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THE YANCEY RECORD

"Dedicated To The Progress Of Yancey County"

VOLUME TWENTY-SEVEN

Subscription \$2.50 Per Year

BURNSVILLE, N. C., THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 1963

Price Per Copy Five Cents

NUMBER FIFTY-TWO



Do You Remember?

Life in Yancey County in the early 1900s would seem mighty monotonous to we moderns. The roads to the world outside the towering mountains were poor, and very little came in or went out. For that matter, the roads were so crude there was little travel from one section of the county to the other. So folks stayed close to home in those days. But the oldtimers say they didn't mind.

The highlight of the week was Sunday when everyone went to church and the cousins from down the "holler" came for dinner and to visit. One of the most remote churches in the county near the turn of the century was the Big Creek Free Will Baptist Church (pictured above) in north Yancey County. The area was then known as Sioux (it's not called that too often anymore since the Sioux post office has been discontinued).

The Lower Cane River Valley was a haven for Scotch-Irish clans which settled Yancey, as this picture, taken in 1916, testifies. Everyone in the picture is either a Whitson, Atkins, Howell, Byers, Warrick, Byrd or Adkins. Included in the group is Bill Atkins, who was destined to become a Yancey County representative to the N. C. Legislature. He is now a Burnsville attorney. This photo was donated by Bonnie Adkins of Rt. 1, Relief.

Yancey Roundup

Baptist To Convene For 85th Meeting

The 85th Annual session of the Yancey County Baptist Association will be held Thursday and Friday (Aug. 15-16) at the Cane River and Zion (Green Mountain) Baptist Churches respectively. The Rev. E. H. Hall will serve as moderator. Thursday's speaker will be M. H. Kendall, professor of religion at Mars Hill College. The Rev. A. Z. Jamerson of Bolens Creek Baptist Church and B. M. Tomberlin of Swiss will speak at Friday's session. Several representatives from the Baptist State Convention are expected to attend the session.

The United Presbyterian Women's organization will meet Thursday (Aug. 15) at the First Presbyterian Church in Burnsville. The meeting will begin at 7 p. m. Following the regularly scheduled session, Mrs. Joe Lo Piccolo of Celio will show slides she made on a recent round-the-world

Parkway Given OK For Musical

You could almost smell the prairie sage last week during the Parkway Playhouse's presentation of "Oklahoma!"

Rodgers' and Hammerstein's all-time favorite has probably seldom been treated better by a company of comparable size and means than that assembled by Director Anthony Maltese.

It was the kind of show that makes you wake up happy the following morning... maybe even humming "Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'."

Jim Morris and Leoni Horton were well matched as Curley and Laurey. Val Manches was a delightful Aunt Eller and Lauren K. Woods made hair stand on the neck playing the villain, Jud.

However, Irene Manger, Richard M. Oxman and Jon Cutaita very nearly stole the show from the lead roles with their performances as Ado Annie, Will and Ali Hakim, respectively.

It was a tremendous way to close a season... makes next summer seem far too long away. —By Tom Higgins.

Bald Creek Wins Softball Crown

A bases-loaded homer in the final inning by Dean Wheeler gave Bald Creek a 12-10 victory over Micaville Wednesday and the regional season championship in the Yancey Softball League.

Wheeler's line blast to right-center on the Burnsville Elementary School field brought Bald Creek from 10-8 deficit and averted a playoff for the regular season title. Bald Creek had entered the contest a half game ahead of Micaville.

The victory, Bald Creek's eighth as against two losses, earned the winners No. 1 seeding in the playoffs which begin Thursday (Aug. 15).

Bald Creek will meet Sawmill Hollow at 5 p. m. on the Burnsville field.

Green Mountain and Micaville tied for second place with 7-3 records. Green Mountain won second seeding in a flip of the coin and will meet Indian Trail (6-4) at Burnsville at 6 p. m. Thursday.

Micaville plays Double Island (2-8) at Micaville.

Winners of the Green Mountain-Indian Trail and Micaville-Double Island games play at Burnsville Friday at 5 p. m. to determine who plays the Bald Creek-Sawmill winner in Saturday's championship contest, which will also be played at Burnsville.

BY TOM HIGGINS

Record Editor

A dispute over insurance coverage for football players may cost the East Yancey High School team the services of some of its starters.

The parents of several veteran players told the Record this week that they would not permit their sons to participate in the football program if they are compelled to purchase the type insurance selected by the Yancey County board of education.

"I'll be willing to pay \$100 for insurance coverage for my son if I must," said the father of one player. "But if he can't play without taking the insurance the Board specifies, then I am pulling him off the field."

The fathers of two other players said they would do likewise, and said that there were several other parents who had indicated that they would follow suit.

