

THE YANCEY JOURNAL

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THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1974

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Annual Chamber Dinner Features Special Events

All indications point to a record-breaking attendance at the annual dinner meeting of the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce which will be held on this Friday evening, April 19th, at East Yancey High School.

Those attending the meeting will again have the opportunity to view exhibits of accomplishment and progress which will be placed in the gymnasium by local schools, organizations and agencies for one hour prior to the time dinner is served at 7 o'clock. This gives an excellent opportunity to see some of the many activities in our county, and each year this is becoming a more popular feature of the annual meeting.

Officers and directors of the Chamber of Commerce will be on hand to welcome guests and answer questions regarding the Chamber of Commerce developments during the past year.

Following the dinner a brief business session will be held to elect directors whose terms of office have expired.

Another feature of the evening will be the annual award of two scholarships to a deserving senior—one each from Cane River and East Yancey High Schools—and a sportsmanship award to a student from each of these schools.

The program committee has arranged for an interesting program to follow, and the guest speaker will be Mr. Robert Mullen, Assistant Director of Program Services, Division of Occupational Education.

Special music will be provided by the Eubanks Family, a chorus from Cane River High School, and Ms. Phyllis Campbell, Soloist. Tickets may be obtained at the Chamber of Commerce office by those who have not been contacted by a director.

News From Bicentennial

The temporary Steering Committee of the Yancey County Bicentennial Commission has now moved into a permanent Steering Committee with members as follows: William Hess, Chairman; Margaret Tyner, Vice-Chairman; Mary Margaret Deyton, Earl Young, Robert Helmle, Charlie Hensley, Harlon Holcombe, Gwen Bailey, David McIntosh, and Alma Shepard, Secretary-treasurer.

This committee met at 7:30 p.m. at the Yancey County Library on April 10 and plans for action are underway.

A community committee was named by this group representing all sections of the county. These persons will be contacted in the near future and will be provided with materials and information.

Three major proposals are being written up by the Executive Sub-committee which will benefit the entire county. They are (1) The acquisition and renovation of the old court house, (2) The beautification of the Town Square and (3) A contribution to apply on the construction involved in converting the old Northwestern Bank into the Yancey County Library.

Each community will have the opportunity to present proposals for projects of improvement in any particular area in the county if there is evidence of some matching local funds.

This is an opportunity of a life time to secure help in funding improvements in our county, and it is hoped that every community will participate and get the benefits made possible by the formation of a Yancey County Bicentennial Commission which is sponsored by the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce.

Wallis To Be Guest Speaker

Mrs. Everett S. Wallis of Waitsfield, Vermont, will be guest speaker at the American Legion and Auxiliary meeting at the Community Building, Tuesday, April 23, at 7 p.m. A covered dish supper will be served and all veterans and their wives are invited.

Mrs. Wallis will give a lecture on the signers of the Declaration of Independence and will show color slides of existing homes and gardens of the signers. She has done extensive research on this subject and her program will be most informative and entertaining. Mrs. Wallis is a sister of Mrs. W. A. Y. Sargent and is the houseguest of Dr. and Mrs. Sargent.

Honor Student

Deborah S. Hylemon of Route 3, Burnsville, earned a place on the University's official honor list for the winter term. She was one of the most elite among the ECU honor students, having made all A's for this term. This information was released by William A. Shires, Director of ECU News Bureau in Greenville, N.C.

Woman's Club Meeting

The Burnsville Woman's Club held its regular meeting on Thursday, April 11 at the Community Building. Hostesses were Mrs. Ruby Smith, Mrs. Alma Holcombe and Mrs. Sara Barbee. The president, Mrs. Ralph Jacks, presided over the business session. The club voted to help financially and otherwise with the Yancey County Primary Care Clinic at the Yancey Hospital. Other projects were also reviewed and discussed.

Conservation was the program subject for the evening, with Mrs. E. L. Dillingham serving as program leader. She introduced her husband, who showed a series of slides of beautiful flowers, which are very rare and about to become extinct.

A social hour followed. Seventeen members and visitors were present for the occasion.

Cancer's seven warning signals

1. Change in bowel or bladder habits.
2. A sore that does not heal.
3. Unusual bleeding or discharge.
4. Thickening or lump in breast or elsewhere.
5. Indigestion or difficulty in swallowing.
6. Obvious change in wart or mole.
7. Nagging cough or hoarseness.

If you have a warning signal, see your doctor.

