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Battle Over ABC Issue Warms As Vote Date Nears

BY TOM HIGGINS
Record Editor

Burnsville's voters go to the polls Tuesday (Oct. 1) to decide whether or not an Alcohol Beverage Control outlet will be established in the town.

Local election experts figure that most of the approximately 700 registered voters will cast ballots and that the outcome will be decided by less than 100 votes.

Polling place for the controversial referendum will be the town hall, with the polls opening at 6:30 a. m. and closing 12 hours later.

The issue, which has had Burnsville and Yancey County buzzing since last spring, appeared Wednesday to be growing hotter by the hour.

Both the "drys" and "wets" have full-scale campaigns underway with workers devoting full-time to the election.

The "dry" faction, headed by the Yancey Ministerial Association, is hitting hard at the moral issue and at what it calls "mis-

leading information" of the distilling industry.

The "wets," headed by an organization known as the Burnsville Citizens for Legal Control, are pinning their hopes on a campaign that lambastes boot-

legging and points out "tax and business advantages of legal ABC outlets."

Both groups had speakers in town during the week. The Ministerial Association sent letters to those who had signed petitions opposing the bill in the State Legislature that required the town board to call the elect-

ions. The letter urged the petitioners to be certain that they are registered and that all those they know are opposed are registered.

"The forces against us are being led by political leaders who are powerful and well organized," the letter said. "They are experienced in methods of conducting elections while for the most part this is a new and strange experience for us."

It was then pointed out that registration was of the utmost importance. Voters already on the municipal books need not register again. These unregistered must do so before 5 p. m. Friday (Sept. 27).

Challenge day has been scheduled for Saturday (Sept. 28). The "wet" forces sought to refute what they felt was an implication that "professional politicians are making a power grab."

One pointed out that seasoned politicians "are indeed taking a very active part in the campaign of those opposed to establishment of a legal outlet."

"Wets" also stated that one of the arguments being used by the "drys" is "the best argument for a legal outlet." This, they said, was the "dry" faction's contention that "there is already plenty of liquor available in Burnsville."

Both sides expressed a feeling that the other was campaigning with money supplied by outside sources. Both denied the charges.

The "drys" charged that the "wet" campaign is being financed by the "big distilleries." The "wets" said that the "dry" organization is supported by "certain factions in Asheville, whose ABC stores would lose some revenue if an outlet were established in Burnsville."

Although a torrid battle is raging and will undoubtedly get hotter, both sides expressed hope that the contest will not become as bitter as it did last spring.

When the bill empowering the town board to call an election was first introduced in the Senate at Raleigh in early June by Sen. J. Yates Bailey of Bald Creek, the "drys" sought through petitions to head the legislation off.

A petition for children was among those circulated, and some parents became incensed because their children signed without the parents' approval.

In another instance some Sunday School teachers were asked to resign because they had signed a petition asking Bailey to go ahead with his "ABC bill."

Carolyn Ray Gets Grant

DURHAM—Miss Carolyn Ray, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mack B. Ray of Burnsville, has received a full scholastic scholarship for the coming year at Duke University, school officials announced this week.

Miss Ray received the grant as a result of finishing second scholastically in a freshman class of 346 students during the 1962-63 term.

The sophomore, a graduate of East Yancey High School, is a pre-med major with a minor in chemistry.

Miss Ray's professors pointed out that her accomplishment was all the more credit to her and her high school in that only one-of-three students filing application for entry to Duke last year were accepted.

Miss Ray qualified for one of the coveted Angier B. Duke Scholarships, but declared herself ineligible when she discovered that the grant was not available if both parents were working.

Yancey Countians attending college, in addition to those listed over the past three weeks, include:

Appalachian State—Edward Profit, Eugene Styles, Kenny Sparks, Judith Harris, Ronald Cares, Thomas Dean McIntosh;

Blanton's Business College—Charles Jarrett, Nan Wells, Jim Franklin;

Warren Wilson—Hedy Howell, David Parsley, Norris Gornot, Helena Hensley, Harold Higgins, Dean Honeycutt, Maude Murphy, Judy Thomas;

Billy Young, son of Mr. and Mrs. Terrell Young of Windom, has been awarded a full scholarship for graduate study at Appalachian State College, Boone.

