

'Operation Easter Bunny'

100 Easter Baskets For Yancey Children

By Carolyn Yuziuk

In a united effort to make Easter a happier day for One Hundred children in Yancey County; merchants, church groups and the Public Health Department workers got together this last weekend to help out the Easter Bunny. The project was a simple one: To make 100 Easter Baskets and distribute them to that many children of "low-income" families who would otherwise not have been visited by the "Easter Bunny" at all. For some of the children, in fact, it would be the first Easter basket they had ever received.

The merchants were involved first. Businessmen had to be found who would contribute the necessary ingredients for so many Easter baskets - and indeed, the baskets themselves. "No problem," said Ed Yuziuk, who reported later that not one of the businessmen he contacted refused their help or was hesitant in offering it.

Ray Robinson and William Riddle of Dairy-men, Inc., donated 400 farm-fresh eggs. The approximately 33 dozen eggs would make four for each basket and would serve a health purpose as well as an esthetic one. Ray Brothers Food Center contribu-

ted dye for the eggs.

Joe Crisp at Burnsville's Ben Franklin Store was contacted. He and Ed Yuziuk of The Yancey Record agreed to share the cost of 100 large baskets. In addition, Mr. Crisp donated a large box of "grass" and offered his invaluable help in estimating the amount of candy and cellophane which would be needed to fill and decorate so many baskets.

"Leave the candy to me," said Captain George Downing of the Yancey County Country Store. He made a trip to Asheville and brought back pounds of jelly beans and candy Easter eggs, the cost of which was shared by the Downings and Morgan Bros. Wholesalers in Asheville.

Radio Station WKYK in Burnsville completed this part of "Operation Easter Bunny" by paying for the yards and yards of multicolored cellophane and basket decorations needed to make these Easter baskets the beautiful creations they ultimately became.

The ladies of all the churches in the community were involved next with the practical problem of boiling and dyeing 400 eggs and putting together the baskets. The Mission Action Group of the First Baptist Church organized this phase of the project and contacted ladies from Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Higgins Memorial United Methodist Church and First Presbyterian Church in Burnsville. Volunteers met in two of the churches' kitchens on Friday morning and spent several hours making Easter eggs. The volunteer "Easter Bunnies" were: Mrs. Alma Holcombe, Mrs. Louella Honeycutt, Mrs. Ralph Jacks, Mrs. Jim Anglin, Mrs. Ruth Shoals, Mrs. Elizabeth Silvers, Mrs. Ike Laughrun, Mrs. Carolyn Yuziuk, Mrs. Donna Molain, Mrs. Myra Hensley, Mrs. Helene Moore and Mrs. Dick Bailey.

Early Saturday morning ten teenage girls, working in the fellowship hall of the First Baptist Church, filled and decorated the baskets. Mrs. Pat Guyer and Mrs. Edward Yuziuk supervised the group. Teenagers participating in the project were: Cathy Deyton, Linda Deyton, Rosemary Kampf, Lisa Fox, Jeannie Biggerstaff, Marilyn Laughrun, Corky Miller, Denise Piercy, Cathy Silver, Janice Hunter.

Mrs. Ruby Smith, who asked that the children at the Yancey County Child Development Center be given the materials to make their own Easter baskets said that the children truly enjoyed themselves. They made up 11 of the 100 baskets.

On Saturday afternoon, Wanda Edwards, Public Health Department nurse, picked up the Easter baskets for distribution. Working with her throughout the afternoon and evening were twelve work campers from the Wesley Memorial Methodist Church in High Point, N.C. These teenage boys and girls were under the direction of Bob Howard, youth minister. In addition, four girls were here from Illinois, chaperoned by Marilyn Kunzweiler. The teenagers helped Miss Edwards give several Easter parties during Saturday at which most of the baskets were distributed. Baskets were also delivered at individual homes in the communities during Saturday evening and on Sunday morning. Miss Edwards reported "Operation Easter Bunny" a huge success. "The children were so happy with the baskets," she said. Many of the little ones had never seen one, but the older children told them about Easter baskets and helped them, she added.

The Easter basket project involved the whole community in a united effort to make children happy at Easter. It only proves once again what love has always been able to accomplish - and always will.



Teenagers Fill And Decorate Easter Baskets



Children Fill Their Own Baskets At Center

School Plan Controversial

By Bob Helmle

Yancey County is clearly faced with a tough problem regarding the future of its schools. This fact is borne out by the reception given the survey recommendations of the school planners from Raleigh, presented two weeks ago to a large audience of interested citizens.

As anticipated, the survey report has proved controversial. Many of those who have reviewed the recommendations have serious doubts that they provide a practicable solution for the county's school problems. It is clear that adopting the survey plan will leave many people in the county disappointed. The major objections seem to be as follows:

--Those in the Burnsville Elementary School area are unhappy because the program does not provide an immediate remedy for the fire hazard and other shortcomings of the Burnsville school.

--Citizens in the outlying sections of the county are not happy about losing their elementary schools. The long-range recommendation of the

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Burnsville Youth Killed, One Hurt In Car Wreck

One Burnsville youth was killed and another injured in a one-car accident early Saturday morning on Highway 80, about 18 miles south of Burnsville.

Ohle Carroll, 19, of Rt. 5, Burnsville was dead on arrival at Yancey Hospital from injuries sustained in the crash. The other youth, Emerson Howard Autrey, 22, was said to be in good condition at the hospital late Saturday. He sustained

numerous bruises and contusions.

State Highway Patrolman Albin T. Canipe said that the accident was due to excessive speed on a sharp curve.

Canipe stated that about 1 a. m. Saturday the auto went into a spin on this curve, overturned and smashed into a tree. Both Carroll and Autrey were apparently thrown from the car, Canipe said, but the upended vehicle landed on Carroll's body.

According to Autrey, Carroll was the driver, Canipe said.

