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THE YANCEY RECORD

"Dedicated To The Progress Of Yancey County"

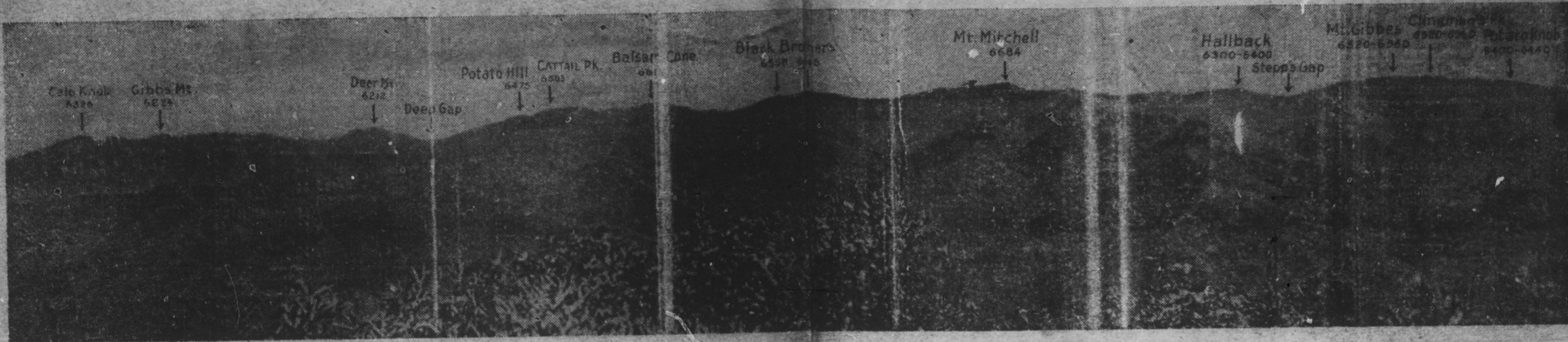
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'63 HIGHLIGHT—YANCEY'S BLACK MOUNTAIN RANGE, WHICH INSPIRED RESORT DEVELOPERS.

Resort Proposal Is Top Story Of 1963 In Yancey

BY TOM HIGGINS
Record Editor

The biggest story of 1963 in Yancey County, as everywhere, was the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on Nov. 22. The tragedy in Dallas, Tex., touched the lives of everyone since the course of history was undoubtedly changed by the young president's death.

However, despite the fact that the shooting of the President affected Yancey County, The Record—in determining the top stories of 1963 in Yancey—decided to omit the assassination story.

Thus, here, in the paper's opinion, are the stories which interested Yancey Countians most in a news-filled year:

1. Multi-Million Dollar Resort Proposed For Cato Knob Area.
2. Burnsville ABC Proposal Defeated.
3. Burnsville ABC Election Bill Approved.
4. Yancey Receives Funds For Construction of New Courthouse Jail.
5. Yancey High On List of Areas Considered For Aid From N. C. Fund Committee.
6. East Yancey High School Football Team Claims Appalachian Conference Championship.
7. Incumbent Town Board of Burnsville Swept Into Office Again.
8. Federal Judges Rules Schools Must Be Integrated.
9. Yancey Included in "Operation Second Chance."
10. Parkway Playhouse Opens 16th Season.

Chronologically, this is how the year went:

The first big story of 1963 was the meeting of a Ford Foundation Committee at the Nu-Wray Inn on Jan. 15. The meeting of top Western North Carolina educators and civic leaders with Ford officials eventually led to a large endowment for the N. C. Fund Committee, which will soon begin combating poverty in the state. According to some officials, Yancey will receive a sizeable portion of the aid.

On Feb. 8 a public meeting in

the courthouse officially began a drive to replace the 55-year-old structure with a new building that would also include a jail. Interest waned in the ensuing months, but on Sept. 6 Rep. Roy A. Taylor of Black Mountain announced that the Federal Government had offered to pay 66 percent—or \$341,000—of

the cost of the proposed building. Yancey officials immediately began action leading to a bond issue vote in which county residents would be asked to approve the issue of \$250,000 in bonds. The election was postponed twice (it had been scheduled for Nov. 5, then Dec. 3) and will now be held Jan. 14 1964.

