



Classroom With Oil Storage Tank Termed 'Dangerous', 'Barbarous'

Education In Yancey—First Among County Problems

The Yancey Record received an irate telephone call this past week criticizing us for publishing so much news relative to the county's school problems, much of which may be viewed as critical of the County's school board. We wish to state our position with regard to the school news.

The Yancey Record believes school problems are the most serious matter confronting the county at this time. We know this view is shared by many of our citizens. Some time ago the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce canvassed its 200 members relative to the priority of County problems. The response showed overwhelmingly that school problems rank first.

The seven years of school board indecision with respect to putting to use the \$338,000 allocated to Yancey County from the 1963 State bond election, is illustrative of the mess we are in. During these seven years of talk, vacillation and bickering, this large sum has lost through inflation, half of its purchasing power for the building of school facilities.

Now, the forced closing of the upper floor of the Burnsville school and the threat of having to close the entire building next year, has brought on a crisis where action by the school board becomes imperative.

Given this crisis situation, The Yancey Record believes that all news relative to solution of the school problems—all proposals, all consideration of alternatives, all activities of PTA groups aimed at finding solutions—are of paramount interest to the County. All this is important news, and The Yancey Record as a newspaper is simply serving its purpose in reporting it all objectively.

It happens that the Burnsville PTA has been in the forefront in involvement in the school problems. The Yancey Record will be happy to report the activities and view of other concerned citizen groups or individuals. The only limitation will be that we draw the line on serving as a sounding board for any material aimed at fomenting division between town and county. The school problems are difficult enough without the injection of divisive prejudice.

We go on record here as applauding the efforts of the Burnsville PTA to form a county-wide PTA Council which can pursue solutions for the best interest of all Yancey County.

Board Meeting Fails Again; Only Two Members Appear

One hundred ten citizens concerned with Yancey County school problems were disappointed last Friday night when they found that the school board meeting which they came out to attend, could not be held on account of a lack of a quorum.

Chairman I. E. Clevenger and A. F. Blankenship were the only board members present. Ralph Silvers was reported to be hospitalized, and Carter Thomas sent word that a death in the family prevented his attending. Albert Edwards simply did not attend.

Although no official busi-

ness could be conducted, a long, lively and informative discussion of school problems took place. The two board members, Superintendent Landrum Wilson and a considerable number of the audience took part.

The feature of the evening was the speech delivered by William Hess, Chairman of the Burnsville PTA. At the close of his remarks, the audience rose to its feet, applauding at length. In view of the ovation with which this speech was received, indicating widespread approval of its contents, The Yancey Record is printing the speech elsewhere in this issue of the paper.

Following Hess's remarks, Chairman Clevenger asked whether anyone present would like to express differing views, or otherwise reply or comment. No one accepted this offer.

Clevenger asked for a show of hands to disclose attendance from different parts of the county. It was evident that the audience was largely made up of people from the area served by the Burnsville Elementary School. These people showed the greatest concern with the situation of the

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Two UF Thermometers Show Daily Progress Of Campaign

The 1970 campaign of the Yancey United Fund is now in full swing. The thermometers at the two ends of the Burnsville town square show that receipts have already passed the \$2,000 mark on the way up to a goal of \$9,900.

This early in the drive it is difficult to tell just how things are going from day to day, and the red indicator on the thermometers may lag due to slowness of reports to come in. A problem of the campaign committee is to get the volunteer workers to turn in prompt reports of their results.

Chairman Mack B. Ray states that he is much encouraged by the early response to the drive. A trend toward more generous contributions is clearly evident from the early receipts that have been tabulated.

The first organization to

Harvest Festival

A Harvest Festival will be held on Tuesday, October 27, in the Pensacola Elementary School lunchroom. The Festival is sponsored by the Pensacola P. T. A.

Doors will open for food selling at 6:00 p. m. A Program, by the school children and the P. T. A., will begin at 7:00 p. m. Cake Walks, Auctions, etc. will follow the program.

Admission will be 25¢ and 50¢, collected at the door. Door Prizes will be given at the end of the program.

make the Honor Roll this year has been the School Superintendent's Office, where 100 percent of the personnel have contributed. The honor roll will be published weekly during the drive.

Chairman Ray states that approximately a hundred volunteers have enlisted throughout the county to solicit funds.

PTA President Hess Speaks On Yancey Schools And Politics

(Speech Made By Bill Hess At Board Of Education Meeting)

Ten years ago I moved with my family into Burnsville. For most of that ten years I have tried to play the proper role of a newcomer and especially an outsider-newcomer. That role, essentially, gentlemen, calls for you to keep your mouth shut about what's going on in government because what's going on and the way it is, is how it's done here.

The first week that we moved here the young fellow who was my neighbor at that time and I were talking. He was a schoolteacher, but he was leaving to teach elsewhere. There may have been other reasons, but he told me one reason why. Seems like one of the politicians came around for a contribution and he refused to make one and then it was hinted that his contract wouldn't be renewed. Well being new here it was hard for me to understand how being a good Democrat or good Republican had any earthly connection with a person being a good teacher so I asked around, quietly, and was told "that's how it's done here". Like a good outsider I shut my mouth and sat silently by.

My 3 daughters enrolled in the Burnsville Elementary School that fall, and after a bit we got around to visiting the place. That was an experience. Kids were crammed into tiny rooms, with awful lighting and heat, and the toilet smell and conditions were indescribable for the 2nd half of the 20th century. I even noticed as we walked away that there would be no way to get the children and teachers out of the 2nd floor if there was a fire and silently said a prayer that there would never be one during school hours. I asked around again and was told "that's how it's done here". Besides, one feller told me, "It was as lousy as that when I went

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