

THE YANCEY RECORD
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Along
The
Sidelines

BY TOM HIGGINS



Any Yancey Countian possessing extra rabbit's feet, a field full of four-leaf clovers or a generous supply of buckeyes is requested to contact either Ransom Pate or E. G. Adkins at Pate's garage in Burnsville.

"Up until now I've never been superstitious," Pate said with a weak smile while making his tongue-in-cheek plea for help. "But with the luck we've been having, I'll take a truckload of buckeyes, clovers etc. to break the spell we're obviously under. We're really knked."

Mechanic Pate and driver Adkins are the principals in an auto-racing team sponsored by Roberts Chevrolet-Buick, Inc. of Burnsville.

At least, they're supposed to be racing. So far this season they've had time to do little more than try and fend off the blows Dame Fortune has thrown their way.

They took one on the chin Sunday at Asheville-Weaverville Speedway, and this latest setback is what prompted Pate to start looking for gremlins.

Here's what happened:

Adkins went onto the track for warmups prior to the rich National Modified Sportsman Championship race. He reported back to the pits that the car was in peak condition.

Optimism oozed from the Burnsville outfit's spot on pit row.

Then, during a final lap, practice dis, disaster struck and cruelly scattered the optimism in the Yancey Countians' faces.

Adkins roared out of the final turn and sped down the straightaway at an estimated 100 m. p. h. Suddenly, near the first turn, a spectator walked leisurely onto the track.

Adkins had two choices: he could take no evasive action and hope that the spectator would get out of the way; or he could take no chances and pile his racer into the wall.

It was really no decision. Adkins sent the car into the wall. The machine was virtually demolished. Adkins sustained a slight hand injury.

"What really hurts," said Adkins, shaking off his injury, "is that after the race the winner, Runt Harris, came by and told us that in warmups we were beating him two-car-lengths on the straightaways. He said he felt we had the fastest car on the track."

It's been virtually the same story all season.

During April, Adkins was leading a feature event at the New Asheville Speedway, of which he was the 1962 track champion. Just as he started to pass a slower car, the latter machine spun out, causing a collision. Out of the race went E. G. and into a major rebuilding job went Pate.

In another race the Burnsville driver was running a close second when a tire blew, forcing him from contention. An order of new tires had failed to arrive in time for the race; they showed up the following morning.

On May 4 a truck towing one of the Pate-Adkins duo's cars to a race at Bristol, Va., went out of control on a steep mountain grade near Burnsville and tumbled over a 45-foot embankment, pulling the car along. The truck was a total loss. It took several days to get the car tuned to satisfaction again.

"If things don't change I don't

know what we'll do," Pate said glumly. Then with a wry smile he added: "I guess our only hope is that our luck rubs off on some others. Then we can organize a race for 'cripples.'"

Random Ramblings:

Several Yancey speed enthusiasts will go Go-Karting this season. Bobby Silvers of Burnsville, holder of the track speed record for one lap at Marlon Go-Kart Raceway, is planning to return to competition in the junior division. Max Fox, Randall McClure and Carl Stamey of Burnsville, who dominated the senior division at Marlon in 1962, are also set to race again. Races are run at Marlon on Saturday nights. The Yancey Countians will also race frequently at Old Fort on Sunday afternoons.

Teams from the Celo-South Toe River section and Cane River-Ramseytown are reported interested in joining a Burnsville Men's Club-sponsored Yancey Softball League. Several more entrants are needed. If interested, contact The Record.

High School graduation time is recruiting time for many college athletic coaches. As it's that time of year, I'm reminded of the story about the coach who was trying to persuade a terrific football prospect to attend the coach's university rather than an agricultural and technical school.

"Why, especially, do you want to go to A & T?" asked the coach.

"I can take forestry there," replied the youngster.

"Why do you want to take forestry?"

The hulking lad, a gridiron terror but a classroom flop, scratched his head for a moment and then replied brightly: "Well I like to hunt and fish."

Really happened.

New Boating Law Is A Welcomed Addition

BY ROD AMUNDSON
N. C. Wildlife Commission

Recently ratified by the General Assembly is an amendment to North Carolina's 1959 boating safety law requiring persons operating boats powered by machinery of ten horsepower or less to have aboard one approved lifesaving device for each person aboard. Further required is a stern-mounted white light for night operation, or a usable flashlight to warn off other boats.

This amendment brings state law into line with Coast Guard regulations. It does not, however, require the boats involved to be registered or numbered.

Law or no law, it makes good common horse sense to have safety devices aboard any boat. We live in an age of surveys, polls and statistics, and here are some statistics put together by the Outboard Boating Club of America as a result of a nationwide survey of boating accidents.

For instance, of 795 persons who as a result of boating activity became imperiled, 529 perished. Of these, 447 died by drowning and 141 of those who drowned had no lifesaving device available.

Okay, so statistics are cold; so is death!

A Hot Trick
To Scale Fish

Here is a slick way to get the scales off a mess of small panfish:

Grasp them by the lower jaw and dunk them into a bucket of scalding water. This will loosen the scales enough so that they may be easily wiped off in a bucket of cool water. Be careful not to leave the fish in the water too long, though. A little experience will tell you the proper length of time.

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As an aid to boating safety the Wildlife Commission recently passed a regulation prohibiting jug fishermen from using glass jug floats in this somewhat unique type of fishing. Jug fishing, as it is commonly known, consists of tying a hook and line to a jug, and letting the rig float downstream to take catfish. A gallon glass jug floating



IT COMES NATURAL—Janie Wilson, 5, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Wilson of Pensacola poses happily with the "horny heads" she and her mother recently caught in Cane River. Janie's fish-catching ability comes naturally. She is a great-great-great-granddaughter of Big Tom Wilson, the storied Yancey County woodsman and bear-hunter. (Staff Photo)

in the water is difficult to see from a fast moving boat or by a water skier, and it could easily crack a boat hull or a shin bone.

Plastics, however, are softer, lighter, and won't strew broken glass on the bottom of a stream or lake. So many liquids come in plastic containers these days that it should not be hard to find suitable floats. Ol' Luke Guppy can connect with them which, I understand, dissolve plastic materials.

Speaking of Luke, this letter came from him the other day:

Dear Mr. Rod:
Me and Elmo Cyster been out in western Texas looking to buy some feeder cattle. They been having a real dry, windy spring out that way. It was so dusty one day that the prairie dogs dug their holes up instead of down, and then when the wind went down it left them stranded about six feet up in the air. We had to shoot them down to keep them from starving to death.

Mr. Rod, we come had some real good western steaks out there. Old Elmo decided he was going to try 'em a real rare steak. Well, when the waiter brought it out Elmo looks at it a minute then stuck his knife in it. It was nice and red and juicy inside, but Elmo called the waiter back and told him to fry it some more. He said the waiter he seen critters hurt worse than that and git well gain. Me, I like my steak just cooked so it don't beller whenever I stick my fork in it. And let's me and you and old Elmo go fishing one of these days.



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Take A Word of Advice ...
Graduation is a high spot in your life. We know you'll want to celebrate -- It's natural. Here's Hoping Your Post-Graduation Festivities are loaded with fun.

But while your heart is in the clouds, keep your mind on the road. Don't mar your Graduation by becoming a Statistic on this Memorable Occasion. On graduation night make it a Point to Drive With special care -- and why not Continue this Particular habit throughout life?



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