

# THE YANCEY JOURNAL

VOL 4, NO. 8

BURNSVILLE, N.C. 28714

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1975

10¢

## Much Was Left Unsaid:

# Yancey Sheriff Not Guilty

BY CAROLYN YUZIUK  
The Charlotte Observer, which keeps an avid eye on Yancey County for any exploitable news, really "did a job" reporting the recent trial of Yancey Sheriff Kermit Banks and other Yancey and Mitchell men who were involved in an accidental shooting of a Briar Bottom camper in 1972. And trial reports by The Asheville Citizen-Times did little to dispel the impression, which was initiated and sustained by The Observer, of an "innocent" outing which culminated in unjust and inexplicable tragedy for the "youths" involved.

Many facts, however, most of which were brought out either in the District Court Trial of the campers, or in the trial of Sheriff Banks and his men held two years later, were not reported in the news media. One reason could be that these unsung facts gave lie to the impression that youthful innocence had been

abused and "establishment" law officers were in the wrong. There were also important facts not made public in the trial because Forest Service personnel evidently preferred not to become involved after their names were dropped from the original list of men named by the campers in their lawsuit. "The youths were tired.... had already been turned away from several campgrounds that officials said were too full," reported The Charlotte Observer, adding "They suspected that park officials didn't want them to camp on public land." We wonder why the youths only "suspected" that they were not wanted

when apparently an officer actually ran them out of Mt. Mitchell State Park with a 30-30 rifle. When they went to Black Mountain Campground from there, we understand they camped in an area which had a sign saying "No Camping Permitted". The sign was torn off and was burning in the "youths" campfire. Rangers did ask them to leave--and their next campsite was at Briar Bottom. U.S. Forest Service District Supervisor Harold Rivers has forgotten nearly all of the circumstances surrounding his call to the Yancey Sheriff's Department on the night of the incident, but others clearly remember that he reported being afraid to go further because of the tremendous volume of noise, and that firecrackers were being exploded, which contributed to the awesome disturbance. He allegedly called the Sheriff's Department not once but twice, and on hearing that a car would be sent out, he told the Sheriff's Deputy not to send just one car, "send all the vehicles you can get!" Although the campers'

reports of physical abuse were sadly lacking in evidence and eventually discounted, this fact was not considered important enough to print. Nor was the fact brought out that SB' and FBI officials examined the campers following the incident and their reports showed absolutely no evidence of cuts, bruises, scratches or abrasions which would have been inevitable had they been struck with "gun butts" and "billy clubs". On hearing the accusations made, however, the United States Department of Justice decided to conduct a thorough "civil rights investigation". They found "no evidence of any violation of civil rights for any of these defendants" (the campers). But had you read about that?

The unfortunate fact of the matter as regards the District Court trial of the campers, was that following the accidental shooting of 20-year-old Altland--which occurred when another camper was trying to wrest a shotgun from a deputy's grasp--the lawmen, shocked and dismayed by the

[Cont'd on page 2]



Hugh Braddher

## New Man In Pollards Pharmacy

Hugh T. Braddher, a native of Route 1, Old Fort, North Carolina, joined the Pharmacy Department at Pollard's Drug Store in Burnsville on January 29, 1975.

Mr. Braddher, a graduate of the University of Kansas City in Kansas City, Missouri with a B.S. degree in Pharmacy, came to Burnsville from High Point, N.C. where he had been employed as Pharmacist at Eckerd's for the past seven years, and at Leonard Drugs, High Point, for four years before that.

With his wife, Gwen Greenlee Braddher, and three of his four daughters who are Mary, 10, Leslie, 12 and Carol, 16, Mr. Braddher is presently residing in town. His other daughter, Nina, 18, is a student at UNC-Greensboro.

## Mallonee To Visit Burnsville

Tom L. Mallonee, 11th Congressional District Assistant to Congressman Roy A. Taylor, is now making scheduled visits to the county seats and other sections of the counties.

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

Any person who has plans or official business pertaining to Congressional matters to be discussed is invited to meet with him at the above-specified times.

## Boy Scout Pancake Supper Set

A Boy Scout Pancake Supper will be held Friday, February 28, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. "All the pancakes you can eat" \$1.50. First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.

## Special Rates

Because many people missed the deadline for subscribing or renewing their present subscription to the Journal at the special prices offered during the past two weeks, The Yancey Journal is continuing to offer the same reduced rates for this week and next week. Subscriptions must be mailed in or brought by the Journal office directly as the student drive ended February 17. Reduced rates in effect until Friday, February 28, are \$3 per year in-county (down from \$5) and \$5 per year out-of-county (down from \$7). Please let your friends and neighbors know, as this deadline is final.



## FFA-A Chance For Growth

The East Yancey Future Farmers of America invites everyone to join them in celebrating National FFA Week February 15-22. The FFA is built around the principle of learning-by-doing with this year's theme being "A Chance For Growth". Directing the organization this year and displaying some new equipment are FFA Secretary, Keith Robinson; Vice President, Lynn Huskins; Treasurer, William Long; President, Tony Eubanks; Sentinel, David Gibbs; Reporter, Derrik Hughes and Chaplain, Billy Mitchell (not shown).



## FFA Quartet

The East Yancey Future Farmers of America Quartet will participate in the District VIII Rally in Franklin on May 10. Members of the winning team are Kenneth Grindstaff, Mary Ann Gibbs, Gregg Presnell and Tony Eubanks.



