



Photograph by Craig - Professional Photography, Spruce Pine

A float bearing Santa Claus highlighted the annual Yancey County Christmas Parade last Saturday. Many Yancey Countians came out to see the Parade and enjoy the Christmas festivities. The South Toe Elementary

School float, picturing 'The Old Woman Who Lived In A Shoe', won the First Prize of \$100; Yancey County Girl Scouts won the Second Prize of \$50 with their Nativity Float, and East Yancey High's Health Float won Third.

Better Business Bureau Warns Of 'Post Office Box Schools'

If the number of complaints being made to the Better Business Bureau is any indication, more and more people are being "taken" by questionable civil service correspondence schools whose only address is a post office box number. One school representative obtained a signed contract for one school and then turned around and sold the contract to an entirely different school in another state whose materials were, to say the least, cheap and of no value to the "student." Students, in many cases, are really adults seeking employment with the Federal Government and after responding to a phony "Help Wanted" advertisement find themselves dealing with an unknown salesman, signing an unknown "school" and signing a contract, sometimes involving over \$300 for mimeographed information

that would normally be found in any public library. In too many cases reported to BBB, the "student" is asked and does pay the total amount in advance. Then when he doesn't receive anything for his money the "post office box school" just disappears and he has no recourse or means of getting his money back. The school later re-appears under a different name and different P. O. Box number. The Better Business Bureau reminds our readers that these "civil service schools" do not offer any employment and consequently are intending to mislead potential students by running advertisements in the "Help Wanted" columns. These schools have no connection with the U. S. Government & cannot guarantee a job, of any kind, to their students. A number of contracts that have come to the attention of the BBB used by some of these schools are in violation of the

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Kindergarten Classes In Yancey County Schools Are Valuable Aid To Children From Low Income Families

By Bob Helmle

An important advance made by the Yancey County schools this year has been the addition of a kindergarten class in each of the county's seven elementary schools.

An attractive aspect of this program for starting formal education with children five years of age is that it costs the county nothing. All costs are paid for by one of the Federal programs for aiding education - particularly for aiding children from low income families.

The program was started ex-

perimentally last year, when small kindergarten classes were held at Micaville and Bee Log. The value of these classes was so clearly apparent that the school authorities decided to extend the program this year to all seven schools. This was possible only because all the county's elementary schools were found to have sufficient children from low-income families to qualify for grant aid under the program.

Unhappily the kindergarten program is not large enough to provide for all five-year-old

children. Under the provisions of the Federal financial aid, only a single kindergarten class can be provided in each school, and each class is limited to 18 pupils, believed to be the maximum number a teacher can effectively handle. Admission to the classes has been limited to children from low-income families, who it is believed can benefit most from kindergarten training. It is unfortunate that, with enrollment limited to eighteen in each school, all the children from low income families cannot be included.

All the kindergarten teachers must meet the requirements of the regular teachers in the county schools, and all have A certificates. Their pay scale is the same as that for other teachers. In addition to providing the teachers' salaries, the Federal funds provide for all class room equipment and supplies, free lunches and snacks for the children, bus transpor-

tation and medical and dental care. All the children are given a medical examination by the school nurse.

Kindergarten is now recognized by education authorities as desirable for all children, and the N. C. Department of Public Instruction appears confident that within a very few years, kindergarten will be offered in all schools and available to all children. At the present time North Carolina is one of only half dozen states which does not have kindergarten as a regular part of the school program.

Mrs Santa

Have you met the Mrs. Santa Claus????? Mrs. Santa Claus wants to meet you if you are a pre-schooler. She plans to visit the Yancey County Public Library's Children's Hour Christmas Party on Monday, December 14th at 10 a. m.

Plan to attend this Christmas Party, talk with Mrs. Santa Claus and eat some of the "goodies" she has baked just for little boys and girls to enjoy.



Children Engrossed At Story-Telling Time



Kindergarten Class At Play During Recess

Notice

The Yancey County Board of Education will meet in regular session December 11, at 7:30 in the Superintendent's office.