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Yancey School Board Progress Report For 1974

In December of 1973, the Yancey County Board of Education published an annual report of its actions. Following is the second report which summarizes the work of the Board during 1974.

The Yancey County Board of Education began its 1974 year by continuing to concentrate on plans for the new high school which had been started in early 1973. On December 10, 1973 the Board requested its architects to submit a building plan at the earliest possible date. During the following weeks many meetings were held by the Board, the planning committee (superintendent and both high school principals) and members of the various committees previously appointed to work out detailed plans for their respective departments. The architectural firm planning the new school developed a model which was put on display at prominent places in the county. The drawings for the floor plan were also displayed and these were shown and discussed at Civic Meetings, PTA Meetings and other public gatherings. Reactions and suggestions were noted and passed on to the architects.

PLANS APPROVED
In late February, the Board approved the grading plans for the new school site. Bids for the grading were opened on March 21 and the low bidder, Taylor & Murphy Construction Company was awarded the contract in the amount of \$196,505. Ground breaking ceremonies were

held at the new school site on April 7 and grading began immediately.

SCHOOL NAME CONTEST
At its January meeting the Board of Education agreed to hold a contest for naming the new high school. The First Citizens Bank, The Northwestern Bank, WKYK and The Yancey Journal presented cash prizes to the winners, Sue Fox and Pam Deyton, Cane River High School seniors. At a full meeting of the Cane River student body, the two students were recognized and awarded the prize for their entry "Mountain Heritage".

CONSTRUCTION BIDS
By late summer, final

plans for the building were completed and approved by the Board. Bids for the construction of the building were opened August 28, 1974. Total cost exceeded the original budget by some \$900,000.00. After an extensive joint meeting of the Yancey County Commissioners and the Board of Education, the commissioners budgeted future additional revenue sharing funds and sales tax for the project.

On September 28 contracts were signed with Juno Construction Company of Charlotte, North Carolina, general contractor for the amount of \$2,414,000. Twentieth Century Heating Com-

pany, heating and air conditioning-\$574,953; Hayes and Lunsford, electrical-\$388,969; Wells and West, plumbing-\$216,140; Eatman's Carpet-\$44,500; Asheville Showcase Co., food service equipment-\$43,534. Construction crews began moving on the site immediately. The contracts call for a twenty-one month schedule and at the writing, work is progressing as planned.

TEACHER STATUS

During the year the Board continued to devote its attention to areas of professional personnel relations. The teachers having expressed a desire for changes in the evaluation forms adopted the previous year, the board approved a change to a five point rating scale and evaluations to be made twice each year. The principals are also to include a narrative statement in each report. In a joint meeting at the beginning of the 1974-75 school year with the principals and Board, teacher hours were discussed at length. Following this conference the Board revised the working hours for teachers to eight to three-thirty with emphasis on punctuality. Teachers were encouraged to make their preferences as to placement known through letters of intent. Contracts for all teachers were renewed in late spring. Reinstatement of reading programs in six of the elementary schools created additional positions and also greatly enhanced the effectiveness of the Title I program. A further boost was made when the system was awarded a position for a county-wide reading consultant. Mrs. Shirley Edwards, teacher at Bee Log was promoted to supervise the reading program in all the schools. Two remedial math teachers and a teacher for students with learning disabilities were also employed. The Board adopted a policy granting career status (tenure) to teachers who have earned career status in another North Carolina administrative unit, to be effective after a year of successful teaching in the Yancey County unit.

NEW SUPERVISOR

At the end of July, the county school system lost one of its long-time employees through the retirement of Miss Ethel Boone, supervisor and former teacher. Miss Boone devoted much of her life to the Yancey County schools and was properly recognized at a luncheon in June. Miss Iva Nell Buckner (Cont'd on page 2)

Mountain Heritage Athletic Schedule

Mountain Heritage High School was voted into the Mountain Athletic Conference for the coming school year 1975-76. Mountain Heritage will be in the Little MAC Division with seven other Western North Carolina Teams.

Beginning with the 1975-76 school year the High School Athletic Programs (East Yancey-Cane River) will be combined into one program using the name of Mountain Heritage High School.

LITTLE MAC DIVISION
Enrollment
School Grades 10-12
East Henderson 731

Mitchell	680
Owen	652
Sylvia Webster	614
West Henderson	593
Mountain Heritage	574
Madison	562
Hendersonville	455

In combining the two athletic programs into one we hope that we will have greater participation in the four major sports of football, basketball, baseball and track. The combining of the two athletic programs will become effective next fall with the 1975-76 football season.

MOUNTAIN HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL

1975-76 Football Schedule
H=Home A=Away
NC=Non-conference games
Sept. 5, Erwin H-NC
Sept. 12, Reynolds A-NC
Sept. 19, N. Buncombe H-NC
Sept. 26, Sylvia-Webster A-C
Oct. 3, Owen H-C
Oct. 10, East Henderson A-C
Oct. 17, Mitchell H-C
Oct. 24, Madison H-C
Oct. 31, Hendersonville A-C
Nov. 7, West Henderson A-C

Dolphin Coach At Ski Area

Don Shula, coach of the Miami Dolphins of the National Football League, and his family recently escaped the pressures of professional football for a skiing vacation in this area.

The Shula family checked into the lodge at Hound Ears Club on Friday, December 27 and stayed through Tuesday, December 31, skiing at Hound Ears and nearby Beech Mountain.

"When I am on the slopes, it takes my mind off everything else," said Shula less than a week after the two time Super Bowl champion Dolphins were eliminated by the Oakland Raiders in the NFL playoffs.

"The people here were really nice—they saw me and spoke to me, but most of them sensed that I didn't come up here to talk football," Shula said.