## Winning Shop Team

The East Yancey Future Farmers of America members (left to right) Roger Huskins, Wade Biddix, Randy Chrisawn, and Frankie Geouge won the Parkway Federation Tool Identification and Materials Contest. They will participate in the State FFA Convention in Raleigh on June 12.

## February: Heart Month

## Physician To Speak On Heart

Dr. Garland E. Wampler, a popular Burnsville physician, will speak on "The Heart" at a meeting to be held Monday, February 24th at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Clubhouse Building in Burnsville. With more than 50% of the deaths in Yancey County due to heart disease, Dr. Wampler's talk will be of vital concern to all adults, who should and must be informed how to halt this trend. An interesting film provided by the North Carolina Heart Association will be shown by Carl Bledsoe. Dr. Wampler will answer questions from the audience. Hazen Ledford, President of Yancey Heart Association, extends a cordial invitation to the public to attend this program. February is Heart Month. Come and learn how you can save your heart.

## Briggs Replaces Anglin

Bruce B. Briggs of Mars Hill was appointed Monday to the North Carolina Superior Court by Gov. James Holsinger.

Briggs, a District Court judge, will serve as resident judge of the 24th Judicial District, replacing Judge W. E. Anglin of Burnsville, who resigned. The term will expire November 23, 1976.

Briggs, a former state senator, attended Mars Hill College and Western Carolina University. He received his law degree from Wake Forest University Law School in 1962.

Briggs served 2½ years as assistant attorney general for the Western District of North Carolina. He has been a District Court judge since 1972.

A Republican, Briggs served in the 1967 and 1969 General Assemblies. He is a deacon at Mars Hill Baptist Church. He and his wife, the former Jean Miller of Waynesville have a daughter, Ashley.

The 24th Judicial District includes Avery, Madison, Mitchell, Watauga and Yancey Counties.

## Winter Tobacco Meeting Set

The Agricultural Extension Service will hold a Winter Tobacco Meeting Tuesday afternoon, February 25th at the Courthouse. It will begin promptly at 2 p.m. and end at 4 p.m. Tobacco Specialist from N.C. State University will be on hand to help farmers with information on Tobacco diseases, insects, varieties, plant beds, allotment regulations, fertilization, and labor saving systems. He will also answer questions from tobacco growers. Demonstrations for the coming year will be discussed after the meeting.

All tobacco growers and the general public are urged to attend.

## 'America Can Do' Is Theme

"America Can Do." This is the theme of a new state-side promotional campaign to be launched in mid-February by First-Citizens Bank & Trust Company. The entire concept of "America Can Do" is to accent the positive, particularly as it relates to the economy.

"It is the bank's opinion that the economy will begin an upturn in 1975, but the attitudes of the individual American will have a dramatic impact on the economic swing," Lewis R. Holding, President of First-Citizens, explained.

"Through the 'America Can Do' program, First-Citizens hopes in a small way to serve as a catalyst to stimulate a more positive attitude toward our country," the bank executive offered.

For the next ten weeks, First-Citizens will direct almost its entire advertising and public relations effort to promoting the concept. The program will continue as long as it is considered effective.

The messages presented by the state-wide bank headquartered in Raleigh, will remind Americans of their past achievements and relate it to the idea that whatever challenge has faced our people, they have always

[Cont'd on page 3]

## County - Town Hearing

The joint County-Town hearing concerning the HUD Community Development Act will be held in the courtroom on Thursday, February 20 at 7:30 p.m.



Hi-lo TEMPERATURE FROM THE UPPER PORCH YANCEY COUNTY COUNTRY STORE Hi-lo 66° Low 28°

## Financial Report From Northwestern

Northwestern Financial Corporation, the one-bank holding company headquartered in North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, today announced net income for 1974 of \$7,213,000 or \$1.58 per share compared with \$7,871,000 or \$1.72 per share for 1973, a decline of 14c per share. Income for 1974 includes a non-recurring 95c per share gain resulting from a change in The Northwestern Bank's method of accounting for income on installment loans. The change from the liquidation method to the rule of 78's method was instituted to allow interest income to be recognized in proportion to outstanding principal and to

provide better matching of revenues with expenses. Securities gains amounted to 2c per share in 1974 and 4c per share in 1973.

The Northwestern Bank reported deposits at year end of \$936,060,000, up from \$880,469,000 a year ago. Loans totaled \$662,760,000, increasing \$27,506,000 since the end of 1973. Total assets amounted to \$1,075,290,000, up from \$1,019,631,000 a year earlier.

Exceptionally high costs of funds coupled with depressed operations within our real estate and other non-banking subsidiaries contributed to the decline in earnings. However, the principal reason for the decrease was a substantial addition to the consolidated provision for loan losses. This provision totaled \$13.59 million in 1974 compared with \$2.62 million in 1973 while net charge offs were \$12.74 million and \$1.92 million in 1974 and 1973, respectively. A major portion of the 1974 charge off was attributable to one particular construction loan on which collection was considered doubtful.

The Northwestern Bank's portion of the 1974 provision for loan losses--was \$6.5 million, \$3.7 million above the minimum regulatory requirements. The 1973 provision was \$1.9 million. As a result of the provisions and charge-offs, the valuation portion of the Bank's loan loss reserve represented 1.23% of year end loans. At the close of

[Cont'd on page 3]



Tommy Rogers

## Revival To Begin In March

A Revival will be held at Cane River Baptist Church from March 2nd through March 9th at 7:30 p.m. nightly.

Evangelist for this revival will be Tommy L. Rogers, who has been called back again after having held a previous revival in Yancey County.

The public is invited to come, bring your family and friends, and pray much for this Revival.