

# THE YANCEY JOURNAL

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1974

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## WNC Association Gets Top Award

The Western North Carolina Development Association will receive the top national award in beautification for regional (multi-county) organizations from Keep America Beautiful at a special luncheon in the Grand Ballroom of the Biltmore Hotel in New York City on Thursday, December 5.

The award is being presented in recognition of outstanding effort in beautification and environmental improvement projects. It will be accepted by Morris L. McGough, Executive Vice President of the WNCDA, from KAB Board Chairman James C. Bowling who is Vice President and Assistant to the Chairman of Philip Morris, Incorporated.

The WNC Development Association, an 18 county development and rural improvement group, received a second place "special merit" award in the national competition last year. The association sponsors the Western

North Carolina Community Development Program along with the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service and agencies and local sponsors in the western counties.

It was primarily on the activities and accomplishments of the many organized areas in the community development program that the entry of the development association was based.

## Artists Exhibit Crafts

Three Burnsville artists will be among the 500 exhibitors from all over the country at the Carolina Craftsmen's Christmas Classic December 7 and 8, in the Greensboro Coliseum Exhibition Hall.

Artists and craftsmen will display and demonstrate both traditional and contemporary crafts and will judge each other's work, in respective categories, Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 12:30 until 9 p.m. Many of the items, including original Christmas decorations, will be for sale.

Burnsville participants in the show will be Vickie Stratham of Route 5, stained glass; Fran Mather of Route 1, weaver; and Gilbert Johnson of Route 5, art glass.

Other specialties will include pottery, leather work, sculpture, macrame, Indian crafts, batik, photography, ceramics, silk screen, jewelry, wood works, egg crafts, sand painting, and violin, banjo, and dulcimer making. Many of the artists have won national recognition.

Admission will be \$1.50 for adults and \$.50 for children. The sponsoring Carolina Craftsmen, a group of area artists and craftsmen, hope to make the Christmas Classic an annual major national show.

## 'Right Turn On Red' Law To Expire

North Carolina Patrol Commander, Colonel E.W. Jones, today announced the following Patrol policy that will prevail beginning 1 January 1975 with respect to "right turn on red" law which officially expires 31 December 1974.

Colonel Jones said that as of 1 January, the Highway Patrol will arrest for flagrant violations that endanger life and property. The Patrol will issue either verbal or written warnings for less serious violations pending action by the 1975 Session of the General Assembly.

The Department of Transportation and Highway Safety will seek continuing legislation on the present law since it has proved very satisfactory. The 1660 signs that were erected and which prohibit right turn on red will not be removed pending action by the legislature.



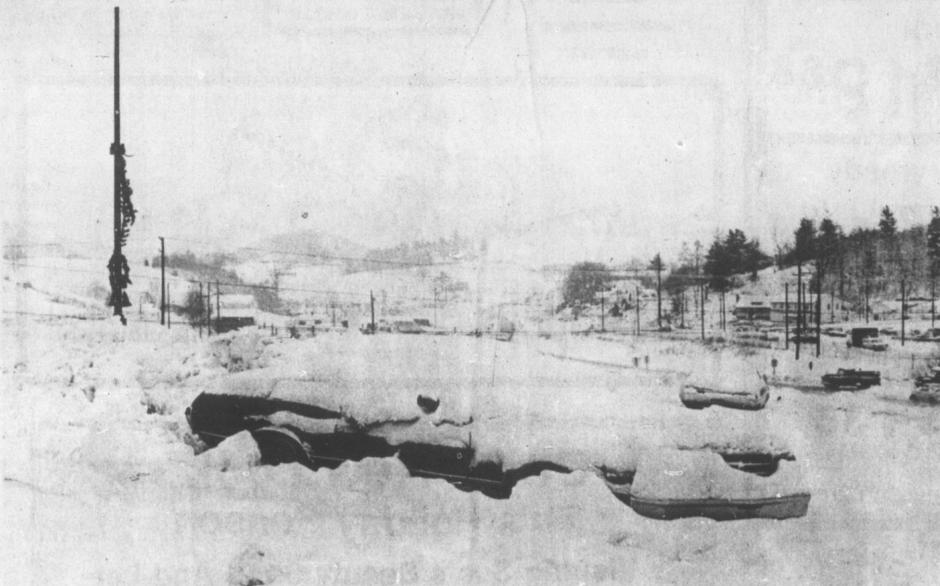
## Snowfall Creates Beauty, Halts Traffic

