

# THE YANCEY JOURNAL

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## Pollution Control Is The Issue:

## The Public Must Foot Bill

BY JIM DEAN

N.C. Wildlife Commission  
Who should pay for clean air and water? I think most of us would agree that those who enjoy the benefits or profits of clean air and water should--by all rights--pay for it.

Unfortunately, when you translate that relatively simple concept into actual examples, some people come up with a different answer. Let's be specific. When an industry installs filters so that no pollution comes from its stacks, who should dole out the money? When a city puts in a new sewage disposal plant, who pays for it? If pollution control equipment is required on new automobiles, who foots the bill?

A whopping majority of the American public (74 percent) is on record as being opposed to business passing along increased costs of pollution control to the consumer by charging higher prices. This figure comes from a recent Harris Survey, which interestingly also found that public concern over air and water pollution is at record peaks nationwide.

The result of this Harris Survey is confusing because it seems to show a contradiction.

It sounds as though people are saying, "Yes, I'm highly concerned about the quality of the environment, but I don't care enough about it to pay for it."

If, indeed, that is the

message then it is clear that the prospect of securing a healthy and well-balanced environment appears rather dismal.

There is no magical shortcut. No grand benefactor is suddenly going to write a blank check to us so that we can clean up the mess we live

in. Ultimately, no matter how you slice it, the people of this country will foot the bill for clean air and water. Nor do we really have any choice because a clean and healthy environment is not a luxury to be enjoyed by a few fishermen and hikers. It's a necessity for all of us.

It appears that the only fair and logical way to effect a cleanup is to have the costs passed on to the consumer. Some consumers have suggested that this could be achieved by decreasing taxes on companies that clean up pollution. In certain cases, creating tax advantages to spur pollution cleanup may help, but in the long run, this will not lessen the burden because the taxpayers will have to make up the difference.

Likewise, increasing taxes against companies that continue to pollute may only aggravate the problem, especially if the problem is a lack of funds. Such punitive action may work, but only in certain cases.

The simple and inescapable fact is that pollution control must be considered part of the normal cost of doing business. For example, the installation of pollution control equipment in an automobile plant must be as much a part of normal operating expense as the cost of the raw steel that makes the body of a four-door sedan.

And if that be the case, then those costs should rightly be reflected in the final price the consumer pays for the product. (After all, if you were manufacturing paper clips and were forbidden by law from passing along the cost of the raw metal you used, how long could you stay in business?)

No one wants higher prices, but in the long run there may be no other way to maintain a quality environment. Our hand has been called, and it's time to put the chips on the table. If we want clean air and water, we'll have to pay for it.

## Performance Slated By Artist In Dance

Mary Hicks, Third Century Artist in dance, and the Crooked Pine String Band will present a concert on Saturday, January 8, 1977, at 7:30 p.m. in the Harris High School Auditorium in Spruce Pine.

Miss Hicks, a modern dancer and choreographer, has been in residence in Transylvania County since February of 1976. She has

given workshops in dance and movement throughout the public school systems in Transylvania County, and she has performed for numerous clubs and organizations in Western North Carolina. Her appearance with the Crooked Pine String Band in Spruce Pine on January 8th is part of the Third Century Artist Exchange Program in North [Cont'd on page 2]

## Rescue Squad Helps Dragging Operation

The Yancey County Rescue Squad was notified Saturday, December 18, that a Mutual-Aid call had been sent to all Rescue Squads in

## New Year's Dance Set

There will be a New Year's Dance at the South Toe Community Center on Saturday night at 7:30. Music will be by Mike Loftis and the Southern Country. Proceeds from the program go to the center to buy equipment. Price will be \$1.50 per person.

## Notice

Starting January 3 everyone is required to list their property for taxation. You should list it at the Court-house in the Grand Jury room, between the hours of 8-5 Monday through Friday and 8-12 on Saturday. Property should be listed by January 31. Failure to list will cause a 10% penalty to be imposed.

If you would like to be part of a Rescue Operation like this, the Squad meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Everyone is welcome to attend a meeting and see what they think of the squad and whether they would like to join or not.

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## Santa Visits Elderly On Christmas Eve

Santa Claus visited the folks at Haven Heights Rest Home last Friday night, Christmas Eve, bringing goodies and gifts for all. He visited with each person and they enjoyed it

tremendously. Santa's visit was sponsored by the Radio Patrol, who also contributed the gifts and goodies. A big "Thank You" comes from everyone at Haven Heights for this delightful surprise at Christmastime.

## Holiday Highway Accidents

An accident Wed., Dec. 22 6 miles north of Burnsville, on Jacks Creek Road, involved two vehicles: a 1976 Ford Truck driven by Tony McLaughlin, 42, of Route 1, Burnsville; and a 1965 Volkswagen driven by Fred Robinson, 37, of Route 4, Burnsville.

