6 per cent.

The new rates would be applied across the board and would produce additional revenues of \$131 million annually.

As part of the revised application, Duke is asking the North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC) for permission to place 19.7 per cent of the increase into effect on an interim basis beginning December 31, 1974. This interim increase would be subject to refund and would result in additional annual revenues of about \$108 million.

The company's fossil fuel

Connestee Development Corp. has asked for the loan for its property owners from the Farmers Home Administration, an agency empowered by law to lend money for sewage and water lines to citizens of any area who band themselves together and form a corporation.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Grace Whitmire Samthers; a daughter, Mrs. Paula La Chance of Chula Vista, Calif.; a sister, Mrs. John Edwards of Asheville; three grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Brevard First United Methodist Church of which he was a member. Dr. R. G. Tuttle and the Rev. Edward Roy will officiate. Burial will be in Gillespie Evergreen Cemetery.

The family will be at the residence.

Moore Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Ives said the situation "is simply this. The developers want to unload the utilities on the property owners. They are afraid they cannot operate them profitably."

Mr. Ives told the Council... "I have been a severe critic of this Connestee development."

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The persons who have bought Connestee lots were not consulted ahead of time, but will be contacted now, Mr. Ives said.

If granted the loan would immediately increase the indebtedness of the 3,000 property owners on the Connestee tracts by more than \$1,000 each. But the loan would be given at a reasonable five per cent interest rate, Mr. Ives said.

Mr. Ives, saying that he knew he would come in for some criticism for suggesting the approval of the review, said he wanted regional approval only so that the property owners themselves could have an opportunity to be heard on whether they want to buy the utilities or not.

"If Region B had flatly rejected the review of the loan it would have been denied. And then if the residents later had to buy the utilities, they'd have to pay no less than eight per cent interest."

Mr. Ives told the Council... "I have been a severe critic of this Connestee development."

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Storm Covers County With Sleet And Snow

Schools Closed Monday

December roared into Transylvania County on the back of an icy storm which dumped one inch of sleet on Brevard and Rosman and then covered it with an inch of snow, closing schools Monday.

Snow at the higher elevations in the mountains of Transylvania was reported in depths of up to 12 inches.

Children were joyous at the turn of events. Snow men were scattered all over the county, snowball battles were numerous, and the youngsters had out their sleds for the first run of the winter.

There were no serious accidents reported by either the city or county police officers, although wreckers were kept fairly busy on Sunday pulling out cars which had skidded off the road.

Also crime was at a minimum over the weekend.

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New Highway Patrolman In County

Trooper Earl D. Marmie of the N. C. Highway Patrol has been assigned to Brevard, according to Captain E. D. Young, commander of Troop G.

Trooper Marmie reported for duty Monday, Dec. 2.

A graduate of Forsyth Technical Institute, he lived in West Jefferson. He has completed the 15-week basic highway patrol school at the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill.

He was one of the 35 young men who completed the course, which covered 96 subjects and involved 696 instructional hours.

Trooper Marmie, age 27, is married to the former Mary Reed.

Woman Shot To Death In County

A 21-year-old woman from Haywood County was found shot to death in a home in the Silverstein Community of Transylvania County Thursday night, Sheriff's Investigator Hubert Brown reported.

The officer called the death of Judith Ann Wright of Balsam suicide.

Mr. Brown said he received a call to a home rented by James F. Lipe III in Silverstein at 7:58 p.m., and found the woman dead when he arrived.

Her father, Thad Wright of Waynesville, had found the body a few minutes earlier. Investigator Brown said.

The officer said she had shot herself in the head with a shotgun.

"We completed our investigation about 2 a.m. and we are convinced that it was suicide," Mr. Brown said.

Mrs. Wright was a native of Jamestown, N.Y., and a resident of Haywood County for three years. She was a graduate of Sylva-Webster High School, Sylva, and attended Western Carolina University.

Funeral services were held Sunday at Clyde.



Some of confiscated material in mayor's office.

Out-Of-County ABC Men Raid 3 Clubs

Officers of the state's Alcoholic Beverage Control agency and local police Wednesday night raided three Transylvania clubs, confiscating 10 slot machines, a large amount of liquor and

beer, and some tipboards.

