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Yancey Citizens To Attend Special NCSU Meeting

An area meeting has been scheduled for Boone on Wednesday, November 29, to give Yancey people an opportunity to discuss agricultural matters with several administrators from North Carolina State University.

W. C. Bledsoe, County Extension Chairman, said the Boone meeting has been planned for the people of Alleghany, Wilkes, Mitchell, Ashe, Watauga, Yancey and Avery counties.

Fourteen such meetings are planned across the state in an effort to improve communications between local citizens and the School of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University, Bledsoe stated.

"N.C. State University officials will report on what the university is doing in the way of agricultural teaching, research and extension. Local people will have an opportunity to discuss their problems and needs," Bledsoe added.

Farmers, agri-businessmen, homemakers and other people with an interest in agriculture are invited. Starting time is 7:30 p.m., and the place is the County Courthouse in Boone. The Yancey group will depart from the Courthouse at 5:30 p.m. Those interested in attending should contact the Extension Office.

J. Worth Gentry, president of the N.C. Agricultural Foundation, plans to attend the

meeting. NCSU will be represented by Dr. James E. Legates, dean of the School of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and several members of his staff.

Church Programs

The choir of Griffith Chapel A.M.E. Zion Methodist Church will present a musical program at Higgins Memorial United Methodist Church, Sunday evening, November 26, 1972 at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is invited and encouraged to come and hear this fine group.

A love offering will be taken to benefit the Griffith Chapel Church building fund.

There will be a special song service at the Covey Rock Free Will Baptist Church, Green Mountain, N.C. on Sunday night, November 26 at 7 p.m. according to pastor, Reverend Holt Herrell. Some outstanding groups are expected. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

A Revival will be held at Cane River Baptist Church from November 26 through December 2 at 7:30 p.m. nightly. Guest speaker for the Revival is Reverend Kenneth Ridings.



THANKSGIVING



Photo By Craig Jenkins

IMC Initial Pledge Payment

Leonard Breeman, Jr., Ben L. Robinson and Ray Wiseman, area representatives for International Minerals and Chemical Corporation, recently presented a \$2,500 check as initial payment on the Company's \$12,500 pledge to the Blue Ridge Hospital System Development Fund, to Taylor O. Teague, General Chairman, at the campaign's headquarters in Spruce Pine. IMC, with mines and plants in Spruce Pine, Bakersville and Burnsville, has 125 employees in an area which will benefit from the Fund's construction program for the Spruce Pine Community Hospital and the Yancey County Extended Care Facility, Burnsville.

Squirrel Hunters Benefit From Sudden Bushytail Population Explosion Here

This has been a dandy squirrel season so far. In many parts of the state, hunters have been amazed at the sheer volume of bushytails.

"Haven't seen anything like it in years," said one mountainer. "On opening day, I walked up behind the pasture to the woods and was back at the fence in time for breakfast with a limit of eight. I skinned 'em out and fried some for breakfast. Tasted right good with clabber biscuits and black coffee."

My mountain friend had only one problem--too many squirrels. "I had to pick out hard shots to keep from killing my limit too quickly," he said.

It's a problem no one is complaining about. The sudden population explosion of squirrels is largely the result of last winter's good mast crop and the fact that it never really got cold.

"When you have mild weather combined with a large crop of acorns," you almost always get more squirrels the following year," said Stuart Critcher, Assistant Chief of the Division of

Game for the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. "Squirrels had lots of food last year, and we've got lots of squirrels this year."

The squirrel population--particularly in western North Carolina--went through a similar episode about six or seven years ago. A heavy food crop and a relatively mild winter set the stage for a bushytail boom. The following winter, the mast crop was exceedingly poor, and the squirrels migrated out of many western areas to other areas where food was more plentiful.

The migration worried some hunters and nature lovers. For one thing, more squirrels were run over by automobiles, and some people believed that something unnatural was happening. Some were even concerned with worry that the squirrel populations in western North Carolina might disappear.

They didn't, of course, because the wax and wane of wildlife populations is a natural thing. The squirrel population returned to normal within a year or so.

"We would not have been surprised to see such a migration again this year," said Mr. Critcher, "but so far, any migration has been slight. Apparently, this year's mast crop--though small--is sufficient."

Critcher predicts, however, that this spring will see squirrels raising smaller and fewer litters of young to compensate for this winter's overabundance of squirrels. Critcher also says that the next winter's squirrel population won't be as high as this year's.

The squirrel population--from year to year--depends largely upon the food supply of the preceding year.

If you haven't been squirrel hunting yet this year, you should be able to get in on some good shooting. And if you wind up with a few extra squirrels, dress them and freeze them for later. You're allowed 75 for the season.

In addition to fried squirrel, why not try squirrel in brulee--wick stew or chow mein. Chow mein? That's right. Believe it or not, squirrel chow mein is pretty good.



"Closed To Vehicles" Sign Posted On Logging Road By Forest Service

Tree Planting Aids Conservation And Can Bring Profits To Landowner

Bacchus Hensley, Yancey County Forest Ranger, advises that tree planting time is just around the corner in Yancey County.

Planting trees is a good conservation measure and can be very profitable to the landowner. Abandoned pastures, old fields, and cut-over woodland areas are areas which are well suited for planting trees.

Tree seedlings can be ordered

from the County Forest Ranger, County Agent, or A.S.C.S. Office. The N.C. Forest Service will be operating a tree planting crew which will be available to plant trees for landowners. The cost for this tree planting service will range from \$26.00 per acre to \$35.00, depending on the number of trees planted and the condition of the land. This price includes both trees and labor to plant

them. Cost share assistance is available through the A.S.C.S. Office at the rate of \$14.00 per acre of trees planted.

Landowners interested in ordering trees or having trees planted should contact Forest Ranger Hensley for additional information or for an inspection of the planting site. Ranger Hensley can be contacted by phone at county headquarters, 682-2133 or at home 682-6346.