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## Local Men Join Search For Missing Parachutist

The search continues for Laura Jane Watson, who disappeared in the waters of the Nolichucky River in Tennessee following a parachute jump on

February 5. Last Sunday, ten men from Yancey County joined the search efforts.

The twenty-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Watson of Spruce Pine was making her first jump as a member of the East Tennessee State University Parachute Jump Club when she landed in the river 300 yards from her intended target.

It was at first thought that Miss Watson was in no trouble, although she had missed her target and was standing in waist deep water. Other club members and witnesses reported that her parachute filled with water and she was swept over some rapids.

Since that time, repeated searches by boat, ground and air have been made along the river but these efforts have been fruitless.

The search is being concentrated from the spot where Miss Watson landed along several miles of river to a dam where the Nolichucky ends. The Nolichucky River is particularly rough and muddy at this time of year, contributing to the difficulty of the search.

## Child Care Survey Set

Mr. Charlie Hensley, Drawer 218, Burnsville, has been named Yancey County chairman for a statewide survey of child-care facilities.

The survey is being conducted by the Learning Institute of North Carolina with the assistance of volunteers across the state.

Dr. Richard S. Ray, executive director of "LINC", said the survey "reflects a growing concern in our state about care for preschool children. We know that the preschool years are among the most important in terms of personal and intellectual growth."

Conducted on a county-by-county basis by volunteers recruited by county chairmen, the survey will cover nurseries, kindergartens, day-care centers, and Head Start programs, as well as individuals running small day-care or babysitting operations in their homes.

Questions will cover present and maximum enrollment, operating costs, enrollment policies, educational and health requirements for staff members, parent involvement, and use of services provided by public agencies.

Information gathered will remain confidential, and individual child-care facilities will not be identified in the final report. Ray said the LINC study is the first of its kind in the nation, and will provide valuable information on a statewide basis for those who want to expand and improve child-care services.

The local survey will begin in mid March, Ray said, and will be completed by April 1. A final report on the statewide survey will be published in May.



Search Crew Inspects Wreckage Of Cessna Skyhawk After Crash Claimed Three Lives

## FFA Continues Investigation To Find Cause Of Plane Crash In Lost Cove

Investigations are still underway to determine the cause of a plane crash Tuesday night, February 27 which killed three Kingsport, Tenn. residents.

The Mountain Wilderness Civil Air Patrol Squadron was called into action at 9:00 p. m. by Sheriff Kermit Banks, following a phone call he received from Grant Ward, the only resident of the rugged, almost inaccessible Lost Cove section of Yancey County.

Ward reported that he heard a plane circling over his home at a very low altitude, then heard it crash some distance from his house. Ward then ran three miles to a phone to report the crash.

A search crew of CAP members, the Yancey and Mitchell County Sheriff Departments, and the Yancey County Radio Patrol entered the isolated Lost Cove section by use of a railroad vehicle which Sheriff Banks

had requested from the Clinchfield Railroad in Erwin, Tenn. The party reached Lost Cove about 11:30 p. m. and after searching along the river and some of the gorge area, were forced to abandon the search until morning because of a heavy fog that had descended over the treacherous terrain.

It was determined that an air search would be the quickest means of locating the wreckage. Ground search crews entered the Cove at daylight so the searching aircraft could lead them to the site once the wreckage was spotted. Civil Air Patrol planes were in the air by 7:15 a. m. but heavy fog kept them out of the Lost Cove area until 9:00 a. m.

At approximately 9:30 a. m. a CAP aircraft piloted by 1st Lt. Ray Miller and CWO Kenneth Laughrum spotted the wreckage. It was approximately 2:00 p. m. before the ground crews made

their way through the rough, wooded area to the crash site.

Upon reaching the wreckage the ground crew had to use axes to cut away part of the fuselage to gain access to the section of the single engine Cessna 172 Skyhawk where the three bodies were located.

The crash victims were carried almost a mile to a jeep, then were taken across the river by boat to an accessible road on the Mitchell County side of the river. From there the bodies were transported to Holcomb Brothers Funeral Home in Burnsville.