The simultaneous raids on the Elks Club, American Legion, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, followed weeks of undercover investigation, according to District ABC

Agent J. B. Simmons of Asheville who led the raid on the Elks Club on Park Ave.

Bill D. Ingram of Asheville, district ABC enforcement supervisor, was in charge of the Transylvania operation.

Officer Simmons said the investigation of the clubs was instigated because of complaints the ABC officers had received from persons residing in Transylvania.

Five slot machines were confiscated from the Elks Club, and a total of five from the veterans' organizations—three from the American Legion, and two from the VFW.

Linton "Red" Lanning, 55, is manager of the VFW Club; Buddy Hutchins, 31, of the American Legion; and Max McCracken, 45, was on duty at the Elks Club.

The slot machines were loaded into a truck and hauled to Asheville for safekeeping. Brevard Attorney Jack Potts, who represents the three clubs protested the removal of the evidence from the county.

None of the clubs had state "brown-bagging" permits.

A member reported that it was family night at the Elks Club, and that families and children were in the first floor dining room when the second floor raid took place.

The district state agents were assisted by the county ABC agents from Burke, Caldwell, and Catawba Counties.

Supervisor Ingram said he asked for assistance from the Brevard Police Dept., and got it immediately, but said the request to the sheriff's department brought help only after a delay.

It was reported that a spokesman for Sheriff Milford Hubbard said the county officers were unhappy because the ABC agents had not coordinated the raids with them from the beginning. And Ingram told the spokesman that he offered his services to the sheriff six weeks ago.

Sheriff Hubbard told The Times that Mr. Ingram "being new in this area, paid me a courtesy call some weeks ago and told me that he'd be glad to help me in any way he possibly could at any time I

W. N. C. Development Wins Top U.S. Prize

The Western North Carolina Development Association will receive the top national award in beautification for regional (multi-county) organizations from Keep America Beautiful at a special luncheon in the Grand Ballroom of the Biltmore Hotel in New York City on Thursday, December 5.

The award is being presented in recognition of outstanding effort in beautification and environmental improvement projects. It will be accepted by Morris L. McGough, executive vice president of the WNCDA, from KAB Board Chairman, James C. Bowling who is Vice President and Assistant to the Chairman of Philip Morris Incorporated.

The WNC Development Association, an 18-county development and rural improvement group, received a second place "special merit"

Tax Problems Worry County Commissioners

County Commission Chairman Bill Ives will be going to Raleigh Tuesday for the pre-legislative session of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. He will again be Chairman of the Committee on Taxation and Finance.

This is one of the association's most important committees as it will suggest ways for the General Assembly to aid the financial plight of the counties.

Mr. Ives explained that North Carolina counties have one of the most inflexible tax structures to support local government. Federal and State taxes are automatically tied in to inflation as many of their taxes are based on the current price or income.

The basic tax of the county is on property and under current law, the value of land and buildings remains the same for an eight year period. Cars, business equipment, and inventories fluctuate but not dramatically.

The small taxes on licenses

award in the national competition last year. The association sponsors the Western North Carolina Community Development Program along with the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service and agencies and local sponsors in the western counties.

It was primarily on the activities and accomplishments of the many organized areas in the community development program that the entry of the development association was based.

According to the announcement by KAB, the "WNC Development Association was cited by the judges for its extensive program which involves all segments of society in the area. The N. C. Agricultural Extension Service provides

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are set by the State and bring in an insignificant amount of money, Mr. Ives said. In Transylvania County this tax will produce less than \$2,000.

The only flexible tax a county may levy is on pets. The present tax of \$3 per dog in this county produces a little over half of the expense of operating the animal shelter.

The last source of general revenue to the county is the one cent sales tax imposed by all but two counties. This tax is flexible and grows with inflation. It will produce slightly over \$300,000 this year. If the Legislature were to remove the tax on food it would reduce the county's revenue by about \$100,000.

Revenue sharing the past three years has been a great help to local governments, he said. The complicated formula brings Transylvania County around \$300,000. Up to the present, these funds have been used for capital outlay projects either directly or indirectly by allowing other

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