

Help Line Answers Many Complaints

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mobile emissions.
Some of the calls that reach Help Line seem almost humorous—unless, of course, it's your house that has pieces of trash "as large as a man's hat" flying in the window, or you must leave town for the weekend because the strong, fishy odor from a nearby chemical plant is so strong you can't live with it one minute longer.

Two or three people were angry at a hog farmer living near them who fed his live stock bread and bakery goods—wrappers and all. Paper was blowing all over their property because, as one man put it, "even the hogs won't eat that."

Other humorous calls were like the one from the lady who looked out her back window and saw a stream literally "blowing bubbles" from large amounts of soap suds being deposited there. Then there was the case of the fisherman who was jerked out of the water—boat and all—because the slick on the Neuse River was so bad.

That old adage that "Neither rain, sleet, snow nor gloom of night..." sanctioned by United States postmen didn't hold up in one North Carolina town. A postman called to complain that the odor from a nearby feed products company was so offensive that he had to come in off his route. It was also impossible for him to barbecue

outside or work in his yard, he told Help Line. Air Quality Division personnel found that installation of an afterburner at the feed company greatly alleviated the problem and, once again the mail could go through.

Apparently no one is untouched by such problems. Consider the plight of the churchgoers who had to close their windows and burn altar candles to keep the odor down from a plant nearby. The minister decided to ask for a little help from the State and placed a call to the Help Line.

Many times when a call is made, the division is already at work on the problem. "We benefit from having opportunities to inform concerned citi-

zens about our work," Mrs. Wall says. "We can tell the caller when we expect the problem to be controlled."

Not all of the calls are complaints. School children call for information, as do environmental groups. Many of these questions can be answered immediately and do not require referral to division personnel or another agency. A caller who inquired about noise pollution, for instance, was informed that there are no state statutes covering such problems.

Citizen input is the key to Help Line's success. The past year has proven that there is a great need for the little white phone that rings frequently in the Office of Water and Air Resources.



BY JIM DEAN

Ecologically speaking, there are two kinds of people in this world—those who are already environmentalists, and those who will be.

In one sense, an environmentalist is a man or woman who has experienced a tragedy or loss. A man becomes an environmentalist when some bureaucracy builds a road through his carefully nurtured farm, or when an agency floods the family homestead. He becomes an environmentalist when the nearby river is converted into an ugly, shallow and lifeless ditch, or when he no longer can eat certain seafoods because they are filled with man's poisons.

Man becomes an environmentalist for many reasons, some of them of much smaller magnitude. The loss of the old family swimming hole to pollution can do it. So can the loss of a favorite hunting or fishing area.

But in each case, today's environmentalists were spurred to action either by some tragic loss or the threat of one.

"I never thought much about the environment," a wealthy businessman told me recently. "I thought the whole thing was a bunch of hogwash from sentimentalists who didn't know what they were talking about."

"But I began to see their point of view one day last summer, and it has caused me to change my thinking," he admitted. "In recent years, my son and I have taken an annual camping trip to the mountains to do some trout fishing, and we always looked forward to it. This past year, we couldn't go to our favorite stream because road building and timber cutting in the area had turned the stream into pure mud. We had to go somewhere else, and I've recently heard that similar work is being planned in this area. I don't know where we'll go next."

Here is a classic case of a man to whom the environment meant nothing until it touched him personally. Now, he is concerned, and he has begun to re-evaluate his whole thinking because of it.

The people in this country who are still not concerned about the environment are those who have not yet come face to face with it. They have been lucky so far, but it will not last. Sooner or later, each of us will be involved whether we want to or not.

The big myth that has perpetuated anti-environmental forces is that certain losses are necessary in order to achieve growth and progress. It is not even a half-truth. Many of the massively destructive projects being pushed upon us are not necessary. Almost invariably, there are alternative ways of approaching the problem that are less expensive and less crippling to the environment and quality of life. The main profit in huge environmentally destructive projects goes to the agency or bureau which constructs them. These organizations need such projects to justify their budgets, even their very existence, and far too little attention is given to the price the public is paying in tax dollars and loss of natural resources.

As more and more of us are touched by environmental losses and become aware of the terrible price we are paying, we will change our attitudes just as the businessman did. It is sadly inevitable that someday soon, all of us will be environmentalists. The present course of human endeavor leaves us no choice.

Panthers Score Big

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played host to the South French Broad Bears. Scoring for the Panthers were Eddie Thomas with 14 and Eddie Wooten with 10. For the Bears, Donald Bule had 23, Monte Hunter had 13 and Dave Montgomery had 10. The Bears won by a score of 68 to 44.

The Lady Panthers won their game against the Laurel Tigers by a score of 40 to 37. Scoring for E. Y. were Sheila Parker and Kathy Griffin with 15 and 13 points respectively.

Joey Biggenstaff and Johnny Hughes were the high scorers for the varsity with 20 and 19 points. Scoring for Laurel were Craig Anthony and Mike Franklin, both with 15 points. The final score for this game was East Yancey Panthers 73, Tigers 60.

Tuesday night, November 28 the Panthers played host to the Wildcats of Mars Hill. In the J. V. game, Jeff Bailey had 12 points, Ronnie Wyatt scored 11 points. Scoring for the Wildcats were M. Reese and K. Sams. The Panthers won by a score of 36-25.

The Lady Panthers had a very bad night, losing to Mars Hill by a score of 33 to their 42.

In an overtime game, East Yancey Varsity edged by the Wildcats to win by a score of 44 to 42. Larry Honeycutt had a good night, scoring 17, while Johnny Hughes made 10 points. Jimmy Roberts made 18 points for the Wildcats, Mike Osteen scored 12 points, also for the Wildcats.

MAY Tech Dean's List

The following students at Mayland Technical Institute in Spruce Pine have earned a place on the Dean's List by reason of their high scholastic average for the fall quarter: From Yancey County—Janice Fox, Anna Lou Robinson, Deborah Robinson, Daniel Fox, Roy Laughrum, LeRoy Bishop, Donald Hensley, Harold Penland.

To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must be enrolled full-time, have a quality point average of 3 with no grade below C, and no incompletes.

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