

Helmle And Laughrun Are Re-Elected As Directors

R. K. Helmle and Paul Laughrun have been re-elected directors of the Agricultural Council for 1970 representing Yancey County. The election took place at the annual meeting of the 18-county area development association in Asheville this week.

Purpose of the Agricultural Council, which has just completed 20 years of operation, is to help develop opportunities for increased income and promoting rural progress in Western North Carolina through a "partnership for progress" between the rural people, the agricultural agencies, business and industry. A major project from the beginning has been sponsoring the WNC Community Development Program in cooperation with agricultural agencies and local sponsors in each of the counties.

Karle Lehman of Asheville, manager of K-mart, was elected president of the organization for this year, succeeding Frank L. Yarbrough of Marion.

In a report for the past year, Yarbrough stated, "These past 20 years have been marked by outstanding progress of the farm economy and a widespread reawakening of rural community leadership in Western North Carolina.

"Over these past 20 years,

we have seen cash farm receipts in the area increase by two and one-half times, reaching a record of \$100 million in 1969. We have seen people join together in organized Community Development Clubs - from one end of the area to the other.

"Economic impact of agricultural progress has not been limited to the confines of the farms. Progress on the farms has stimulated related industrial growth. New processing plants for farm products and additional marketing facilities, as the many new packing plants, have arisen, resulting in expanded employment and greater income for the entire area.

"These results have come about because of the work of the agricultural agencies, the farm and rural people themselves. The function of the Agricultural Council from the beginning has been that of lending support to the agricultural programs and agencies in the area."

Bloodmobile

The American National Red Cross Bloodmobile Unit will be at the Armory in Burnsville on January 15 from 1:00 to 6:00 p. m. Donors are urgently needed to reach our goal.

Farm Census Time Again



Farmers and ranchers throughout the United States will receive 1969 Census of Agriculture forms in the mail during January of 1970 and, for the first time, will be asked to fill them out and mail them back, preferably before February 15. The all-mail system assures greater privacy, economy and efficiency, according to officials of the U. S. Bureau of the Census. The results, released only in statistical form with no clue to the identity of any individual operator, provide the yardstick by which American agricultural advancement is measured each five years.



Charles Banks

Pfc Banks Awarded Army Medal

Private First Class Charles W. Banks of Burnsville, N. C. received his second Army Commendation Medal in Vietnam on November 24, 1969. This is nothing extraordinary for Pfc. Banks who has received a Bronze Star Medal, an Army Commendation Medal, and has been awarded the Purple Heart three times since he entered the Army in 1968.

Pfc. Banks, 22, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Banks and wife, Inez, live on Route 3, Burnsville, N. C. received the award for heroism in action while engaged in military operations against a hostile force in Vietnam.

Banks is a radio mechanic in Company A, 2nd Battalion of the 1st Infantry Division's 2d Infantry. He entered the Army in February, 1968 and completed his training at Ft. Bragg, N. C. He was then stationed at Ft. Carson, Colorado prior to his arrival in Vietnam last March.

He is a 1965 graduate of Cane River High School.

Republicans To Hold A Dinner

There will be a Republican Dinner held at the Cane River High School on January 17 at 8:00 p. m.

James Holshouser, State Republican Chairman and H. O. Carter, Executive Director of the North Carolina ASCS will be present to speak at the meeting.

Tickets are now available for the Dinner, costing \$7.00 single person and \$10.00 for two persons.

Yancey County Joins In A Transportation Co-op Effort

On November 12, 1969, Yancey County joined with Mitchell, Avery and Watauga counties to offer local community members the opportunity to participate in and own part of "The Green Eagle Rural Community Transportation Cooperative." The GERCIC grew out of an OEO research grant to WAMY Community Action to look into the possibility of a cooperative transportation effort. It obtained its charter in April 1969, said Herman Aldridge, Transportation coordinator for the four county area.

According to Jack Phillips, Yancey unit president, "The most important thing about this system is that it is owned and operated by the members themselves. Decisions to be made as pertaining to fares, schedules, meeting, etc., are discussed and voted on by the people who ride the bus."

An individual or family may join the coop by paying a \$5.00 membership fee. This entitles the participant the privilege of voicing opinions and helping decide how the

transportation co-op should operate in addition to the extension of transportation services the system affords.

After 5 weeks in operation, a work run to Spruce Pine Ellen's Knitting Mill provides transportation to work for nine members, and eight children go to and from the Burnsville Day Care Center each day on the new bus. Currently, the Yancey bus is making two other scheduled trips. On Tuesdays, all communities on or leading off 19W (between 19X and 19E) are being serviced. Members can ride to Burnsville and spend 1 1/2 hours to shop and take care of any business they may have. On Fridays, the same service is provided for communities between Micaville and Busick on Route 80. Pick up time is usually 10:00 a. m. Members of the co-op have voted to include a Thursday run, making a circuit of the Jack's Creek and Mine Fork areas. Also to be included is a Monday run to various communities in the Pensacola area.

"This system is a trial and error method. If problems rise, members can correct them... The key to success is the membership," said Mr. Phillips.

Many rides are needed to make a strong and dependable means of transportation at a reasonable price. The fares range from \$1.00 to \$2.00 a trip depending on the distance traveled.

If you are without your own transportation and can't get to work or go to town, call the WAMY office 682-2610 or contact Jack Phillips on Route 4, Burnsville, N. C.

Man Charged In Robbery

The Burke County Sheriffs Department arrested Norris Austin Sunday morning outside of Morganton, North Carolina in connection with a robbery of the Johnson & Company General Store in Burnsville. Austin, a 27 year old Burke County man, originally from Yancey County, was charged with Armed Robbery.

The Johnson & Co. Store on W. Main St., owned by Lacey Johnson of Burnsville, was robbed of \$1,470 on the day after Christmas, December 26.

According to the Yancey County Sheriff's Department, two men with masks on and armed with shotguns entered the store around 6:30 in the evening. They demanded the money, and after obtaining it they made Mr. Johnson, his employee, and three customers lie on the floor while they made their escape.

The robbery is still under investigation. The Sheriff's Dept. has not yet arrested a second suspect in the case.

Enroll Now For Adult Classes

Enrollment for the Adult Basic and High School Equivalency Classes will be at the Burnsville Elementary School on Tuesday, January 13 at 6:30 p. m.

Classes are for all adults who want to learn to read and write, take a refresher course, or complete their high school education.

If further information is needed, call Shirley Anne McAllister at the W. A. M. Y. Office 682-2610.