The bombshell on March 6 when it was disclosed that an Illinois organization was considering the spending of several million dollars to build a year-round resort atop the Black Mountain Range near Cattail Creek following an Aug. 19 junket to Yancey by members of the Illinois organization and state officials. Gov. Terry Sanford said he thought the state would be able to build an access road through the woods to Mt. Mitchell. The Illinois group says that when the road is begun it will begin construction of the swank resort, and that's where the proposal stands now.

During the last week in April a group of Burnsville residents began circulating petitions asking State Senator J. Yates Bailey of Bald Creek to introduce legislation that would enable the Burnsville town board to call for an election in which residents of the city would vote on establishment of an Alcohol Beverage Control store. On June 14 Bailey responded to the request and his bill was passed. However, the bill was permissive, allowing the board to

call the vote on its own motion. On June 24 Rep. Mark W. Bennett amended the bill, making it compulsory for the board to hold the election. Finally, after a bitter campaign between "wet" and "dry" forces, the election was held on Oct. 1. The "dry" triumphed, 305-299.

On May 7, after one of the most hotly contested campaigns in the town's history, Burnsville Mayor Robert Helmle and City Commissioners B. E. Penland and P. C. Coletta were returned to office. Seated were Burnsville attorney Bill Atkins, who was

seeking the majority, and Commissioner aspirants Molt Hensley and Ralph Peterson.

Highlight of the summer season in July was the opening of the 16th time of the University of Miami's Parkway Playhouse. The theater enjoyed perhaps its best season, several of its productions attracting "standing room only" crowds.

Confirmation that Yancey would be a participant in the re-training program for public school dropouts came in early September, and registration of students began on Oct. 12. Chosen to head "Operation Second Chance" in Yancey was Adrian Buchanan.

On Sept. 25, U. S. District Judge Wilson Warlick ruled in Asheville that "complete" integration of two elementary schools in Burnsville must be instituted by the end of the fall semester in Mid-January, 1964. Warlick told the Yancey Board of Education to send white students living nearer the all-Negro school there, and Negro students whose homes are closer to Burnsville Elementary (which already had one Negro student) to that school.

On Nov. 8, East Yancey clinched the Appalachian Conference's first football championship with a 6-1 record (see picture on inside).

It was also a year during which rats reportedly ate or carried away a fortune hidden in a Yancey barn; in which two teenagers were swept over 75-foot Blue S a Falls but were unharmed; in which the Ray Bernetts of Relief, Rt. 4, became the parents of a baby girl, their 18th child; in which five Yancey Countians were killed in auto accidents in a 12-week period; in which the Yancey Hospital completed a \$50,000 renovation; in which Glenn Raven SRM's made extensive improvements on its building here; in which hucksters reamed the county, film-flaming oldtimers into buying worthless spectacles.



'63 HIGHLIGHT—One of the most exciting sporting developments of the past year was the catch—on successive days—of huge brown trout in Yancey streams. In mid-August Mike Woody (top) pulled a seven-pound, 27-inch brown trout from Cane River. The next day Jay Autrey of Celo wrestled a 30-inch, 9 1/2-pound monster from South Toe River. Autrey's catch ranks—unofficially—as a record for Yancey waters.

Yancey Roundup Higgins Leaves Record

J. Tom Higgins, editor and publisher of The Yancey Record for the past year, will leave the publication with this issue.

Higgins will return to the sports-writing field. He is considering jobs with several daily newspapers.

Higgins, 26, came to The Record last January. The Burnsville native had previously worked on the sports staffs of The Asheville Times, The Winston-Salem Journal and Sentinel and the Durham Morning Herald.

The Higgins will remain in Burnsville until around Feb. 1.

WASHINGTON—Congressman Roy A. Taylor and House speaker Dec. 16 while the speaker himself, John W. McCormack, delivered a five-minute address.

The roles of the two men were switched immediately following house action on the foreign aid bill.

From the lofty speaker's chair, Speaker McCormack motioned Rep. Taylor forward and asked him to take over.

Then moving to the House floor, McCormack turned to the new speaker pro tempore:

"Mr. Speaker, said Mr. McCormack, "I request permission to address the House for five five minutes."

The gentleman from Massachusetts was recognized. His speech was a eulogy to a close friend in his home state. Rep. Taylor continued to preside until the House adjourned some 20 minutes later.

U. S. FORCES, GERMANY—Army Sgt. Wey Tipton, whose wife Shibley, lives at 512 E. Fairview ave., Johnson City, Tenn., received a certificate of achievement late in November while serving with the staff at the 32d Surgical Hospital near Wurzburg, Germany.

