

THE YANCEY RECORD

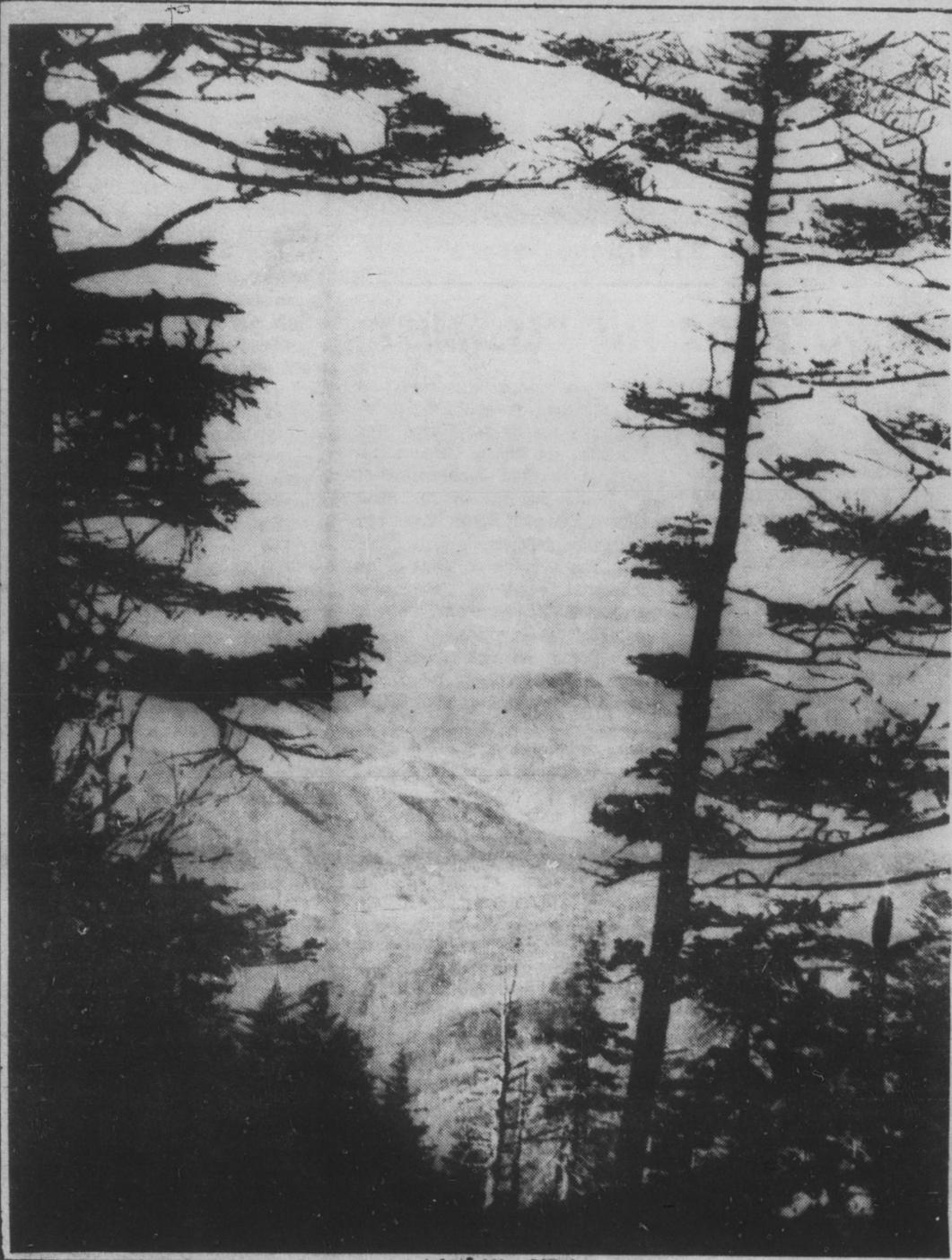
Dedicated To The Progress Of Yancey County

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This view of Yancey County is from the crest of Mt. Mitchell, looking down on mountains of rugged beauty, graceful valleys, and an occasional highland stream. As these pages of The Yancey Record will attest, this scenic land has made progress in the past year and, along with it, the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce has matured and come of age.

TWO MILE STRETCH OF U. S. 19-E TO BE RELOCATED AND IMPROVED

A two-mile stretch of US 19-E, from west of Burnsville to the bridge by the Riverside Drive-In, is to be relocated and improved, according to James Strikeleather, Highway Commissioner for the Thirteenth Division.

