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Bicentennial May Give Boost To County Projects

Impressive plans being laid by the N. C. Department of Cultural Resources for the Bicentennial celebration in 1976 of the birth of our country appear to offer welcome prospects of aid to two of Yancey County's important development projects, now in the planning stage. These are the remodeling of the old Northwestern Bank building for library use, and the "face-lift" of the Burnsville town square.

This encouraging prospect of help for the two projects was presented by William Grist, area coordinator for the bicentennial celebration, at a meeting on Monday with representatives of the Yancey County

Chamber of Commerce and the Burnsville town board.

The bicentennial plans being formulated aim to have the celebration concentrate on community improvement projects. Towns and counties will be encouraged to undertake improvements of a permanent nature, such as parks, recreation facilities, and libraries, which will be undertaken and dedicated to commemorate the bicentennial.

This approach will give a more lasting significance to the celebration than a short time and soon forgotten outpouring of patriotic and historic utterances, writings and programs. To encourage the community improvement approach to the bicentennial, funds are being raised to provide grant aid on a matching basis for worthwhile projects.

After discussion of the "face-lift" and the library remodeling, Grist expressed the view that both these projects may well qualify for inclusion in the program. It was decided that a preliminary application will be submitted to the bicentennial planners in Raleigh.

As an essential organizing step, it was agreed to form a Yancey Bicentennial Committee to consist of representatives of the County Commissioners, the Burnsville Town Board, and the Yancey Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Grist expects to return to Yancey County of January 9 when he will meet with the newly formed Bicentennial Committee.

40 Attend WNC Awards Luncheon

About forty people from Yancey County last Saturday attended the awards luncheon of the Western N.C. Community Development Program at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville.

At this annual event awards are presented to winners among the communities from the 18 counties covered by the program. This year 79 communities were in the competition.

Both White Oak Creek and Burnsville received honorable mention in the divisions of the competition in which they were entered. Both received \$50 awards. White Oak Creek had previously won first place in Yancey County in the competition for communities with less than 75 families.

Texana of Cherokee County, Ashford of McDowell, and Little River of Transylvania were top award winners in the three divisions set up in the competition. Various other awards were made for youth programs and to youth groups for outstanding projects. Also citations were awarded to 21 individuals in recognition for outstanding community leadership and service.

The featured speaker at the luncheon was Senator Jesse Helms, who praised those participating in the community development program for their long and successful record of "doing things for themselves".

Some disappointment was naturally felt by the Yancey County delegation that our entries had not placed higher in the awards. However those who had made the greatest effort in preparing the Yancey entries were inclined to agree with Rep. Roy Taylor when he stated as he announced the awards: "This is a program in which all are winners, because the real award is in a better community in which to live."

The handsome "achievement book" submitted to the judges of the competition by the Burnsville Committee will be on exhibition at the Yancey County Library. This book presents in attractive form the impressive record of progress achieved by Burnsville and Yancey County during the past year.



Two Yancey 4-H'ers Capture Top Honors

Steve Gortney, son of Mr. and Mrs. Brown Gortney of Rt. 1, Green Mountain, an 18-year-old Yancey County 4-H Club member was named Monday night as top winner of the 1973 Western North Carolina Horticultural Crops Contest. He received the \$100 first prize for his trellised tomato project. Second place winner and recipient of a \$50 award was Bobby Ray Bennett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bennett of Burnsville. Darlene Cutshall, Madison County, a 4-H member, placed third and received a \$25 prize. They also grew tomatoes. Gortney, who was an honorable mention winner in the

contest last year, grew two-tenths acres of trellised tomatoes. This was his fifth year as a tomato grower. He produced over 500 boxes of tomatoes.

During the past 12 years approximately 150 contestants have taken part in the annual contest sponsored by the Horticultural Crops Commission in cooperation with the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service and vocational agriculture teachers. It is aimed at stimulating interest among youth in producing various horticultural crops and recognizing those with the most outstanding projects.

Yancey County Board Of Education Outlines Projects Undertaken And Progress Made In 1973

One year ago in November the citizens of Yancey County elected its first Board of Education by popular vote. The newly-elected board took office the first Monday of December, 1972. Following is a report by this board for the last year.

At its initial meetings the newly-elected Board of Education outlined broad areas of the school system and chose those in which it intended to work. These areas included long-range building plans, personnel, curriculum, finances and general policies. Two areas the board chose to concentrate on first of all were personnel and plans for a new consolidated high school in Yancey County.

The new teacher tenure law which became effective July 1, 1973 necessitated a complete review of all professional personnel within the school system. The uncertainty of the continued availability of federal funds for school construction also required rapid movement on plans for a new high school.

