

**THE YANCEY RECORD**  
 BURNSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA  
 ESTABLISHED 1936

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## No Quorum, No Vote!

(Cont'd from page 1)

children displaced from the second floor of the school by orders from Raleigh. The new quarters of these children were variously described as ranging from dangerous to barbarous.

The suggestion was made from the floor that the purchase of mobile classroom units to house the children should be explored. Clevenger stated that this would be done, and that the possibility of financing the purchase would be taken up with the county commissioners.

Hess, at this point, stated that he would request the State Fire Marshall's office to inspect the old agricultural building to see whether its safety met State standards.

Chairmen Clevenger announced that the next meeting of the Board would be on Friday, November 6, at 8:00 p. m. at the Courthouse. He also stated that PTA President Hess would be informed prior to any other Board meeting at which the question of adopting the so-called "Intermediate Plan" would be considered. This is the plan, now approved by the Raleigh school planners, which calls for the addition of rooms to the Cane River High School, and consolidation of the two high schools at that location.

**GIVE  
THE UNITED WAY**

## Telegrams Sent

NIGHT LETTER HAND DELIVER ONLY

OCTOBER 19, 1970

TO: GOVERNOR ROBERT SCOTT  
 STATE CAPITOL  
 RALEIGH, N.C.

DANGEROUS SECOND FLOOR OF BURNSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NOW CLOSED BUT CHILDREN MOVED TO EVEN WORSE AND MORE DANGEROUS QUARTERS. FIRE INSPECTION OF THE SAME REQUESTED THIS DATE FROM STATE INSURANCE OFFICE. PARENTS OF MORE THAN 400 STUDENTS IN THIS SCHOOL URGENTLY REQUEST A JOINT CONFERENCE WITH YOU AND DR. PHILLIPS IN RALEIGH CONCERNING OUR DESPERATE SCHOOL SITUATION IN COUNTY. LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD REFUSES TO ACT ON STATE APPROVED INTERIM PLAN. OCTOBER 2 MEETING OF BOARD POSTPONED UNTIL OCTOBER 9. ON OCTOBER 7 MEETING WAS DESIGNATED CLOSED. 52 IRATE CITIZENS APPEARED ON OCTOBER 9 AND AT LAST MINUTE MEETING WAS POSTPONED. CHAIRMAN DESIGNATED OCTOBER 16 AS NEXT MEETING DATE. ON OCTOBER 16 MORE THAN 110 CITIZENS APPEARED AND THIS MEETING CONVENIENTLY NOT HELD FOR LACK OF QUORUM. WE CAN NOT WORK WITH BOARD AS RECOMMENDED BY YOU IN LAST LETTER TO ME WHEN THEY REFUSE TO MEET OR ACT ON STATE APPROVED PLAN OR MEET THEIR STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES. WE ASK AN APPOINTMENT TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU AND DR. PHILLIPS BEFORE NOVEMBER 6 WHICH IS NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE TO OUTLINE OUR GRIEVANCES AND TO REQUEST THAT STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION CONSIDER TAKING OVER RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR SCHOOLS.

WILLIAM N. HESS  
 PRESIDENT, BURNSVILLE P. T. A.

NIGHT LETTER HAND DELIVER ONLY

OCTOBER 19, 1970

TO: MR. T. O. MULLINS  
 CODE CONSULTANT  
 N. C. STATE DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE  
 RALEIGH, N. C.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR EFFORTS TO FORCE THE YANCEY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PUT OUR CHILDREN IN SAFE SCHOOL ROOMS BY CLOSING THE UPPER ROOMS OF THE BURNSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE SECOND FLOOR OF SCHOOL NOW CLOSED AND CHILDREN MOVED TO EVEN MORE DANGEROUS QUARTERS THAT YOU HAVE NOT HERETOFORE INSPECTED. OIL STOVES IN ONE ENTRANCE ROOMS AND OIL STORAGE TANK INSIDE ONE ROOM MAKE THESE DANGEROUS BEYOND DOUBT AND IN VIOLATION OF ALL SAFETY STANDARDS. ALSO FIRE DETECTION SYSTEMS STILL NOT INSTALLED IN UPPER SCHOOL WHICH SHOULD BE CLOSED AT ONCE FOR THIS CONTINUING VIOLATION. APPRECIATE INSPECTION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION BY YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

WILLIAM N. HESS  
 PRESIDENT, BURNSVILLE P. T. A.

NIGHT LETTER HAND DELIVER ONLY

OCTOBER 19, 1970

TO: SENATOR SAM ERVIN, JR.  
 SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
 WASHINGTON, D. C.

