

## Tomatoes Boost Our Economy

There was a great deal of enthusiasm generated at the 2nd annual meeting of the Yancey County Producers Association held a few days ago. The Growers are planning for the 1970 operation and look forward to having more tomatoes for the expanding market. This year's growers will be talking to other prospective growers and it is hoped that at least 130 acres will be under cultivation with tomatoes next year.

Success stories were told which will be written up about individual growers for publication in the Yancey Record and over WKYK Radio Station in the future.

The Tomato Co-op is a great boost to the economy of Yancey County, said treasurer, James Ray. He reported that four times as many Tomatoes were grown in 1969 as over 1968. The Audit showed that in 1968 tomato sales totalled only \$43,379.50 as compared to the 1969 sales which totalled \$156,277.75.

The growers and the Labor Force payments came to \$127,285.44. This substantial amount shows that the co-op benefits are heading in the right direction as a majority of growers and labor are in the lower income bracket.

An election of Board Members included these from the Class of '73: Lawrence Ray, Yates Bailey and Lawrence King. The new Board elected the following officers: John E. Powers, President; Hugh Pate, Vice President; John G. Ramsay, Secretary; James Ray Treasurer.

### 'Sorry About That'

Due to a fire in the Record building and resultant heat and water damage to machinery, the Yancey Record was not published last Thursday, October 2.

We are happy to report that business is proceeding as usual now.

Watch for the announcement of our relocation in the Phillip Ray Building across from Higgin's Memorial Methodist Church.  
-Ed. and Staff.

# Competitive Banking Needed For Progress In Yancey County

By Carolyn Yuziuk

John Smith wants to open a bakery in Burnsville. He believes, since there is no bakery in Burnsville or in all of Yancey County, that he can enter into this business venture with a good likelihood of success. Fortunately, the government agrees with him and the Small Business Administration guarantees to back 90% of the \$15,000 John needs to borrow to start in business. Full of optimism and enthusiasm, John arrives at his local bank to receive his business loan, and finds to his dismay that his bank wants him to repay the whole amount in 6 years time - a time limit that would set his monthly payments at more than \$300 - an impossible figure for a newly-formed business to meet. "The Bank's policy", John was told.

Impossible? Unrealistic? The answer is no. This account is true, although the name and business were fictionalized.

## Commissioners Announce 1¢ Sales-Use Tax Funds Would Go To Education

On September 23, 1969, the Yancey County Board of Commissioners met and agreed that 100% of all funds collected as a result of the 1¢ sales tax go to education if voted in on November 4, 1969. These funds will be used toward Capitol improvement of schools in Yancey County.

The 1969 General Assembly called for elections in all 100 counties on November 4, 1969 on a one-penny sales tax with proceeds for local government.

If all 100 counties in N. Carolina approve the 1¢ sales tax Yancey County would receive approximately \$100,798.

If the sales tax of 1¢ is voted in in Yancey County 90 days after certification of the results, the tax will begin to be collected. Yancey County will receive one-half of the funds collected to be distributed in the county. The other half of the funds will be pooled and distributed to all the participating counties and their municipalities.

Yancey County must approve the tax in order to share in the proceeds.

If Yancey County is going to attract new people and new industry - we must do this if we're going to grow - we're going to have to make our county and community attractive to those new residents and industrial leaders.

Our property owners are - and have been - assuming almost the entire burden of local government. I think it's obvious that this is not fair nor can it continue indefinitely.

We are not talking about additional taxes when we talk about a one penny local sales and use tax in Yancey County. What we are talking about is a substitute for part of the historic local government supporting tax - the ad valorem levy on real and personal property.

There is no question but that just to stay where we are is going to cost more. As is the case with individuals and with private enterprise, salaries and the costs of materials for government also are going up.

Any experienced industry hunter will tell you very frankly that no industry is going to locate in an area where the schools are inferior. An industry will not want to locate in an area where there is haphazard thought of the future.

So the issue is really simple. This is not a new tax but a substitute - a fair substitute in that it is not limited to one class of citizens - the property owners.

On November 4th, we will go to the polls and decide whether in this county we will levy upon ourselves - upon all the people who are spending the money - a one penny sales and use tax.

All over the country men and women are buying homes and starting business enterprises. All over the country the banks, in competition with other banks, make it their policy to approve loans at the most favorable terms possible to keep the public coming to their doors instead of going to their competitors. In Miami, Florida, the only word on top of a multi-storied bank which can be seen for miles around is simply "Yes!" Long-term loans, low monthly payments, consideration for individual needs; these are bywords in the banking industry and among the people in today's world. The world, that is, except for Yancey County.

In Yancey County, the vital competitive spirit without which progress rarely comes, seems to be sadly lacking. This is evidenced by many one-of-a-kind businesses who have no incentive to lure customers to their door with sales, competitive prices, etc. - their's being the only door in town, so to speak. Our bank is a singular example. It is the only bank in town - the only bank in Yancey County. Possibly the only bank period where the officials do agree that their policies are tight-fisted and sympathize with the borrower while encouraging him to seek help in Erwin, Spruce Pine, or elsewhere.

Why should Yancey Countians have to borrow from a bank in another county or another state? It is the people who live here, work here, raise their families here, and do their shopping here who deserve to do their banking in

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## Weekly Childrens Hour Planned By Librarian

Miss Theresa Coletta of Burnsville, recently appointed Regional Children's Librarian, has announced a new and exciting program for pre-school and kindergarten age children to take place in each of the four member libraries of the region - a weekly Children's Hour.

The Children's Hour differs from the usual Story Telling Hour conducted in most public libraries. This program will present to the young

reader, or non-reader, the very best in children's literature, art, crafts, music, drama, and children's films. Most important of all, it will be a fun hour for "little people."

The Children's Hour will be presented one day each week in the Yancey County Public Library, Burnsville, Mondays at 10 a. m.; the Mitchell County Public Library, Bakersville, Tuesdays at 2 p. m.; the Avery County Public Library, Newland, Wednesdays at 10 a. m.; and the Spruce Pine Public Library on Thursdays at 10 a. m.

Miss Coletta brings a wide variety of experience and skill to this program. In addition to her recent graduation from the University of Tennessee, she has been the Arts, Crafts, and Music Director of the Little Beaver Country Club in Asheville and has work experience in puppetry as well as numerous courses in the field of education and library service to children.

The programs are open to the public without any pre-registration or application of any kind.



Theresa Coletta