



Black bear

Eyewitness Accounts Substantiate Bear Tale

By Linda King

As the old timers say, this is a "b'ar" tale, although this one happens to be true. Several people have reported seeing bears in various sections of the county.

These bears, having been moved from one wildlife park to another, and who are unable to fend for themselves, are starving. They are coming into farm areas, trying to get calves, young pigs, and chickens; and they are considered more dangerous than the so called "wild" bears which are perfectly at home roaming the mountains and are capable of obtaining their own food.

Mr. Boyd Banks, a dairyman, reported that bears have chased his herd of dairy cattle. According to Mr. Banks, milk production has fallen off considerably since the bears have been bothering his cows.

Bears have also been seen at the residence of Cecil Angel where they crossed a ditch below his barn, got into the dogs' lot and ate their feed.

Mrs. Clay Bailey saw a bear in a field near her home in the Cane River Community last week.

A bear, at a residence on Cane Branch Road, ran toward a woman and her small children. They ran into the house while the father, Vernon Fox, shot at the bear, scaring him away.

Bears have also been seen around Ben Banks' slaughtering house, in Pine Swamp at the garbage dump, and crossing Licksillet Road, near the home of Hoyle Hyleman. They are ranging on and around Boone Knob.

Last Friday the 13th, of all

days, one paid a destructive visit to our farm on Cane Branch Road. The bear was attempting to get a young calf which was in the barn. The bear climbed into the loft of the barn, ripped loose a board which was nailed down over the calf's stall, used his feet to dig out the calf's bedding in an attempt to crawl under the barn, and finally climbed up the side of the barn trying to get to the calf.

My sister saw the bear while he was in the loft of the barn and screamed "There's a bear in the barn!" I grabbed a shotgun and ran outside to try to scare him away. The bear climbed a gate at the entrance of the barn and swung back and forth. I took a pot shot at him, but just as I shot, he swung back and I missed. The sound of the shot, (I was using buckshot in a 20-gauge shotgun) didn't frighten the bear at all. He climbed up the side of the barn and I shot again and wounded him. He rolled down a steep bank, stumbled to his feet, and ran into the woods.

The next afternoon, a bear attempted to get into a barn after another calf on a nearby farm belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Gillis.

The North Carolina Hunting and Trapping Regulations booklet, 1968-1969 edition, on page 17, gives the following information:

H. Destructive Bear: When inflicting, or attempting to inflict, injury to the person or property of anyone, a black bear may be killed by any person -- either on the spot, or in pursuit -- who has been authorized by a wildlife protector, and who commences within twenty-four hours after commission of the offense.



3 Blocks From Town Square, Main Street, Burnsville

Littered Landscape Robs All Viewers Of Their Right To Observe Beauty

By Rebecca Boone

A glance at the picture on this page should make one stop and wonder if this could actually be a part of the majesty and beauty of the Western North Carolina mountains, or for that matter, a part of the town of Burnsville.

Possibly our visitors who have praised the countryside at large and our town in particular, have become so enchanted with our county that they can overlook the eyesores with which we are confronted daily.

Some people of the county have taken enough interest in their property and various sections of our community to restore them to their great natural beauty and have done a commendable job. These people deserve great appreciation. By

mere observation, however, it becomes evident that many, many citizens apparently have no concern and have made no effort to improve the appearance of our surroundings. They have not only denied themselves and all the rest of us who live here our right to observe the magnificence of an uncluttered landscape, but also have denied our visitors the same right.

Appearance is not the only important aspect of a clean-up campaign, there is also the problem of sanitation. It is necessary for the health, convenience and welfare of the people who reside in the county, that garbage, refuse and litter be controlled.

According to statistics, if yours is an average family you must throw away daily approxi-

mately 20 pounds of vegetable parings, beer cans, soda bottles and other rubbish.

If a family would allow this quantity of rubbish to accumulate for a period of one year, they would have a staggering pile of 7,300 pounds of rubbish on their premises. No danger of that however, since some families have carted off this accumulated rubbish and dumped it on some of our roadside banks. Almost everyone has probably been amused at the irony in a pile of trash lying at the foot of a sign which reads "No Dumping", but there is no real humor in the fact that these irresponsible people are damaging our county.

Maybe we should follow the example set by towns such as Murphy, N.C. The town has just issued an ordinance regulating garbage. Refuse and litter, abandoned automobile bodies, empty bottles, broken glass, or rubbish of any kind must be removed from all property after a reasonable period of time. If this rubbish is not moved, it will be removed by the town at the property owner's expense. This type of enforcement would certainly help clean up some of the "junk yards" in our town.

Everyone is urged to join whole-heartedly in the campaign to clean up Burnsville and Yancey County, and thus help restore the natural beauty of our town and county. We can then take real pride in showing off our fine community and our magnificent mountain scenery.

Veterinarians' Arrival Welcomed By Countians

By Rebecca Boone

Since the departure of Yancey County's only Veterinarian, Dr. Julian Cornwell, the county has been in need of a DVM. However, this vacancy has now been filled with the arrival of two young veterinarians, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Maddox, who are both graduates of Oklahoma State University.

Mr. and Mrs. Maddox arrived in Burnsville approximately two weeks ago and have since then

been in the process of setting up their clinic which will be located in the old Hosiery Mill in Burnsville.

Mr. Maddox is originally a North Carolinian from Black Mountain. Mrs. Maddox is a native of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. They now reside at Windom.

The Yancey Record extends a hearty welcome to our newest additions to the county.