

# THE YANCEY JOURNAL

Formerly The Yancey Record

VOL. 1, NO. 39

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1972

10c



Get Ready, Get Set... (see pg. 3)

## Environmental Clean-Up Poses Complex Problem

By Wes Lefler  
Cleaning up our environment is a complex problem, so complex in fact that environmental do-gooders are being urged to do nothing until they know exactly what to do and how to go about it.

Dr. Daniel A. Okun, one of the nation's most bitter critics of environmental pollution, even cautions fledgling environmentalists against eliminating one hazard only to replace it with another that may be more serious.

"Virtually every human activity has a potential for a harmful impact on the quality of every facet of the environment," Dr. Okun says. In order to choose a proper course of action in the fight against environmental pollution we must first educate ourselves—a function of the University in our society—and then we must organize ourselves for action.

The latter role can be carried out by community groups, regional committees or state organizations. The newest effort is a statewide program, being organized at the local level, by North Carolina Jaycees who plan to spearhead an attack on environmental pollution.

It is not uncommon, Dr. Okun says, for some types of pollution to go unnoticed. Everyone knows about industrial pollution of our streams, the need to clean up sewer treatment facilities and the need to clean

up our sources of water supply. But what about some of the less well-known problem areas?

Construction is a good example. In the name of progress, construction across the nation continues relentlessly—homes, factories, highways, commercial centers, he says. And yet the sediment runoff in these areas is some 200 tons per acre per year, about three inches annually. This runoff is 10-fold greater than from forest.

With construction goes the downstream impact of \$1500 per acre in damages to water supply, fishing, boating and aesthetic values—not to mention its contribution to floods and drought, prodigious amounts of solid wastes and attendant increased noise and dust.

Private transportation, considered vital to all of us, is not without its serious environmental pollutants, Dr. Okun says. Exhaust emissions into the air account for 60 percent of all air pollution, and it is rising. Some 75 percent of all carbon monoxide emitted is from private transportation.

"It is now known that, some 30 years after exposure to asbestos dust, workers with asbestos in construction face an increased risk of contracting mesothelioma, an invariably incurable cancer. An epidemic is predicted soon among WWII shipyard workers. Some four million tons of asbestos is produced annually in this country, and of course, asbestos is incorporated into brake linings and finds its way into the atmosphere, particularly near urban thoroughfares."

In farming, fertilizer and animal wastes is a problem, Dr. Okun says. In fertilizer, for example, there are eight times as many phosphates as in detergents. Also, one cow is the equivalent of 17 people and one pig is the equivalent of two people. The total waste burden is equivalent to that of some one billion people.

"And with the development of agri-business these sources are no longer diffuse, but are heavily concentrated. The concentration of pollutants in wastewaters from modern feed lots may be more than 40-50 fold greater than in domestic wastewater," Dr. Okun says.

Another growing problem, according to the UNC environmentalist, is emissions from more than 110,000 ships and some eight million recreational water craft such as boats. These are creating highly objectionable wastes over wide areas of the nation and world both from fuel exhaust and in liquid.

## Students Achieve Dean's List

A total of 1,961 students earned fall quarter academic honors and have been placed on the Dean's List at Appalachian State University.

To qualify for the honor, a student must maintain a B average on at least 12 quarter hours of work with no grade below C.

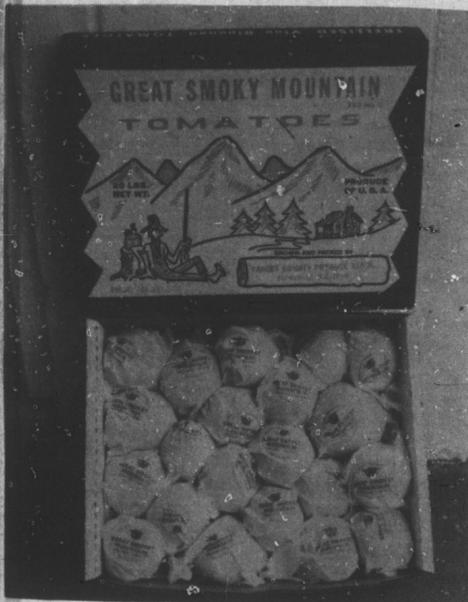
The list of honor students from Yancey County includes Clara Jean Bizerstaff, Bums-

ville, a sophomore; Alice Thomas Chatmon, Route 2, a junior; Janice Gail Hunter, Bumsville, a freshman; Marilyn Ruth Laughrun, Bumsville, a sophomore; James A. Norris, Route 2, a freshman; Mona Lisa Chandler Roy, Boone, a senior; Diana Lynne Styles, Route 2, a sophomore; Rebecca Thomas, Route 2, a junior; Janice Lelan Young, Route 2, a freshman.