The Burnsville Town Square appears lovely and serene with its thick, white carpet of snow, but unhappily, for most people in Yancey County the scene below was more in evidence this past weekend when snow which began around 8:30 Saturday morning came down with blizzard-like intensity by afternoon and continued through Saturday night, all day Sunday and Sunday night, ceasing finally on Monday afternoon. Schools

closed Monday and Tuesday, but "business as usual" in town brought people out in automobiles, only to become stranded, helpless and frustrated on the slick, snow-piled roads.

All day Tuesday, bright sunshine caused snowdrifts to sparkle and blaze with beauty--but those whose plans went awry last weekend viewed the scene as a dire portent of bad winter weather ahead.

(Photos by Jody Higgins)



## Home Study Schools:

### BBB Warns Of Fraud

In the last few weeks, the Better Business Bureau has had a tremendous increase in inquiries about home study or correspondence schools. This very probably is a result of increased unemployment in our area.

While many of the schools offering home study courses have been in business for

years and are approved by the National Home Study Council, anyone interested in this type of study should be very careful before they sign a contract to take such a course. Prospective students should realize that such contracts are binding and most companies can collect the full fee or a substantial cancellation fee even though the student drops the course.

Prospective students  
(Cont'd on page 2)



Hi-Lo  
TEMPERATURE  
FROM THE  
UPPER PORCH  
YANCEY COUNTY  
COUNTRY STORE  
Hi-Lo 62°  
Lo-Hi 22°

### 'Operation Santa Claus'

Announcement is made by Mrs. Philip Nordstrom, the Chairman of Operation Santa Claus, that a box to receive Christmas gifts will be placed in the Health Department in Burnsville as well as at other previously designated places.

Any articles or clothing for men and women given will bring cheer to patients at Broughton Hospital and Western North Carolina Center.

The deadline for gifts is December 9.

## Fireplaces Save-Ashes Fertilize

BY PETER TONGE  
(This article reprinted from The Christian Science Monitor, Friday, November 15, 1974 edition)

The oil delivery man scratched his head in disbelief. He even checked to be sure he had come to the right address. He had just filled our tank, and the total cost in these price-inflated days came to only \$17. Other homes in the area were taking three and four times as much he said.

Our investment in an efficient fire grate, then, is paying off. More than that, it is yielding gardening dividends, too. You see, even as it radiates cheery warmth into our home it is manufacturing a much-needed by-product for the soil--wood ash.

### WOOD ASH IS VALUABLE

That's right, that fluffy gray residue from the fireplace that generally ends up on the town dump is a fertilizer. If it were bagged and sold in the local garden outlet it would probably carry a 0-2-8 NPK marking. In fact the ash from broad-leaf trees can contain as much as 10 percent potash; conifer wood ash averages around 6 percent. Both types contain about 2½ percent phosphate.

So, wood ash is a valuable plant food. It is also a pretty effective insect repellent. No wonder gardeners who get to know it won't do without it.

### HOARDING ASHES

An enterprising friend of mine sells firewood to Boston's red-brick apartment dwellers during winter. Part of the deal is that he will clean out the fireplaces each time he makes a new delivery. That's how much he values the ash. Now I'm doing the same thing with the residue from my own fireplace--hoarding it. I have great plans for its use next year.

### POTASH IS ESSENTIAL

Potash is essential for the development of sturdy plants, for the production of sugars

and starches. Beets, sweet corn, and carrots particularly can benefit from wood ash-derived potash. Potatoes love potash too, but too heavy an application of wood ash could make the soil too sweet for these acid-loving plants.