The McLaughlin vehicle was traveling south approaching a private drive. The Robinson vehicle, coming out of the private drive, experienced brake failure and pulled into the path of the truck.

The Robinson VW was struck and came to rest in a ditch on the southbound shoulder. The Ford came to rest in the middle of the highway headed south.

There were two passengers, Sally Thomas and Sharon Thomas in the McLaughlin vehicle. Sharon was taken to Spruce Pine Hospital. There were no passengers in the Robinson VW. Damage to the Ford was estimated at \$200.00; to the VW \$300.00. Trooper E.T. Thomas investigated.

On Saturday, December 25, at 6:15 p.m. there was a two-car accident about 4 miles out of town on U.S. 19E toward N.C. 80. Philip Hawfield, 68, of Route 1, Pineville, N.C. was in Vehicle #1, a 1972 Oldsmobile. In Vehicle #2, a 1963 Chevrolet was Gary Whitson, 22, of Route 4, Burnsville.

Vehicle 2 was traveling north on 19E and applied brakes to avoid another vehicle making a turn. It skidded into the left lane, striking vehicle 1 on the left front. Both vehicles then went off the roadway onto the shoulder. The road was covered with snow at the time of collision.

In the Hawfield vehicle there were two passengers with one only slightly injured. There were no passengers in the Whitson vehicle. None were taken to the hospital. Damage to the Hawfield Oldsmobile was estimated at \$400.00; to the Whitson Chevrolet \$300.00. Sgt. D.W. Reavis investigated.

Also on Christmas Day, December 25, at 7:00 p.m. there was a two car accident 9 miles out of Burnsville on N.C. 197N. Everett Edwards, 25, of Route 1, Green Mountain was in a 1975 Datsun which was stuck in a ditch.

Kermit Peterson, 38, of Route 2, Green Mountain was driving a 1968 Buick north and slid into the same hole as the Datsun, striking it. The Buick came to rest on the northbound shoulder of 197N.

There was one passenger in the Edwards' vehicle and three passengers in the Peterson vehicle. None of the passengers were injured. Kermit Peterson was taken to Spruce Pine Hospital but was not seriously injured.

Damage to the Datsun was estimated at \$600.00; to the Buick \$300.00. Trooper E.T. Thomas investigated.

## 'Thank You'

The Mt. Mitchell CB Club held a fund-raising drive for Lisa Haney on December 11, 1976. The club raised \$2,121.00 for Lisa. They extend deep appreciation to everyone who contributed.



From The Staff,  
**The Yancey Journal**

## Churches And Individuals Contribute At Christmas

Six churches and numerous individuals made contributions so that thirty-two needy families could have Christmas in Yancey County this year. Contributions included financial gifts as well as gifts of food and Bibles. The total value of contributions was eight hundred and seventy dollars.

The Yancey County Department of Social Services was requested to identify families who, without a contribution, could not have Christmas. The Department of Social Services also took the responsibility of distributing the gifts.

Contributions from groups included: The Mt. Mitchell Baptist Church, West Burns-ville Baptist Church, Happy Homemakers, Bolen's Creek

Baptist Church, Mountain Lutheran Fellowship, First Presbyterian Church of Burnsville, and Riverside Baptist Church.

The Yancey County De-

partment of Social Services expresses its heartfelt appreciation to everyone who made contributions toward its Christmas Fund for the needy families of Yancey County.

## Burnsville Fire Calls

December 22: 11:35 a.m. Automobile Blaze at Mt. Mitchell Industries. Damage to wiring.

December 24: 6:05 p.m. Paul Cooper residence on Charlie Brown Road, Chimney Fire—no damage, 2 trucks and 16 men responded.

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## South Toe Fire Calls

December 20: 8:30 a.m.

House fire on Blue Rock Road. Owned by Mr. and Mrs. Mercer Wilson, Charlotte, N.C. Unoccupied at time of fire. Roof ½ burned through when fire dept. was called. Although firefighters substantially prevented further fire spread, house was gutted. Water obtained from the nearby South Toe River by portable pump relay, and 25-30,000 gallons was put on the fire. Cause investigated by Sheriff Banks and the SBI. Two trucks and 13 firefighters responded.

December 21: 6:30 a.m.

House fire on Forest Service Road in Mt. Mitchell Lands.

Temperature 4 below zero.

Occupied by Al Henry family

who had moved in only two days earlier. Usual access to

house is across swinging bridge, so fire trucks drove

through South Toe River at old crossing to get to house.

Fire confined to wall and attic

around flue pipe. Two trucks and 17 firefighters responded.

December 22: 7:30 a.m.

House fire on Route 80, ½

mile north of Ballew's store.

Temperature 4 below zero.

Occupied by Al Henry family

who had moved in only two

days earlier. Usual access to

house is across swinging

bridge, so fire trucks drove

through South Toe River at

old crossing to get to house.

Fire confined to wall and attic

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