A graduate of Wake Forest College, where he made the Dean's List several times, Young will work toward a Master's Degree in history and political science at Appalachian.

Local Water Supply Is Critically Short

Burnsville's public water supply is reaching a dangerously low point, Mayor R. W. Helmle disclosed Wednesday.

Helmle, terming the situation "near the critical stage," asked townspeople to refrain from using water except in emergencies.

"We're going to have to ask people not to wash their cars or water lawns or gardens," he said. "Some people have been watering tomatoes and the like to try and get them ripened before frost. We hate to have to make this request, but it is a necessity."

A long drought is the cause of the water problem.

The rivers and streams in Yancey County are abnormally low, thus the town water department's

intakes in Bolens Creek high on the side of Mt. Celo are providing only a fraction of the water that usually pours into the reservoirs.

Oldtimers said that they have not seen Bolens Creek so low in over 50 years.

Helmle said that he thought there would be enough water for ordinary use, but that if it was continued to be used indiscriminately, then there was a possibility that a couple of Burnsville industries might be shut down.

"We will greatly appreciate the people's cooperation until we get some rain," said the mayor. "Then they can wash cars and water whatever they wish as much as they wish."

Four Are Fined In Truant Cases

Four Yancey County men were fined Wednesday for failure to send their children to school.

Justice of the Peace G. M. Angel of Burnsville fined the quartet \$25 each, suspended on condition that the children go to school.

However, each of the fathers was required to pay court costs of \$9.43. Three of the men pled guilty, but the other pled not guilty and his case was bound over to Superior Court. When he refused to post bond, Angel ordered him taken to jail.

After spending two hours behind bars, the balky father decided that he would change his plea. Angel also suspended his fine, but in addition to paying court cost he was required to pay a \$4 "turn-key" fee.

The citations had been issued by Friel Young, Yancey County School Attendance Counselor (truancy officer).

County Attorney Bill Atkins said that under present laws there is only one excuse for a child between the ages of 6 and 16 not attending school. "That is sickness," he said. He added that in the case of extended absences, parents must produce a doctor's certification that a child is unable to attend school.

All school officials hailed the action taken by the court.

"From now on perhaps we won't have so many dropouts," said one. "If some of these people know they face prosecution, they'll get the kids where they belong—in school."

Do You Remember?

Gleaned from the Sept. 28, 1899, issue of the Burnsville Eagle (deposited to The Record by Mrs. O. M. Lewis):

—We will take flour, meal, wheat, corn, potatoes, chickens, etc., on subscription and will allow the highest market price for either.

—The marriage of Jake Ray and Lillie Garland, both colored, caused quite a commotion among the colored people here Saturday. The ceremony was performed at the home of Erwin Horton.

—Ed Ramsey, J. W. Bennett, Delzie Styles, Harvey Fox, Robt. Horton, Henry Young and Sam Casida left for Asheville Saturday.

with the intention of joining the Army. All except Bennett returned, having failed to stand the examination.

—Geo. W. Bright left Burnsville last Monday with a large drove of nice cattle which he had bought in this county during the past two weeks. They were taken to his Tennessee farm.

—Prof. Will McIntosh's school closed at Cane River last Friday. He dropped in to see the Eagle while in town Saturday and speaks in the highest praise of the people of Cane River and of their kind treatment to him while there.

—Call and see Rays' 10-pound coffee. They don't ask you to buy.

—The pain of a burn or scald is almost instantly relieved by applying Chamberlain's Pain Balm. It heals the injured parts more quickly than any other treatment, and unless the burn is very severe, does not leave a scar.

Yancey Roundup: Junk Autos Must Go Says Patrol

State Highway Patrolman C. F. Warren warned Yancey Countians Wednesday that junked automobiles left along the roadside must be removed.

"Automobiles left on the shoulders of the road or anywhere on the highway right-of-way consti-

tute a traffic hazard, said the officer. "They must be moved."

Warren said that junked vehicles left sitting on the right-of-way can be towed in and stored. "And the owners are liable for the towing and storage fees," he pointed out.

Warren added that enforcement of the regulation will remove eyesores, in addition to eliminating a danger to motorists.

Mayor Robert W. Helmle of Burnsville was selected Friday to represent Yancey County on the executive committee of the Western North Carolina Regional Planning Commission.

Helmle said the WNCRPC served in many capacities, with a special emphasis on zoning and urban renewal.