One regular wood-ash user tells me tomatoes become a rich red color and seem to keep longer after harvest "when I'm liberal with the ashes." Another contends his vegetables "are sweeter and more colorful" because of wood ash.

On most garden soil, particularly on more acid Eastern soils, spread five pounds of wood ash for every 100 square feet of garden. Your sweet corn will appreciate as much as seven and a half pounds.

### PESTS VANISH

Had any trouble with cutworms? Wood-ash users contend they vanish quickly once the wood ash is spread around. The cabbage worm, bean beetle, cucumber beetle, squash bug, and root maggot all apparently dislike the presence of wood ashes so much that they disappear.

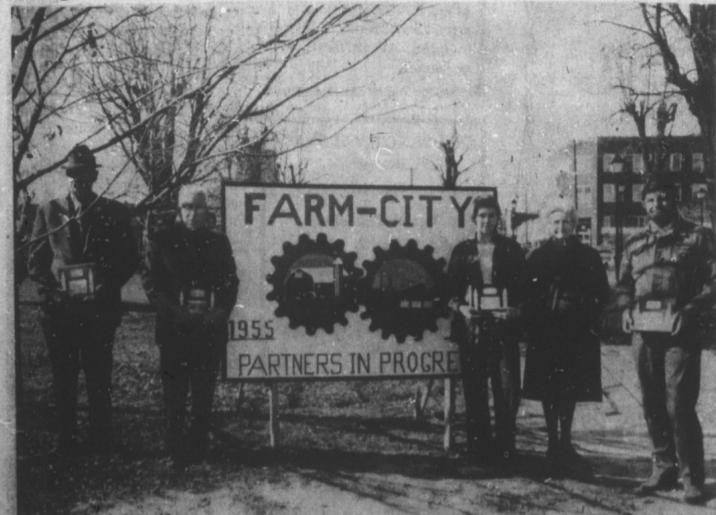
"I doubt if it kills them," one gardener told me, "but they sure don't stay long when wood ash is spread around." This gardener dusts the ash on his plants once a week.

### WARNING NOTE

A word of warning: If your soil is already a little on the alkaline side confine the use of wood ash to such alkaline-loving crops as beets.

It is essential to keep wood ash dry during storage because the potash it contains is very soluble in water. Forget the wood ash that was left out in the rain after the barbecue. It is no longer a fertilizer.

So, when the snows come tumbling down this winter and when the north wind howls around the eaves, go ahead and enjoy the cheery warmth from your fireplace. And whatever else you do, save that wood ash.



## Farm City Week Awards Given

Mutual understanding between farmer and town dweller was the theme of Farm City Week, November 22-28. To help foster that understanding the following Burnsville Civic Clubs presented Outstanding Achievement Awards on the town square, November 26: Burnsville Women's Club, Chamber of Commerce, Junior Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club and Burnsville Mens Club. Pictured above holding their "Outstanding Achievement" plaques are Walter Edwards, farmer; Lacy Johnson, businessman; Donna Higgins, youth; Mrs. Mary Gillespie, homemaker; and Bill Banks, industrialist. A number of Civic Club members and local officials were present for the ceremonies.



## Officials Sign Contract For Hospital

On Tuesday, November 26, 1974, the contract was signed for the first phase of the Building Program for the Blue Ridge Hospital System by the hospital Board of Trustees officers. Those signing the contract are Jim Anglin of Burnsville, Vice-President; Milton Burleson of Spruce Pine, President and Mrs. Bonnie Ford of Penland, Secretary and Treasurer. The General Contractor for the construction is J.I. Cornett of Elizabethton, Tenn. and work has already begun on the grounds of the Spruce Pine Hospital. Both the Yancey Hospital and the Spruce Pine Hospital have had to take a reduced scope in the original plans for the two buildings which was approved in March, 1974. Plans are to reduce the Burnsville Facility by omitting the ten observation beds, emergency unit, proposed small radiology and pathology units in the first stage. The building would be redesigned as a one story structure. The Spruce Pine project would omit the expansion which was planned for some departments. The time schedule for both facilities completion is approximately two years, December 1976.

(Photo by C. E. Westover)