

# THE YANCEY JOURNAL

VOL. 2, NO. 32

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 1973

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## Scarcity Of Beef Caused By Freeze; Yancey Markets Receive Frugal Supply

By Jody Higgins

It's been many years since shoppers in this country have gone into a super market and not found any beef. But that's the condition that threatens Yancey County as well as the nation this week, and perhaps even until the price freeze is taken off meat in September.

According to Harrison Buckner, Manager of Ingle's Supermarket in Burnsville, that store may have an empty meat case unless they receive a shipment Thursday. Meanwhile, the case is sparsely filled with some beef, pork and chicken, and the remaining spaces have been filled with cheese, pickles, canned sausages and frozen pizza.

Buckner said that he only received one-half of the beef he ordered last week and none of Tuesday's order.

Buckner added, "We have been able to get pork until now, but I don't know for how long. Pork prices have really gone up."

One store official at BI-LO refused to comment for the newspaper on whether their source would continue to supply meat to keep their cases filled. BI-LO manager Paul Rhymes, however, did say "Go look for yourself. We've got plenty." He refused further discussion on the matter.

A number of smaller, independent stores are also suffering from the meat shortage. However, David Peterson, owner of Burnsville Supermarket has not felt the pinch of meat shortage as yet. "I've got plenty now," he said. "I don't have a shortage yet."

The stores usually get their meat supplies in halves and quarters and cut it up themselves. Or, at a more expensive price, can buy already trimmed portions such as round (thigh).

What has happened this past week, is that stores can't get the halves of beef and are getting the cut-up portions with more fat left on them, still at the higher prices.

The real squeeze began last week. Until then meat was still plentiful, even in halves and quarters. One local businessman stated that all the news on TV and in newspapers about meat shortage has caused a "run" on the meat counters at grocery stores after the fashion of the run on the banks during the depression. "This may have contributed as much to the short supplies on supermarket meat counters as the actual shortage of meat from the suppliers," he said. "People fear that they will be left without meat."

The reason for the scarcity of beef at the moment isn't that less beef was raised this year.

According to Carlyle Bledsoe, Yancey Agricultural Extension Agent, there are numerous reasons for the shortage but the major one seems to be that

"price controls are creating an artificial situation and the supply and demand concept is not operating efficiently."

The freeze on beef prices is not scheduled to go off until September 12 and the feeling among many cattlemen is that they won't take their animals to market until the price is higher. Meanwhile there is ample beef being raised to supply the meat needs of the country.

The freeze may be lifted before the September 12 deadline

because pressure is being applied on the government as packing houses close down, and supermarkets and families go without meat.

Once the freeze is lifted and cattlemen market their cattle, there should be enough beef for winter... if the consumer can afford it.

Considering the dramatic rise in meat prices last winter, the heights to which the cost of a pound of hamburger may go this year is a staggering thought.



Officials View Westall Farm; Study Mechanization Of Burley Tobacco Handling

## NCSU And TVA Administrators Tour Three Farming Operations In Yancey

Administrators from N.C. State University and the Tennessee Valley Authority toured three farming operations in Yancey County along with visits in four other Western Counties. Among those attending were:

Dr. George Hyatt, Jr., Director of N.C. Agricultural Extension Service, Mr. D.D. Robinson, Extension District Chairman, Dr. Porter Russ, Chief, Resource Development, Wayne McCurry, his wife

Betty and son Dean, showed visitors their seven tenths strawberry planting and their one-acre Trellised Tomato Enterprise Demonstration.

Johnny Harris, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Harris, told the visitors how he had worked with his "Cash Crops for Kids" Tomato Project.

From Bolens Creek the administrators moved to the farm of Grover and Warren Westall to observe research in progress to discover practical ways to mechanize handling and curing of Burley Tobacco. The project is concentrating on a portable scaffold system that could enable one man alone to handle cutting and barning operations. If the system can be perfected, Burley farming can be much easier for mountain people.

