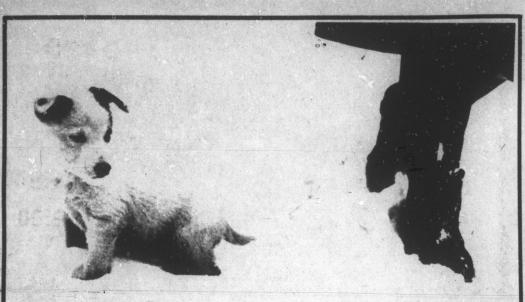
2 THE YANCEY JOURNAL JANUARY 13, 1977





This Never Would Have Happened If You Had Taken Advantage of the Great Supply of **4-Wheel Drive Vehicles** at **Greene-McKinney** in Spruce Pine 765-4235

JAR

etter To The Editor

Within reach of the people of the Tri-County area-Avery, Mitchell, and Yancey Counties--lie opportunities that stir the imagination. Economically, this area can be one of the most productive parts of North Carolina. We have the people with the capabilities and the skills, or the potential for acquiring the skills, to perform any jobs any business or industry may require. Culturally, we have writers, painters, musicians, and craftsmen who could bring new glory to the area. Intellectually, we have pre-school, elementary and secondary schools, plus institutions of post-secondary education capable of becoming pre-eminent centers of learning and leadership. All of these things are possible for our area during 1977. Why wait any longer?

Instead of merely trying to achieve some national or state average, this area must join in a sustained effort to advance the qualities of our own area. Though we recognize the inadequacies that plague us, it is not necessary to belabor them. While much progress has and is being made, it must be accelerated sharply. We need to look to the future, not to the past. During 1977 we should seek positive, constructive thought and action.

Dr. Forrest McCall

To Practice

Dr. Fornest S. McCall has

opened an office in Burnsville

for the practice of dentistry.

The office is located on the

corner of Ray St. and 19

Bypass. The phone number is

Spruce Pine and graduated

from Harris High School. He

graduated from the University

of North Carolina School of

Pharmacy. While there he

was elected to Rho Chi, the

National Honor Society for

Pharmacy students. Upon

graduation he was employed

at Pollards Drug Store for two

the University of North

Carolina Dental School where

he was a member of Delta

Sigma Delta Dental Frater-

and their two daughters live

in Burnsville. They are

members of the Higgins

Memorial United Methodist

The North Carolina Board

of Transportation approved

today \$230,000 in construction

funds for replacement of a

Yancey County bridge. The

bridge to be replaced is on

Murphytown Road (Secon-

dary Road 1343) over the

Cane River, north of Burns-

Funds For

Dr. McCall, his wife Patti

In 1976 he graduated from

Dr. McCall is a native of

682-7419.

years.

nity.

Church.

ville.

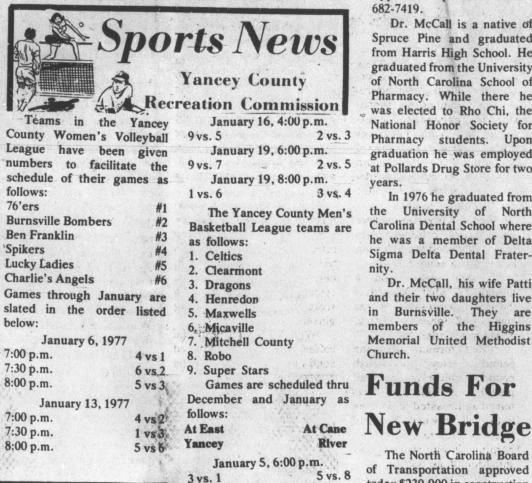
Dr. McCall

Dentistry

The hour is late for our area. The gap to be overcome is substantial, but the opportunities which beckon are great. Let us pursue them with all the strength and courage and determination at our command.

What will we be able to list as our accomplishments at the end of 1977; I don't know, but I do know that they will depend upon what we plan for and take action upon immediately.

Dr. O.M. Blake, Jr. **President, Mayland Technical Institute**



5 vs. 8 January 5, 8:00 p.m. 6 vs. 7 January 9, 2:00 p.m. 7 vs. 5 9 vs. 3 January 9, 4:00 p.m.

Reprinted From 'Asheville Citizen':

BOB TERRELL

Food For Thought

The Lisa Haney incident, in which the 16-year-old Burnsville schoolgirl was paralyzed in a school bus accident Nov. 12, has opened an old can of worms.

The state's offer to pay a maximum of \$600 toward her expenses bewildered and angered her friends and neighbors and, indeed, many others who read the Because the bus wreck did not

result from negligence, the state said, no one is liable, and therefore Lisa and her family are not entitled to more than \$600.

This must be little consolation to the young girl who faces the remainder of her life unable to walk because the brakes failed on her school bus. It is also food for thought.

Where you and I are required by state law to carry liability insurance on the automobiles we drive, insuring each passenger for \$15,000 and each accident for \$30,000 before we can get license tags, school buses, which carry the most precious cargo on the road, are required to carry no liability insurance on their passengers.

BOB TERRELL

In simple terms, the state operates on a self-insured basis, and school systems financed by the state are considered to be municipalities which are not subject to the liability insurance

No Negligence

The Charlotte Observer quoted Herbert Lamson Jr., a Tort Claims attorney in the Attorney General's office, as saying that Lisa's family could have been awarded as much as \$30,000 from a special Tort Claims Act if the wreck of Lisa's bus had resulted from the driver's or another employe's negligence.

