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Do You Remember?

An education was hard to come by in Yancey County around the turn of the century.

Schools were few and far between and even those that were established were usually one-teacher institutions woefully lacking in materials.

The Presbyterian Church moved to solve the problem in 1899 by establishing the Stanley McCormick Academy (pictured above) in Burnsville.

Some families living in remote sections of the county sold their land and moved to town so that the youngsters might attend school.

They came not only from rural Yancey, but from all over the Southern Appalachian region. There were several students enrolled from Tennessee and Virginia.

C. R. Hubbard, one of the academy's founders, was principal of the school.

Charles Proffitt of Burnsville, who attended Stanley McCormick for four years, recalls that although Hubbard was a strict disciplinarian, he was also very popular with the students.

Approximately 200—including the elementary students from Burnsville and the immediate area—attended the school during the peak years.

There were eight buildings that were in use most of the time, Proffitt said.

The school was located on a knoll in West Burnsville atop which the First Presbyterian Church now stands.

The brick building with the bell tower was the main building which contained the classrooms. The structure just to the left of the main building in the picture was a girls' dormitory, which later burned. At top right is the boys' dormitory.

The building in front of the pine thicket near the center of the picture belonged to the school, also. It was the parsonage. The infirmary (not visible in picture) sat nearby.

Two other buildings owned by the college are still in use. What is now the Burnsville Community Center was then a shop. The present Masonic Temple was the Stanley McCormick dining hall.

Stanley McCormick ceased to operate as an Academy in 1922. It was converted into a trade school called Carolina New College, but after a few years, as more and more public schools were opened, this school, too was abandoned.

This picture was donated to the Record by Mrs. S. A. McEwen of Elwin, Tenn., who, incidentally, was the first nurse to register in Yancey County.

Officials Voice Optimism On Ski Resort's Chances

Rep. Mark Bennett of Burnsville said last weekend that chances of the proposed resort area on Catalina Creek becoming a reality has "risen 500,000 percent."

Bennett's optimism stems from the State Highway Department's estimates on cost of constructing an access road into the remote, rugged area in Yancey County's Black Mountain Range where the \$7,000,000 gear-round resort possibly will be built.

The Yancey Representative said that State Highway Commission engineers had informed him that preliminary estimates of road construction costs run from \$500,000 (if this figure on which Bennett based his "boost in stock", \$675,000) depending on the grade on which the road is built.

Initially, it had been felt several million dollars would be involved in building the road, Bennett said.

But engineers have made preliminary investigations which show a 16-foot wide access road could be built on a 7.2 per cent grade over a distance of 8.5 miles for \$675,000, Bennett said.

He said they calculate that by increasing the steepness of the route to a 10 per cent grade, thereby cutting the distance to 6.3 miles, the same 16-foot wide road could be built for \$500,000.

Bennett said a trio of Illinois developers who have announced plans for building an elaborate ski resort and summer winter tourist attraction in the area has offered to post a \$500,000 cash bond with the State Highway Commission guaranteeing that if the road is built, the tourist resort will be developed.

Meanwhile, Nick Sigalo of Oak Park, Ill., the project's developer, and two ski resort experts from New Hampshire have been busy running surveys on the 2,000-acre leased from Perry Threadgill.

Sci. Hamah, president of Sog Engineering, Inc., of Franconia, N.H., and Ted Hunter, an associate in

the E. H. and M. K. Hunter resort architectural firm of Hanover, N. H., have been plotting the location of the proposed ski resort structures and accessory attractions.

"We have made an intensive survey and feel that we have made a really comprehensive evaluation of the site," said Sigalo. "I must say that we feel very optimistic."

Hamah and Hunter who have had years of experience in this field and are both expert skiers, are very excited. They are intimate

with ski resorts around the world and they feel we can have one equal to any of them.

"Our slopes will be the highest east of the Rockies. And we will have a slope that extends 1,000 feet vertically few in the country will be able to equal that."

Bennett said it is planned for a number of Western North Carolina political, civic and business leaders to be invited to a meeting with Gov. Sanford to discuss the entire project.

The original expenditure announced by the developers of the resort was estimated at \$5,000,000. However, Bennett said, this figure already has been upped to \$7,000,000 to cover expanding plans.

With the lowered highway cost estimates, Bennett said work would be speeded on the surveying of the site. But he cautioned that while the State Highway Commission is cooperating fully, the "only thing now is the money becoming available for the road."

