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Toe River Near Death; State Could Rescue It

The Toe River near Spruce Pine is dying. It is a terrible thing to see a river dying, to see silt and pollutants spreading through its once crystal waters like cancer destroying a vibrant life.

The Toe has been in trouble for years, but only recently have citizens begun to fight to save the river. Their effort is perhaps the largest joint civic undertaking, in recent years, in Mitchell, Avery, and Yancey counties.

A petition signed by some 2,000 citizens supporting reclassification of the river was presented March 12 to the N.C. Board of Water and Air Resources at a public hearing in Asheville. Support has also come from the boards of county commissioners in Avery, Mitchell, and Yancey counties; health departments in Mitchell and Yancey counties; civic and wildlife clubs.

Under the state plan, which is supported by the citizens' groups, the Toe in the vicinity of Spruce Pine to the Nolichucky River would be reclassified from "D" category to class "C." Class "D" permits dumping of wastes. Class "C" waters are suitable for fish and wildlife propagation, for boating and wading.

Mining interests in the Spruce Pine area oppose the plan. They maintain that it would interfere with industrial processing and that its implementation would have an adverse impact on the area's economy.

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As to the first point, the state contends that the industry is generating pure sediment into the river and that the industry can take corrective action. Admittedly, those measures would be costly.

But the industry has a civic, if not moral, responsibility to the mineral-rich land that has benefitted it for so many years.

As to the second industry argument, it is true that many citizens in the three-counties are employed by the industry. Jobs are not plentiful there. But the industry has failed to provide convincing evidence that cleaning up the Toe would prompt an economic collapse.

And too, many of those citizens fighting for the river either work or have relatives and friends who work in the industry. Yet they see clearly the importance of saving a natural resource whose demise would diminish themselves and their heirs.

That many of the region's leaders are behind the state plan is significant. If they felt that the conservation measures were detrimental, they surely would not be pushing for them.

After all, to permit a river to die, and it has happened all across the country in recent years, says something about us as a people that mere words cannot articulate.

We would only add that the Toe, just perhaps, can still be saved. The state should reclassify the river as proposed. Time is running out.

Rev. Barr Is Speaker

The Rev. Dan Barr of Bristol, Tennessee, grandson of evangelist Dan Graham, will preach Sunday evening at the Estatoa National Presbyterian Church, near Celso. Mr. Barr will also administer the sacraments of the Lord's Supper and Baptism.

Many persons in Yancey County will remember the Rev. Dan Graham, well known throughout Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina, from his evangelistic meetings in Yancey County over a quarter of a century ago. Besides a tent meeting in Micaville, and other communities, Mr. Graham conducted meetings in the Estatoa Presbyterian Church 28 years ago, in 1946, according to the best recollection of those who were present.

Mr. Graham, a graduate of Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, and pastor of numerous churches in East Tennessee, beginning in 1920, left the Presbyterian Church, U.S., over 20 years ago. This is the same reason the Estatoa group withdrew from the same denomination last year and became part of the newly formed National Presbyterian Church, which now has over three hundred churches throughout the country.

Rev. Dan Barr, who comes to the Estatoa Church Sunday, is a recent graduate of the Biblical School of Theology in Hatfield, Pennsylvania. He was ordained to the ministry last January in Westminster Presbytery, a presbytery of the National Presbyterian Church, comprised mostly of churches in Southwest Virginia and East Tennessee. Mr. Barr is presently on the faculty of Graham Bible College in Bristol, an institution founded by his grandfather in 1951.

The Communion Service will begin at 7:30 p. m. Sunday, April 14, at the Estatoa Presbyterian Church on Route 80.



Groundbreaking for Mountain Heritage High School

Groundbreaking for the new comprehensive high school for Yancey County, to be named Mountain Heritage High School, was held Sunday, April 7 at the building site west of Burnsville. Following a speech of welcome and recognitions by Ed Hunter, Yancey School Superintendent, Bill Banks, member of the Yancey County Board of Education spoke on the meaning of the name chosen for the high

school. Pictured above are (l. to r.) Charles Hopson, Jim Gardner, Wade Styles and Claude Vess, School Board members; Earl Young and O. W. Deyton, County Commissioners; Bill Banks, School Board member and Frank Fox, County Commissioner. Several hundred persons attended the ceremony, after which refreshments were served, the model of the school plan was studied and the grounds toured.

Eye Screening Program Here

The Lion's Club of Western North Carolina is sponsoring an eye screening program for all pre-school children in Yancey County. All parents of pre-school children ages 2-5 years are invited and encouraged to have their children's eyes checked at this time.

The screening will be conducted in the Eye Van that will be set up at the elementary schools in the county. This Eye Van will be in Yancey County April 16 - 19.

The Eye Van schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, April 16--Mica - ville School 9 to 11 a. m.; the South Toe School 12 to 3 p. m.
- Wednesday, April 17-- the Burnsville School 9 to 11 a. m.; Clearmont School 12 to 3 p. m.
- Thursday, April 18-- Bald Creek School 9 to 11 a. m.; Pensacola School 12 to 3 p. m.
- Friday, April 19--Bee Log School 9 to 11 a. m.

