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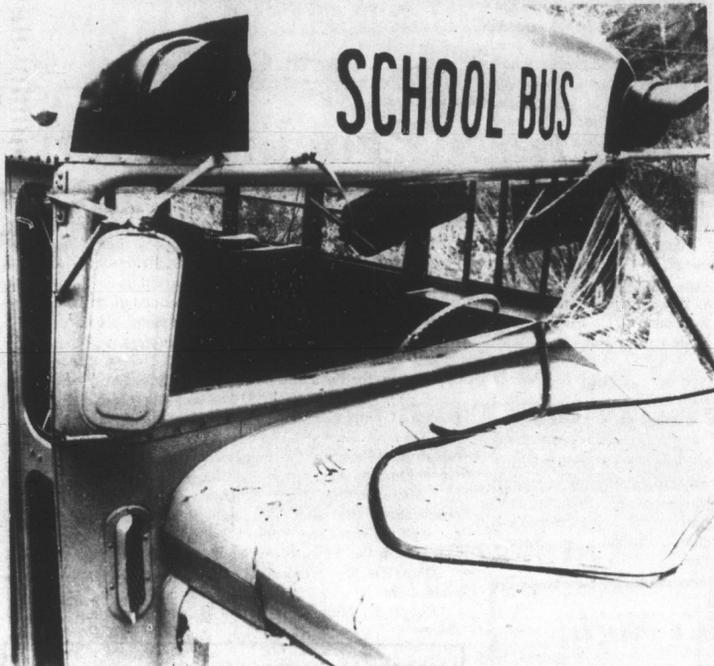
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Broken Mailbox Marks Path Of Bus As It Hurtled Toward River



Seats Inside Bus Were Buckled Forward On Impact



Children Were Tossed Through Windshield

Swine Flu Immunization Clinic Slated For Sunday

A mass clinic for immunization against the swine flu will be held on Sunday, November 21, from 12 to 4 p.m. at the Yancey County Health Department.

The vaccinations are free of charge and the bivalent vaccine (a combination of swine flu and A-Victoria vaccine) will be administered to persons 60 and over and those chronically ill.

The monovalent vaccine (swine flu vaccine) will be given to the general population 18 to 59 years of age.

The vaccine will be administered by public health nurses on a first-come, first-served basis.

A spokesman at the health department said that the department feels it has an adequate supply of vaccine to meet the country's needs.

The spokesman added that persons not recommended to take a vaccine are running a fever, taking any type of antibiotics, and those who have received a vaccination for flu within the last four weeks.

Also, persons who are allergic to eggs, chicken feathers or chicken dander should not take the vaccine.

If individuals are unsure whether they should take the vaccine they should contact their family doctor, especially those persons with cardiac condition, the spokesman said.

The Sunday clinic is planned so that people can stop for the flu shot on their

way home from church. The Health Department will continue to give flu vaccine every Friday afternoon from 2 until 5 p.m. with the exception of November 26. The Sunday afternoon clinic will also be for the convenience of those who work during the week and still want the flu vaccine.

United Way Honor Roll

Well past the half-way mark toward reaching its budget goal, the annual United Way campaign of Yancey County is entering the home stretch. Chairman Joe Johnson reports good progress since the last publication of results in the fund raising drive.

Several names have been added to the honor roll since the last report. It should be pointed out that the list, shown below, may be incomplete as it is understood that a number of assured contributions have not yet reached the treasurer, Mrs. Muriel Cooper, who may be reached at the

Burnsville Town Hall.
UNITED WAY SPONSORS
(Contributors of \$500 or more)
BanCo & Ginny Lisa Shop
Mohasco Mill
Dr. Garland Wampler
Mr. and Mrs. Mack B. Ray

UNITED WAY PATRONS
(Contributors of \$200 to \$500)
Northwestern Bank
Deyton Farm Supply
Pollard's Drug Store
Drs. David & Carolyn Cort
Dr. E.R. Ohle
Dr. Judith McGahey
Robert K. Helmle
Holcombe Funeral Home
Mrs. B.R. Penland
Dr. W.A.Y. Sargent
First-Citizens Bank

CENTURY CLUB
(Contributors of \$100 to \$200)
Roberts Chevrolet-Buick
French Broad Electric
Robert Altemus
Burnsville Furn. & Hardware
Yancey Builders Supply
Edward L. Greer
Milton Weiss
Dover Fouts
Joe K. Johnson
Lacey Johnson
Hazen Ledford
Mr. and Mrs. John Martin
Staunton Norris
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Priemeyer
Blue Ridge Hardware
Dr. R.K. Ransom
Wm. O. Cullom
G.D. Bailey
Joe Young Ford

Brakes Fail On School Bus:

26 Injured In Bus Crash

BY CAROLYN YUZIUK

At approximately 8:10 a.m. last Friday, November 12, with the chilling, heart-stopping report of a school bus accident crackling over the CB radio at Yancey Hospital, that facility was plunged headlong into a tremendous life-saving operation.

Dr. Roger Hemphill and two nurses were at the hospital when the call came in. Within 5 minutes Dr. Garland Wampler and two off-duty nurses were also at the hospital in response to an urgent phone call. By the time the ambulances began to arrive 20 minutes later, Dr. Melvin Webb, Dr. W.A.Y. Sargent, three more nurses and an X-ray team had joined those waiting to receive the accident victims.

Meanwhile at the site of the accident, which had occurred at 7:55 a.m. on 19W at Elk Shoal Road when the brakes failed on a 13-year-old school bus, 26 kids, all of them injured to some degree, some badly injured, were being helped or carried out of the bus on stretchers. The Yancey Ambulance Service and Rescue Squad, operating three ambulances, organized their efforts to bring order to the disaster. Although the accident was technically in Highway Patrol jurisdiction, the Yancey County Sheriff's Department and Burnsville

Police Department, on hearing the accident report, also came immediately to give assistance wherever needed.