American
Cancer Society

THIS SPACE CONTRIBUTED BY THE PUBLISHER



G.S. Troop 88 Celebrates Success

Yancey Girl Scouts in Junior Troop #88 were honored with a party for their considerable success in selling boxes of Girl Scout Cookies recently. Mrs. Cary Canipe, Cookie Chairman for the Troop, sponsored the celebration and furnished the refreshments.

Yancey Railroad To Change Management; Hope Rises For Profitable Operation

The Ailing Yancey Railroad, whose fate has been hanging uncertainly in the balance as a result of serious financial problems, now appears assured of continued existence. The four principal shippers of the road have joined forces to assume a major role in the management of the road. They have already bought a substantial amount of the stock of the corporation, and are in the process of acquiring additional shares.

The four corporations united in this undertaking to save the railroad are the four Yancey County businesses for which the service furnished by the Yancey Railroad is of vital importance. They have recently purchased the approximate 30 percent of railroad stock held by E. L. Briggs, paying \$150 per share, and are now soliciting options from other stockholders for the purchase of a

limited amount of additional stock, also at \$150 per share. E.C. Van Horn of the Diamond Mica Company, who is acting for the four companies, has sent a letter to the 58 stockholders informing them of the action, being taken, and requesting those who may desire to sell their shares to submit signed options. The letter states that the purchase of the limited number of shares will be made in the order of time at which the options are submitted.

Ever since the Feldspar Corporation closed its plant at Bowditch three years ago, the railroad has been losing money. The present revenue of about \$30,000 a year has been insufficient to operate and maintain the twelve mile long railroad. With the reconstituted management, including participation of the principal shippers, it is hoped

that the road can be "turned around" to a profitable operation. The directors of the railroad have recognized for some time that the road was worth more "dead than alive". That is, the value of the road's real estate, locomotives, and the scrap value of the rails and bridges is greater than the road is worth as an operating railroad. The directors, however, have been very reluctant to abandon the operation of the road which was taken over by

the locally formed corporation in 1955. Most of the Yancey County people who bought stock at that time were motivated by a desire to avoid the serious blow to the county that the abandonment of the road would have been. Nearly all of the present 58 stockholders have held their stock since the original purchase in 1955, at which time the stock was sold for \$100 a share. There are now 47 stockholders with from 1 to 10 shares.

VA Offers Advice For Vets Studying Under GI Bill

The Veterans Administration has timely advice for one million veterans studying at colleges and universities under the GI Bill: Return those "cert" cards very

promptly to insure payment of education allowances for the final month of training!

H. W. Johnson, Director of the Winston Salem VA Regional Office, explained that the certification of attendance card the veteran enrolled in college level courses receives with his next to final check should be filled out, signed and returned to his VA regional office. Otherwise, the agency can't prepare his final check for the current school year.

For most veterans, final months of training are May or June, and most "cert" cards will be mailed in April. Forms already have been mailed to veterans whose enrollment periods end earlier, however.

Johnson cited another reason veterans should return their "cert" cards promptly:

"If the card is not returned at the end of the current semester", he stressed, "the veteran cannot automatically be enrolled for upcoming summer or fall sessions, if he plans to continue."

It also was pointed out that veterans attending college under the GI Bill must keep VA informed on changes in the number of dependents or education programs.

"At the same time," Johnson continued, "college registrars should insure that the veteran's enrollment for the school term is certified promptly to the Veterans Administration, to keep his allowance checks coming on time."

Details on education benefits are available at VA offices, or from local veterans service organizations.

Evidence Points To Lower Literacy Level Nationwide

America's educational system has been given a bad jolt by a lawsuit charging that the plaintiff (who calls himself Peter Doe) had been given a high school diploma even though he was barely literate.

Best selling author Vance Packard cites this case as he asks in the April Reader's Digest, "Are we becoming a nation of illiterates?" According to Packard, Doe's half-million dollar suit against the San Francisco school system has prompted one judge to warn that the case could "bring down a host of suits which might cost billions of dollars." And, notes the Digest article, the Doe case illustrates the existence of a serious and worrisome trend: "the general low state of literacy and ability to write clearly among younger and older people alike—at a time when the complexity of our institutions calls for ever higher literacy."

Startling evidence of the decline emerges from the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). Annually more than a million senior high school students take the SAT verbal test, and their scores correlate consistently with both their reading and writing ability. Over the past decade the average score has been dropping: 35 points, or seven percent, in ten years.

