

'The Thoughtless Destruction By Man'

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is understood that the occupants dump their garbage or sewage, or both, into the creek. Why not? This method of disposal is by far the simplest and easiest. Why do we as citizens of this county allow this to happen to our roadsides and streams? Several years ago, the entire durations of Cane River, South Toe River and Nolichucky River ran clear as a crystal and were well supplied with populations of Brook, Rainbow and Brown Trout. Today, if you fish the Nolichucky or the lower portions of Cane River or Toe you will find silt-laden, garbage-filled waters with such high contents of sewage and filth that only a Catfish or Horny Head would dare to tread.

If we continue our destruction of our resources at the present rate, by the beginning of the 21st century Yancey County will be one huge pile of garbage; we already have a good start. A recent out-of-state fisherman remarked that he couldn't understand why people would intentionally destroy a native trout stream. As he talked, he gave the wet fly a twitch through the water and the bamboo rod suddenly bent double. Had he not let out slack line immediately, the partially submerged bag of garbage would have broken his line or fly rod.

Rather than dispose of their garbage on their own land or merely dump it into a creek, an ever-increasing number of people are hauling their garbage into the woods and dumping it at the most convenient location when no one is looking. Garbage dumping in uninhabited locations is particularly a problem on the National Forests. This not only destroys the aesthetic value of the forest, but is also a threat to wildlife and creates a health hazard by

providing a breeding place for flies and rats.

District Ranger Johnny McLain announces that an all-out effort is being made to eliminate garbage dumping on the Toecane Ranger District. His plans are to keep the more frequented dumping areas under close surveillance and to cite any violators before the United States Commissioner.

The influx of visitors into Yancey County each year is vital to the economy and survival of this area. Naturally

if we mar the countryside to the extent that the appeal of the natural beauty is destroyed, we will no longer receive this multi-million dollar revenue that comes from tourism. And equally important our pride and American heritage is at stake. What does the future hold for Yancey County? Will we continue to thrive as a retreat of natural beauty, removed from the metropolises beyond the hills, or will we succumb to the thoughtless destruction by man? The decision is yours!



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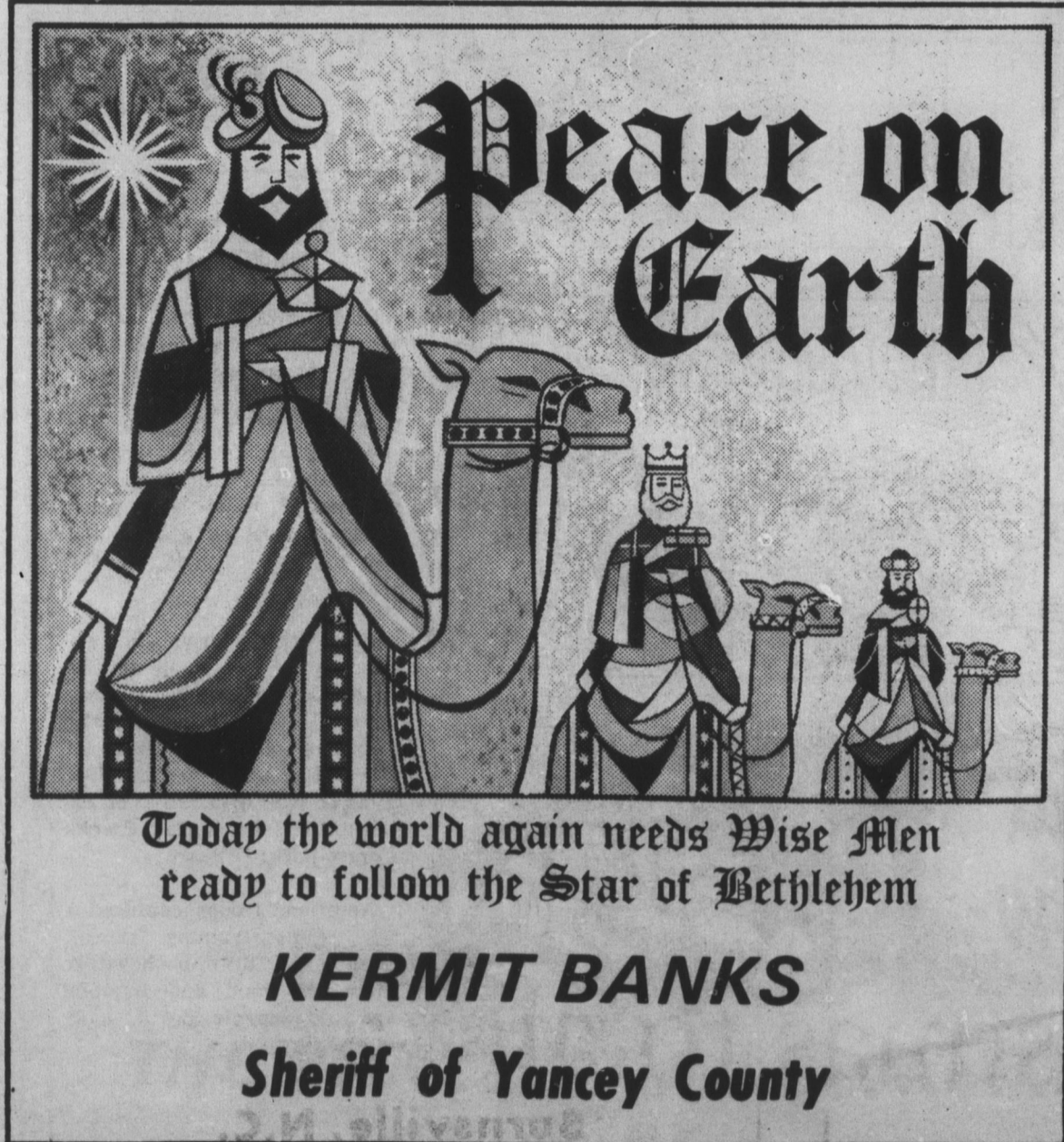
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