Two Yancey Men Killed In Auto Mishap On 197

A "test drive" of a new automobile resulted in the death of two Yancey County men last Saturday (April 20).

Ray Hyleman, 36, and David Buchanan, 23, became Yancey's first highway fatalities of 1963 when the car in which they were riding on N.C. 197 south of Burnsville spun out of control, plunged over a 40-foot embankment and came to rest in Boen's Creek.

Two others in the car, Charles Atkins and Charles Pate, also Yancey Countyans, sustained serious injuries and are confined to an Asheville hospital.

Atkins, 31, of Rt. 4 Burnsville, the owner of the three-week-old 1963 model vehicle, recounted the tragedy thus:

"Hyleman had asked and received permission to test the auto to see how it drove and rode. He liked it, he planned to purchase the same model and style car the next week."

Hyleman "slid under the wheel" in Burnsville and the quartet headed up 197. On one of a series of steep curves just 1.5 miles south of Burnsville, Hyleman lost control of the strange auto and after sliding down the highway for several yards, it dropped over the shoulder of the road and plowed through a field and into the creek.

All the occupants were thrown

from the auto as it bounced through the field.

Surviving Hyleman, who resides on Rt. 4, Burnsville, and the widow, Mrs. Opha Shepherd Hyleman of Rt. 4; the mother Mrs. Bryan Hyleman; a sister, Mrs. Harold Baker of Burnsville; and two brothers, Andy of Burnsville and Creed of Asheville.

Funeral services were conducted Monday in the Elk Shoal Union Church. The Rev. Donald Nockett and the Rev. Herman Phillips officiated and burial was in Edwards Cemetery.

Surviving Buchanan, a U.S. soldier from Burnsville who was scheduled to leave soon for a tour of duty in Europe, are his bride of six months, Mrs. Grace Fortner Buchanan of Micaville; the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Buchanan of Rt. 2, Burnsville; a twin brother, Daniel of Burnsville; and six sisters, Mrs. C. J. Thomas of Daaniel, Va.; Mrs. N. R. Camp and Mrs. Ronald Sheaffer of Kingsport, Tenn.; Mrs. Frank Phillips, Mrs. Reed Borkard and Mrs. Andy Brown, all of Burnsville.

Services were conducted Tuesday in the Windom Baptist Church. The Rev. Wade Boone, the Rev. Lee Woody and the Rev. Astor Buchanan officiated and burial was in Micaville Cemetery.



BELL ATKINS

Three To Seek City Positions

Three candidates barely beat the filing deadline Saturday night and turned what promised to be an uneventful Burnsville city election into what could become a torrid contest.

Filing just minutes before the noon cutoff time were Bill Atkins, who will oppose incumbent Bob Helmle for the mayor's post; and Ralph Peterson and Melt Hensley, who will seek the two commissioner spots.

The incumbent commissioners, B. R. Penland and C. P. Coleman, are also seeking office again.

The election will be held Saturday, May 7. The polling place will be the Town Hall.

Registration deadline for those eligible to vote but not on the books is Friday (April 26) at 5 p.m. The registration is being conducted at the Town Hall.

Atkins, a Burnsville attorney, and Hensley are no newcomers to the political battlefield. Atkins is presently the county attorney and has served as the Yancey representative to the state legislature. Hensley is a former Yancey Clerk of Court.

Peterson, who lost his vision during a gun battle while serving as Burnsville Police Chief several years ago, is making his first bid for elective office.

W W One Vets To Meet Sunday

Raymond J. Jeffreys of Raleigh, state commander of the Veterans of World War I, and Mrs. Pearl Smith, state president of the Ladies Auxiliary, will speak at the meeting of the World War I veterans in Burnsville Sunday (April 28), at 2:30 p.m.

John C. York of Waynesville will be in charge of the meeting, and delegations will be present from many towns in this section.

Commander Jeffreys will bring the latest information from Washington regarding the World War I pension bill now before Congress. "All veterans of the first World War and their wives are urged to hear this important report, if they are interested in their pension," says Jeffreys.

Jeffreys is the author of two books on veteran's pensions, called "Must They Sell Apples Again?" and "The Forgotten Men". He has also written six other books, two of which were chosen as books-of-the-month.



REV. SLATON

Local Baptist Slate Revival

The Rev. Wayne Slaton, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Bryson City, will conduct the annual revival services at Burnsville's First Baptist Church this year.

Rev. Slaton will bring his first message Sunday (April 28) at 8 p.m. On Monday through Saturday services will begin at 7:45 p.m. Slaton will conclude the revival by preaching at the regular Sunday morning services May 5.