REALIZE THAT YOU ARE IN MIDST OF ELECTIONEERING FOR ANOTHER TERM BUT DESPERATE SITUATION OF BURNSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WILL HOPEFULLY INTRUDE. SECOND FLOOR OF SCHOOL CLOSED FOR FIRE VIOLATIONS AND KIDS MOVED TO EVEN WORSE AND MORE DANGEROUS QUARTERS. OCTOBER 2 MEETING OF SCHOOL BOARD POSTPONED UNTIL OCTOBER 9 AND DESIGNATED AS CLOSED. ON OCTOBER 9 MORE THAN 50 IRATE CITIZENS APPEARED ONLY TO HAVE MEETING POSTPONED AGAIN. CHAIRMAN CALLED MEETING FOR OCTOBER 16 AND ON THAT DATE 110 IRATE CITIZENS APPEARED ONLY TO HAVE MEETING FAIL FOR LACK OF QUORUM THOUGHT TO BE A SET UP. DO WE HAVE TO GROW LONG HAIR AND PARADE IN THE STREETS TO HAVE SOMETHING DONE FOR OUR KIDS? ONE PHONE CALL FROM YOU TO POLITICAL BIG-WIGS IN COUNTY TO TELL THEM TO MAKE THIS BOARD ACT IN EMERGENCY SITUATION WOULD ACCOMPLISH WONDERS. WE HAVE STATE APPROVED PLAN AND MONEY FROM STATE IN HAND TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM. WILL YOU CALL - - WILL YOU BRING TO BEAR PRESTIGE OF YOUR OFFICE TO MAKE LOCAL POLITICOS ACT?

WILLIAM N. HESS  
 PRESIDENT, BURNSVILLE P. T. A.

## Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

The scheduled meeting of the Yancey County Board of Education for Friday, October 16th when only the Chairman and one Board member were present shows the public how interested and concerned our appointed Board officials are about our schools. When they cannot attend the repeatedly postponed meetings, then it is time we had someone who is interested in our schools to replace them.

The following questions are in desperate need of being answered. What do our appointed officials put first -- Our schools or their politics? When will they hold open public meetings instead of closed behind the door tactics? At what time will the Board start basing their decisions upon facts and sound judgement instead of their own personal desires? When are our schools going to be improved? Are we as taxpayers and concerned parents not entitled to an answer to these questions immediately?

Sincerely,  
 Mrs. Kenneth Laughrun

Dear Editor:

When an appointed Board of Education consistently fails to vote either for or against education issues, we publicly ask them why? We have heard no open opposition against the proposed "intermediate plan" for the schools.

Obviously, conditions must be pretty bad when the parents want to take such action as to strike and join in picket lines. But most of us would be willing to take risks if we think it will improve the schools.

By looking at our schools, we can see that education has not been top priority. Is it any wonder the citizens believe they must act? When all else fails, somebody has to stand up and fight for quality education and better schools.

James Lee Owens  
 Burnsville, Rt. 6.

## In Homecoming

Melissa Thomas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Thomas, Micaville, N. C., was elected a member of the Homecoming Court at Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, North Carolina. Miss Thomas is a graduate of East Yancey High School in Burnsville, class of '67.

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NIGHT LETTER HAND DELIVERY ONLY

OCTOBER 19, 1970

TO: DR. A. CRAIG PHILLIPS  
 SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
 RALEIGH, N. C.

HOW CAN WE COOPERATE WITH A SCHOOLBOARD THAT WILL NEVER MEET? OCTOBER 2 MEETING OF YANCEY SCHOOL BOARD POSTPONED UNTIL OCTOBER 9. OCTOBER 7 NOTICE PUBLISHED THAT MEETING TO BE CLOSED. ON OCTOBER 9 NOTWITHSTANDING CLOSED NOTICE MORE THAN 50 CONCERNED CITIZENS MET IN VICINITY. 30 MINUTES BEFORE SCHEDULED TIME OF MEETING THE SAME WAS POSTPONED AGAIN. CHAIRMAN UNDER PUBLIC PRESSURE CALLED A MEETING FOR OCTOBER 16. ON THIS DATE 110 CONCERNED CITIZENS APPEARED AND MEETING FAILED FOR LACK OF A QUORUM THOUGHT BY MANY TO BE CONVENIENTLY ARRANGED. OUR SITUATION IN THIS COUNTY WITH RESPECT TO THE BURNSVILLE SCHOOL SITUATION IS ABSOLUTELY DESPERATE. THE SECOND FLOOR OF OUR SCHOOL IS NOW CLOSED FOR SAFETY AND FIRE VIOLATIONS AND THE KIDS UP THERE HAVE BEEN MOVED TO EVEN WORSE AND MORE DANGEROUS QUARTERS THAT I HAVE ASKED TO BE INSPECTED AND CLOSED BY THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL. OUR LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD IS ABSOLUTELY BEYOND CARING WHAT IS GOING ON IN OUR SCHOOL. APPROVAL OF STATE APPROVED INTERIM PLAN FOR YANCEY COUNTY SCHOOLS WOULD SOLVE MOST OF PROBLEMS BY NEXT SEPTEMBER. BUT THEY REFUSE TO ACT. HAVE REQUESTED A JOINT CONFERENCE WITH YOU AND GOVERNOR AND PARENTS FROM BURNSVILLE SCHOOL IN RALEIGH ANY DAY OR NIGHT BETWEEN NOW AND NOVEMBER 6 WHEN BOARD IS SUPPOSED TO MEET AGAIN TO LAY OUT OUR GRIEVANCES AND REQUEST THAT YOUR OFFICE UNDER EMERGENCY POWERS TAKE OVER AT ONCE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OPERATING YANCEY COUNTY SCHOOLS.

WILLIAM N. HESS  
 PRESIDENT, BURNSVILLE P. T. A.