

THE YANCEY JOURNAL

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10¢

Let's Make It
A Big
Year...



Happy New Year

and a big "thank you" to our readers
& advertisers for your support in 1975.

From the Journal staff.

Tetanus Victims Succumb To Preventable Disease

Six cases of tetanus have been reported in North Carolina in 1975, more than any year since 1967, when eight cases were reported. Three of the six victims survived. During the 10-year period since 1966, 147 cases have been reported. Of that number 103 (70 percent) died.

"The fact is that all of those infected with tetanus would have had an excellent chance at life had they received proper immunization," said Dr. J.N. McCormack, head of the Communicable Disease Branch of the Division of Health Services.

"When viewed in terms of the tetanus vaccine's availability and cost, it makes the deaths appear even more pathetic."

"Hospitalization and treatment of the six cases we had in 1975 cost about \$17,000. That would have bought 304,000 doses of vaccine, more than enough to give 100,000 adults the basic series of tetanus shots."

MacCormack said the average age of those becoming infected with tetanus is creeping up and he believes that it is because many older people were not included in formal immunization programs such as were available in the Armed Forces. He speculated that a number of those who were given the basic series during World War II have let their immunity lapse.

The public health official pointed out that on the credit side, the increased age of tetanus victims probably is a reflection of a good immunization level for tetanus prevented in children by immunization. There is an immunization law in North Carolina that requires children to be vaccinated against tetanus and several other diseases, but no such law

applies to adults.

One Percent Sales Tax Collections

Local one percent sales and use tax collections for North Carolina counties were reported recently for the month of November, 1975. The report, issued by J. Howard Coble, Secretary of the N.C. Department of Revenue, shows Yancey County collections amounted to \$16,785.65 for the month of November. This compares with Madison County collections of \$14,531.56 for the same period. Mitchell and Avery County exceeded Yancey by a considerable amount, having collected \$25,183.95 and \$19,025.97 respectively.



YANCEY COUNTY
COURT HOUSE

Hi - 60
TEMPERATURE
Hi - 60°
Lo - 14°

Free Forest Firewood Saves On Fuel Bill

Recent announcements of possible fuel oil shortages in the East again this winter have sent hundreds of families to the National Forests in North Carolina to take advantage of their offers of free firewood for personal use. Although many people stocked their woodpiles during the summer months, many others continue to apply at Ranger District offices on the Pisgah, Nantahala, Uwharrie and Croatan National Forests for their permits.

For those who may be gathering their own firewood for the first time, here are some notes for reference--

In using wood you are utilizing a renewable fuel resource. Oil, coal and gas are limited and when used cannot be replaced. Wood can be easily regrown and has the advantage of being readily available, easily cut and relatively inexpensive in terms of expended resources.

Permits for free fuelwood are available from the offices of District Rangers on the four

National Forests in North Carolina.

Your permit will tell you where you may gather wood and how much you may remove. The amount is usually measured in "cords" which is a stack of wood four feet high, four feet wide, and eight feet long.

Most wood will burn slowly if it is green so what you gather should be reasonably dry of "seasonal".

Each kind of wood has different burning characteristics. Softwoods, like pine and spruce, burn rapidly with a high flame and quick heat output. Heavier hardwoods such as oak, ash and maple burn more slowly, with short flames, good coals and long heat output. Fruit and nut trees such as hickory and beech combine good coals with aroma. By mixing hardwoods and softwoods, you can achieve an easily ignited and long lasting fire.

Gathering fuelwood from National Forests and preparing it for the fireplace or

heater can be a most enjoyable pastime for the whole family during the holiday season and can start the New Year by saving on the fuel bill.

Donors' Blood Aids Open Heart Surgery

BY ASHTON CHAPMAN

An urgent call for type A-Negative blood, needed for a patient scheduled to undergo open-heart surgery, was received by the Mayland Red Cross Chapter just before the bloodmobile from the Red Cross Blood Center in Asheville was to make its visit to Burnsville on December 15, operated at the First Baptist Church.

Nine persons with this type each donated a pint of their blood for that specific purpose. Those donors included William Stallings, Joyce Ann Rathbone, Carmela Mandala, Vance McKinney, Bill Dean Willis, Richard Louis Muri, Darius Adkins, Steven Charles King and James Lee Owens.

