

Yancey's Prospects Good For Federal Grants To Aid School, Hospital, Water System

By Bob Helmle

Following several years of disappointment in obtaining financial grants under the various Federal assistance programs, Yancey County's prospects for obtaining substantial financial aid appear much brighter than heretofore.

The Town of Burnsville will receive \$110,000 Federal assistance, if the town's citizens vote in favor of issuing bonds to pay the balance of cost of needed water system improvements.

Landrum Wilson, County Superintendent of Schools has received word that the Appalachian Regional Commission is allocating \$280,000 for the construction and equipment of vocational education facilities for the Yancey County High Schools. This grant is contingent on the County putting up twenty percent of the cost of the project.

Another good prospect for a sizeable Federal grant is in the construction of a new Yancey County Hospital, now in

the planning and study stage.

The establishment of a new tri-county technical institute for Avery, Mitchell and Yancey Counties now appears almost a certainty. Substantial Federal grant aid is confidently expected to help with the construction of the facilities. Although the school will be located in Mitchell County, the benefits will be shared by the three counties.

The vocational education project involving the \$280,000 grant is simply one part of the

overall county program for new school facilities. This program is now under intense study by the Yancey County school officials. The numerous problems involved will be aired at the school board meeting to be held on Friday, August 28, at 8:00 p. m. at the school headquarters office over the Burnsville Post Office. The meeting is open to the public.

It seems highly probable that in working out the school program, advantage can be taken of the Appalachian Com-

mission grant.

A criticism frequently leveled at the Federal aid programs is that those towns and counties which need the help the most, somehow manage to get the least grant aid. An illustration of this fact is here at hand in Western North Carolina. The 1970 census shows that the two counties suffering the greatest population loss in the past decade were Madison and Yancey. Population loss is practically synonymous with economic stagnation and need of aid. Yet these two counties are precisely the two which have received the least help from the Federal Economic Development Administration.

To remedy this shortcoming of the aid programs, the Federal agencies are promoting the formation of local regional organizations, each to consist of several counties. Through such organizations it is hoped that much needed aid can be given the more backward counties, and the Federal grants distributed more equitably.

An important regional agency in this category to which Yancey County belongs is the Mountain Scenic Planning and Economic Development Commission. This is a Federally subsidized agency, with headquarters in Newland, which renders important assistance in the grant programs to the four counties, Yancey, Mitchell, Avery and Watauga.

Each county is represented on this agency by five commissioners, appointed by the several county boards of commissioners. Yancey County is now represented on the Mountain Scenic Commission by James Ray, Phillip Thomas, Claude Vess, Earl Young and Robert Helmle. Bill Wilkins of Avery County is the newly elected chairman, and Bob Helmle is the vice-chairman. Mrs. Ruth Johnson is the Commission Director.

The commission's primary objective is to promote economic development and regional planning. Working with the Appalachian Regional Commission it aims toward the improvement of roads, school facilities both vocational and technical, improvement of water and sewer systems, improved hospital and library facilities and provision of recreational facilities.

Police Have Busy Week

Reports indicating an active week for the Burnsville Police Department were received on Tuesday of this week. Among the more serious police reports is that of attempted assault on a Burnsville woman. The report reads that someone came into the woman's house between 8:30 and 9:00 A.M. on Wednesday, August 19th. The assailant, according to her statement, shoved her down over a chair causing body injury and head injury, bruising her arms. She said she got up and ran for the front door and the man ran out the back way.

The woman described the attacker as wearing tan looking clothes with the pants legs rolled up or cut off. She said he had blond hair, age approximately 23, height about 5 ft. 6 inches and weight about 145. She also remarked that he had a funny smelling odor about his body and clothing. She didn't report the alleged attack immediately for fear of danger to herself or children.

At 12:30 a. m. last Saturday a case of lemons was found on the town square by policemen. On checking, the police found the outside cold storage locker broken into at the Ray Brothers Food Center.

About 1:00 a. m. Saturday, during regular rounds, Burnsville Patrolman James Autrey found that someone had broken into the Burnsville Elementary School. After checking this out and making his report, he called the Micaville School (about 9:00 a. m.) to check

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Connie Lerner, Miss North Carolina, Visits Classroom With Principle Bernie Deyton

Miss North Carolina At South Toe School

On Monday afternoon, August 24, Miss Connie Lerner, the present Miss North Carolina from Asheville came to South Toe School for a brief visit. Accompanying Miss Lerner was her mother, along with Mme. Lili Kraus and Mrs. Ferguson Pope. On hand to greet the party when they arrived at South Toe School were MaBernie Deyton, principal; Mr. Clarence Greene from the Tri-County News, and Mr. Ashton Chapman, news correspondent for the three-county area.

After greetings were exchanged, Miss North Carolina, along with other members of the group, made a tour of the

school, during which time each classroom was visited and informal chats were held with the students. While in Miss Caroline Deyton's fourth grade room, Miss Lerner recommended THE LITTLE PRINCE by Antoine de Saint Exupery as an excellent book to be read aloud to them. In another classroom, Miss Lerner commented that the students had made a beginning toward attaining success and that it is important to keep a smile.

After going through the school building, the party assembled in the auditorium to see dances performed by Mrs. Chrisawn's Clogging Group,

Mrs. Bille Jo Deyton's Folk Dance Team, and Mrs. Caroline Deyton's Smooth Square Dancers. All the visitors were quite enthusiastic about the dancing and were delighted to see the performers in action. At one point during the visit, the beautiful Miss North Carolina was seen clogging right along with the group.

The school was honored to be visited by the reigning beauty of North Carolina. All those who saw her were impressed with her charm and friendliness. Truly, Monday, August 24, was a significant day for everyone at South Toe School!