## Christmas Trees From Yancey County

Thousands of Christmas trees produced by Yancey farmers have been shipped to various eastern states to make a more enjoyable holiday season. Trees produced in this county are of prime quality for beauty and needle retention. The most popular tree is the Fraser Fir. Seedling trees are set in the springtime at 6 ft x 6 ft spacing. Careful attention to weed control, fertility and shaping results in a beautiful tree 8 to 10 years later. Yancey producers are finding Christmas tree production a profitable business, and are expanding their production. Photo shows N.C. State Forestry specialist, Fred Whitfield, looking over trees with Mr. Carl Autrey.



Tomatoes Grown And Packed By Yancey Producer's Ass'n

## Trellised Tomatoes Yield Good Profits For Farmers

By Allen McMurray  
Ass't Extension Agent

Almost every trellised tomato grower in Yancey County is pleased with tomato crop return for 1972. Prices received by farmers marketing through the Yancey County Producers Association (Tomato Co-op) averaged a healthy 10 cents per pound. This represents 2 and 3 cents per pound more for tomatoes than in 1971. Three cents by itself doesn't mean much, but when you multiply 3 cents by 50,000 pounds this means a \$1,500.00 increase in sales over 1971.

Eleven Tomato Demonstration farmers in Yancey County averaged \$4086.30 net returns per acre after all expenses were paid. Gross sales averaged \$5022.38 per acre. Expenses of fertilizer, spray materials, labor and other cost averaged \$936.08 per acre. This means 11 tomato farmers bought \$10,296.85 worth of goods to produce their crop in Yancey County.

Mr. Wayne McCurry has made public his individual tomato record. Wayne set 3,700 tomato plants in May on .4 of an acre. From the .4 of an acre he marketed \$3028.15 worth of tomatoes with the Tomato Co-op. His expenses were \$465.90. This left him a total of \$2,562.75 for approximately 450 hours of labor or an average of almost \$5.75 per hour.

Plans for the 1973 tomato crop are already under way. Early planning for trellised to-

matoes is essential to have a first rate crop. If tomatoes interest you for 1973, the Agricultural Extension Office in the Courthouse in Bumsville is anxious to work with you.



(l to r.) Mrs. Nettie Adkins, Mrs. Lula McCurry, Mrs. Lola Deyton Work On Sign

## MAY Tech Approves Avery Building Site

On Tuesday, November 28, the Board of Trustees of Mayland Technical Institute unanimously approved the Lentz property, located in Avery County just across the line, as the permanent site for Mayland Technical Institute. The site consists of approximately 33 to 35 acres of land.

On Tuesday, December 5, a Site Visitation Team compos-

ed of Dr. Edwin Beam, President of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, and Tony Bevacqua, Julian Wingfield, Joe Sturdivant, and Vincent Outland from the Dept. of Community Colleges in Raleigh, met with staff members of Mayland Technical Institute to view the site for the purpose of making their recommendation to the State Board of Education.

Mr. Bill Willkins, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Mayland Technical Institute and Dr. Blake, President, appeared before the State Board of Education on December 7 to present to them the local Board of Trustees' recommendation concerning the site. The State Board also unanimously approved the Lentz property site.

By John McLain

Ranger Column



## Operation Mainstream Continues

In September the U.S. Forest Service began a program known as Operation Mainstream. The purpose of the program was to provide meaningful employment for persons 55 years of age and older who needed a supplemental income. In order to qualify a person has to fall within a certain income category.

Since most of the Forest Service jobs are of the woods work type, only men were expected to apply. That is, until Mrs. Lola Deyton, Mrs. Lula McCurry and Mrs. Nettie Adkins, all of Relief, stopped by our office in Bumsville and wanted a job in our Mainstream program. Because these fine ladies were so persistent, we decided to give the idea some real serious consideration. After considerable thought and some reservations we decided to try them at refurbishing our recreation area signs.

The following Monday morning the ladies were on the job painting signs at our Busick Work Center. We only expected the project to last about two weeks but they were doing such good work we decided to have them repaint all the signs on the District. What had started out to be a two week job lasted for over two months and resulted in a real facelift for the National Forest.

The sign painting is just one example of the fine work being done by the men and women working in the Mainstream Program. They are doing much needed work in wildlife improvement projects, timber stand improvement and facility maintenance. They are also building a new storage building at our Busick Work Center. The Forest Service is very proud of these people and the work they are doing.

Anyone interested in the Mainstream Program should stop by our office in the Courthouse in Bumsville or call 682-2567 and we will be glad to furnish additional information about the program.

CHEERS ON NEW YEARS!