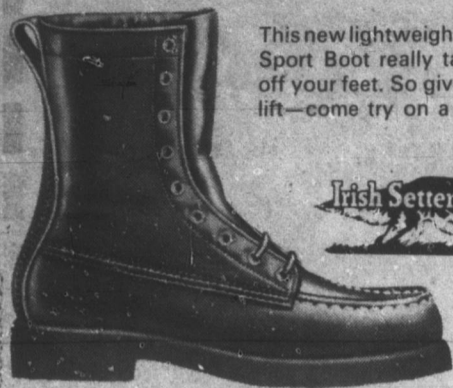


Yancey Health Dept.

Nov. 25, Thursday, Holiday
 Nov. 26, Friday, Office Closed
 Nov. 29, Monday, Immunization Clinic
 Nov. 29, Monday, Nurse Screening

8:00-11:00
 9:00-3:00

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Folk-Ways and Folk-Speech

One of my earliest memories of growing up in the textile village of Spindale, North Carolina, was observing the mysterious ways of the local barber as he practiced his trade on my elder brothers and other of my neighborhood companions.

Even as modern children react with fear to haircutting, I had an instinctive dread of clippers, scissors and other barber weaponry. In addition, I may have harbored the old superstition that if a boy is to grow into a powerful man, he should not have his hair cut until he is seven.

At any rate, I must have been pretty close to that age when my towhead got the treatment, for it turned into a neighborhood event. I still vividly remember the taunting chants of the other kids: "Cotton—removed! Cotton removed!"

I also remember from the same occasion a fiery performance staged by the barber when one of his customers called for a singe. Deliberately and diabolically (I thought), the barber rolled a sheet of paper into a tight wand, touched a kitchen match to it, and applied the ensuing blaze to the combed ends of the customer's hair.

Immediately the nauseous odor of burning paper and

scorched hair permeated the room. But to my astonishment the customer sat patient and unmoving, assured by the barber that the treatment would give new life to his hair.

Perhaps I should have overcome my fear and asked for this hairsaving treatment since I am now quite capable of fulfilling the scriptural injunction of numbering the hairs on my head.

In any event, my early recollections of singeing were recently stirred by a TV news story about a barber who has developed a gas-fueled torch to replace the rolled paper and its successor, the skinny candle.

Next step: check with Jerry Wilson, a Boone barber of long experience. "Singeing? Hadn't done a singeing job for twenty years until a customer with about six hairs on top came in last week hoping I could help him double them. He figured that if I sealed the ends on the six and made them healthy it would encourage others to sprout."

The theory back of singeing?

"Well, in the old days the idea was that unless the hair shaft was sealed, the natural oil would leak out and the hair would become thin and lifeless."

According to Jerry, this belief was shared by both men and women. "Back in the days when the boyish bob, the shingle, and the windblown bob were in style, I singed about as many women as men. Nowadays you seldom hear of it, but I understand some beauty operators use it to get rid of split ends."

Wilson's associate, Ned Austen, who has barbered his way across these United States and back, offered another possibility for the singeing practice.

"Ever since Samson—and maybe before—there have

been all sorts of superstitions about hair and hair-cutting. We were told in barber school that certain people think that witches can gain control of them through the hair-getting into their brains through the hair shafts. To them it stands to reason that the only thing to do is close the shafts with fire."

But back to our torch-wielding barber. His theory apparently is that singeing is the ideal way to keep the hair in place without the use of sprays and lotions.

"The hair is naturally heavier at the ends when you singe it, so it will look neat for several days after a treatment."

Convinced that the singe is the thing of the moment, I have twice had the candle flame treatment within the last ten days. Result: my hair does stay in place to a degree; it still looks drab and lifeless; I can still number all the hairs on my head.

Readers are invited to send folk material to Folk-Ways and Folk Speech, Box 376, Appalachian State University, Boone, N.C. 28608.

Letters To The Editor



Dear Editor:

I live not too far from where the bus accident happened. I had a 14-year-old boy, Roger Dale, on the bus. I agree that we desperately need new buses and adult bus drivers. When I was going to Bald Creek High School we had adult bus drivers.

I noticed that although we all agree, no one has said "thank you" to the bus driver, Jim Edwards. That's what I would like to do now. Although I have done a lot of complaining about having to pay \$30 a month to the Clerk of Court for support, I am thankful to the Lord in Heaven above and to Jim Edwards that I have Roger Dale to pay \$30 a month on. I wish to thank Jim Edwards because if the Lord hadn't been with him, the accident could have been a lot worse. For one thing the Elementary School bus could have been coming up Elk Shoal Road. The driver could have gotten out of the way, but maybe by the time the driver realized something was wrong, it could have been too late and there might have been two buses down there. One of them could have been in the river or crushed under the other bus.

Jim Edwards had a whole busload of kids lives in his hands, and he realized this. His first concern was for the children. I do not know you, Jim Edwards, just your name, but for the life of my son, for myself, and for being the kind of bus driver you are—from the bottom of my heart, Thank you, James Edwards.