The three were later identified as Michael Edward Keeter, 27, the pilot; James Edward Blakeley, 25; and Anna Lou Phillips, 20, all of Kingsport, Tennessee.

According to Banks, the plane which crashed into Lost Cove belonged to an Elizabethton, Tenn. Flying Club. It

had departed Dublin, Georgia at 4:30 p. m. Tuesday for the Tri-Cities Airport in East Tennessee, where it was due to arrive at 8:00 p. m.

In a communication with Tri-Cities Airport, the pilot reported problems with ice forming on the aircraft, but did not indicate an emergency situation. According to an airport spokesman, the pilot's last communication indicated that he was descending, flying Visual Flight Conditions, and proceeding to Tri-Cities Airport.

A Federal Aviation Administration spokesman said the cause of the crash has not been determined and that the investigation will probably take several weeks. The FAA, which is in charge of the investigation, ordered autopsy examinations of the three bodies to determine whether drugs, alcohol or other factors might have been involved in the crash.

## Microfilming Will Preserve Valuable Records As Phase II Of Local Records Program Proceeds

A representative of the Office of Archives and History has returned to Yancey County to begin microfilming permanently valuable public records created since the last microfilming visit to the county. This phase of the local records program is a continuing one.

The initial phase of the program consisted of inventorying the public records in the various county offices and of repairing as necessary and microfilming for security those records classified as permanently valuable. This phase of the program, which began in 1959, has now been completed in all of North Carolina's counties.

Security microfilm negatives

of permanently valuable records of all counties have been stored in the underground vault in the Archives and History State Library Building in Raleigh. In the event of loss of original records, copies can be made and supplied at nominal cost.

Many of the counties have suffered serious losses of records as a result of fire and other causes. For years, the late Dr. Christopher Crittenden, former Director of the State Department of Archives and History (now Office of Archives and History) and Dr. H. G. Jones, State Archivist, then Director, and now State Historian and Administrator, considered possible methods

of providing security for essential records in the counties. They eventually devised the plan of microfilming the records for security. State and county officials endorsed the idea and the 1959 General Assembly enacted legislation which authorized and directed the department to proceed with the program. The work is under the supervision of Frank D. Gatton, Chief, Local Records Section.

The department extends an invitation to the churches in the county and surrounding areas to take advantage of this opportunity to provide security for their records by bringing them to the courthouse for microfilming.

Minutes, registers, and other records of permanent value will be microfilmed and the film will be stored in the State Archives. This service is provided without cost to the churches involved. As in the case of county records, copies of church records can be provided at small cost in the event of loss of original records. Churches wishing to take advantage of this service should contact Mr. Harold Stroud in the office of the register of deeds not later than March 16 and arrange a convenient time for the work to be done.

Minutes of governing bodies of municipalities in the county will also be microfilmed.

## Tax Break For Employers Hiring Under WIN Program

Employers hiring welfare recipients under the federal-state Work Incentive Program (WIN) can now claim 20 percent tax credit on wages paid these workers during their first year of employment, the Employment Security Commission here announced today.

Manager Davis M. Nichols said the tax credit encourages employers to hire or place in on-the-job training persons receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) grants after they have been registered for participation in WIN.

Called the "job development" tax credit, the new regulations are related to the Talmadge Amendments of the Social Security Act which requires all adults over 16 receiving AFDC payments to register for WIN to be eligible to continue to receive benefits.

Mr. Nichols explained that there are exemptions. If the welfare recipient is not in an exempt category, however, the individual must accept work or training when offered or lose part of his welfare grant.

In North Carolina, the Department of Social Services determines which AFDC recipients are exempt from the program, then registers all the non-exempt persons and any volunteers with local offices of the Employment Security Commission.

"We'll try to find jobs for them or on-the-job training opportunities," reports the ESC Manager, "to equip them with the necessary skills to retain permanent employment. Nearly all registrants will be women."

County Social Services officers are completing WIN registrations. After interviewing individuals, and providing day-care, and other services if needed, the county office certifies that the Welfare recipient is available for referral to work or training.

