

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor:

The fire is out and the glow from the ashes has died. The death glimmer of those ashes ended the life of the buildings. It ended the jobs of more than a dozen people. It affected the lives of countless citizens of Burnsville and Yancey County. It directly affected the economy of the Town and County, as well as the business of the countless salesmen who supplied and stocked the now evaporated stores.

The dreadful holocaust that destroyed the town shopping center left nothing to view but a rubble of rack and ruin. Yet, unseen at first glance, there arises a Phoenix: the Legend of the Rays!

For more than thirty years the Rays, all four of them: Roy, James, Julia, and Billie

--poured their sweat and their tears, their hearts and their brains into an idea that became an ideal. Their business in the shopping center stemmed from the depression born little red fronted store on West Main Street. The Rays entered the grocery business with a new and novel idea for this area. Obviously, they aimed to make a success of it and gather to themselves all of the benefits that would accrue therewith. However, all of the Rays were, and are, upstanding and outstanding Christians. Therefore they conducted their business on true Christian principles. Always they gave a dollar's worth for a dollar. No customer was ever deceived deliberately, and no one, even inadvertently, was ever cheated.

No poor person was ever

refused credit. No poor person was ever pushed for payment. Ray charities, though unsung, were legion.

Before Christmas Baskets became a popular charity with Churches and politicians, Ray Brothers had inaugurated them--with one huge difference: if you needed food you didn't have to wait until Christmas. The Rays delivered it to you without fanfare or publicity. Families, too numerous to recall, were recipients of the Ray generosity and graciousness when death invaded a household and the surviving members found themselves short of cash until affairs of the deceased could be straightened out.

Now, at a time of life when they had a right to expect that things would ease up a bit for them, disaster has struck. It struck, and

doubtless maimed them to a degree but, rest assured, it did not destroy them. The Rays are a living legend and, Phoenixlike, they will arise from the ashes of disaster amidst the hopes and cheers of the populace and add bright new paragraphs to their legend.

A listing of the Ray virtues would be lengthy, too lengthy to write in a limited space, but rest assured that, as a friend of man, the name Ray, like Abou ben Adhem, leads all the rest.

So let the Rays rest assured that we, as their neighbors and friends, offer them our best wishes and our prayers for a good and successful future in whatever endeavor they make because neither the County nor the Country can spare their loss.

Sincerely,
Jack Kelly



OFFICERS ELECTED AT BRUSH CREEK—The Brush Creek 4-H Club met Wednesday, January 12 in Dayton Bend Methodist Church, and elected officers for the coming year. Officers are Marvin Hensley, president; Pam Hopson, vice president; Sue Fox, secretary treasurer; and Tommy Hensley, reporter (shown l.to r.) A film was presented on a Marine Science Workshop held at the Harbor House at Wrightsville Beach, N.C. Next meeting will be February 9th, 4:00 p.m. for Brush Creek 4-H members.



"The Happy Owls," adapted from the book by Celestino Piatti and produced by Weston Woods for children was shown to 54 "little people" this past Monday and Tuesday at the CHILDREN'S HOUR in the Yancey County Public Library. Following this story, Miss Theresa Coletta read to the children *Amos & Boris*, written and illustrated by William Steig.

Miss Coletta followed this story with the Mother Goose rhyme and song, "Hey Diddle Diddle."

Those children attending the CHILDREN'S HOUR programs were: Randy Byrd, Denita Duncan, Stuart Hensley, Valerie Kampf, Greta McIntosh, Lori McDonald, Heather Norris, Joel Storie, Joan Styles, Stacy Styles, Denny Woody, Tammy Woody, Greg Yuziuk, Deborah Laws,

Angela Hall, Marvin Vess, Kitty and Yancey Sanchagrin, Laurel and Hayley Brinkman, Derrick McFee, Pam McGal-laid, Chris Fender, Keith Deyton, Tanya Peacock, Tammy Burleson, Angie, Jeff and Shannon Warren, Lou Ann and Steve Robinson, Lisa and Greg Street, Donna and Darrell Mitchell, Norma McCurry, Jonathan Silver, Lisa McIntosh, Chris McPetee, Angie Riddle, John Kegley, Phyllis Gilbert, Joyce Sheehan, Edith Crain, Tammy Mercer, Danny Tipton, James Angel, David Bodford, Emma Angel, Stephen Moore, Tony Hollman, Diana Bodford, Amy Brown and Garry Edwards.

Homemakers Meet Friday

Burnsville Extension Homemakers Club will meet on Friday, January 21st at 2:00 p.m. at Miss Annie Bennett's (Nu Wray Inn), according to Mary Margaret Deyton, Home Economics Extension Agent.

Now is the time for Extension Homemakers to set new goals, plan new projects, and enroll new members. The Homemakers' Motto, "Each One Reach One" carries a responsibility for enlisting others to share in the opportunities for continuing education through the Extension Service of N.C. State Univ.

Training Workshops will be held in January and February including: Macramé Wednesday, January 26 from 9:30 until 3:30; Advanced Dressmaking Workshop February 22nd from 9:30 until 2:30; and Advanced Pine Cone Classes February 2, 9, 16 and 23.

Bowman Happenings

The first semester ended last Monday and report cards will go out Wednesday. I hope this doesn't cause too much unhappiness.

On Friday night the Bulldogs will play Cane River in the freshly painted Bowman gym.

The bus drivers' training course will begin on the 20th for next year's bus drivers. Applicants have been selected for the course.

The last payments for annuals were collected. The annual has been completed and the last shipment has been sent in. Due to this early completion, annuals should arrive sometime in March.

Due to the cold weather, many school buses froze up and would not start. Many students were late getting to school.

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