

THE YANCEY JOURNAL

VOL. 4, NO. 50

BURNSVILLE, N.C. 28714

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1976

15¢

Charged In Death Of Son

Arthur M. Wilson, 68, of Route 4, Burnsville (Ramseytown community) has been charged with murder in the shooting death of his son, Don L. Wilson, 26, also of Route 4, Burnsville.

A brother of the deceased witnessed the incident, according to Sheriff Kermit Banks, who said the son assaulted the father and the shot was fired as they scuffled over the handgun. The son was shot one time in the chest shortly after 9 a.m. Tuesday morning, December 7. The shooting took place at the home of the father.

Arthur Wilson has been released on bond after being charged with murder.

100 Came To Donate Blood

One-hundred persons presented themselves to give blood when the Bloodmobile made its recent stop in Yancey County on December 6, 1976, at the First Baptist Church.

Of the number volunteering blood, ten had to be rejected for various reasons and ninety were accepted as donors. For eight of them, it was the first time they had given blood.

With this visit of the Bloodmobile, Ricky Peterson became a member of the gallon club; Arthur Morrison and Robert McKinney moved to membership in the two-gallon club with the September 13 visit.

Also on September 13, Leonard Ayers earned his 5-gallon pin, and on December 6, O.W. Deyton started on his 9th gallon of blood donations.

Mrs. Nancy Shaw and her Health Occupations class from Mountain Heritage High School assisted with the operation of the bloodmobile. Hostesses for this occasion were the ladies of Wimber Methodist Church.

Burnsville Fire Calls

Saturday, December 4, 1976 at 7:00 p.m.: Martin Bryant Residence on Lower Jacks Creek Road. The house was completely destroyed when the fire department arrived. Sixteen men and two trucks responded.

Tuesday, December 7, 1976 at 11:05 a.m.: Milton Higgins, Jr. Residence on Dogwood Drive in Burnsville. Livingroom furniture on fire. Smoke damage to house; furniture destroyed. Three trucks responded.

Film Show

A film, "His Land" will be shown December 22 at the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. The public is invited.



100th Christmas

Mrs. Oma Bryant Robinson has celebrated Christmas for 99 years; this Christmas, in our nation's bicentennial year, will be her 100th. Mrs. Robinson is the widow of the late Martin Robinson who died 30 years ago. She makes her home with Mr. and Mrs. Noah Robinson, [her son], at Route 2, Burnsville. Mrs. Robinson has seven children, 43 grandchildren, 79 great grandchildren and 10 great-great-grandchildren. Open house will be held on her 100th birthday, Saturday, December 18, from 1 to 5 p.m. and all her friends and relatives are invited.

Planned Power Outage

There will be a scheduled Power Outage Sunday, December 19, from 6:30 a.m. until 7:00 a.m. This outage is necessary to upgrade fuses in the Micaville Substation. The following areas will be affected: South Toe River, Blue Rock Road, Double Island Road, Micaville, Wimber, and Mine Fork.

License Renewal

Cards Sent

Edward L. Powell, Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, announced an early mailing of renewal application cards needed to obtain 1977 North Carolina motor vehicle license plates and stickers. The renewal cards, approximately four million of them, will be mailed on two separate dates. Some were mailed December 10, the rest will be mailed December 20, 1976.

Private passenger automobiles will again be renewed by stickers. The 1977 renewal stickers are more distinct, featuring a white outline of the State of North Carolina on a dark red background. Other vehicles will receive a 1977 red on white license plate. Stickers and plates will go on sale January 3, 1977 at 102 locations throughout North Carolina.

The license plate stickers must be placed on the upper right hand corner of the 1975 license plate directly over the blue sticker. Powell urged the public to follow the directions carefully on the back of the sticker wrapper before affixing it to the license plate.

Motor Vehicle owners who do not receive their license plate renewal card by January 3rd should notify the Division

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Last Big Drive For Flu Vaccinations

Why should Yancey County citizens get vaccinated for Swine flu?

Because, if they don't, we will all be sorry, if an epidemic comes. Better be safe than sorry.

Vaccinations are urged before exposure to the disease because it is the only way an individual can be protected from influenza. There is no known cure. A person must have their shot 30 days prior to exposure to have protection.

Influenza has a special place in the history of epidemic diseases. Influenza is caused by a virus which changes its makeup so much that nobody has immunity to it. Therefore, it finds the population wide open and unprotected against the virus.

Scientists do not know if the Swine influenza (A/New Jersey/76) will spread to the general population this coming flu season. If it does, it could cause a worldwide epidemic with extensive illness and death.

Carl Tuttle, Director of the Health Department, says the number immunized in Yancey County amounted to only 13.7%, so people are urged to get the vaccine. Dr. James McCormack, with the Division of Health Services, reports that 10.2% of North Carolina's population are now immunized. Should an outbreak occur, this percentage is not high enough to prevent an epidemic.