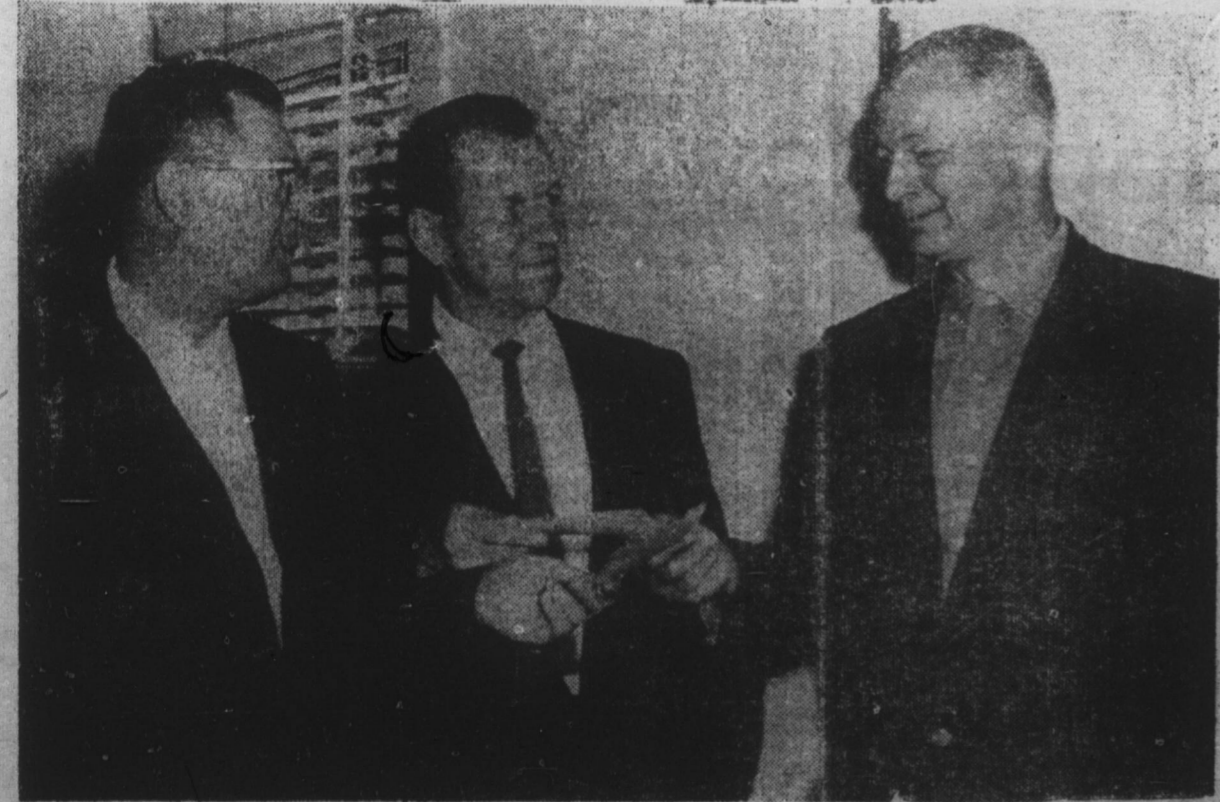
Sergeant Tipton received the award for his outstanding performance of duties.

The sergeant entered the Army in 1959, was last stationed at Fort Benning, Ga., and arrived overseas in November 1960.

Tipton, son of Mrs. Sarah L. (Continued on back page)



'63 HIGHLIGHT—Yancey County, noted for its mountain scenery, reaped many honors for its beautiful "human scenery" during the past 12 months. Three Burnsville girls claim coveted beauty titles. Julia Byrd Bennett (top) was named Sweetheart of Sigma Chi at Florida State University. Susan Billingham (bottom) was crowned Yancey Daisy Queen by Carolyn Buckner and went on to take the Western North Carolina title. Celia Coletta (right) was crowned May Queen at Sacred Heart College at Belmont. Parents of the girls are Mr. and Mrs. Mark Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Dillingham and Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Coletta.



'63 HIGHLIGHT—Among the Yancey Countians to reap honors during the past year was E. L. Dillingham (left), who received a distinguished service award at the County Agents' Association national convention in Minneapolis. In the above photo, Dillingham is presented a token of appreciation by Northwestern Bank executive Arney Fox (left) and Chamber of Commerce President Ralph Adair.