The school board requested the superintendent to ask each principal to submit evaluation of all teaching personnel at each of their respective schools. After this information was gathered, each individual was thoroughly reviewed as to qualifications, experience, background and suitability of placement in regards to field of study. The board established a policy that only professional teaching personnel with "A" certificates would be employed in the county system. Along with review of professional personnel, other employees such as those in maintenance, mechanic and administrative positions were evaluated. A new maintenance supervisor was employed along with a new school bus mechanic supervisor. In early May the public and all teachers were informed of their status of employment within the school system. By the beginning of the summer new principals were employed for East Yancey High School, South Toe Elementary School and Clearmont Elementary School.

Newly-created positions of Library Coordinator and county-wide music teacher were also filled by the beginning of school. Prior to the current school year there had been no one responsible for the libraries in each of the elementary schools nor had there been an overall organized music program for the elementary school children.

At its meeting on January 18th, the Yancey County Board of Education voted to ask the Board of County Commissioners to employ the Asheville architectural firm of Padgett and Freeman to begin the development of plans for a consolidated high school. In late February the Board of County Commissioners, along with the chairman of the school board and the superintendent, went to Raleigh to discuss plans for a consolidated high school with officials of the School Planning Division of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and Local Government Commission. Receiving a favorable review in Raleigh, the board began plans to hold a bond referendum to put the vote for the issuance of bonds to the people of Yancey County.

This referendum was held May 22, 1973, and was overwhelmingly approved by a margin of more than three to one. Later in the summer the one hundred, twenty-five acre T. K. Riddle farm, one-half mile east of Riverside on U.S. Highway 19E, was acquired by the Board (Cont'd on page 2)

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Civil Air Patrol Search Discloses Plane Wreckage

The Civil Air Patrol had a busy week searching for two missing planes. The first plane reported missing Sunday, November 25 on a flight from Chattanooga, Tenn. in route to Raleigh, N.C. was found Thursday in Clay County, with the body of the pilot, Dr. M. S. Riddle, from Mississippi.

The second plane was reported missing which departed Hagarstown, Md. in route to Atlanta, Ga. November 26 with two adults, two teenagers, and a 1-year-old child aboard. It was found Saturday, Dec. 1 at 4 p.m. in the mountainous community of Kings Creek in Caldwell County, 16 miles north of Hickory. The pilot was identified as John Carbough, 36, an Eastern Airline pilot.

The identities of the other four were not immediately known.

The Mountain Wilderness Civil Air Patrol Squadron searching this area for the missing planes was hampered, as in other areas, by bad weather and high winds that kept their planes on the ground for two days. Clearing skies was welcome and the air search continued in force.

Mountain Wilderness CAP was chartered May, 1971 and since has found 4 missing aircraft in our area and with the aid of the Radio Patrol, Sheriff Department and Rescue Squad, removed 11 bodies from the wreckage, all in rugged terrain. Thanks to all the members and those who so willingly helped.

Regional Health Council Asks Fuel Priority In Crisis

The Regional Health Council of Eastern Appalachia unanimously voted on Wednesday evening, November 28, 1973, urging the Nixon Administration and the U.S. Congress to insure priority fuel availability for hospitals and vital health related facilities. Mr. Harold Stanley, Chairman of the Regional Health Council, reported that there is a growing concern among hospital administrators and health authorities that the impending fuel shortage will result in a serious health care crisis because most of the hospitals in the 14 county region have received allocation cutbacks which limit the availability of fuel to heat their facilities. He said, "Most of the hospitals expect to have difficulty, particularly if the shortage becomes acute because of Federal Control Regulations which will establish priority and limit availability of required fuels." Dr. William Derrick of the Watauga County Hospital in Boone, reported to the Council that he was concerned about the fuel crisis in terms of one more barrier being placed between citizens and adequate health care. He commented, "With the limiting of available gasoline either thru rationing or taxation many people will increasingly hesitate seeking appropriate medical care because of the lack of gasoline and therefore, the result will be more serious illness because the patient waited until his condition became serious before seeking needed medical care." He also noted that unfortunately fuel taxing will hurt the people who can least afford it. This will be especially true in the rural areas and the mountains where people must travel considerable distance to seek adequate health care.

Mr. Hugh Stetler, Administrator of the North Wilkes Hospital, noted that as homes are kept lower temperatures or run out of heating fuels many citizens, especially the elderly, will have increased respiratory problems. He said "unless hospitals are adequately heated and maintained at full operational capacity we will certainly have a crisis situation to deal with". He added that hospitals cannot reduce to any great degree the temperature setting because most patients wear less clothes and the sick need warmer temperatures for their protection. Mr. Stanley noted that since pending legislation will establish fuel priorities the Regional Health Council is urging that health facilities be given full consideration to protect the health and welfare of our citizens.

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Free Firewood Is Available

Del W. Thorsen, Forest Supervisor of the National Forests in North Carolina announced that a change in Forest Service policy makes free firewood on the National Forests available to all citizens.