The most extensive study of writing ability, conducted by the federally funded National Assessment of Education Progress

of Denver, is presently underway.

Its first national sampling of nearly 100,000 Americans showed that by age 13, after 8 years of schooling, only the best of the students could handle the basic conventions of writing. By age 17, only about half could "put together simple sentences and express simple ideas in general, imprecise language."

Packard offers a number of explanations for the decline:

Writing as an educational subject has lost status (a common assumption in schools is that students will somehow absorb writing skills while doing their work in other courses.)

Growing use of multiple-choice questions for testing reading, writing and other subjects (students don't have to choose their own words or organize their thoughts).

Overloading of English teachers and instructors with students (thus little time to give individual attention).

Widespread sale of college term papers (students deprive themselves of the practice of formulating their own thoughts and putting them on paper.)

Automatic promotion (has lessened the pressures on teachers to bear down on literacy skills).

Open admissions to colleges (many enter who are reading at an eighth-grade level or lower).

Revolt against rules and established ways (since the late 1960's anything suggesting the value of disciplined practice or respect for the "mechanics" of writing was widely scorned.)

Unanticipated side effects of the telecommunications revolution (writing is less in demand).

But Packard is not without hope, noting that enough people are becoming concerned about the low state of literacy so that something is being done about it; programs to improve reading skills; reexamination of reading requirements for high school graduation; eliminating automatic promotion to virtually all students; changing methods of teaching reading; and in new approaches for improving writing skills.

Mallonee Sets New Schedule

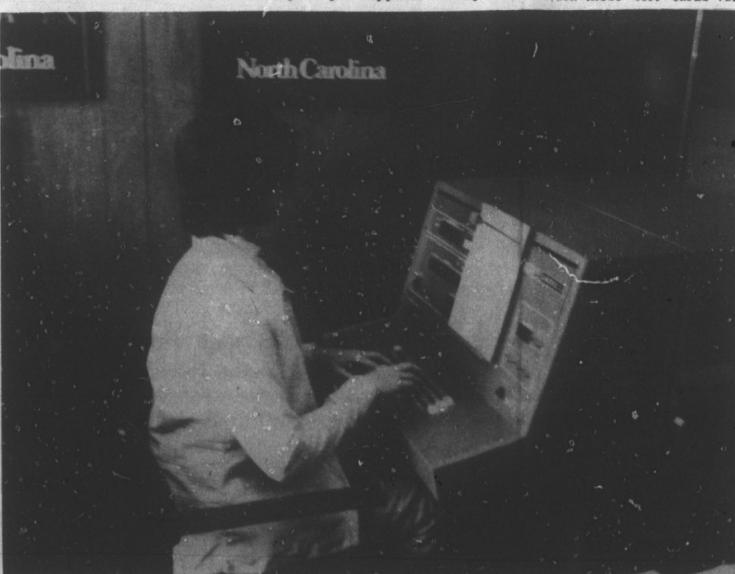
Tom L. Mallonee, 11th Congressional District Assistant to Congressman Roy A. Taylor, has announced the following change in his travel schedule to the county seats and other sections of the counties.

On Thursday, April 25, he will be at the Yancey County Courthouse, Burnsville, from 1:00 to 2:00 and at the Town Hall, Spruce Pine from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The original date scheduled for the above visit was Wednesday, April 24. Any person who has plans or official business pertaining to Congressional matters to be discussed is invited to meet with Mr. Mallonee at the above-specified times.



Who TEMPERED
OF THE WEEK
FROM THE
UPPER PORCH
YANCEY COUNTY
COUNTRY STORE
72°
34°



Journal Gets New Typesetter

A computer for THE YANCEY JOURNAL? It sure is! This "CompuWriter" is a phototypesetting system newly installed in your local newspaper office—to make a better looking, easier-to-read newspaper for our readers. Pictured above, Carolyn Yuzluk, Editor, sets copy on the typewriter-like keyboard. The copy is photographed in the machine and then run through a processor where it is developed. Due to the fact that some advertising copy will also be set on the CompuWriter, and with the summer season approaching there will be more news copy for the JOURNAL, we ask that all copy be brought to our office by 5 p.m. Monday for inclusion in that week's paper.

Buying Food

Consumers spent about \$134 billion on foods produced by U.S. farmers last year. That's a yearly increase of \$18 billion. The farm value of that consumer expenditure was only \$51 billion.