In a meeting on February 7 with the Directors of the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber's Task Force on Roads, Strikeleather promised to assign funds from the 300 Million Dollar Road Bond Issue for the engineering, purchase of right-of-way, and construction of the new road.

The first part of the Commission's plan was realized in March when the State

Highway Commission, meeting in Raleigh, assigned sixteen thousand dollars for engineering the project and surveying the proposed route.

Strikeleather has indicated that the length of road construction will depend on the amount of funds that the Highway Department will have to spend in purchasing right-of-way property from the end of the Burnsville by-pass to the Cane Creek bridge.

The Chamber's Task Force on Roads, headed by Paul Wooten, considers this project a fruitful start in achieving its long-range goal to improve all of US 19 from Burnsville to the Madison County line.

Chamber Dinner Friday

A speech by Jack Belt, popular News Director of WLOS-TV in Asheville, will highlight the annual meeting of the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce to begin with dinner at 7:30 p. m. in the cafeteria of East Yancey High School.

In addition to Belt's speech, Chamber members will hear a progress report and vote on three amendments to the by-laws of the organization. Also attending the dinner meeting will be the officers of the Mitchell County Chamber of Commerce and selected guests from the town of Bakersville.

Hanes Acquires Site For Factory

In the long continued effort of our Chamber of Commerce to attract new industry to Yancey County, an important prize has finally been landed. The Hanes Corporation of Winston-Salem, leading North Carolina manufacturer of knitwear and other quality clothing, has purchased a site on Highway 19E a quarter mile east of the Cane River High School for the erection of a factory expected to employ some 200 or more people.

The closing of the transaction followed several weeks of consideration between Hanes Officials and members of our Chamber of Commerce task force on industry, headed by Philip Thomas. Town officials were also involved as well as the Northwestern Bank. Several visits were made to the area by various Hanes people under the leadership of Senior Vice President, Reginald F. Brooks.

Several possible sites were considered, and before a final decision was reached, test borings were made to determine the suitability of the preferred site for foundation construction. The site purchased is of about 30 acres, located on the north side of 19E and extending on the north to the Cane River. The property was purchased from Ernest Briggs, Frank E.

Briggs and Olive Briggs Ford.

The Hanes people are not prepared to state when they will start construction, or give such details as the precise size of the factory. They have asked our Chamber of Commerce to assist them in making a labor survey to determine the number of women interested and qualified for the type of employment they will offer. The results of this survey may be a factor in determining the size of the building.

The Hanes people have stated that the building will probably be similar to their plant near Pineola in Avery County. This is a handsome building, situated in a large well landscaped tract.

The Hanes Corporation operate eleven plants, mostly located in North Carolina, employing more than 10,000 people. The Hanes family, active in the management of the company, has been notable for their participation in civic and cultural affairs, and the corporation has the well earned reputation of being a good "corporate citizen" in the communities where they have plants.

PARTS OF SECONDARY ROADS TO GET PAVED

Four sections of secondary roads are scheduled to be paved when the State Highway Commission approves the low bid for the work, turned in by Dickerson Inc. of Monroe.

In a telephone conversation Wednesday morning with Paul Wooten, Chairman of the Yancey Chamber's Task Force on Roads, Truman Conley described secondary road work slated for Yancey County.

According to Conley, two miles of the Blue Rock Road will be paved, from NC 80 to the forks of the Hall Chapel Road. Nine-tenths of a mile on the Bakers Creek Road will be paved from the end of the present pavement to the end of the road.

The Plum Branch Road, of which one and four-tenths mile has been graded, drained, and base surfaced, will be paved for eight-tenths of a mile. The gravel section of Arbuckle Road will be paved, with the exception of a short section for which the right-of-way has not been granted.

Conley reported that Highway Department plans for this spring also schedule the rebuilding of a bridge on Prices Creek Road.

Signs Will Be Erected At Entrances To County

Colorful signs, greeting travelers to Yancey County, are soon to be erected at three separate road-side entrances in the eastern, western, and southern sections of the county.

The signs are scheduled to be set up near the Madison County line along US 19, not far from the Mitchell County line along US 19-E, and off the Blue Ridge Parkway along NC 80.

Made of cream-colored letters routed in panels of stained wood, the attractive signs were prepared by Clyde Smith, well-known sign designer in Spruce Pine.

When erected in the next two weeks, the signs will rest on a base of eight-by-eight inch timbers and will carry the message: "Entering Yancey County, Gateway to Mt. Mitchell, Highest Peak in Eastern America."

The signs are a project of the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce and work on the project is being carried out by the Chamber's Yancey Promotion Task Force.