County's Deadline Expires, Town To Set ABC Election

Rep. Taylor Is Opposed To Charges

WASHINGTON—The House National Parks Subcommittee last week passed a land conservation bill containing two amendments introduced by Congressman Roy A. Taylor designed to prevent the imposition of fees for the use of roads through federal park and forest lands in Western North Carolina.

The first amendment would permit cost-free use of any national parkway or established federal highway considered a public access route across federally-owned park and forest lands. The second amendment would give special consideration to states, like North Carolina, where a large percentage of federal recreation lands were originally donated to the government.

Rep. Taylor, a member of the subcommittee, said that while a final interpretation of the bill is still forthcoming, he believes his first amendment provides sufficient authority to keep tolls off such roads as the Blue Ridge Parkway, U. S. 441 through the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and most roads in the national forest.

"These are all roads used by the motoring public as a means of access between points outside federally-owned property," said Taylor.

His second amendment declares that in federal recreation areas where more than half of the property was originally acquired by contribution from the state, the imposition of fees shall be delayed until the governor of the state has made his recommendations and has been given the opportunity to request consideration to be given to all obligations, legal or otherwise, that the federal government may own the state and its citizens.

The overall land conservation bill is designed to help states in the acquisition, planning and development of additional outdoor recreation facilities. The bill approved by the subcommittee would authorize federal grants to states for these purposes. It also provides additional federal land acquisition for outdoor recreation, with 40 percent of the funds going for federal and 60 percent for state purposes.

Yancey County Rodents Have Very Expensive Taste

Rats! This is an American slang term of derision and disgust.

A Yancey County resident is reportedly using the term more emphatically than anyone in these parts ever did before.

This person, who will not confirm or deny his story and thus will remain anonymous, has good reason to be disgusted... and for that matter, distraught.

Thirty years ago this fellow was virtually wiped out during the Great Depression. He vowed never to let a bank handle his money again.

He kept his promise to himself, and kept his money on his person or in a secret hiding place in his house.

Finally, he accumulated such a sum that it was necessary to find a bigger hiding place.

The money was packed in a cardboard box and hidden in the hayloft of a barn near the house. It was seldom bothered, except when there might be some additional funds to add to the "kitty."

Last winter and during the spring of this year there was little home, so the cardboard box and its contents remained untouched. By human hands, that.

Recently, on the spur of the moment, this fellow decided to check and see how his money was doing. He opened the box and...

Approximately half the bills were gone. What remained had been shredded to bits.

Rats had eaten a hole through the side of the box and carried off much of the money. What they hadn't pilfered, they had shredded.

The loss, according to a reliable source, was slightly over \$13,000.

Meanwhile, there have been few rodents seen lately around the barn where the disaster took place.

No, they didn't skip with the loot. The place is brimming with poison.

—By Tom Higgins.

Vote Still Month Off Says Mayor

The Burnsville Town Board will act shortly to set in motion the holding of an ABC vote here.

Mayor Robert Helmle said Wednesday that as soon as a meeting between him and Commissioner P. C. (Pete) Coletta and B. R. Penland can be arranged a date for the election will be set.

The final obstacle blocking a municipal vote on the establishment of an Alcohol Beverage Control outlet here was apparently cleared Wednesday.

A 60-day period in which a county-wide ABC vote would have invalidated any town election expired Wednesday.

"We feel the way is clear now," said Helmle. "When we are able to call a meeting, we'll do so and set the date for the election. I would think that our meeting would be within the next week, at least."

The board is compelled by state law to call a vote.

This legislation was introduced by Rep. Mark W. Bennett of Burnsville last June, amending a bill originally introduced by Sen. J. Yates Bailey of Bald Creek.

The board was at Holcombe Brothers Funeral Home until taken to the church for services. Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Maybelle Wiseman Presnell; two daughters, Mrs. Charles Webber of Fayetteville and Miss Mildred Presnell of the home; five sons, Hoston of the U. S. Army in Germany, Lowell of the U. S. Army, Ft. Benning, Ga., and Max, Vernon and Howard of the home; the mother, Mrs. Sally Ogle Presnell of Rt. 2, Burnsville; a sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Webb of Brevard; three brothers, Stanley, Herman and Amos of Burnsville; and six grandchildren.

Consequently, the town board delayed calling for a vote until the 60-day deadline in Bailey's bill had passed.

The board, explained Helmle, did not want to go to the expense of setting up an election only to have the county commissioners invalidate it with a call for a county election.

"Should the county have called for a vote after we had set one up, then it would have been quite a bit of money down the drain for us," said the mayor.

It will probably be at least a month before the election can be held.