The visitors enjoyed a "Coke Break", courtesy of Lacy Johnson Company, while asking questions and summarizing the tour. They were highly impressed with the Yancey projects and the fine work of McCurry, Harris, Westall and other families in the county.

## Parkway Playhouse Offers Smash Hit Musical, 'Oliver'

The thrilling Broadway musical "Oliver!" is the final attraction of the Parkway Playhouse season and it is one of the most memorable staged at the Playhouse in years. This season's company and staff at the Playhouse have been extraordinarily talented and this fine musical showcases their talents in a strong light.

There are many reasons for the success of "Oliver!" First, it is one of the best musicals ever written. Second, it is directed by Parkway veteran Lauren K. Woods (director of this season's "1776" and "Life With Father"). Third, the cast is led by special guest artist Bob Waldron as the old thief Fagin. Fourth, the Playhouse has gone to great pains to employ an orchestra of great size and talents. Fifth, the rest of the company give fine performances. Sixth, the settings and the lights are marvelously professional.

It doesn't seem there is much more this musical could offer, but the Parkway troupers keep heaping one treat upon the other.

Mr. Waldron as Fagin brings this fearful and loveable character to us with depth, humor and charm. He is thoroughly delightful as he tells Oliver of the joys of crime in "Pick a Pocket or Two" or as he ponders his fate in "Reviewing the Situation". And young Kenny Woods as Oliver is a fine performer for his 11 years. He sings and dances with fine professionalism and seems to really be Oliver. He handles the tender ballad "Where Is Love" with strong command, Larry Treu, as the Artful Dodger, Fagin's prime crook, is a joy singing the showstopper "Consider Yourself". Mara Sage and Cynthia Sherman are double-cast as Nancy and give moving and well sung performances. And David Hart as the arch-villain

Bill Sikes is excellent.

The acting and singing right down the line are fine and choreographer Sue Atherton is to be commended for creating top-notch dances for the superlative chorus. A great deal of humor is handled in the performances of Donald Treat and Valerie Coyne as Mr. Bumble and Widow Comey. They sing the delightful "I Shall Scream" and "Oliver" and Mr. Treat gives "Boy For Sale" a lovely haunting quality.

This musical is a treat for the entire family. The lovely sets are by Michael Voss, whose fine work all season has brought much to each production. The beautiful costumes created by Lynn Emmart and the lighting by Michael Castania.

Don't miss this thrilling musical which will play through Saturday with an 8:30 curtain. Tickets are available by calling the box office at 682-6151. Lost



Larry Treu, Bob Waldron, Kenny Woods in "Oliver"

## Wildlife Afield:

### Real Solution To Litter?

With all the environmental problems facing us today--unchecked land development, water and air pollution, fuel shortages--it seems almost nit-picking to write about littering.

After all, chucking a mashed beer can out of a car window is strictly small potatoes next to ruining a river. But these small potatoes cost you and me a cool two and a half million dollars a year, and that figure is rising.

Two and a half million is the estimate of what it costs each year for cleaning up the litter in North Carolina, and you and I are paying that bill in taxes. Experts also say that this figure is growing each year.

So what are we doing about it? Not a whole lot, it turns out. In 1971, the General Assembly upped the maximum fine for littering from \$50 to \$200, but if that's had a deterrent effect on the litter-bugs, it isn't noticeable. One need only to look along the side of any road in the state to determine that.

True, slightly more than a thousand people were prosecuted in North Carolina last year for littering, but the threat of arrest and fine are clearly inadequate. For one thing, litter tossers are hard to catch, and even if you catch one, it may not make much of an impression. The litter-bug might even ball up the receipt for his fine and absent-mindedly fling it on the ground in front of the courthouse.

Facing the problem foresquare it is obvious that while many people would no more litter a roadside than they would dump garbage in their living room, there are plenty of others who have no such qualms. In fact, for many people (I cannot resist the temptation to call them slob), littering is as natural as breathing.

