

THE YANCEY RECORD ESTABLISHED JULY, 1936

Editor Frances M. Hamrick

Published Every Thursday By YANCEY PUBLISHING CO.

A Partnership

Entered as second-class matter November 11th, 1936, at the Post Office, Burnsville, North Carolina, under the act of March 3, 1879.

BURNSVILLE FIFTY YEARS AGO

By The Old Timer

There is but a small group of people—citizens of Burnsville—living today, who can delve back into the dim past and tell us anything about the business and home life in the town a half century ago.

Those who were active in the life and affairs of Burnsville fifty years ago I found to be the following:

Representative, W. P. Whittington; Clerk of Court, W. B. Banks; Sheriff, John Woody; Register of Deeds, Alex Silver; County Surveyor, Riley Neill; Justice of the Peace, Squire Sam Bennett; Jailor, Wood Young; Ministers, Baptist church, Rev. Kurt King; Methodist church, Rev. Mr. Curtis.

Doctors: Dr. O. M. Lewis, Dr. W. P. Whittington, Dr. Wm. Austin, Dr. J. L. Ray; Lawyers, Capt. W. M. Moore, E. F. Watson, Ellis Gardner, A. B. Bryan; Merchants, G. D. Ray & Son, J. E. Evans, J. A. Abernathy, Fult Roland, J. P. McInturf; Hotels, Ray Hotel, G. D. Ray, Proprietor; Byrd Hotel, J. C. Byrd, Proprietor; Postmaster, Capt. J. P. Horton; Mail Carrier, Bale King; Blacksmiths, Dul Boone, Mac and Ed Boone;

Dentists, L. D. Gillespie, J. K. Moore; Principal Public School, J. J. Britt; Shoemaker, Gaither Parker.

So far as my information goes, I find that all of the officers and business men mentioned above—with the exception of E. F. Watson and J. E. Evans—have crossed over the river to their eternal home.

Fifty years ago the court house was located in the center of the public square. It was a two story brick building with the court room upstairs and the rooms for the county officers on the lower floor, and on this floor a hallway led through the building. It is said a gentleman from the west end of the county was in the habit of riding his horse through the hall when he came to town. The public well was located a few rods east of the court house. It was equipped with the old oaken bucket and a windlass to draw the water. The water carried a kind of a sourwood honey flavor. The well was discarded some time later and filled up with dirt to a level with the ground.

Burnsville was not incorporated and there was no stock law, Cattle, hogs and other stock roamed at will over the precincts of the town, and they all seemed to love the public square as a parking ground. Indeed some residents would come to the square with their milk pails to juice their cows.

The Baptist church was a two-story frame building and occupied the ground at the rear of the present

court house. The upper story was used by the Masonic lodge. The Methodist church was also a frame structure and was located on the spot now occupied by their parsonage.

As I have remarked before, money was scarce in those days and if a fellow was lucky enough to own a thousand dollars in cash, he was regarded as a wealthy man. The people almost as a whole relied upon the products of the farm and field to buy such groceries and other merchandise needed for their families.

On my second trip to Burnsville around the turn of the century, I found it to be quite a different town. Stanley McCormick school with Charles Hubbard as principal was going good, with over a hundred students in attendance. And the Yancey Collegiate Institute with Ed Hawkins as principal was running smoothly with perhaps a larger number of students. The town was crowded with boys and girls from Yancey and adjoining counties, seeking an education.

These schools ran for a number of years and worked a reformation among the young people of these mountain counties. Hundreds of young people were educated during the reign of these two schools, and many of their graduates are filling responsible and honorable positions throughout the country today. It was a sad day for Burnsville when these junior colleges were forced to close their doors when the State established a system of high schools in North Carolina.

It is stated on good authority that according to percentage of population Yancey county has more college graduates than any other county in North Carolina. As usual I am stretching this thing out too long some more. However I would like to refer to the Burnsville Eagle again (leaving off the pumpkin and dried apples) and pay a short tribute to an old friend who passed away a number of years ago. The publishers of the Eagle will never forget the loyalty of Uncle Gilbert Wilson of Prices Creek, who stood by us in fair weather and foul. While he differed with us in political belief he was a life long subscriber and encouraged us all along the way. He never came to town without paying us a pop call, and his coming brought a ray of sunshine into the old print shop.

As a final word at this time may I say that it is a source of consolation to Oscar Lewis and myself to know that during the forty years we presided over the destiny of the Burnsville

NOTICE OF SALE OF LAND FOR TAXES NORTH CAROLINA YANCEY COUNTY Under and by virtue of an order of the Board of County Commissioners of Yancey County directing the undersigned Tax Collector of said county to sell all land for 1947 taxes: NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the order of the Board of County Commissioners the undersigned will on the SEVENTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1948, AT THE COURTHOUSE DOOR IN BURNSVILLE, N. C., sell all of the following described property of the taxpayers as shown by the following list for 1947 taxes to gether with tax, penalty and cost. If the sale cannot be completed on the Seventh of September, then the undersigned will continue said sale from day to day until the sale is completed. L. M. ROBINSON, Tax Collector for Yancey County, August 5, 12, 19, 26 1948.

FOR SALE: Special Attraction for Parties wanting secluded place for home or country estate 102 acres 12 miles from Burnsville, N. C., just off Mount Mitchell Road, close to Blue Ridge Parkway and Camp Hemlock picnic grounds, on good all year road, 1 1/2 miles of private trout stream on property, apple orchard, cherry trees, grapes, estimated 200,000 feet of virgin timber. 10 acres in cultivation, site for air port on same. Fair tenant house on same with electric lights, several springs on property. Must be seen to be appreciated. See owner, E. L. Briggs, Burnsville, N. C.

FOR SALE: Large Plantation type Farm. 265 acres 10 room brick home. Located 12 miles from Marion in small village. Cross road from school. 60 acres fine bottom land. Remainder bench land or gently rolling. Well watered. Home alone would cost \$20,000 to build now. Price for quick sale \$18,500. See W. W. Hennessee.

FOR SALE: 400 acre tract adjoining the Town of Burnsville. 2 good orchards, 500,000 feet of fine timber, 2 houses, barn and other outbuildings. Will pasture 100 head of cattle. Would make a fine stock and dairy farm. Also could be subdivided into lots, etc. Price for quick sale, less than \$16,000. W. W. Hennessee.

FOR SALE: Attention Florida people or persons wanting a real mountain place. I have 41.7 acres with four room house storage room in basement for can goods. Best spring in the mountains, close to house can be piped into house very easily, house covered with tin. On good gravel road about 5 miles from Burnsville, electric lights being put in now. Will sell this place for less than you could build the house for. This is ideal for summer cottage or for person working in new rayon plant. See E. L. Briggs, Owner, Burnsville N. C., Phone 46.

FOR SALE: Nice Country place. 6 room cottage, Electric lights, 5 1/2 acres land on paved highway. Nicely landscaped, beautiful shrubbery. Also small Store building. Splendid place for store. Immediate possession. Price \$4500. See W. W. Hennessee.

Eagle that never once did we allow a whiskey advertisement to run in its columns, and never did we publish a news item, or any other item, that a subscriber would hesitate to take the paper into his home to be read by his family. Perhaps, after all, the old Eagle had a little part in making Burnsville what it is today, The "Gem City of the Mountains" J. M. L.

Table listing property sales with columns for Name, Acres & Lots, Tax, and various township names like Burnsville, Cane River, etc.