

## House Okays 4-Year School Board Terms



"You just can't cross the street..." explains Best Actress Melanie Mather to Bill Dechant in the BHS Players award-winning production of "Home Free." (Photo by Daryl Johnson).

## BHS Players' Director, Female Star N.C.'s Best

Seventeen BHS Players, under the direction of Mrs. Linda Rosenthal, returned Saturday from a fantastic four days in Raleigh at the North Carolina High School Drama Association State Festival.

"very pleasing voice and an especially effective character change in both thought and mood."

Bill "Duffer" Dechant, starring as Lawrence, was

also praised for showing "good characterization, energy and contrast. You are a good listener," Ms. Hunt went on to explain.

Mrs. Rosenthal was further

complimented by Ms. Hunt for selecting a "very worthwhile, interesting and in-depth play." "I'm glad you introduced me to a very capable, contemporary author," she

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At the critique session on Friday afternoon, Mrs. Rosenthal was presented "The Critics Distinguished Award" by State Department Drama Executive Secretary C. C. Lipscomb, for overall production and effectiveness in stage presentation of "Home Free!"

Melanie Mather, starring as Joanna, was proclaimed best actress for the entire state of North Carolina at the 9:00 p.m. Friday awards presentation. Also at the awards assembly, Melanie was declared first runner-up for an all expense paid scholarship to the North Carolina School of the Arts at Winston-Salem this summer.

Following the awards assembly, Mrs. Rosenthal announced to the BHS troupe that David Pruet, state Thespian president, had invited the Brevard troupe to present their play at the Regional 14 Thespian Convention in Winston-Salem in June.

(Only two of the 26 statewide rated plays presented at the NCHSD State Festival received this honor.) Region 14 covers the states of North and South Carolina and Georgia.

During the Friday afternoon critique session, state festival judge Lesley Hunt, director of voice and speech at the North Carolina School of the Arts, praised the BHS Players and Mrs. Rosenthal for an "excellent, interesting, colorful and well-designed set. Your costumes were also well planned and the two of you worked extremely well as a cast. Overall pacing was superb," she further continued.

Melanie was further applauded for displaying an "excellent consistent characterization in a most difficult role." Ms. Hunt went on to commend Melanie for a

## Jail, Roothing Hearings Scheduled This Week

Two hearings considered very important to the county by Transylvania leaders are scheduled this week in Brevard.

On Tuesday night, March 25,

### Work On Dangerous Bus Route Is Asked

Rep. Mary C. Nesbitt has called on the Secretary of the N. C. Dept. of Transportation to reconsider plans to spend money on relocating the road and bridge across the French Broad River in Rosman and to spend the money making State Road 1309 in Gloucester a safer school bus route.

Mrs. Nesbitt, of the 43rd House District, which is made up of Transylvania and Buncombe Counties, visited the areas on Sunday, March 16, and expressed horror that children were transported on such a narrow road above West Fork Gorge where a soft shoulder might give way, "hurting its (a school bus's) precious cargo hundreds of feet down the precipitous sides of the gorge."

There are no guard rails on the road.

She also wants something done about the narrow Cantrell Bridge which the school bus must cross twice daily.

Her letter to Secretary Troy A. Doby follows:

Mr. Troy A. Doby  
Secretary of N. C. Department of Transportation and Highway Safety  
Raleigh, N. C. 27611

Dear Mr. Doby:

Last week I went to Trans-

ylvania County at the request of some concerned citizens to look at a bridge in Rosman which is under consideration for replacement.

I found that the bridge was wide enough for only one lane of traffic, but it appeared to be a sturdy structure and could continue to be used if widened or supplemented with another bridge which would provide another lane of traffic.

I learned that plans were afoot to abandon the present structure and to construct a new bridge at a site nearer the Rosman Elementary School and to build a road crossing the school property, taking valuable playground area and a proposed recreational site.

