

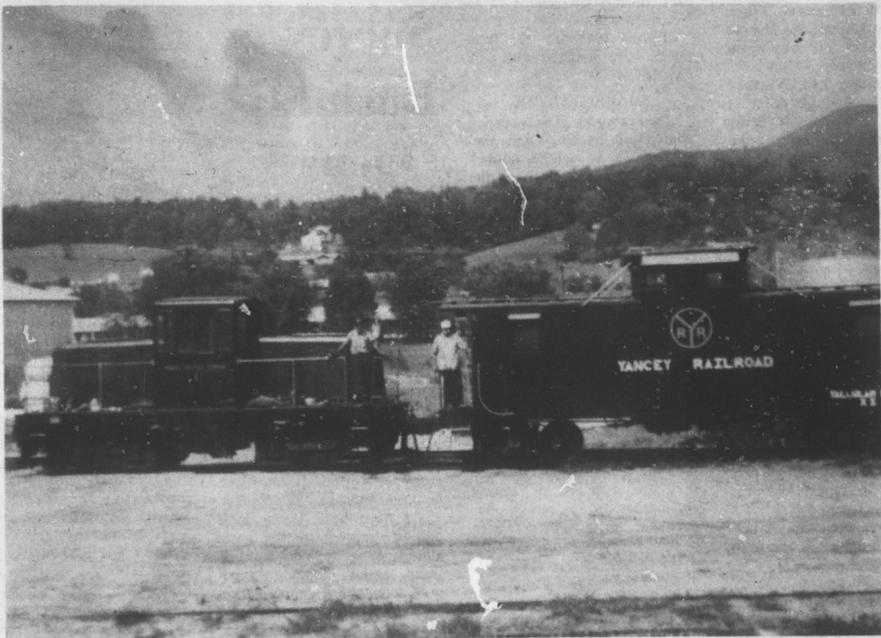
# THE YANCEY JOURNAL

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Yancey Railroad Engine Number One Brings 'Tallulah Yancey' Home

## A Journey Home:

# My Name Is 'Tallulah Yancey'

BY MIKE MITCHELL  
Special To The 'Journal'

As you humans would say: "Boy, it sure is good to be in my new home and have my wheels back on solid rail. For so long, I had to sit stock still in Clinton, S.C., as a Boy Scout House for the Lydia Mill Troop. I had no rail to move around on, and I sure got tired of staying in one place for so long. A caboose should be able to move around, you know. Otherwise, our wheels rust and our journal boxes get full of dirt.

### I GUESS I'M OLD

"I guess by your standards, I am old. I saw daylight as a home-made caboose car in Cornelia, Georgia, around 1900. I don't really remember the date. I do know that until I came 'home' to the Yancey Railroad that I never ran on any railroad other than the Tallulah Falls

Railway which ran from Cornelia for 57 miles up to Franklin, N.C., over some mountain railroad like my new 12 mile 'home'. Oh yes, I forgot to say that I did dust the rust off the railroads of the Southern, the Atlantic Coast Line, and the Columbia, Newberry, and Laurens when I made my one trip from Cornelia to Clinton in 1960.

"How'd I get here?, you ask. Well, a big construction crane plucked me from my home of 14 years and took me by truck to a railroad siding where I rested on ACL 77325, a 'big' railroad flatcar. You see, they wouldn't let me ride on my own wheels due to my age. I'd have made it all right, but you know how much of a 'fuddy-duddy' big railroads can be about things like that.

### A FRIGHTENING TRIP

"After they got me and my

wheels tied down on the flatcar, away we went. I had never moved that way before, nor had I ever moved so fast. Those big engines on the Seaboard Coast Line and the Clinchfield really took me for a ride. It was all so new to me for on my railroad before, we had little engines and went so slowly all the time. I was scared on that big rail, in those tunnels, on the Blue Ridge grade, and I really got frightened when we went through something called the Noli-chuckey Gorge. It was dark at night, but I could see that water foaming over the rocks. The terrible thought that my flatcar might stub its toe and jump the track terrified me.

"And that huge yard in Erwin—all sorts of cars, the like of which I had never seen before, spoke to me and wondered who I was. They treated me well in respect of my

age, I suppose.

"Then, I wound up back in another train and figured I was going on to my new home, but to my horror, the train headed back the way I'd come. I realized I had to go through that Gorge again, this time in the daylight. I shut my window eyes and hoped. Pretty soon, the Clinchfield local was at Poplar and I was feeling better. At least we were not now so close to that river and its rocks—can't be too careful at my age, you know. One trip into the river and the result is splinters.

### THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE

"Past Hunt Dale, Relief, Toecane, Rose's Branch I went, my flatcar's flanges howling against the curve and giving me cold chills each time. Soon, the Kona depot showed up, and my train slowed to a stop. They threw a switch and shoved me and my flatcar off on the Yancey Railroad interchange track. The local left after wishing me well, and I was alone in the middle of nowhere—I mean NOWHERE! I could see that the track I was on swung out across a couple of bridges high above the river and then disappeared into the trees on the other side. I wondered where it went.

"I was lonely—and, oh how much lonelier I got there at [Cont'd on page 2]

## Little Theatre Tryouts

Tryouts for "Blithe Spirit", a three act comedy play by Noel Coward to be presented by the Burnsville Little Theatre, will be held this Thursday evening, September 26, 1974, at 7:30 p.m. in the First Presbyterian Church of Burnsville.

"Blithe Spirit" calls for two male and five female roles. Anyone interested in trying out for any of these parts is invited to participate. The play is to be directed by Mrs. Jack Kelly and is expected to be presented to the public on Friday and Saturday nights of November 22 and 23.

Men are needed for this play! Any interested male is most welcome to attend the tryouts tonight.

## Weekend Football Slated

The Yancey-Madison County Little League Football season started with a bang. Two games were played on September 14.

Bald Creek played Marshall at Cane River with a close win for Bald Creek, 6-0. Laurel played Hot Springs and inched at 6-0 win over the Hot Springs team. Burnsville played Micaville at East Yancey and Burnsville handed them a 30-0 loss.

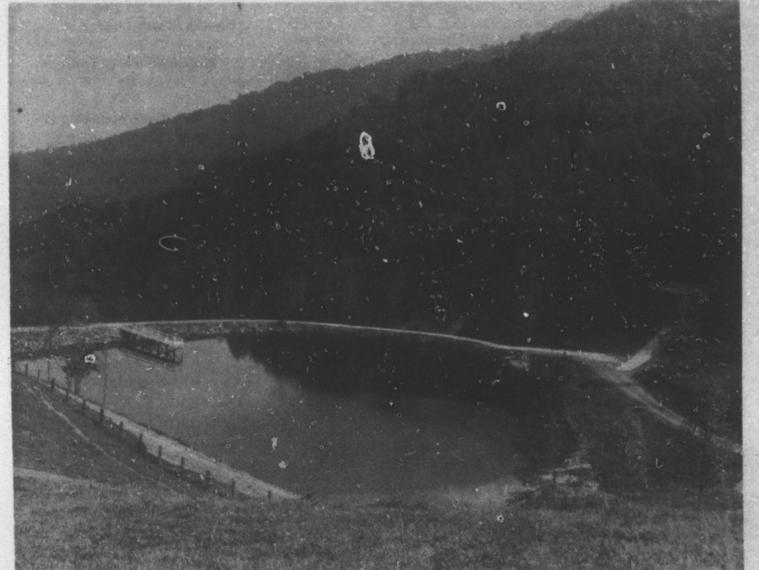
On the 21st of September there were three good games. First a double-header at Cane River which featured Burnsville vs. Laurel for the first game. Burnsville won 44-12. The second game was between Micaville and Bald Creek in which Micaville won 14-0. The Mars Hill vs. Marshall game at Mars Hill was also played on the 21st, but scores have not yet been reported.

There are going to be three exciting games this coming Saturday. The first game will be between Bald Creek and Laurel at Mars Hill at 6:00 p.m. Right after that, it's Mars Hill and Micaville, also at Mars Hill. Game time for this double-header is 6:00 p.m. for the first game; 8:00 p.m. for the next one. At 7:30 p.m. Marshall will play Hot Springs at Hot Springs. Everyone come on out and cheer your favorite team to victory. Admission to the games is \$1.00 for adults, 50c for students.

## August Sales Tax Collection

Local 1% Sales and Use Tax collections by county were reported recently for the month of August, 1974.

The report shows Yancey County collections amounted to \$16,740.40 for that period. This exceeds the amount collected by Madison County of \$10,618.59 for the same period, but lags behind Avery and Mitchell County collections of approximately \$24,000 and \$20,000 respectively.



Soil Conservation Service Can Help Place Farm Ponds

## State SCS Expands Services To Assist Landowners

BY FRANK JETER, JR.