A total of 71 persons each volunteered to give a pint of their life-saving blood. Seven had to be deferred at that time for medical reasons. Of the 64 productive donors eight were making their first-time donation. It is hoped that each of these first-time donors will become "regulars" during future visits of the blood mobile.

Earl Van Horn, Chapter Chairman, is joined by other chapter officers in thanking each of the 71 persons who offered blood, also the ladies of Higgins Memorial United Methodist Church, who furnished and served refreshments to the donors, and everyone else who helped make the bloodmobile visit run smoothly.

North Carolina Boasts Real Mountain Lions

There are mountain lions living wild and free in North Carolina. Mountain lions, also called cougars or panthers, have been considered extinct in this state for nearly 100 years, despite a growing number of reported sightings in recent years.

Until July 23, 1975, none of these sightings had been unquestionably confirmed. On that day, late in the evening, five park service employees in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park got a good look at a live mountain lion as it chased a trio of deer in a clearing near the Cataloochee River.

The full and fascinating story of this historic sighting, along with other evidence of the presence of mountain lions in North Carolina is told in the January issue of

Wildlife in North Carolina, a non-profit publication of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

In 1971, the State Legislature, acting on the educated guesses of experts, passed a law giving the mountain lion full protection throughout the state. The sighting of the Cataloochee Lion, and the hair samples, now remove any doubt about the existence of lions in North Carolina, and as Hardison says in his article, "Somehow the mountains become a little wilder, the swamps a little more mysterious."

Wildlife in North Carolina is available by subscription for \$2 a year. Write Wildlife in North Carolina, Dept. C, 325 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27611.

Mailman Saves Home

On December 24, 1975 as Rural Mail Carrier Lee Slagle was making his mail run on Patterson Branch section of Yancey County, he saw smoke coming from around the chimney of the home of the Leland Scotts.

Mr. Slagle quickly left his car and notified the Scott family of the fire, then climbed on the roof, tore into the area where the fire was, and with the aid of the family, extinguished it. The Burnsville Fire Department was then called to make sure the fire was completely out.

Due to the considerable distance to the nearest fire department it is very likely that the Scott home would have either been severely damaged or completely destroyed had it not been for the quick thoughts and actions of Mr. Slagle.

This was a pretty nice Christmas present from the "mailman", don't you think?

Thread Plant Makes Big UF Donation

Wade Bowman, Industrial Relations Manager for the American Thread Company-Sevier Plant, has submitted to the Yancey County United Fund a check in the amount of \$703.12 from the company and its employees living in the Yancey County area.

The Company received a total pledge for the 1975-76 year of approximately \$10,000 and as in years past, American Thread has made a company contribution based on the number of employees from the four-county area of McDowell, Mitchell, Yancey and Avery Counties.

The Fund Drive was very successful and the employees' interest and support is to be commended.

The American Thread Company and its employees from Yancey County are glad to accept their responsibility



Dr. Nancy Bush

Heritage Library Planned

Plans are well underway for the furnishings for the library at Mountain Heritage High School. James Byrd, elementary library coordinator for Yancey County Schools is serving as chairman of the Planning Committee, along with members Mrs. Betty Harvell and Mrs. Elaine Boone, librarians at East Yancey and Cane River High Schools.

Advisory consultant for the planning is Dr. Nancy Bush, professor of Educational Media at Appalachian State University. Dr. Bush, who is volunteering her services, received her Ph.D. degree from Florida State University and has had a wide range of experience in the field of librarianship. In late November she spent two days in Yancey County working with James Byrd on detailed plans for the library furnishings.

Board Of Education Meeting

The Yancey County Board of Education will meet Monday, January 5th, 1976 at 7:30 p.m. in the School Superintendent's office in Burnsville.



North Carolina's Skiing Season Is Underway

The skiing season is underway in the North Carolina mountains. Ski areas are Appalachian Ski Mountain, Blowing Rock, Beech Mountain, Banner Elk, Cataloochee, Maggie

Valley, High Meadows, Roaring Gap, Sugar Mountain, Banner Elk, and Wolf Laurel at Mars Hill.