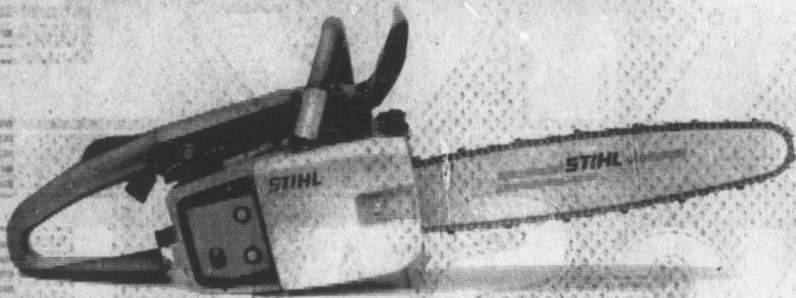
Sincerely, A Grateful Parent,
 Mrs. Phyllis M. Tipton,
 Higgins Community



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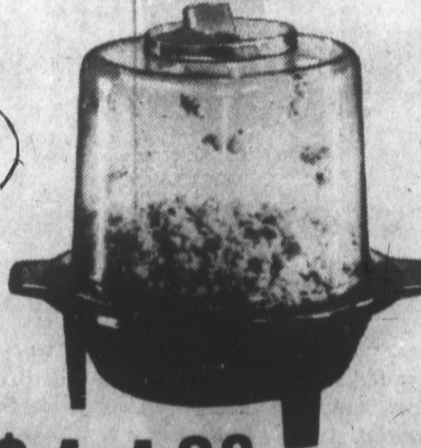
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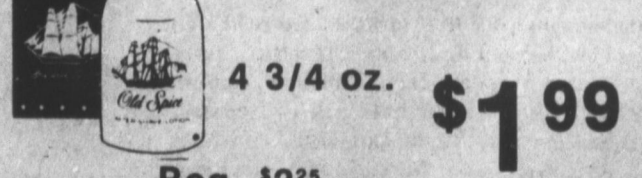
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Newspapers are as old as free government—and have flourished with it. Thomas Jefferson knew the value of a free press when he wrote, "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

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Dear Editor:

This is my part to try to keep our valleys and mountains from becoming another Vacation Resort and not a home. Many people make their living from the evergreens in these mountains. I know, I grew up there. Thank you for printing these facts in your paper. It's our only way of keeping up with our home land.

U.S. Army GI In Europe
 And "We Serve Proudly"
 MOUNTAINS CALLED "BLUE"

If you had to hear the everlasting roar
 From the fights on the street,
 Or the party next door.

If you could feel the absence
 Of the serenity I knew,
 From the hollows and ridges
 That are known as the Blue.

If they were taken away,
 The water so clean,
 The nights full of silence,
 A morning in Spring.

I feel that you'd miss,
 Just as I do,
 Then how could you change them?
 The mountains, called "Blue."
 A.G.I.

Dear Editor:

I think the time has come for the people of Yancey County to voice their opinion and take action on the bus situation that now exists.

Having been an Adult Driver for almost 4 years I have a few feelings I'd like to share with you. There are many capable student drivers, but are they really capable enough? Being 23 years old I sometimes wonder if I was capable enough. School kids have so much to occupy their minds that they don't fully concentrate on driving. An excited mind or a personal problem has no place behind the wheel of a bus carrying golden cargo. Your kids are the most important asset God can give. A gift which can be taken away in the twinkling of an eye. That's all it takes to send as many as 60 kids to a terrifying death. Even adults are capable of wrecking. But with more driving experience and a more mature mind, whose hands would you rather your kids life be in. An adult or a school kid, 16 to 18 years old.

Driving a bus is a good experience, but it's also one that will be on your conscience the rest of your life if something goes wrong.

Adult drivers could be obtained if the pay were reasonable. But can you blame an adult for not driving 3 to 4 hours a day for \$7 to \$8 a day?

Yancey County Board of Education says they don't have the money for new buses or adult drivers. Yet we the taxpayers are paying our hard-earned money on a new fancy high school --what good will the school be with no students to go to it? What happens after all our kids are killed on a dangerous road in an old bus?

Yancey County buses are not kept up the way they should be. I know from my own experience that most of the time it takes 1 to 2 weeks of constant reminding to get something fixed. A 5 to 10 minute job that could save many lives. I'm not putting down our County mechanics, but they know themselves that without a reliable bus and driver that an accident like this can happen any time. Maybe next time we the people of Yancey County won't be so lucky.

Something like this puts terror in the heart of a little kid, and you really can't blame them for not wanting to ride an old bus. It's something to think about. Try to think about the suffering these kids must have experienced in this past accident. Then make up your own mind what you want. An adult driver or a student one.

To maybe share in the mourning and sorrow at the death or to know that your kids are riding on a safe bus with a reliable driver.

So now's the time Yancey residents, to speak your mind and take action. I just pray to God you will. Won't it be wonderful to know that at any moment your kid will come through the door saying "Hey, Mom, what's for supper?" Pray on it.

A Concerned Adult Driver