Businessmen interested in hiring WIN participants should contact their local State Employment Office, reports Mr. Nichols. The office will refer available WIN participants and will provide the employer with a Labor Department certification that the individuals were enrolled in the Work Incentive Program. This statement is required by the Internal Revenue Service to substantiate employers' claims for tax credit on their IRS returns.

## Mayor Issues Proclamation

"HIRE AN OLDER WORKER WEEK--MARCH 11-17"

WHEREAS: the number of Americans age forty-five and over comprise a segment of our population which is growing at an accelerated rate as the miracles of modern medicine contribute to increased life expectancy; and

WHEREAS: our country, although more blessed with abundance than any other cannot afford to be wasteful of its resources if it is to realize its fullest potential.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, James A. Anglin, Mayor of Burnsville, N.C., do hereby designate the week of March 11-17, 1973 as "Hire An Older Worker Week", and urge all public and private employers to consider the employment of older workers for their creative participation, skills, experience, and service in the past, and which can still be utilized and placed in a number of jobs in today's changing and expanding labor markets, and to help them realize a wider range of meaningful opportunities in enjoyment of health, love, and a life of dignity, by finding ways to employ the skills and wisdom that so many of our older Americans possess and long to share. Let us make this week outstanding in our continued efforts to keep in the mainstream of our civic, state and national life those senior workers and citizens who have lived so long and contributed so much!

In witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Burnsville to be affixed this 5th day of March, nineteen hundred seventy-three. James A. Anglin, Mayor

## Community Events

There will be a Barbecue Supper Friday, March 9th from 5:30 to 8:00 p. m. at East Yancey High School. The Supper is sponsored by the PTA.

Tickets are being sold by students and members of the PTA. Children under 12 will be \$1.50; Adults, \$2.00.

The menu will include barbecued ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, green peas, creamed corn, tossed and congealed salad, pickles, radishes, celery, hot rolls, butter, cakes, pies, tea and coffee.

Take out orders will also be available.

The East Yancey Physical Education Department will furnish entertainment in the gym after dinner for those interested.

West Burnsville Church of God will begin a Revival on Sunday morning, March 11-18. Evangelist Brenda Allison from Old Fort will speak. All special singers are invited to attend. Pastor Kermit Kennedy invites everyone to come.

## Trout Season Opens Soon

The traditional opening of the mountain trout season in North Carolina has been moved one day forward from Sunday, April 1, 1973, to Saturday, March 31, by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. The action came after complaints were received that opening the season on Sunday would cause some sportsmen to miss the traditional opening day festivities. Some also complained that the Sunday opening left only one day of fishing in the weekend.

"Opening day of the trout season is an important observance to some 70,000 trout fishermen, and we certainly had no intention of creating problems for anyone," said a Commission spokesman. "We're happy to be able to make the change."

The Wildlife Commission, in a regular monthly meeting in Raleigh February 23, also approved the 1973 trout stocking plan and set boating safety regulations for several localities.

Under the stocking plan, trout will be stocked in some 1,600 miles of designated public mountain trout waters where bait fishing is permitted.

A series of nine public hearings were slated across the state to present proposed changes for the 1973-74 hunting regulations. The proposed changes will be publicized in late March, and sportsmen are urged to attend the meetings to hear the proposals and present their suggestions and opinions. The public hearings are slated as follows: 7:30 p. m. on all dates and places stated below.

April 9, Edenton, Courthouse; April 10, New Bern, City Hall; April 11, Rocky Mount, City Court Room;

April 12, Elizabethton, Courthouse; April 13, Graham, Courthouse; April 16, Albemarle, Courthouse; April 17, Yadkinville, Courthouse; April 18, Morganton, Western Piedmont Com. College; April 19, Sylva, Courthouse.

## BBB Warns Of Fraud

A spokesman for the Better Business Bureau has warned local citizens to beware of a fraudulent termite control outfit which has been working in this area. There has been at least one Yancey home visited and the Better Business Bureau should be consulted with the company's credentials before a termite control man is engaged to work in your home.