This was the first trip to the North Carolina mountains for Shula, his wife and their five children who range in age from 9 to 15. Dolphin linebacker, Bob Matheson, a Boone native, recommended the area to his coach.



Tobacco Sells At Record High

Burley tobacco has sold for record high prices during 1974 according to Wm. C. Bledsoe, County Extension Chairman. Many top crops have sold above the \$1.20 per-pound mark. Most farmers are very pleased with the outcome and prospects are for increased interest in burley by Yancey farmers in 1975. "To a non-farmer, the Burley price may be misleading since they are not aware of the accompanying increased cost of producing Burley," stated Bledsoe. "Yancey County ranks about fourth in Burley sales in North Carolina and Burley sales from Yancey amounted to more than 2.2 million dollars in 1973," he added. To aid and assist burley farmers, experimental tobacco plot work in the county is a vital part of the Agricultural Extension Service. The plot work is aimed at helping farmers overcome disease and production problems they face. During 1974 six Yancey farmers cooperated on the experiment program. They are: Jim Adkins, Stokes Austin, Lawrence Grindstaff, Bruce and Morris Fender, Jake Henson and Leroy Silver. Several farmers have expressed an interest in cooperating on this program during 1975. Pictured above are Jim Adkins, Tobacco Specialist Bob Davis, Leroy Silver and Mr. Hawks, Federal Grader—weighing and grading a variety test. Pictured below are N.C. State Tobacco Technician David Porter; Jake Henson, and Wallace Ellis, Federal Grader, looking over another variety test.



NC Textbook Selection Process Has Become Model For Nation

The textbook selection process probably is one of the least understood aspects of North Carolina education. Amidst national controversy and debate about textbook selection, North Carolina's State Textbook Commission spends thousands of hours of study and deliberation before selecting books to be used in Tarheel classrooms.

NOT PICKED ARBITRARILY

And contrary to a commonly held misconception, those books are not picked arbitrarily by the 12 members of the Textbook Commission. "It just doesn't work that way," according to Ms. Joyce Wasdell, assistant superintendent in Durham County Schools and chairman of the Textbook Commission. "On a particular text, each commission member will have several people reading the book and giving their advice. On a single book, we will have input from 75 to 100 people. Twelve people just don't pick a text arbitrarily."

The job of the Textbook Commission is a tough one. Ms. Wasdell's office is often crammed to the ceiling with

textbooks set aside for nothing but Textbook Commission work. And it isn't unusual for Commission members to devote their Saturdays to textbook work.

STEPS IN CHOOSING

Here, in simplified terms, is a step-by-step description of the textbook adoption process in North Carolina:

The first step is the appointment of the Textbook Commission. Members are named by the Governor, on

the recommendation of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. The law provides that the Commission shall be composed of 12

members, 7 of whom shall be outstanding teachers or principals in the elementary grades, and 5 outstanding

(Cont'd on page 2)

Students May Apply For Intern Program

Governor Jim Holshouser today urged North Carolina college students interested in State government to apply for the 1975 State Government Summer Internship program.

Holshouser said 24 students will be selected for the program. For eleven weeks next summer, the interns will do meaningful work in State departments and learn about various aspects of State government. The program will begin on May 26 and continue through August 8. Interns will be paid \$120 per week.

To be eligible for the intern program, students must (1) be residents of North Carolina, (2) be currently enrolled in a college or university, and (3) have

Chamber Sets Goals For 1975

The Board of Directors of the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce met in the Town Hall in Burnsville on January 2 at 7:30 p.m. with good attendance.

President Olen Shepard opened the meeting with a challenge to the directors suggesting that they take inventory of the Chamber activities and their own ability to serve the community during the year just beginning. He called on the group to strive to work toward making Burnsville, Yancey County, the state and nation a better place in which to live. He urged that the new year be faced with confidence and optimism, and the determination to achieve the goals undertaken.

Reports were given on several Chamber of Commerce projects.

A very promising report was given on the town "face lift" project and an all out drive for additional funds needed to complete the project is under way. It was estimated that approximately \$4500.00 will be needed to complete the work as planned. When completed, this improvement in the appearance of the Town Square will be something to be proud of and those contributing to its completion will be glad to have had a part in this undertaking.

Follow-up work is being done by the Chamber of Commerce in connection with the completion of Highway 19E from Cane River bridge to Madison County, and reports are very favorable at this time.

New projects are being planned for 1975.

The Chamber of Commerce has grown considerably in membership during the past year and all interested persons are invited to join.



Dr. Cort Opens Practice

Dr. Carolyn Ray Cort has begun the practice of pediatrics in Burnsville this week. Her office, the Mountain Children's Clinic, is adjacent to the Yancey County Library. Office hours by appointment are from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Beginning practice in Burnsville is a homecoming for Dr. Cort, who was valedictorian of the 1966 East Yancey High School graduating class. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mack B. Ray of Burnsville.

At Duke University she was Phi Beta Kappa and graduated from there summa cum laude. She attended Bowman Gray School of Medicine of Wake Forest University as a Reynolds Scholar, receiving the M.D. degree in 1970. Following graduation she served one year internship and one year residency in pediatrics at the North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston Salem. She completed her training at Richmond, Virginia, spending her final year of residency at the Medical College of Virginia.

Dr. Cort and her husband, Dr. David A. Cort, met while they were freshmen in medical school and married following their sophomore year. Her husband, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Erwin H. Cort of Asheville, is practicing in the field of internal medicine in Spruce Pine. They have one child, Lisa Hannah, who is 16 months old.

Friends are invited to an open house at the office on Academy Street Sunday, January 12, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.



72-60
TEMPERATURE
FROM THE
UPPER PORCH
YANCEY COUNTY
COUNTRY STORE
72-65°
60-18°