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Yancey Hospital Building Underway

The brick walls of the future 50-bed Yancey County hospital building are now rising on a beautifully situated site on the outskirts of Burnsville.

The new hospital, long planned as a part of the two-county Blue Ridge Hospital System, is expected to be completed early in the spring of next year. Although the facility will largely be devoted to caring for extended-care patients, there will also be an emergency care unit, trauma center, 4 treatment beds and 4 observation beds. It will also include a laboratory and x-ray.

The site of the new hospital is on the Pensacola Road where once stood the Burnsville boy's camp, and where later Mr. Herring's painting classes were held for many summers. Purchased advantageously several years ago by the Yancey Hospital, the site is recognized as an excellent location. Close in to Burnsville, (it is within the Town Limits), it has beautiful surroundings and affords ample parking space.

The building, with 17,000 square feet, is designed so that additions may readily be added as need arises. The long range plan envisions one addition to accommodate doctors' offices, thus providing an efficient concentration of the county's medical services in one area.

Although the construction site now presents the usual chaotic appearance of any big construction job, the architects give assurance that the finished job will be outstanding. The construction is all top grade, as required to meet the standards of the North Carolina Medical Care Commission, under whose authority the project is progressing.

The building will not only serve to meet the health care needs of the county, but by its attractive appearance and well landscaped surroundings, will contribute importantly to the attractive image long enjoyed by Yancey County. A feature of the hospital surroundings will be

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Represents County On Board

Frank Sikorski, president of the Bank's Creek Community Club, was elected this week to represent Yancey County on the board of directors of the 18-county Western North Carolina Development Association.

He succeeds Vernie Wilson of Jacks Creek, who has served on the area development program for the past two years.

The election took place at a luncheon meeting at the Sheraton Motor Inn, Asheville, which was attended by both Sikorski and Wilson.

Wilson was honored by the group for his interest and work with the community development program in his community and in Yancey County for the past several years.

The WNC Development Association is an agricultural promotion group and also sponsors the WNC Community Development Program in cooperation with the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service.



Photo By Brian Westveer

Progress

One of the most progressive periods in its history is underway in Yancey County right now. In less than a decade we have witnessed tremendous growth in many fields:

In that short time span new businesses and new shopping centers have come into being; besides a facelift of the Burnsville town square and other civic improvements.

We are building a new high school and a new hospital, and we have almost completed work on a new town water system.

Costly renovations and remodeling have been done on the old courthouse and old bank building to make them our new town hall and new public library.

We have added a new "super" ambulance to our medical services, and have reinforced our fire-fighting apparatus with more and better equipment.

Yancey Countians can be justly proud of our progress in recent years. Their "buying power" is one of the things that is helping to keep our county growing. Tax pennies are added to almost every dollar we spend, and these

pennies add up to a staggering amount of \$10,000 to \$20,000 every month.

We could do better, though! Yancey County sales tax collections for the last quarter of 1975 totaled \$51,928.10. Mitchell County, however, with a population figure almost identical to that of Yancey County, collected the sum of \$71,685.52 during the same period. In January, 1976, Yancey County collected just over \$18,000 compared to Mitchell County's \$26,000.

Progress is up to the people of Yancey County. We hope that you will read through this 1976 Progress Edition of the Journal and take a good hard look at the businesses which are represented on its pages. These businesses, large and small, are showing by their advertisement that they are fully behind Yancey County progress. In fact, they are really the merchants who are bringing this newspaper to you, letting you know that you are important to them.

Now it's up to each individual to stand up and be counted by shopping, when possible, with these merchants instead of taking your "buying power" to a place that is not only uninterested in Yancey County, but may never even have heard of it.



Photo By Brian Westveer

School Construction Has Big Impact On Economy

The construction of the new Mountain Heritage School plant has had a considerable impact on the economy of Yancey County during its construction period. Juno Construction Company, the general contractor for the project, has employed local labor and craftsmen almost exclusively for the project. In addition, other contractors have used local people whenever possible. In addition to wages paid locally, sizeable sums of money

have been paid for building materials, fuel, trucking and machine operations, and for food and lodging for technicians who have come in to work on a particular phase of the construction.

It is estimated that almost a million dollars in monies paid to the various contractors has been returned directly to Yancey County citizens and businesses.

Mountain Heritage Ahead Of Schedule

The Yancey County Board of Education may be able to take possession of the new Mountain Heritage High School plant ahead of schedule this summer. The construction project, which began in October 1974, was scheduled to be completed on July 4, 1976. However, a revised schedule presented to the Board last month indicates that the project may be completed by mid-June. James Padgett, architect for the project, states that he has never seen a project of this size go so smoothly with all contractors working harmoniously toward completion of the project.

The new structure, proclaimed by many non-residents of the county as one of the finest in the state, is designed to accommodate a thousand students in grades 9 through 12. It contains classroom facilities for a wide range of academic subjects, shops and labs for a variety of vocational programs, a gymnasium which will seat up to 2400 spectators, a large media center, and a school food service facility. The facility also contains a seven hundred seat auditorium which was acoustically engineered. The stage is large enough to accommodate various types of performances. The music suite contains a band practice room, a choral music room, a music library room, practice rooms and adequate storage space.

Although funds are not available at this time to complete the football stadium.

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Town Improves Plants

In its continuing efforts to better the town's water supply and to improve its treatment of sewerage, Burnsville has made several important improvements during the past year. Both water and sewer systems operate under strict State supervision, and for both systems the requirements from year to year become more strict.

The Town has made every effort to comply with the increasingly stringent requirements, even though in many instances the added expense has been considerable. The difference between the town's water treatment plant five years ago, when it was operated by Ransom Higgins, employed practically on a part-time basis, and the present automated plant with its impressive electronic control gear, is the difference between the horse-and-buggy days and the present.

In 1971, following several years of planning and negotiating with Federal agencies, reconstruction of the water system was begun, the cost to be approximately \$500,000. Many unforeseen delays occurred, dragging out the work nearly two years beyond the scheduled completion. For a time it seemed that the project was jinxed, and that it might be comparable to the occasional "lemon" coming off the automobile assembly line.

One by one the difficulties were ironed out, although even today, more than five

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