

The Yancey Record

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Weather Still With Us

The weather is still with us, and the main topic of conversation. We have no official readings of temperatures in this area, but hear various reports — ranging from five to 20 below Saturday night, or early Sunday morning. We cannot vouch for the accuracy of the thermometers, but one thing we do know — IT WAS COLD, and apparently broke all records in the last thirty years or more. We always heard that when the temperature hit that low it was too cold to snow, but not so in this area, as it snowed and snowed most of Sunday, the 30th — that being the third major snow in more than two weeks, and as if that were not enough, it is doing its best to give us another white blanket today (Wednesday). On Tuesday, with higher temperatures and some rain we felt optimistic as there was some melting, giving us a bit of dirty slush. But we are back today with light snow and lots of ice, making driving more hazardous than ever. The only merchants profiting by this weather are the garages who carry chains and anti-freeze, and we feel sure their supply is about exhausted. We would not forget the grocer — as it seems we eat more when housed in than at any other time.

We will just have to keep our fingers crossed, and hope that these people who cannot get out to the highway stay healthy. If they do not and should have to go to the hospital, they will have to be taken out by helicopter. A case in point the Lee Boone's, Blaine Rays and Robinson family, living in the Mount Mitchell Wildlife area, where a drift estimated at ten to fifteen feet has them completely cut off from the main highway. Apparently no effort is being made to get these people out of this predicament — so stay healthy, folks, and lets hope your "vittles" and fuel hold out — also that you don't have a power failure. You will just have to take a lesson from your neighbor, the bear, but I fear all of you don't have the fat for that.

Actually, this is just a little too much, and even the children free from school seem to be getting a little fed up, and are not looking forward to spending most of the month of June in school — and neither are the teachers. Some folks think they have solved the problem by going to Florida, but

even there they found little relief, as the weather there is also the chief topic of conversation, hitting an all time low.

We are just wondering if the groundhog up in that unpronounceable and, to this writer, unspellable town in Pennsylvania will see his shadow. But whether he does or not, we are assured of six more weeks of winter weather here, as we feel sure it will be that long before all this dirty looking white stuff melts.

One bright spot — it looks like the folks who have been scared of a water shortage may rest easy now — at least for the time being.

They say misery loves company, and if this is the case we should console ourselves, as the whole country seems to be in the same fix, and, believe it or not, most of the country is in worse shape than we.

We like to give credit where credit is due, so let's say a kind word regarding the work of the men employed by the highway department, who it would seem have toiled almost night and day for the past three weeks to keep the main highways passable — and all this with inadequate snow moving equipment. This goes also for the town of Burnsville. They have done a superb job, and we should all be grateful to them. We have heard motorists from other counties comment on the good condition of Yancey County roads, as compared to other sections.

The old adage "The mail must go" has held true throughout this terrific weather, and our hats are off to the route men, who have braved the elements to keep the mail moving. It has been tough on the men, their cars, to say nothing of the chains they have worn out. They have almost equaled the exploits of the "pony express" men of the old west. Thank you, boys.

Films To Be Shown

At Library

Thursday Night Film Showing at Yancey County Library, Burnsville, N. C., 8:00 p. m.

Feb. 3: TALENTED HANDS (Crafts of Nova Scotia) Crafts of the Fire, Abraham Lincoln: War Years

Feb. 10: St. Laurence Seaway, Song of a Nation (Star Spangled Banner)

Feb. 17: Nahanni — Magnificent Canada Goose.

IT NEVER FAILS



Be Kind To The Birds

HAVE YOU BEEN KIND TO OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS? If you have not we fear the bird census will be way down following this terrific weather. Remember they have only you to depend on for food. Mrs. Fred Proffitt called in and made a good suggestion regarding the feeding of birds. She said that the mesh bags which you get from the grocery store containing potatoes, onions, etc., make fine containers for suet, as the birds could feed through the bag. The bag can be nailed to a post or tree. We hope a lot of you will follow this suggestion. Also, a five lb. bag of bird food can be obtained from your grocer for 49 cents — and, of course,

there are always table scraps. Let's not let them go hungry.

Of much more importance than the birds, of course, are the people who may be without food, clothing, or fuel. We hope neighbors will look after each other when necessary. On checking with the Welfare Department this morning we were pleased to learn that they have had only a few calls for help, which they have been able to fill through the kindness of different churches and organizations, as they themselves are without funds for such needs. So dig down in your pockets and help the Welfare Dept. answer any distress calls they may have. It will be greatly appreciated.

LETTER TO PARENTS

The following letter appeared in last week's issue of the RECORD, and since it is of such importance to the parents of East Yancey students, we are running it again, with one important change. The date of the meeting has been changed from the 7th to the 14th. Let's hope the roads are passable by that time.

Dear Parent:

February 7th is the date of your next East Yancey PTA meeting. If you have any interest in your school, now is the time to show it. We ask as many of you as possibly can to come Monday evening at 7:30. A lot of hard work has been done to get the school ready for accreditation.

Mrs. W. E. Harvell, chairman of the Steering Committee, will give the introduction. The following faculty members will report on what has been done in each field: Mrs. Mack Ray, School and Community; Mrs. Don Westall, Philosophy and Objectives; Mr. Verne Wilson, Program of Study-Curriculum; Mrs. Edgar Hensley, Student Activities; Mr. Ken Damkins, Science and Math. The program will conclude with a summary by Mr. Anglin.

The teachers need to feel your interest and support by seeing you present at this meeting.

Executive Committee
Don Burhoe, President

The Forgotten Minority

Now comes one of those solicitation letters. This one asks for funds for a minority we seem to have forgotten in this Great Society, the New Deal, the New Frontier and even before.

The letter starts off with "how about 'Equal Rights' for this American, too?"

You have one guess as to the identity of this minority, and if you guess anything other than the American Indian, you've lost a Johnson quarter.

"Did you know that tens of thousands of American Indian families cannot provide for their simplest needs in a land they once so proudly ruled?" the letter asks, and then goes on to point out that the average Indian has only five years of schooling, his life span is 42 years, family income is \$1,500 and there is a 45 per cent unemployment.

And yet he is not demonstrating. He is not saying he will not fight in Viet Nam.

The American Indian is not pressuring Congress and the politicians are not catering to him in the hopes of getting his vote.

Yet, says the American Indian Affairs, Inc., the average Indian is repeatedly turned down for jobs because of lack of education, skills and the color of his skin.

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Ledbetter Named To Head Wake Forest Drive

WINSTON-SALEM — William Ledbetter of Marion has been named chairman for a four-county area in the coming drive to raise \$2½ million for a new football stadium for Wake Forest College.

The area includes Avery, Yancey, McDowell and Mitchell Counties.

Goals are \$2,500 for Avery, \$2,000 for Yancey and \$5,000 for McDowell and Mitchell, combined.

Over-all chairman for the fund drive is Bert Bennett, Winston-Salem businessman and former head of the State Democratic Executive

Committee. Joe Branch of Enfield, legislative counsel for Gov. Dan Moore, is co-chairman.

The drive for special gifts will begin in late February. Bennett said he hopes to wind up the campaign in the state and nation by April 5.

Plans call for a 30,000-seat stadium on a 77-acre tract near the Wake Forest campus. Target date for completion of the project is Oct. 1, 1967. The building committee hopes to let a construction contract around June 1.