Helmle pointed out that "it is law we must give 20 days notice of a registration period, hold registration for seven days and hold a challenge day."

Yancey Obituaries

MRS. MAGGIE HIGGINS

Mrs. Maggie Higgins, 90, of the Burnsville section, died at her home Sunday (Aug. 4) after a long illness.

She was the widow of J. Will Higgins.

Surviving are three daughters, Mrs. Wilson Edwards and Mrs. Page Hunter of Burnsville and Miss Maude Higgins of the home; three sons, Paul and Bryan Higgins of Rt. 4, and Maj. Bruce Higgins, U. S. Air Force, Colorado Springs; 19 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Services were held (Aug. 6) at Byrd's Chapel.

The Rev. A. Z. Jamerson officiated and burial was in Byrd Cemetery. Holcombe Brothers Funeral Home was in charge.

Pallbearers were Burton Edwards, Kenneth Hunter, Clifton and Tony Miller, Cecil Penland, Charles Galloway, Kenneth Gilbert and Carl Bailey.

LONNIE PRESNELL

Services for Lonnie Presnell, 57, of Rt. 5 Burnsville, who died Friday, were held at 2 p. m. Sunday in South Estate Baptist Church.

The Rev. Dave Blevins officiated.

etated. Burial was in the church cemetery.

The body was at Holcombe Brothers Funeral Home until taken to the church for services.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Maybelle Wiseman Presnell; two daughters, Mrs. Charles Webber of Fayetteville and Miss Mildred Presnell of the home; five sons, Hoston of the U. S. Army in Germany, Lowell of the U. S. Army, Ft. Benning, Ga., and Max, Vernon and Howard of the home; the mother, Mrs. Sally Ogle Presnell of Rt. 2, Burnsville; a sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Webb of Brevard; three brothers, Stanley, Herman and Amos of Burnsville; and six grandchildren.

WNC DAIRY SHOW SET

The 19th annual Western North Carolina Junior Dairy Show will be held Tuesday, (Aug. 20) at the Western North Carolina Fairgrounds at Hendersonville. This event is open to 4-H Club and FFA members in all the western counties and is sponsored by the Agricultural Extension Service, limited to purebred animals and over 100 prize animals are expected to be shown, including several from Yancey County.

School Insurance Switch Stirs A Controversy

The controversy centers around a switch by Yancey schools from Standard Life Insurance to Pilot Life.

The aroused parents contend that the switch is increasing the cost of insurance for football players from \$2.85 to \$12.

However, H. D. Justice, superintendent of Yancey Schools, speaking for the Board of Education, said that the gridders' insurance this year would actually be cheaper than that of the 1962-63 school year.

"Unbeknownst to the Board of Education, the insurance for all the children covered by last year's policy was increased by 25 cents each. The quarters were divided by the 10 high schools and helped defray the cost of the insurance for the football players from approximately \$15 to \$2.85."

The Board felt that this practice was unfair, and that in some cases—in cases here there are

five or six children from one family attending school—that it worked a hardship on the parents.

"And hardship or not, it isn't right to have football insurance paid by parents who have never seen a football game and very likely will never see one."

"Besides, Pilot Life policy, in my opinion, is much better. In case of serious injury requiring a long hospitalization period, it is definitely better."

The players' fathers previously mentioned, and some members of the East Yancey Boosters Club, contended that last year's policy is superior, and said it appeared to them that some members of the board of education were "politically motivated" in their choice of policies.

"For instance, last year's coverage enabled us to make substitutions," said one Boosters Club member. "If a player was

forced from competition by an injury or else quit, then we could put another player in his place at no additional charge. But with the policy they are getting this year, you can't do that. If a boy quits, your money goes down the drain. His replacement must also take out a policy."

The disgruntled Boosters and the fathers based their "politics" contention on the fact that most of the board of education members are Democrats while the majority of the owners of the Burnsville Insurance Agency, which sold the schools the policy last year are Republicans.

They were also disturbed about the fact that the Pilot Life policy which the board has recommended will be sold to the schools by Pat Whitmire of Hendersonville, son-in-law of R. A. Radford of Cane River, the chairman of the board of education. Whitmire is a Pilot Life agent.

The board apparently made no mention of compelling football players to buy the Pilot Life policy at a recent meeting called to discuss the insurance problem. Presumably, this point would be cleared up at the next board meeting, or a meeting called to make clarification.

At any rate, since the state requires all football players to be insured, some action obviously must be taken before Aug. 30, when East Yancey is scheduled to open its season.

The Record could not confirm rumors that school principals and some board members disagreed vehemently at the meeting over the insurance switch. However, a very reliable source said that the principals refused to vote on their preference of three policies after being told that their decision would be "reviewed" by the board members.