



FAA Men Inspect Wreckage Of Small Aircraft Which Crashed Saturday Night

## Many Volunteers Unite In Search Effort For Victims Of Plane Wreck On Mt. Celo

By Carolyn Yuziak

Phillip Hensley and Paul Presnell of Pensacola, while hunting for a Christmas tree and animal signs last Sunday afternoon atop Celo Knob, found the body of William H. Jennings Jr., a 55-year-old Norfolk, Virginia man. The chance discovery led to an all-out search effort in which the Civil Air Patrol, Mitchell-Yancey and Marion Units of the N.C. Radio Patrol, Newdale Fire Department, Yancey County Sheriff's Department, Spruce Pine Rescue Squad and the State and National Forest Service participated.

The men who found the body on the 6,000 foot Celo Peak Southeast of Burnsville journeyed four miles over the snow-covered mountain terrain Sunday to reach a telephone and notify authorities, and then led Yancey Sheriff Kermit Banks and members of Mountain Wilderness Squadron of the CAP back to the site where the body was found.

Banks, who is also a member of the CAP, and Ray Miller, Squadron Deputy Commander, led the initial search party. They could get the CAP jeep no closer than 4 miles from the site, but a resident of the area, Amos Presnell, who knows the area "like the back of his hand", brought his four-wheel drive truck with chains which broke through snowdrifts up to 4 feet deep to gain another 3 miles. The men carried the body a mile down the mountainside to the waiting truck. Most of the mission took place at night in freezing weather as the searchers arrived at the scene shortly after dark Sunday.

Searchers speculated Sunday night that the victim might have fallen from a plane, but until 3:00 a.m. Monday when report was received of a missing aircraft,

they had no knowledge of other possible victims in the area. At daybreak Monday, a massive search effort was launched and eighteen men started the trek up the steep slope of Mt. Celo in fog, rain, and freezing weather, to find the four men reported to have been in the missing plane with the first victim.

This Search Party, which included men from the Newdale Fire Department, North Carolina Radio Patrol and State and National Forest Service as well as CAP members and the two men who had found the body Sunday and were once again aiding in the search, arrived at the site where the body was found, around midmorning and they quickly located the tangled

wreckage of the plane on the thickly wooded mountain about 75 feet away. Two bodies were in the wreckage and two were nearby.

The men of the search crew then carried the four bodies on stretchers down the mountainside for over a mile through the snowdrifts and slippery mud to the three waiting four-wheel drive vehicles which could make it up that far: a truck from the State Forest Service, one from the U.S. Forest Service, and again, Amos Presnell with his truck which was used in Sunday's mission.

The four bodies were identified as Clarence Ray Rude of Norfolk, Va., 37, pilot of the aircraft; David H. Byrd of Norfolk, 47, owner of the

plane; Robert Elwood Alvis Jr. of Virginia Beach, 29; and James Thomas Comick, 60, of Norfolk.

The men had left Norfolk late Saturday afternoon in the light twin-engine airplane to fly to Houston, Texas where they were planning to attend the Texas 500 Automobile Race. They apparently crashed about 9:50 p.m. Saturday, the time being ascertained from a stopped watch worn by one of the victims.

Much credit and recognition is deserved by the men who carried out the search mission. Mostly volunteers, they endured hardships that would seem incredible to many people. The trip up to the wreckage was exhausting and the temperature so

cold that the men had to start a fire at the site to bring mobility to their frozen limbs before they could carry the bodies off the mountain side. The trek back was a nightmare with the weight of the bodies and slippery, snowy slopes adding to the difficulty. The Sunday night search was carried on under the same conditions but—in the dark! And what is more remarkable, the men are willing to go through these hardships again and again—mostly helping to recover the dead—but always hoping to be able to rescue a survivor, and sometimes succeeding.

CAP wives had coffee and sandwiches waiting for the men on their return from the mission.



Volunteers Who Participated In Monday's Search Mission—They Found Plane Wreckage And Four Bodies

## NC Commercial Apple Growers Vote December 15 On Renewal Of Assessment Program For Promotion

North Carolina and Yancey County Commercial Apple Growers will vote Wednesday, December 15, on the renewal of their assessment program to support the promotional work of the North Carolina Apple Growers Association, Incorporated.

An assessment plan which was approved in 1965 and again in 1968 will have to be approved again by two-thirds of those voting in order to continue the program for another three years.

Under the enabling act passed by the N.C. General Assembly, the assessment

program must be submitted to vote every three years, or six years.

Commercial apple growers in Yancey County are eligible to vote. The County Extension Office will be the polling place for Yancey County. It will remain open from 8:00 to 12:30 and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. The owner or leasee of an orchard who grades and packs in closed containers or who sells to packers who grade and pack

in closed containers are eligible to vote.

They will vote on the following: 1. continuation of the assessment of 3 cents per bushel or bushel equivalent on all apples packaged and sold in closed containers, 2. continuation of an assessment of 3 cents per hundred pounds on all U.S. No. 1 canners sold to processors, excluding apples sold for juice purposes.