The most critically injured were brought to Yancey Hospital first and were immediately treated for shock and pain with intravenous fluids and medication before being sent to a larger hospital in Asheville. When the youngsters left for Asheville, one of the doctors and a registered nurse rode in the ambulance with them to continue life sustaining measures until they reached their destination.

The ambulances continued to arrive. Stretcher after stretcher of battered and bleeding boys and girls came through the Emergency Room doors. They were given swift and efficient medical attention almost before the doors closed behind them.

Extra beds and stretchers were commandeered from the hospital floor above and now lined the walls, making the whole lower floor into an emergency ward. A multitude

of blankets were pressed into use for the cold and trembling youths, many of them in a state of shock from the terrifying experience as much as from their wounds.

Then anxious parents began to arrive in large numbers, almost afraid of what they might see; almost overcome with relief when they saw their children. Twenty six youngsters were examined and treated in this emergency. Most of them were able to go home with their families by Friday evening. Some of them were not.

When finally the emergency was over and the exhausted medical staff and ambulance men and all the helpers at the hospital saw the last of the children treated, they paused to take stock and tally the cost of the failing brakes on a 13-year-old school bus in Yancey County: Lisa Haney, 13, was in critical condition at Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville with multiple rib fractures, spinal and chest injuries;

Stella Haney, 11, was there with a fractured pelvis; Mary Lou Silvers, also at the Asheville facility, was in serious condition with internal injuries; Glenda Brackins, 15, with a fractured jaw and concussion; Gary Phillips, 14, with hip injuries; and Don Gyselinck, 13, with head and facial injuries were also at Memorial Mission, although Don was released the same day.

Admitted to Yancey Hospital for observation and treatment were Ken Cooper, 13, with a leg wound and Sherri Ledford, 14, with contusions and shock.

Those who were examined, many of them X-rayed, and released at Yancey Hospital were Ramona Lewis, Teddy Phillips-13, Wendell Wilson-15, Kathy Williams-11, Charles Clay Phillips-11, Jeffrey Bradford-14, Roger Hilemon-11, Kim Bradley-15, James Edwards-17, Steve McLaughlin-15, Barbara Brackins-11, Beaver Whitson-12, Keith Cooper-13, and two Davenport children. Three others were seen whose names are not listed.

State Trooper Stallings, investigating, stated after the emergency was over: "I've been at the scene of accidents, large and small, all over North Carolina, but I've never seen such cooperation and coordination between everyone involved as has been shown here in Yancey County today."

Many others commented on the readiness of everyone to pitch in and help: "Before we had even assessed the seriousness of the accident, doctors and medical staff were on their way to the hospital to be ready when we got there," said an ambulance driver. And the nurse on duty that day said, "It was a good feeling to be able to report, 'We're all here and ready,' when the ambulances called back from the accident site."

Although concern for the seriously injured students is still uppermost in their minds, everyone who participated in this emergency—doctors, nurses, aides and other hospital personnel, medical technicians and ambulance drivers, the X-ray crew, the highway patrol, police depart-

ment and sheriff's department—has gained a warm feeling of pride from seeing the total and wholehearted response Yancey County brought to this operation.

Two-Car Accident

A two-car accident occurred Saturday, November 13, at 5:20 p.m. on Colberts Creek Road 10½ miles south of Burnsville.

Andrew Simmons, 16, of Route 5, Burnsville was driving a 1964 Volkswagen down a slight grade too fast for travel on a gravel road, and ran into a ditch embankment. The Volkswagen then crossed back onto the road into the path of a 1969 Chevrolet truck driven by James Woods, 65, of Route 5, Burnsville, which was traveling north. The Volkswagen overturned, coming to rest on the driver's side with its rear against the ditch.

There were no injuries. Damage to the Volkswagen was estimated at \$250.00; damage to the truck at \$2,000. Trooper B.R. Owens investigated.

Negotiations Underway

North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation is currently involved in negotiations with Carolina Power & Light Company for settlement of the 1975 and 1976 wholesale rate increases.

N.C. EMC is acting in behalf of French Broad EMC as well as other electric membership corporations in the state of North Carolina who purchase power from Carolina Power & Light Company. Previous negotiations on these rate cases had come to a standstill but resumed last week following settlement made between CP&L and Electricities on their 1975 rate increase.

French Broad EMC is looking and hoping for a meaningful and just settlement on these rate cases that have been pending for such a long time.

Board Continues Investigation

Members of the Yancey County Board of Education and other school officials have worked continuously since the school bus accident on Friday in an effort to determine the exact cause or causes of the accident, as well as to review and consider practices that would further assure a non recurrence of such an accident.

In a meeting with the drivers of the bus, it was determined that there had

been no reports of unsatisfactory brakes on the bus before the accident occurred. The bus had undergone state inspection in August 1976, and the engine had been overhauled in October. Brake cylinders are routinely checked on all buses every two weeks. The brakes on this particular bus will be dismantled on Wednesday and checked by an inspector from the Division of Transportation in Raleigh.

Appreciation Dinner

An Appreciation Dinner honoring the retiring Congressman Roy A. Taylor, who has served the 11th Congressional District for sixteen years, and his wife, Mrs. Evelyn Taylor, is being held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 30, at the Asheville Civic Center.

Reservation forms for this dinner are available at the

Yancey County Chamber of Commerce and must be made by November 22 in order to receive tickets, which are \$15.00 each. The tickets will be mailed out from the Asheville Chamber of Commerce.

This is a non-political dinner honoring the Congressman, and anyone is invited to attend.