Sunrise Services

The Faith Fellowship Baptist Church on Mitchell Branch will have a Sunrise Service at 7:00 a. m. Easter Sunday. A film will be shown, "Power In The Blood". Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

An Easter Sunrise Service will be held at Spruce Pine Drive in at 6:30 a. m. on Sunday morning, April 14. Ben Lee Ray will conduct the service. There will be free coffee and donuts. All are welcome to attend and enjoy the fellowship.



Rev. Dan Barr



Rev. Dan Graham

State Income Tax Assistance Available At Burnsville Post Office Monday

Mr. Leatherwood, local Revenue Officer for the North Carolina Department of Revenue, advises that personnel to assist in filing State Income and Intangibles tax returns will be available on Monday of each week through April 15, 1974. The office is located in the Post Office Building, Burnsville, and assistance is available at this place on Monday, April 15, between the hours of 8:30 and 5:30 p. m. Mr. Leatherwood requests that taxpayers bring the pre-addressed forms which were mailed to them from Ra-

leigh. Completed returns showing refund due should be mailed to the North Carolina Department of Revenue, Post

School Days

Yancey County Schools will be closed for the Easter Holidays on Friday and Monday, April 12 and 15. Graduation date for high school seniors has been set for Friday, May 25. The school year for all other students will end on Tuesday, June 4 with teachers completing their year's work on Wednesday, June 12.

Office Box R, Raleigh, North Carolina 27634. Other completed returns should be mailed to the North Carolina Department of Revenue, Post Office Box 25000, Raleigh, North Carolina 27640.

Gospel Sing

A Gospel Singing will be held Saturday night, April 13, at the Church of God of Prophecy, Meadow Road, Burnsville. Everyone is welcome to attend; and especially singers. There will be a special Easter Program on Sunday morning.

East Yancey Students Will Participate In Fourth Annual High School Mathematics Contest

East Yancey High will participate in the Fourth Annual High School Mathematics Contest, April 25, 1974 at Western Carolina University. Twelve students were selected on the basis of grades and teacher evaluation to attend.

Two of our students will participate in the Comprehensive Evaluation. They are Randy

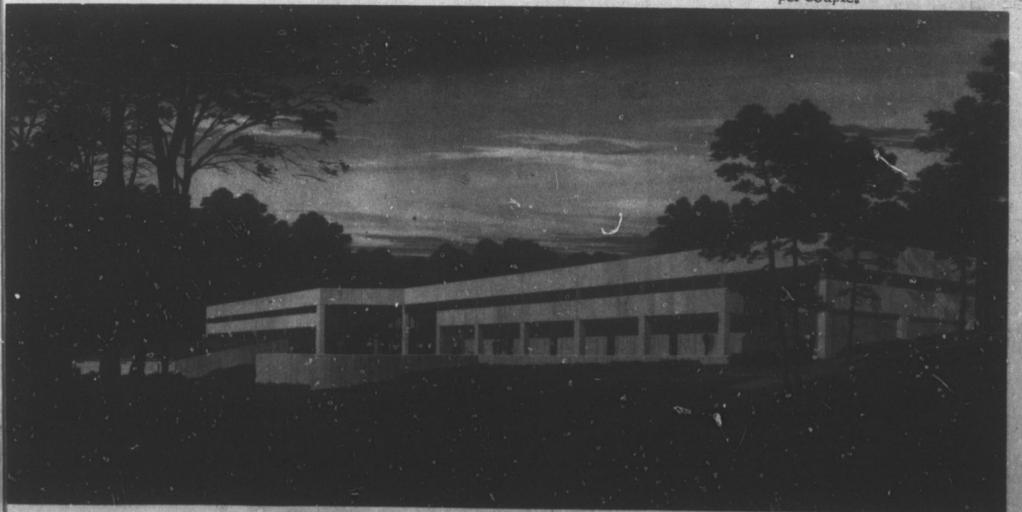
Robinson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Robinson and Charles Dulaney, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Dulaney. Niles Howell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Howell and Joey Biggerstaff, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Biggerstaff, will participate in the Algebra II Examination. The Geometry contestants are Marie Hunter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar

Hunter; Leslie Steele, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel D. Boone; Darrel Styles, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Styles; and Rebecca Welborn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carley S. Welborn, Jr. The four who will participate in Algebra I are Sandra Fender, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clay Fender; Ronnie Huskins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Benny Huskins; Sheila Peterson, daughter of

Mr. and Mrs. Dallas K. Peterson; and Gwen Silvers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dolph Silvers.

Dance Set

A dance will be held at East Yancey High School on Friday, April 12, in the Gym. This event is sponsored by the East Yancey Cheerleaders. Admission is \$1.50 per person; \$3.00 per couple.



New Building Planned For MAY Tech

Above is shown the architect's sketch for the new building for Mayland Technical Institute. Charles L. McMurray, AIA of McMurray Architects, Charlotte, North Carolina,

presented the design to the Board of Trustees on March 4. The design received unanimous approval, and detailed design is now in progress.

ATTEND **EASTER SERVICES** IN CHURCH