Rev. Slaton is no stranger to Burnsville. He was here for a youth revival while a student at Southern Seminary in Louisville and later for a revival while in his present pastorate.

Mrs. Slaton is the former Evelyn Hamrick of Burnsville.

The Rev. Mr. Slaton has been pastor of student churches near Wake Forest College and in Kentucky. His first full-time pastorate was with the Third Baptist Church, Owensboro, Ky., where he served as associate pastor. He came from that pastorate to Central Baptist Church in Spruce Pine. Presently he is a member of the General Board of the Baptist State Convention and a member of the R. A. Camp Committee, a sub-committee of the Programs Committee of the General Board.

CLUB TO MEET

The Burnsville Garden Club will meet at the home of Mrs. Paul H. Fall on Friday April 26 at 8 p.m. Mrs. E. L. Beeson is associate hostess and Mrs. Grady Bailey is program leader.

Tri-County Area To Get School For Drop-Outs?

A program of vocational education designed to help older boys and young men who have dropped out of school before graduating from high school, is being set up for the so-called tri-county area, Yancey, Mitchell and Avery. This announcement was made Tuesday by E. L. Burkhardt, Supervisor of ARA training for North Carolina, at a meeting of educators and other civic leaders held at Harris High school in Spruce Pine.

The purpose of the project is to provide both vocational and general education for those in the age group 16 - 22 who for one reason or another have failed to graduate from high school. The aim of the project will be directed entirely toward improving the ability of the trainees to gain employment and improve their earning power. High school graduates in this age group who have failed to get jobs may also be eligible for the training program.

The project, which is being financed under the Federal Area Redevelopment program, is one of the first of its kind in the nation. It is considered as a pilot study, designed to yield valuable information for the later expansion of the program to other areas.

Governor Sanford has participated in the planning of the project, and has stated that it should be an important step in developing manpower training for the State and nation. The planning is being done with great care and thoroughness. Representatives from various Federal and State agencies have been involved, as well as an educator from Harvard University.

Two or three other areas in North Carolina are under consideration for similar programs, the only other one so far announced being Lincoln County. The selection of the Avery-Mitchell-Yancey area, according to Burkhardt, was based on the fact that these counties have all been designated as eligible for ARA aid; and they have shown an exceptionally cooperative spirit in working with ARA. In this connection, he mentioned specifically the hard work done by the Yancey County Planning Board under chairman Bob Helmle.

Good cooperation from the com-

munity is viewed as essential for the success of the project. The first part of the program will consist of a comprehensive survey of the drop-out situation in the county. First, it will be necessary to locate all the unemployed drop-outs with the

(Continued on back page)



"AM I SEEING THINGS?"—This question is asked frequently by visitors to Yancey County when they see a teen-age girl wrestling the steering wheel on a big school bus. The answer, as the picture above indicates, is that there is absolutely nothing wrong with the unbeliever's vision. Typical of the students who drive buses on Yancey's winding roads is petite Linda Hensley (above), a student at East Yancey High School who makes the Double Island run. According to Woodrow Anglin, principal, Linda is a highly competent driver. Once

he said, she stopped her bus to put on chains, and a truck driver offered to help her. He took so long, Anglin said, that Linda told him, "If you don't mind, I'll just put them on myself. I'm in a hurry." And she did. Neither she nor any other of the drivers, who must take buses over 646.3 miles of narrow roads, where the shoulders off 250 to 300 feet, has had an accident this year. Girls, said Anglin, make excellent school bus drivers. Joe Bennes, driver education representative of the Department of Mo-

tor Vehicles in Haywood, Madison, Yancey and Mitchell counties, who trains the young drivers, agreed. The youngsters take 1,601 students to and from school—high school and elementary, including East Yancey High, South Toe, Burnsville and Micaville elementary schools—each day. All of them, like Linda, are high in scholastic standing, too. Linda is also president of the student council. The roads, which have numerous hairpin turns, and are paved, graveled or just plain dirt, seem not to frighten any of them. One

girl, said Bennes, was almost sideswiped by a mica truck last year. The bus, loaded with youngsters, was about to topple off a 50 to 75 foot drop into the Toe River, half on and half off the road. She calmly herded the kids off the bus through the emergency exit, took them to a meadow, and made them sit down until the bus could be pulled back onto the road. Then she finished her run. This is typical, said Bennes, of the competence of the girls. For a picture of all of East Yancey's drivers, turn to Page Seven.