### USDA-Soil Conservation Service

During the fiscal year concluded June 30, 1974, the Soil Conservation Service in North Carolina expanded its professional services both to individual farmers and landowners and to local units of government. This was disclosed today by State Conservationist Jesse L. Hicks of Raleigh, who heads the federal conservation agency in North Carolina.

Technical assistance to individuals climbed to 32,263, ahead of 31,244 the year previous. But assistance to units of government scored a dramatic increase. Some 755 governmental units received 3,497 services during the year, in contrast with 2,216 services provided to 603 governmental agencies the year previous.

### RANGE OF SERVICES

Such services can range from soils data in planning land use to locating sites for sanitary landfills. During the past year considerable emphasis on ero-

sion control has been provided, as more municipal and county governments move to implement the new statewide law on sedimentation control.

For years farmers have received SCS assistance on a wide range of conservation problems, ranging from farm pond location to cover crops, field borders, stripcropping, tree planting, wildlife food and habitat, and other practices.

"No matter whether SCS assistance has gone to farmers, other landowners, or government leaders," Jesse Hicks pointed out, "the assistance has been aimed at erosion control, environmental improvement, and a better quality of life. Of course, many conservation practices also aid in improved food supply and farm income."

### 'NO TILL' INCREASES

One of the biggest increases in agricultural practices came in the growing practice of minimum tillage, with 27,875 acres of "no till" as many farmers call it, planted with SCS

assistance, up from 24,422 acres the previous year. This practice is one of the most effective methods of controlling run-off and erosion, with row crops planted in stubble or other residue with almost no conventional tillage.

Substantial assistance in a number of other farm categories that contribute to environmental improvement, wildlife habitat, increased food production and farm income were reported. Tree planting assistance was provided on 23,296 acres, while assistance with pasture and hayland was provided on 27,507 acres.

Critical area planting, where cover crops suitable to the land are planted to repair severe erosion, gully, or similar problems, was reported on 2,632 acres. Stripcropping, which helps control both water and wind erosion, was listed on 4,316 acres.

### CONSERVATION PLANS

Altogether, some 2,337 new [Cont'd on page 2]



## Brass Quintet To Aid Band Program

The Board of Education, in cooperation with Music in the Mountains, is sponsoring an instrument clinic featuring the Brass Quintet of the North Carolina Symphony on Tuesday, October 1 at 1:00 p.m. The 80 students involved in the Yancey County band program will meet in the gym of Burnsville Elementary School to hear the two trumpets, French horn, trombone, and tuba which comprise the brass quintet. Mrs. Lisa Mauney, Band Director, says that the fifth grade at Burnsville Elementary, up-coming players in next year's band, will also be invited to attend. Other persons who would like to hear the Brass Quintet in this educational session are invited to contact Mrs. Mauney through the schools, or Susannah Jones, Administrative Director of Music in the Mountains, at 675-4060. The North Carolina Symphony Brass Quintet has been invited to come to Yancey County because of the growing interest in the band program, which was started in January 1974 and already has developed to such a point that the band will play at four high school football games this fall. Pictured left to right are: Vincent Simonetti, tuba; George Mitchell, French horn; Douglas Myers, trumpet; John Henes, trumpet; and Richard Fecteau, trombone.



## Panthers Score Hard-Won Victory

Yancey County's arch-rivals in football, the East Yancey Panthers and Cane River Rebels, vied for victory last Friday night, September 20 at the Cane River field. Excitement ran high before and during the game as pep rallies were held and cheerleaders from each school led their side in ear-splitting chants. The stands were filled to capacity with the tremendous turnout of supporters for both schools. Final score gave the East Yancey Panthers victory with 13 points to 6 points for the Cane River Rebels.

After a scoreless first quarter, East Yancey's Tim Parker took a

screen pass from Quarterback Gary Winters and raced 69 yards for the score. Jeff Bailey kicked the extra point giving the Panthers a 7-0 half-time lead. The Panthers increased their lead to 13-0 on Burt Huskins' two-yard plunge, a bad snap from center causing the extra point attempt to fail. Cane River came back in the fourth period to score on Quarterback Thomas' 1-yard sneak, to end the scoring for both teams. Tim Parker was the leading ground gainer with 124 yards in 12 carries. Phillip Dayton had 109 yards for the Rebels on 13 carries. Gary Winters threw for 102 yards on 3 passes.