This proposed expenditure of money for a new road and bridge is in my opinion questionable in view of the treacherous school bus route 1309 above West Fork Gorge, a road scarcely 12 feet wide with narrow soft shoulders, which could give way under the weight of a school bus, hurtling its precious cargo hundreds of feet down the precipitous sides of the gorge.

The lives of 75 children are endangered twice daily, depending on the dexterity of a young driver and the lucky "happenstance" that other traffic gives way to the bus

rebuilding, or closing the old jail.

When on Wednesday night at the same place and hour, the Division of Highways, N. C. Department of Transportation, is holding a public hearing on the design for U. S. 64 from Rosman to the multilane section west of Brevard.

The highway hearing, DOT says, will be open to any person present for any statements, comments, questions, or submission of material.

Both the jail hearing and the

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### Mobile Home, Logging Truck Block Road

The wreck of a towed mobile home and a logging truck near the old Selica Grocery on Highway 64 W. Saturday afternoon tied up traffic on the artery for more than one hour, according to Patrolman Dean Clark.

The mobile home was rounding a tight curve, the officer said, hit the empty logging truck, which was parked along side the road.

A fire truck was called as 85 rounding a tight curve, from the mobile home. "It made for a hazardous situation," said the officer. had to be certain that no one struck a match."

No one was injured in the wreck, but an estimated \$1,400 damage was done to the two vehicles.

The mobile home was owned by Bruce Cassels.

## Sen. Hill Will Ask Hearing

A bill which would reduce the terms of office of Transylvania School Board members from six years to four was passed in the N.C. House of Representatives on Friday, according to Rep. Claude DeBruhl of Asheville.

Mr. DeBruhl, who signed the measure with Rep. Mary Nesbitt of Asheville, said the measure was on its way to the Senate side of the General Assembly.

Purpose of the bill, which was introduced at the request of the Transylvania Democratic Executive committee, is to make it possible to elect a majority of the five members of the school board in some years. As the staggered terms are set up now, only two can be elected in one year.

Dr. Marius Wells and Filling Station Operator Joe Terry have been strong backers of the measure in the county. Dr. Wells, running for the school board in 1974, was defeated in the primary election.

School board members have strongly protested the introduction of the bill. Both Board Chairman Gene Morris and Board Newcomer Dr. Jerry Cabe, have issued statements saying that members have a lot of homework to do before becoming effective members. It is a position which requires long and hard study. The election of three new members one once would be disaster for the schools, they have said.

Senator Cecil Hill, in Brevard for the weekend, told The Times that he's going to call a hearing on the bill before pressing it in the Senate.

"I'm going to do my level best to hear the will of the people," Senator Hill said. "I was elected to represent all of the people and that's what I intend to do."

The hearing will be held in Raleigh, said the legislator, and the date will be announced.

The Transylvania bill carried a rider placed on it by Rep. Jeff Enloe of Franklin, which would set up an identical board in Clay County.

Mrs. Molly Wilmot, chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee, said that in all meetings of the party during the last year or so, there have been complaints about the "unresponsive attitude" of the Board of Education to public complaints and suggestions.

"It is the feeling of the part that this four-year term would make them more responsive to the public's feelings."

Currently the board is made up of four Democrats and one Republican.



HOSTESSES — These four pretty lassies greeted visitors to T.C. Henderson's smorgasbord on Friday with smiles and Easter egg name tags. They are front row, l. to r., Ann Cash and Bonnie Bishop; back row, Lori Burrell, and Cindy Hall.

## T. C. Henderson Classes Practice Entertaining

Dressed in their Sunday best and on their best behavior, the boys and girls in two classes at T. C. Henderson School celebrated the first day of spring with a smorgasbord.

They had written letters of invitation to all the school principals, the superintendent of education and the assistant superintendent, members of the school board and others.

The event climaxed a unit of study in Mrs. Pat Stout and Mrs. Linda Carpenter's third and fourth and fifth and sixth grade students in which they put into practice many of the things they learned.

