



School Board Delays Action On Controversial Plan; Fate Of Burnsville School Uncertain

A controversial and spirited meeting of the Yancey County School Board was held at the Courthouse in Burnsville last Friday evening. Some 45 con-

cerned and aroused residents representing all areas of the county appeared to hear what the Board intended to do about the adoption of a plan for the de-

velopment of Yancey County Schools.

The two plans, in bare outline are as follows: The first is to hoard our financial re-

sources until we can see our way to build a fine new high school on a fifty acre site, costing perhaps \$1,500,000. When this is completed--a possible

date in 1977 was mentioned--our two present high schools would become elementary schools.

In the meantime the present school set-up would remain as is. It was this feature of the plan that provoked the greatest hostility from the audience who rebel at the idea of keeping children in the Burnsville school for some seven years or more.

This school, the subject of an inspection by the State Fire Marshal in March, has been condemned by the Grand Jury for years. Also the Fire Marshal has set out certain conditions that would have to be met even for temporary occupancy, none of which has been voted on to this date.

Alternative Plan #2 is to proceed immediately with an "intermediate plan", or first step toward a "long range" plan. This involves starting at once to add ten classrooms to the Cane River High School, which would become the single high school in the county until such time as finances permit the building of a fine entirely new high school. In the meantime the Burnsville elementary school would be moved to the vacated East Yancey Building.

The sentiment of those attending was:

Panthers Whip Mars Hill Team

By Lloyd Gouge

Rodney Bishop, Senior half-back for East Yancey scored two touchdowns Friday night as the Panthers defeated Mars Hill 22-6. The Panthers opened the scoring in the first quarter when senior quarterback, Ken Winters hit paydirt on a 50-yard run. Forest Westall followed through with the two-point conversion.

Later, in the second quarter Bishop received a long bomb from Winters and went in for a touchdown on the 40-yard pass play.

Early in the third quarter Ken Castelloe scored on a one yard plunge putting 6 on the scoreboard for Mars Hill.

Shortly afterwards Bishop went through on a 40-yard run with a handoff from Winters.

Randy Banks closed the scoring with the two point conversion.

Board reversed itself regarding the introduction of centralized buying of food and management of school lunches. This centralized management, which the Board voted unanimously to adopt has been in operation only since the first of this school year.

Mrs. Don Elly, who meets the State requirements for the job, was employed to be the county-wide manager. That job has now been abolished.

At the previous school board meeting, last Friday, the lunch room managers of five of the

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Killed In Collision

Yates R. Bennett, 62, of Burnsville was fatally injured about 6:45 p. m. Saturday in a two car collision on U.S. 19E six miles east of Burnsville.

Bennett was a State Highway Commissioner for the Western District during the administration of Governor Terry Sanford. He was also a former Register of Deeds for Yancey County, County Chairman of the Democratic Party, a real estate broker and Veteran of World War II.

He was the son of the late S. T. and Ora Young Bennett.

Surviving is a sister, Mrs. Elizabeth B. Clapp of Burnsville, a foster son, Capt. Rommie Bums of St. Petersburg, Florida, a nephew, James F. Hughes and two great nephews.

Funeral services were held at 3:00 p. m. Tuesday in the chapel of Holcombe Brothers Funeral Home. The Rev. Harold McDonald officiated with Mr. Bruce Tomberlin and burial was in the Pete Young Cemetery.

Complaints From Local Managers End Centralized Management Of School Lunches Despite Endorsement

The Yancey County School Board at a special meeting on August 30 ordered the application of a uniform 25 cent charge for school lunches for all the

schools in the county. The new charge, effective September 8, is an increase in the following schools--Micaville, South Toe, Pensacola, Clear-

mont and Bee Log. The increase is a result of the continuing inflation, affecting food and other costs.

At this same meeting the

Farmers Net 11¢ Per Carton In Catastrophic Blow To Tomato Industry

Low grade tomatoes have been netting farmers in Yancey County only 11¢ per 20-pound carton for the past two weeks and high grade tomatoes, much harder to come by, nets the farmer only \$1.07 for a 20-pound carton.

Tomato growers across the nation are faced with a mid-summer glut of the market and many Yancey producers are leaving their ripened tomatoes unpicked because of the price sag.

Agricultural officials who had pre-season hopes of the Yancey crop exceeding last year's income say it will be much below that figure when the final tally is added.

The situation is apparently national in scope, with all tomato producers feeling the pinch, and came about because the major producing state, California, stepped up its tomato acreage about 12% this year and had a larger than usual crop.

When the Yancey tomatoes started to market in late July, prices were \$3.50 per 20-pound carton. In August the price dropped to \$2.50, and on August 10 to \$2 per carton, where it has bottomed out.

Some growers with high quality tomatoes could possibly make enough at this price to just about break even by selling them, but it doesn't pay to market the lower quality

produce as picking costs exceeds return.

All growers are urged, however, to pick off the mature tomatoes and maintain their spraying program to be ready to resume the harvest if the price strengthens.

About 40-50% of the Yancey crop has been picked to date. The packing house has been keeping busy, but with much bigger selling problems

than in recent years. Retail prices of tomatoes have shown some decline.

"To some of our farmers the tomato crop is their bread and butter," commented Allan McMurry, horticulture specialist. "We are hoping for the prices to go upward again, but with a big number of green tomatoes sold earlier this summer from California it is hard to be optimistic."

Rebels Beat Marshall

The Cane River Rebels, led by the devastating running and passing attack of scatback Ossie Parker, won its 2nd straight victory of the young football season with a 16-8 triumph over Marshall Friday night.

Accredited

Notice has been received from the State Department of Public Instruction, Raleigh, N. C. that South Toe Elementary School is now officially accredited by the State Accreditation Committee. In addition to South Toe, East Yancey and Cane River High Schools are now state accredited schools. Superintendent Landrum Wilson states that other schools in the county are making progress toward becoming accredited.

Cane River, who whipped Hot Springs 38-0 last Friday, held the advantage in both the running and passing department. The Rebels ground out 183 yards to only 47 for Marshall and led the aerial action with 155 yards to 66 for the Tornadoes. Cane River also had the dubious distinction of having 158 yards in penalties while Marshall was penalized 80.

After a scoreless first quarter in which both teams were heavily penalized, Wayne McDevitt threw to Harlon Rice for 25 yards to score Marshall's only touchdown in the second period. The pass climaxed a penalty aided 60-yard drive. Frank Roberts ran the extra point run.

Cane River got on the scoreboard in the third period when Ossie Parker slammed off

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