There was no negligence. A brake line simply failed, and the bus plunged off the road, and Lisa's spine was crushed, her wrist was fractured, her ribs were broken, a lung was punctured - and she was, in an instant, doomed to a life of immobility

What all this means, in layman's terms, is that when a school bus ventures onto a road, those who drive it, those who maintain it, and the kids who ride it, are insured against accidents caused by negligence - but the children who ride the buses are not insured against accidents in which negligence does not exist.

Andrew Vanore of the State Attorney General's Office confirmed that statement by telephone. "You are correct in what you say," he said.

State and school officials are in sympathy with Lisa and her family, but are powerless to help. They must operate within the limitations of the law, and the law - after all the mumbo-jumbo is eliminated - clearly provides little help for Lisa.

To a man, the school system superintendents of the state are considerate and conscientious people who would allow no school bus to operate on a dangerous road.

But who can predict the whims of the weather here in the mountains?

Who can insure, with any degree of accuracy, that any school bus in the heart of the winter will not round a curve and be confronted with a sudden-formed sheet of ice? Food for thought?

A Pressing Problem

All of this, however, does not ease the plight of Lisa Haney,



6 ys. 9 The Yancey County bridge January 12, 8:00 p.m. is one of four bridges to 7 vs. 8 receive approval for construc-January 16, 2:00 p.m. tion funds, totaling \$1.2 1 vs. 4 million, during the Board's meeting in Raleigh on Janu-Destruction of ary 4. The other bridges to be replaced are in Buncombe, Hard, heavy white heads of Stokes and Anson Counties. iceberg lettuce mean they are All four of these bridges had too mature and bitter. previously been approved for THE YANCEY JOURNAL replacement and are included in the latest update of the **BOX 667** North Carolina Highway Im-Burnsville, N.C. 28714 provement Program. Phone [704] 682-2120 Edward Yuziuk, Publisher Carolyn Yuziuk-Editor Pat Randolph-Manager **Brenda** Allen-Staff **Published Every Thursday** By Capricorn Twin Cities Publishing Co. 2nd Class Postage Paid At Burnsville, N.C. Ætna Thursday, Jan.13, 1977 Vol.5, Number 2 Roberts Subscription Rates By Mail: In Yancey County Insurance One Year \$5.00 Six Months \$4.00 Agency **Out Of County or State** Phone One Year \$7.00 Six Months \$6.00 682-2191 Health News & Views Aged need attention when on drug therapy The handicaps of older citizens are often overlooked. Diminishing mental and physical con-ditions can leave the aged person in a feeble-minded, child-like state. Yet, many of these same people are of these same people are given the responsibility of taking powerfully potent medications — a respon-sibility we'd never dream of giving our kids! In all **Pollard's Drug Store** 682-2146 Burnsville

nor that of her family.

Lisa's father, Reuben Haney, is a 56-year-old man who is disabled by arthritis and other ailments. His income is a monthly check for \$186 from the Veterans Administration.

The family has no car. The Haney home is humble, and will need many modifications to accommodate a handicapped person when Lisa is finally able to go home from the hospital.

The most pressing problem, however, is finances. The Rev. Frank Phillips, a tall, likeable Baptist minister, and two fellow preachers, the Rev. Howard Wilson and the Rev. Harlan Ramsey, set up a Lisa Haney Fund through the First Citizens Bank in Burnsville, and hundreds of persons have contributed money in an effort to ease the family's financial pains.

"What we've gotten so far," said Phillips, "is only a drop in the bucket to what they'll need. When the state could only pay \$600, the whole financial burden was thrown upon the family.

Phillips said that Lisa's hospital bill for the first four weeks amounted to \$5,580. "That doesn't include the seven doctors and the X-rays, or the surgery yet to come," he said. He envisions medical expenses of \$30,000 or more before Lisa is released from the hospital.

Fund-raising events have been held, and others are scheduled. A benefit gospel singing arranged by the three ministers raised \$7,446. Burnsville CB radio operators collected \$2,100 more on a cold, rainy day. Students and faculty at Mountain Heritage High School, where Lisa went to school, gathered more than \$500 to put an electric water heater and a washing machine into the Haney home in the Little Creek community 16 miles northwest of Burnsville. The WAMY Community Action Agency installed a new commode and remodeled the family's bathroom.

Lisa's school insurance is helping, also. Ed Hunter, the Yancey County school superintendent, said it will pay \$35 a day on her hospital room, and other benefits, up to a total of \$7,500. But, Phillips said, the maximum benefit from this insurance can be obtained only when the bills run to enormous proportions.

Humble And Appreciative

"The family," Phillips said, "is very humble and appreciative. Through no fault of their own, their backs have been placed against the wall. It all just doesn't seem fair to Lisa and her family. She didn't cause this, and she deserves to be looked after.

To add to the family's problem, the youngest of the five Haney children, 11-year-old Stella Gay, suffered a fractured pelvis in the same bus wreck, and incurred bills of about \$1,000 for the eight days she spent in the hospital.

Phillips. Wilson, and Ramsey are administering the Lisa 'Haney Fund, and Phillips said anyone wishing to contribute to it should make check or money order payable to Lisa Haney Fund. and mail it to Rev. Frank Phillips, Route 6, Box 414, Burnsville, N. C. 28714.

Many readers of The Citizen have telephoned to ask where they could send contributions. Quite a few were incensed over the whole affair

"I don't know how this could happen in the United States," one man said. "I don't know how I can be forced by compulsory law to put my children on a school bus, uninsured yet I am forced to insure my own car to carry them to the grocery store.

He said he had telephoned state legislators about the possibility of amending state laws to give protection to children riding school buses, and to provide more care for Lisa Haney and any other student so injured in a school bus accident

That is another can of worms that should be opened