Whatever the root causes, it is fully apparent that the problem will not be licked by massive public education programs (which have largely failed) or through the slim threat of arrest. The answer is, of course, to find some other, more basic approach to the problem. That's what several states are considering, and at least one state--Oregon--has already found what appears to be a real solution.

According to a recent column by James J. Kilpatrick, Oregon placed its anti-litter law in effect October, 1972. The law prohibits outright any cans with pull-tab openers, and all beer and soft drink containers MUST be refundable.

What this does is put a direct "price" on certain types of litter. It means that the man about to toss a bottle or can out of his car window might think twice before throwing out anywhere from 20 to 100 cents--the usual refund value of the item. Also, if the litter-bug decides to throw the can or bottle anyway, then that old American concept--free enterprise--comes into full sway. Entrepreneurs--many of them no doubt youthful--are fully aware that the roadsides are covered with money, and they patrol the highways collecting refundable bottles. In either case, significant litter is controlled, and the tax payers are no longer stuck with either a bill for taxes or aesthetics.

In Oregon, the new law has worked remarkably well. The results of a careful study along one 25-mile stretch of highway showed that during the month before the law went into effect, there were 25,775 pieces of litter along the road. This included 2,061 beer cans, 719 soft drink cans, 481 non-returnable beer bottles and 86 non-returnable soft drink bottles. In May of this year, a check of this test road showed that the total litter had dropped to 7,933 pieces--a reduction of 69 percent. There were only 153 beer cans found, 38 soft drink cans and 41 non-returnable bottles.

There have been problems, of course. It is a nuisance for retailers to have to handle returnable bottles, and there have also been some jobs lost in canning plants. But those jobs may be offset by increased employment in other aspects of the bottling and canning industry--at least that is the view of the Environmental Protection Agency.

At any rate, in the balance, these problems seem small in relation to the obvious advantages, and it is certainly not too early for North Carolina to take a serious look at Oregon's success. In a very real sense, it's the least we can do.



Wayne McCurry, Betty And Dean

## Open House Scheduled At Crops Research Station

What are agricultural scientists doing to improve the production of apples, cucumbers, potatoes, beans, tomatoes and other crops important to Western North Carolina?

Yancey County farmers can learn the answer to this question by attending Open House at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research Station on Tuesday, August 14.

W. C. Bledsoe, County Extension Chairman, said visitors will be shown more than a dozen research plots, and have an opportunity to talk to the entomologists, soil scientists and horticulturists who are doing

the research.

The research on apples deals with such things as varieties, pruning, spacing and the control of tree size, brambles and insects. The research on potatoes deals with such things as soil management, irrigation and the control of diseases, nematodes and weeds. Other research compares methods of fertilizing pole beans and shows how new varieties of potatoes are being developed.

Bledsoe said visitors will also see demonstrations of equipment and supplies, and they can hear an address by former Governor Robert W. Scott, now executive vice president of the N.C. Agribusiness Council, Inc.

Starting time for Open House is 9 a.m. A Dutch lunch will be served. Yancey farmers will depart from the courthouse at 7:30 a.m. All farmers interested in attending should make arrangements with the Extension Office for the trip. Several farmers are already slated to attend.

The Mountain Horticultural Crops Research Station is one of 16 agricultural stations across North Carolina. These stations are the result of cooperative work between the N.C. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Agricultural Experiment Station of N.C. State University.

H. E. Blackwell is superintendent of the mountain horticultural station.

## 'Thank You' Ingle's

A heartfelt "thank you" goes to Bob Ingle and employees in the meat department of Ingle's Supermarket for their generous cooperation which contributed greatly to the success of the Crafts Fair.

The Yancey County Chamber of Commerce was able to buy 750 chickens at wholesale prices from Ingle's and store employees cut up and stored the chickens free of charge for Saturday's barbecue. Hotdogs and the chili-makings were also bought wholesale for the Journal's hotdog booth--proceeds from which will go toward a Journalism scholarship for a high school student in 1974.

Chamber officials and the Journal staff appreciate Ingle's support of the 17th annual Mt. Mitchell Crafts Fair.