The ASCS Committee met Friday and elected Ralph Edwards of Prices Creek as its chairman.

Alvin Pate of Upper Egypt was named vice-chairman and Sam D. Riddle of Pensacola as regular member. W.

Community Committeemen chosen in an election last week are: East Burnsville—Joe Woody, Edd Hunter, Edd Banner;

West Burnsville—Burnie Pittman, Carl Rice, George Wheeler;

Cane River—J. W. Tomberlin, Jess Buckner, Tommy Buckner;

Yancey's Dillingham Receives County Agents' Service Award

BY Z. H. BYRD

E. L. Dillingham, Yancey County Extension Chairman, was honored Wednesday night by the County Agents Association of America at the organization's annual national convention in Minneapolis, Minn.

Dillingham was one of the five Tar Heel agents to be presented the association's coveted Distinguished Service Award.

R. W. Shoffner, former Extension Director said the award is for "efforts and accomplishments over and above the call of duty."

Annual farm income in Yancey has risen from approximately \$2 million to over \$4 million since 1949, when Dillingham first came to Yancey. The number of Grade A dairies has risen from six to 50. The quality of livestock has greatly improved. Most of the beef cattle are now sold through special cooperative sales. A Breeders' Association and Dairy Herd Improvement Association have been organized.

During Dillingham's tenure two Yancey County farm families have received the Master Farm Family award and a third was runner-up.

The agent also led a drive that resulted in rural telephones being increased from 60 to over 1,000, spending much of his own time and money helping to bring the project to fruition.

establishing cooperative markets in the area and cooperated with other agencies in the annual Farmers Night and other activities. The County had one of the first organized community clubs (Bolens Creek) in Western North Carolina in 1950. There now 15 organized clubs, the largest number

of any Western North Carolina county.

The county has won State and District honors in the 4-H events and State Fair exhibits.

Dillingham has been active in civic affairs, both locally and in the state. He is President of the WNC County Agents Association,

has been President of the Burnsville Men's Club, Deputy District Governor of Lions Club, President of the East Yancey P. T. A. He is an Elder, Sunday School teacher and President of the Men of the First Presbyterian Church of Burnsville.

He is a member of the Farm

Bureau, Grange and Agricultural Committee of the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce.

Dillingham worked with farmers in securing better seed corn and better cultural practices and as a result, the annual yield of corn has been increased many bushels per acre. This increased yield of corn has enabled the farmers to feed more livestock.

Steep hillsides are growing fine pasture grasses instead of broom sage and briars. Lots of fat purebred and high grade beef cattle are being raised instead of a lot of scrawny scrubs. Tobacco yields have increased from 1,600 pounds to 2,500 pounds per acre. The methods of soil fertilization, the seed selection program, the improved pastures and many other things advocated by the county agent and put into practice by the farmers of Yancey, have helped to put money in the farmer's pocket and raised the standards of living in the county.

Dillingham, a native of Burnsville, was graduated from North Carolina State College. He was N. C. Master Teacher of Agriculture at Polkville School in Cleveland County and Assistant Agent in Buncombe County before coming to Yancey County.

He is married to the former Wilena Heaton and they have two children, Kenneth, who is employed by Wachovia Bank in Charlotte, and Susan, a Sophomore at St. Andrews College in Laurinburg.



CHECKING OUT — E. L. Dillingham (right) Yancey County Extension Chairman, receives checks from Arney Fox (left), cashier at Northwestern Bank, and Ralph Adair, president of the Yancey Chamber of Commerce. The C of C and bank, as a token of appreciation for services rendered the county, contributed to help Dillingham defray the cost of his expenses while attending the National County Agents Convention in Minnesota.

Photo by Bob Robinson

Upper Egypt—Max Higgins Jr., Carl Hilemon, Crate Bailey;

Lower Egypt—Tilden Fender, Carl Wilson, Chap Fender;

Ramseytown—Britt Holloway, Hoover Johnson, Darius Hensley;

Green Mount—George King, Cleesen Letterman, Worley Ayers;

Brush Creek—Elmer Peterson, Yates Randolph, J. B. Thomas;

Upper Jacks Creek—John Evans, Ray English, Carl Jobe;

Lower Jacks Creek—Johnny Fox, Frank Evans, Gene Thomas;