The effective period of assessment would be 1972,

1973 and 1974.

The funds would be collected by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and turned over to the treasurer of the N.C. Apple Growers Association, Inc. The funds will be administered by the growers through an elected board of directors.

The money collected will be used for promoting all phases of the North Carolina apple industry—Production, Promotion, Marketing and Processing.

## Special Song Services For Community Begin Sunday At First Baptist Church

The expectancy and celebration of the birth of Christ will be highlighted in three special seasonal services at First Baptist Church, Burnsville.

The Mars Hill College Choir, under the direction of Dr. Robert C. Rich, Jr., will present the first of these services at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 12. The choir has been nationally acclaimed for its presentations at regional and national music conventions, as well as at churches, schools, and colleges throughout the Southeast. It will represent the United States at an international symposium to be held in Vienna, Austria in the summer of 1972.

This concert will include familiar and unfamiliar carols as well as selected works appropriate to the season at Christmastime.

On Wednesday evening, December 15, the junior choir, along with similar choirs from four other churches, will perform "What Gift Have I?", a cantata by Robert Graham. This program will be at 7:30 p.m.

Concluding the series on December 19 will be a service of worship centered around the cantata "Love

Transcending" which will be presented by the Adult Choir. The junior choir will also take part in this service to be held at 4:00 p.m.

All of these programs are designed as worship services for the entire community as well as First Baptist Church members. In the spirit of the season, the music ministry invites the public to attend and worship through the joy of music.

## Christmas Mail Deadline Near

By Paul Buck

Those mailers who have not already mailed their Christmas packages which are going out of town should do so immediately.

Local packages and out-of-town greeting cards and letters should be mailed by December 10, 1971. Local greeting cards and letters should be mailed by December 15, 1971, to insure delivery before Christmas.

Rural route customers should follow the same procedure as mentioned above. In addition, all rural route customers should put stamps on their outgoing letters and Christmas cards. Rural route carriers are not required to pick up un-stamped letters and cards during the month of December. So be sure to stamp all mail before putting it in the mail boxes.

The employees of the Burnsville Post Office would like to extend to all of our customers a Very Merry Christmas!

## New Road Project Set

Yancey County has been allocated more than \$12,000 for one secondary road construction project, it was announced today.

Approval of the project was voted at the regular December meeting held in Raleigh.

The project is to Grade, drain, stabilize 0.34 miles of State Road 1434 Ext., Rocky Springs Branch Road.

## All Stars Met Red Heads

By Dianne Banks  
Moore's All American Red Heads met the Cane River All Stars on December 1 in the Rebel gym.

The game was a tough and comical one for both teams. The final score was 84-70 in favor of the Red Heads.

Everyone who attended enjoyed seeing the Red Heads perform.

Our thanks go to the All Stars and the Cane River Booster Club for making the game possible.

## Notice

John McLain, member of the Program Committee and local Scoutmaster, will present a program Thursday night, December 9th at 7:00 p.m. at the Amberjack Restaurant. The Program will be on Scouting in Yancey County.

## MAY Technical Institute To Offer Free Seminar

The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 is now being enforced. Many people and industries have not had an opportunity yet to become fully acquainted with the law and its administration. Since monetary penalties may be incurred for violations, a knowledge of the law is most necessary.

Mayland Technical Institute will sponsor a seminar of nine (9) hours on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

nights, December 13, 14 and 15 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for the purpose of acquainting safety directors, foremen, and management of the requirements of the

new Occupational Safety and Health Act Law. The sessions will be conducted by Mr. Jennings Bryant of Henredon Furniture Industries.

The sessions will be held in the auditorium of Harris Elementary School, Spruce Pine, N.C. There is no cost for the seminar.

## Yancey Has Good Record

Yancey County is in the top five percent of the State for immunization of children against Black Measles and German Measles. Only four other North Carolina counties can match our measles record. Congratulations go to the schools and parents who have cooperated to stamp out these diseases.

Anyone who still needs shots can get them Monday mornings at the Health Department. Let's keep up the good work!



WNC HORTICULTURAL CROPS CONTEST WINNER—Steve Gortney, 16 year old 4-H member from Green Mountain, was announced as third place winner of the 1971 WNC Horticultural Crops Contest Monday night at a meeting in Asheville. Steve received a certificate and \$25.00 for third prize. He was one of eleven finalists selected for the award.



500 POUNDS ON THE HOOFF—Fred Bodford (right) and Ward Price of Bill Allen Branch Road near Burnsville butchered Fred's hogs last Thursday, December 2nd, because, according to Fred it was "cold enough to do the job; not too cold to build a fire." Actually, Fred said he would have done it sooner, but just didn't get around to it. Whatever the circumstances, old porky looks as though he's been living off the fat of the land for some time now, and was due to grace somebody's frying pan. Fred said this hog and another one just like it weighed about 500 pounds apiece.