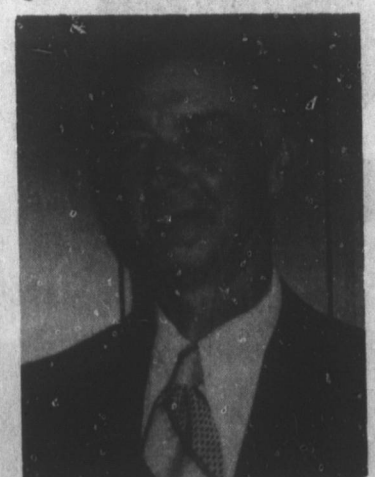
The present energy shortage has caused this change and folks who are interested in firewood for cooking, heating, or fireplace logs may contact their local Forest Ranger's office for a free permit.

Thorsen said that these permits are issued for special areas and are for personal use only. Free use permits are not made for commercial purposes. Only wood as designated in the permit will be removed from the Forest and the permittee is responsible for the gathering and hauling of his wood. Permits (Cont'd on page 2)

Sink, Deyton Appointed To Northwestern Bank Board

Hazen Ledford, executive vice president of The Northwestern Bank of Burnsville, announces the appointment of Oscar W. Deyton and J. Ardell Sink to the Board of Directors of the Bank.

Oscar W. Deyton is owner and operator of Deyton Farm Supply in Burnsville. He is a graduate of North Carolina



O. W. Deyton

State University in Raleigh where he majored in Agricultural Science. He is very active in civic affairs, a member of the Board of Directors of the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce, and chairman of the Yancey County Board of Commissioners. Deyton is a member of the Burnsville Men's Club and the American Legion. He is a veteran of World War II having served as an officer in

the United States Air Force.

Mr. Deyton and his wife, Mary Margaret, have two daughters and attend Deyton Bend Methodist Church where he is Sunday School Superintendent and a member of the Church Board.

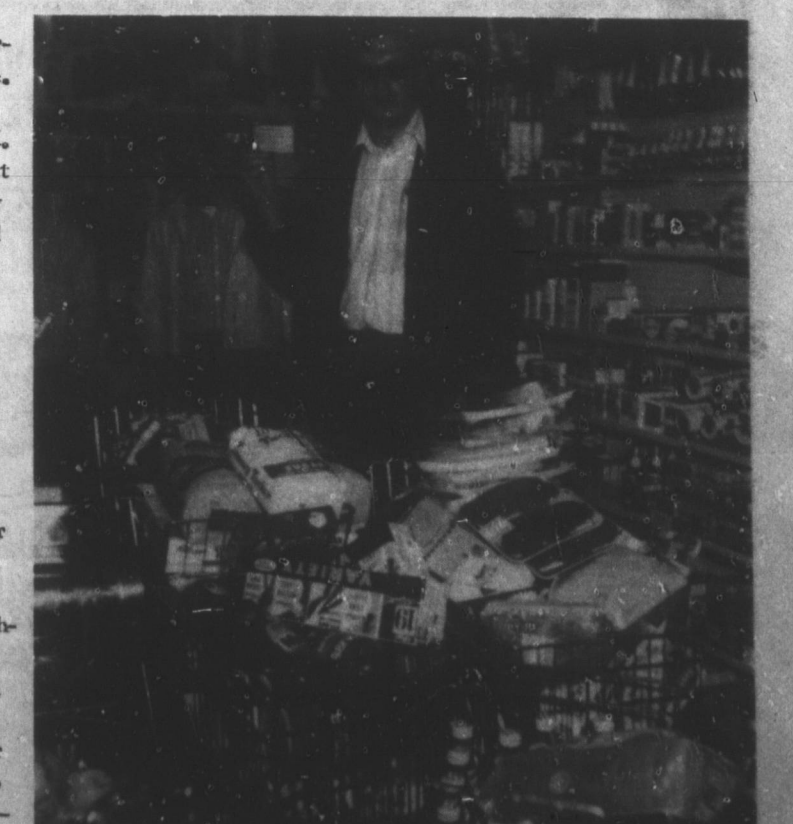
J. Ardell Sink is a graduate of High Point College with a B.S. Degree in Business Administration. He is president of Mark Media, Inc., and RCN Broadcasting Corporation.

Mr. Sink is a member of the Board of Trustees of Blue Ridge Hospital System. He is also a member of the State and National Association of Broadcasters and the Burnsville Men's Club.

Sink and his wife, Remelle, have three children. Mr. Sink is a certified Layspeaker of the Methodist Church and attends Higgins Memorial Methodist Church.

Christmas Exhibit Set

The Pensacola Homemakers Club will have a Christmas Ideas Exhibit at the Norgetown Laundry in Burnsville Plaza Shopping Center on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, December 6, 7 and 8. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 8 p.m. Everyone is welcome.



Wins Shopping Spree

Gary Pate of Route 3, Burnsville was the lucky winner of the Yancey County Jaycee Shopping Spree held November 24, 1973, at Burnsville Super Market. Gary collected over \$200.00 in groceries. The Jaycees would like to express their appreciation to David Peterson, owner of Burnsville Supermarket for allowing them to hold this shopping spree. Proceeds from the Shopping Spree will be used toward a Christmas Party for the needy children in Yancey County.