For the convenience of the public, the Yancey County Health Department staff will be giving the Swine flu vaccine at the Banks Family Square on Saturday, December 18, from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. This is the last major campaign taken out to the public before the flu season hits. From this time on, the Swine flu vaccine will be available all day on Mondays at the Health Department.

Come to Burnsville, do your Christmas shopping, and get your flu shot!!

Driver Unhurt; Car Ends Up In River

A one-car accident on Tuesday, December 7, at 10:05 p.m. involved James M. Whitehead, 32, of Route 6, Burnsville.

Whitehead was driving a 1971 Volkswagen south, 2 miles out of Burnsville, on 197 South parallel with Cane River. He stated that he fell asleep. The car was driven off

the south bound shoulder, striking numerous rocks while turning over, end over end. The car came to rest halfway submerged in Cane River.

Whitehead suffered only minor injuries. There were no passengers.

Damage to the Volkswagen was estimated at \$900. Trooper B.R. Owens investigated.

The shares of Brad Ragan, which is based in Spruce Pine, N.C., are traded on the American Stock Exchange



Mrs. Santa Talks With 'Little People'

Over 100 "little people" attended a Christmas Party with Mrs. Santa this past Monday, December 13, at the Yancey County Public Library in Burnsville. Each child told Mrs. Santa what Mr. Santa was to remember to put in their Christmas stockings. After Mrs. Santa talked with the children about Santa, his reindeer and little elves, cookies and punch were served.

The Christmas Party was opened to the public with children attending from special groups: Yancey Head Start and Home Start, the Yancey Child Development Center, Bald Creek Child Development Center, and Mrs. Nellie Styles' Play School. Assisting Mrs. Santa in a very special way was Mrs. Georgia Cannon.

"Moonlight Madness" Wednesday At

MAXWELL

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Give A Gift Subscription

Yancey Journal

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Gospel Sing

A Gospel Sing will be held Sunday afternoon, December 19, at 2:00 p.m. at Mountain Heritage High School, Burnsville. This is a benefit program for Lisa Haney, who was injured in the school bus accident November 12.

There will be no admission charge; a free will offering will be taken.

Featured on this program will be the Mt. Bethel Youth Choir of Weaverville, the Glory Road Quartet of Burnsville, the New Hope Quartet of Robbinsville, the Happy Travelers of Canton, and Calvin Runion & The Originals of Asheville.

Everyone is invited to attend.



Lisa Haney

Brad Ragan Inc. Charged With Fraud

BY ROBERT D. HERSHY JR
(Reprinted from The New York Times)

In a major enforcement action, the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 2 charged Brad Ragan Inc. and five officers of the large tire-retreading company with a host of fraudulent practices, including bribing about 280 of the company's customers to send business its way.

The commission said the bribes plus fraudulent billing associated with them totaled more than \$550,000 and represented "a fraud and deceit upon the former, current and future security holders."

The shares of Brad Ragan, which is based in Spruce Pine, N.C., are traded on the American Stock Exchange

and at one time were a popular trading vehicle. The stock has also found its way into institutional portfolios.

BID FOR INJUNCTION GRANTED

The S.E.C. complaint was filed in the Federal court for the Western District of North Carolina, which granted a request for a permanent injunction against the defendants.

The company and four of the five officials consented to the judgment without denying any of the allegations.

Among the charges was one that Brad Ragan employees specifically identified false, inflated invoices sent to the home office by marking them "CD" or "C-Deal."

These designations, the commission said, were under-

stood by those involved to stand for "crooked deals."

The S.E.C. said the commercial bribes were to purchasing agents or other employees of the 280 customers, 45 of which are publicly owned. Brad Ragan offset the cost of the bribes by billing customers for merchandise and services that were not delivered and in most cases added a profit markup as well.

KICKBACK OF \$300 A TIRE

The \$550,000 in such bribes occurred during the company's 1971-75 fiscal years, with 40 percent paid in 1975. In addition, the company double-billed customers by \$40,000 in 1975.

The bribes took the form of passenger tires, jewelry, appliances, vacations, airline tickets and cash, the S.E.C. said. In one series of transactions from 1970 to 1972, Brad Ragan paid an employee of a major customer at least \$30,000, mainly in cash.

The company mounted tires on the customer's equipment, billed him, then returned and replaced the tires and billed the customer again. Brad Ragan, which deals in both automobile tires through retail outlets (Carolina Tire Company) and in tires for off-the-road construction and mining machinery, then paid a kickback of about \$300 a tire. Fictitious delivery tickets were then prepared stating it had received used tires or other items from Harris Tires, a nonexistent company.

The S.E.C. also charged the company with covering up its practices by preparing new invoices when a customer's auditor tried to check transactions.

It also said Bradley E. Ragan, chairman of the board, received from the company \$53,000 for \$5,000 worth of assets he had purchased from a tire company owned by a relative of a customer's officers.

In addition, the company and individual defendants issued misleading financial statements and Robert H. Buchanan, chief financial officer, had his secretary illegally buy company shares in his name, the S.E.C. said.

The North Carolina court ordered that Mr. Buchanan not be permitted to be part of

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