

Westco Ending Three Year Service Improvement Program This Year

Westco Telephone Company is now in the final year of its three year service improvement program which was implemented in January, 1968. Ronald

Eubanks, area manager for the company stated that the construction projects for the Burnsville, Bakersville, Micaville exchanges are on schedule with

several major service improvement programs to be completed this year.

In 1969 Eubanks said the company spent approximately \$526,000.00 for new outside cable plant and facilities to provide telephones in previously unserved areas, to provide additional facilities for a higher grade of service, and to improve the quality and reliability of service for existing customers. The large projects included in this overall program included new facilities for the Prices Creek, Jacks Creek, Pensacola, Red Hill, Tipton Hill and White Oak areas.

Mr. Eubanks also stated that the company's plans for new outside plant construction in 1970 called for an expenditure of approximately \$142,000.00 in new facilities. An additional \$172,000.00 was spent during 1969 for a central office building addition in Bakersville, additional local switching equipment in Burnsville & Bakersville,

and new improved long distance facilities from Burnsville and Micaville.

The company's plans for 1970, according to Eubanks, include additional central office switching equipment for all three exchanges to provide for new customers and the upgrading of service for existing customers. A new long distance cable carrier system will be installed to serve Bakersville customers. A new addition to the Burnsville central office building is nearing completion at this time. The total cost of the central office switching and long distance improvements during 1970 will total approximately \$318,000.00.

Mr. Eubanks said, "The Westco Telephone Company has invested a tremendous quantity of time and money in an effort to catch up, and keep pace with the rapidly expanding demand for new and improved service. We are continuing our efforts with all possible speed to fulfill our commitment of providing high quality telephone service to every citizen (customer) in our service area."



C. O. Stafford, Jr.



C. R. Allen

New Telephone District

More than 19,300 telephones will be served by 14 exchanges in a new district of the Western Carolina Telephone Company and the Westco Telephone Company which will have its headquarters in Weaverville, North Carolina, it was announced by James Armstrong, President of the two companies.

The new district began operations February 1, 1970 and will be headed by Mr. C. O. Stafford Jr. as Vice President and Eastern District Plant Operations Manager. Mr. C. R. Allen will be Eastern District Commercial Manager. The new service area will include the counties of Buncombe, Madison, Mitchell,

Yancey, McDowell and Davie Counties.

"This change," Mr. Armstrong said, "is being implemented to provide improved customer service in the Eastern part of our eleven county service area in North Carolina."

Mr. Stafford's responsibilities will be the overall supervision of plant construction, installations of customer services and maintenance.

Mr. Allen is to have under his supervision all commercial functions of the business including the handling of requests for service, billing and collections, and the compilation of customer directories.

Armed Forces

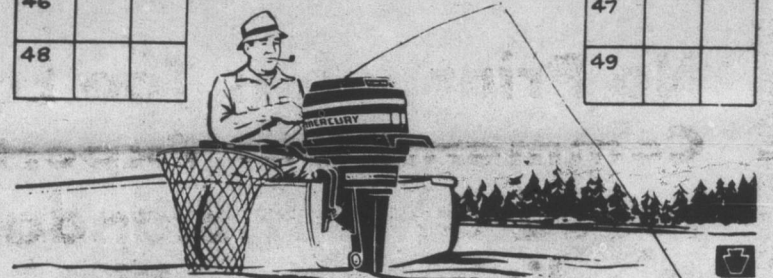
James R. McCurry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Loy McCurry of Burnsville, has been promoted to the rank of Spec-4. He is now serving with the 62nd Engineer Company in Vicenza, Italy.

Spec-4 McCurry has been stationed in Italy for the past five months.

★
VIETNAM—Army Private First Class William J. Henson, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie J. Henson, Burnsville, N.C., was assigned as a combat engineer with the 1st Calvary Division. (Airmobile) in Vietnam, Jan. 16.

Sportsword Puzzle By Jack Luzzatto

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ACROSS

- Shoot your catch with it.
- Containers to bail water.
- Soap plants.
- Brass-band instrument.
- He says: "Don't make forest fires!"
- Feminine pronoun.
- High tide.
- Feminine garment.
- And others: Abbr.
- One in Spanish.
- Surrealist artist.

- Remove seed from wheat.
- Relax a knot.
- Make over.
- Wharf to fish off.
- Twelve — and true (jury).
- Uncle Sam's woodsmen (2 wds.).
- Regret.
- In that place.
- Bawl like a cow.
- Impersonal possessive.
- Planted seeds.
- Small cake.
- Cool drink.

- What roe is.
- Decay.
- Thing in law.

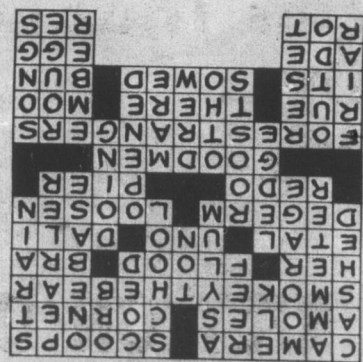
DOWN

- Converted one's chips.
- Amperage meter.
- Anchoring in a marina.
- Big deer.
- Line of rocks off shore.
- Orphanage.
- Group of fish.
- Girl in a mixed school.
- Globe.
- Ballpark single (2 wds.).
- Diver for valuable oysters.
- Put stress on.
- Big weight.
- Reef.
- Performing.
- Perches.
- Started the game.
- Holy Roman emperor.
- Towed.
- Big filly.
- Monk.
- Excel.
- Readjusted.
- Campfire coal to extinguish.
- Cosmetic red.
- Tunes.

FUNNY BUNNY LEADS TO RABBIT HABIT



Many pet shops are selling the plush varieties of rabbit, duckling and chick this year, as humane societies remind the nation that live ones are unsuitable gifts. The animal protection groups warn parents that children soon tire of the live creatures, which become sick and die through lack of proper care. Stuffed plush animals, on the other hand, are among the most durable and carefree or children's gifts, providing objects of affection that last for years.





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