Guests were greeted at the front door by some of the students, who pinned Easter egg name tags on them and invited them to follow the footsteps to Uncle Bill's Kitchen, named for Principal Bill Cathey. The footsteps, cut from construction paper and decorated with clever sayings and painted toenails, led the way to the classroom that had

### French Broad Cleanup Equipment Expected

Equipment for the cleanup of the French Broad River is expected to arrive in Brevard within a few days, according to Carr Purser of the Transylvania Water Resources Board.

The Tennessee Valley Authority is lending the equipment which will include a truck, a drag line, and some other tools to the county for the project, Mr. Purser said.

Ralph Ford of the TVA called to say that a contract was being drawn up for the signature of Bill Ives, chairman of the County Board of Commissioners, and as soon as this was complete the equipment would be on its way.

The equipment could arrive by the last of this week, according to Mr. Ford.

Transylvania will use a portion of the \$11,000 just granted to the county for emergency job programs to begin the cleanup, according to Mr. Ives. Hiring of the men began Friday, he said, and they'll be used in other county projects until the equipment arrives from TVA, the chairman said.

The cleanup, according to Mr. Purser, will include all portions of the river from the confluence of the West and North Forks of the river west of Rosman to the Henderson

been transformed into a beautifully decorated dining room.

Place cards marked each person's seat. Handmade napkin rings held the pale green napkins. Tables were decorated with Easter baskets and nets of grass with colored eggs. On one side was an Easter egg tree, the egg shells individually decorated.

Little Tammy Hogsed, her long red hair shining, greeted early arrivals with a shy smile and served them coffee.

Two boys performed introductions as other guests arrived.

The smorgasbord was filled with bowls holding various toppings for the waffles that were carried from the kitchen piping hot. There were bananas, cranberries, strawberries, chopped nuts, sliced peaches, coconut, jellies and preserves, chocolate chips and whipped cream. There were also

### Sales Tax \$29,922.55 In County

Transylvania's one per cent sales tax for the month of February amounted to \$29,922.55, according to the report of the N. C. Department of Revenue.

The amount for January was \$32,000 plus, so sales tax collections ran about the same in February as for the first month of the year, averaging more than \$1,000 a day.

More than \$300,000 was collected from the one cents sales tax during 1974.

They'll be seeking the permission of landowners as they move down the river from the forks, he said.

It is hoped that the cleanup will slow flooding and make the river a prime recreation attraction for Transylvania. Canoeists now, for instance, cannot come down river from Rosman to Brevard without having to take their craft from the water to go around various obstacles: old autos, logs, trees, and other types of debris.

TVA officials recently got a good look at what needs to be done in the river when they were taken on a tour by Water Resources Board Member Kay Collins.

"When this river is cleaned out," says Mr. Purser, "we're going to have one of the most beautiful and finest recreation streams imaginable. It's a shame that such a fine asset has been allowed to get into the condition that it is in."

Canoe trips, rafting, improved fishing and other benefits will accrue from the cleanup, he predicted.

several flavors of syrup. Special guest for the occasion was "Uncle Charlie" Henderson, the 101-year-old brother of the late T. C. Henderson, for whom the school was named. He was accompanied by his son, Claxton Henderson.

The children worked hard, their teachers said, in preparing for the event. They got practical experience in how to write letters; how to make introductions; how to measure ingredients for waffles and how to decide how much of everything they needed.

The children did the mixing of the batter, but got some help from the kitchen staff in the actual cooking. The staff in turn, were guests of the children.

The boys and girls, who waited until their guests had been served juice and coffee, then went through the line, heaping their waffles with all the good things.

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CINDY SMART, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John K. Smart Jr. of Brevard, is serving as a page in the N. C. House of Representatives this week. She is being sponsored by Rep. Claude DeBruhl of Asheville, one of Transylvania's four representatives in the House.