

## Crucial Public Hearing On Countywide School Survey To Be Held Tonight

By Robert Helmle

Momentous decisions affecting Yancey County schools are in the making. A public hearing, contributing impor-

tantly toward solving our school problems will be held Thursday night, March 12, at 7:30 p. m. in the courtroom in Burnsville. A large turn-out of in-

terested citizens and other citizens is expected.

The hearing is to be conducted by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruc-

tion relative to a recently completed survey of our schools, made at the request of the Yancey County Board of Education. This survey contains

both short-range and long-range plans for the future, other recommendations and criticisms.

Covered by the survey are such major controversial matters as the closing and relocation of some of our schools and the future possibility of a single consolidated high school for the county. Some of our elementary schools are considered too small, inadequate, and in some cases poorly located.

The financial portion of the survey is blunt and unpleasant reading. It points out the exceptionally small contribution made by Yancey County taxpayers toward the support of our schools. (In this respect we stand practically at the bottom of the 100 counties in the State.) A quality program of education, the survey stresses, is not possible with this meager financial support. The survey recommends a \$50 increase in the county property tax rate to bring us up to an adequate level of school support.

On the highly controversial subject of the future of our schools, there seems to be only a single point of general agreement--that big changes will have to be made, and that these changes are going to cost a lot of money. The new survey should be an important step toward resolving the points of view. It has been a painstaking exhaustive effort made by a six-member committee to find the best solution.

Copies of the survey--a 78 page document--have been circulated among interested citizens and widely discussed. At the hearing on Thursday night, Dr. J. L. Pierce, Director of the State Division of School Planning, will review the recommendations and will

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## Forest Service Sets Fire In 'Prescribed Burning'

By Carolyn Yuziuk

A brush fire was set with torches on Flat Top Mountain on Tuesday, March 3, in an experiment begun by the U. S. Forest Service. According to U. S. Forest Ranger John McLain, this project is called a "prescribed burning" and has been done in other areas of the United States, but is new to this region.

The purpose of the fire was to remove logging slash, debris and grasses in order to seed the area for hardwood trees, white pine in this case. The white pine, hopefully, may grow well at the altitude of over 4000 feet. Ranger McLain stated that the yellow poplar which had been growing here previously was of poor quality and size due to the high altitude. The Forest Service is "seeding back" to a species that will grow better.

Size of the area burned for

seeding purposes is 50 acres. This is in the Flat Top Wildlife Management Area, part of the Toecane Ranger District. James Covington, Assistant Ranger in charge of Resources was present to supervise the burning as was Quentin Mack, Timber Management Assistant. The overall project was under the direction of Ranger McLain.

After a bulldozer cleared the land surrounding the prescribed area, Forest Service crews stood by to keep the blaze within the limits. The firing was accomplished without complications and would have burned itself out as planned, except that a rainfall hastened the process.

"Seeding will begin in a couple of weeks," said McLain, who also noted that there is quite a bit of land that's real high around here and if the white pines grow well, the Forest Service may repeat the project in the future.



Rangers Set Brush Fire With Torches

## Teen Toy, A Model Rocket, Starts Wildfire In Yancey

By Carolyn Yuziuk

A model rocket kit, the Astron Midget, designed for youthful technicians to assemble, proved less than safe when the two-stage rocket put together by Richard Banks set the fields afire behind his home on Bolens Creek Road.

Apparently the gadget is fast becoming a fad among the teenage boys here, and is ordered through a catalog passed around at school. Instructions for assembly are technical and precise, including a countdown checklist which advises youthful space engineers to "clear the launch area, alert the recovery crew and trackers, and check for low flying aircraft."

## Heart Dance

A Dance will be held on Saturday, March 14, at 8:00 p. m. for Teenagers in Yancey County. There will be music from two bands: "The Leaders" and "The Midnight Riders" and admission will be only \$1.00 per person, or \$2.00 per couple.

Yancey County Jaycees are sponsoring the dance which will be held in the Community Building in Burnsville. All proceeds will go to the Heart Fund.

Richard, 14 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Jake Banks, assembled the craft according to directions and with the assistance of his father, and "launched" it last Sunday afternoon at about 2:00 p. m. When the se-

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## Clean-Up Campaign By Youths

By Jackie Thomas and Ralph Westall

The South Toe Youth Council began a clean-up project Saturday, February 28th, in the South Toe Community. The clean up started at White Oak Creek Road and went to Carolina Hemlocks. In this two-mile distance there were six truckloads of trash picked up in ditches and streams. The members of the S. T. Y. C. who participated in cleaning up were: Ward Webb, Ralph Westall, Mike Geouge, Morgan McWhirter, Jackie Thomas, Dennis Robinson, Charlie Ohle, and the head of the group, Diane Dachelet.

This project was all voluntary, and will continue to the Yancey County line at Buck Creek Gap.

The South Toe Youth Coun-

cil is going to do a lot for the community, and could do more and better work with the sup-

port of the community. The picture shows members engaged in clean-up work.



Clean-Up Project In South Toe Community

## Announcement

The Yancey County Democratic Party will be holding their precinct meetings on April 4, 1970 at 2:00 p. m. to elect the township committee and elect delegates to the county convention which is to be held April 11.

At the County convention, candidates will be selected to be voted on in the General Election on November 3, 1970.