

Gudger Invites Citizens To 'Air Your Problems' Toll Free By Calling 1-800-452-2821

## False Labor Figures Take Federal Funds Elsewhere

BY CAROLYN YUZIUK

Yancey County is missing the boat! This statement was explained and emphasized by Congressman Lamar Gudger as he spoke with area men and women at an informal meeting in the Yancey County Courthouse last Saturday, January 29. Gudger explained that all federal money is tied to the unemployment rate, and the fact that Yancey County presently ranks as an area with a low percentage of unemployed compared with the state average means that we are being passed over when federal money is allocated.

As an example, last year Yancey County applied for a grant of \$776,000 to fund a work project to create a complete recreation complex at Mountain Heritage High School which was planned for the use of everyone in the county, from school age to the elderly. We were reasonably confident that we would have no trouble qualifying because of need. Only a few months ago, however, we were beaten out by Boone who got the money to build new office buildings. Boone, we were told, had a higher unemployment rate than Yancey.

People here simply do not sign up as unemployed or underemployed when they are eligible to do so. And that's bad news. The following statistics for Yancey County for the months of July, August and September of 1976 were released by the North Carolina Employment Security Office in Raleigh and may well be the reason we lost out to Boone. They average out to an unemployment figure of 6.2% for Yancey County and it should be noted

that an area of substantial unemployment is defined as an area with population of 10,000 or more and a rate of 6.5% unemployment for three consecutive months at least once in each fiscal year. (Yancey County's unemployment rate also averaged out to less than 6.5% for April, May and June of 1976):

Brush Creek--total labor available 134, unemployed 0, percent unemployment 0%.

Burnsville--labor available 1601, unemployed 96, percent unemployment 6%.

Cané River--total labor available 657, unemployed 38, percent unemployment 5.8%.

Crabtree--labor available 1098, unemployed 35, unemployment 3.2%.

Egypt--total labor available 302, unemployed 9, unemployment rate 3.0%.

Green Mountain--total labor available 308, unemployed 8, unemployment rate 2.6%.

Jack's Creek--total labor available 216, unemployed 15, unemployment rate 6.9%.

Pensacola--labor available 216, unemployed 4, unemployment rate 1.4%.

Prices Creek--total labor available 368, unemployed 60, unemployment rate 16.3%.

South Toe--total labor available 598, unemployed 93, unemployment rate 15.6%.

Ramseytown--no figures available for total labor available or unemployed, reflected as unemployment rate of 0%.

For the three months of 1976 reflected in the above statistics, Ramseytown and Brush Creek are shown to have no unemployed or underemployed people; Pensacola shows only 4 persons who were unemployed or underemployed, and Green Mountain with 8 unemployed and Egypt with 9 unemployed are remarkable in today's labor market.

Since federal money is always tied directly or indirectly to the unemployment rate we can see why counties in the eastern and central parts of the state who show a high rate of unemployment are gobbling up federal money, leaving us to struggle along as best we can.

Why don't local workers sign up for unemployment? There may be more than one reason, but here are some answers: (1) The worker may have already exhausted his



Hi-Lo of the Week  
YANCEY COUNTY  
COUNTRY STORE

Hi-40°  
Lo-0°

benefits and sees no advantage in signing up as unemployed or underemployed; (2) The worker may not be eligible for benefits and having been frustrated repeatedly in trying to get them, simply stops signing up; (3) Many self employed workers don't apply when they are eligible--farmers, construction workers, etc. fit into the category of unemployed during the winter months, but rarely sign up; (4) Finally, there are the "independent" workers who don't want anything from the government that smacks of "handouts" and wouldn't sign up if their lives depended on it.

One category into which many Yancey Countians may fit is that of underemployed--defined as a person who is working part time but seeking full time work, or a person who is working full time but whose salary relative to his or her family size is below the poverty level.

Many recent high school graduates also are eligible to sign up as unemployed, since anyone over 18 years who is unemployed or underemployed may be eligible.

The importance of signing up cannot be overemphasized. As Representative Lamar Gudger points out, many federal grants are designed to create jobs through employment projects and economic development programs. If labor statistics for Yancey County don't show our true employment picture we will not only lose federal money, we will also lose our young people to areas where they can find jobs. Ironically, they may find jobs in other areas that have been made possible by federal grants to aid that area's economic growth.

The Employment Security

## Highway Accident

On Friday, January 1 at 8:25 a.m. a two car accident occurred approximately 6 miles out of town on US 19E at the NC 80 intersection.

Sabra Phillips, driving a 1973 Oldsmobile, stopped at the stop sign of NC 80 at its intersection with US 19E. She then pulled onto US 19E and was struck by Iris Pate, 43, of Burnsville, driving a 1973 Ford. The Ford then traveled 154 feet and went onto the shoulder of the road.

Damage was estimated at \$1200.00 to the Oldsmobile and \$700.00 to the Ford. There were no passengers in either vehicle and no injuries. W.J. Stallings investigated.

## Deadline

The deadline for listing property taxes has been extended once again, but this is the last extension. The deadline is now February 11th, 1977.

Office is open from 9 to 5 in Room 3 of the Yancey County Courthouse on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays each week. Eligible people in this area are urged to sign up as unemployed or underemployed whether they will receive direct benefits or not--indirectly, everyone will benefit when a true employment picture for Yancey County is reflected in our labor statistics.

## Grand Opening Slated

Suite 1204 in the Northwestern Bank Building in Asheville will have a new look on Friday, February 4. That is the date of the grand opening for the newly renovated and expanded 11th District Congressional Offices.

Congressman and Mrs. Lamar Gudger will be on hand, along with the district staff for the festivities beginning at 3:30 p.m. Rev. Orion Hutchinson, pastor of the Central United Methodist Church, will also participate in the ceremonies.

The renovated offices include an expanded reception and work space for the additional staff in the district office. Within the large work area a conference room is set up to house scholarship information for interested 11th District students. University, college, technical school, as well as foundation and government scholarship data will be kept on hand for individuals seeking financial aid for their educational needs.

Interested constituents, federal employees, and neighbors in the Northwestern Bank Building are invited to come by for the opening. No formal invitations will be sent for the occasion. Light refreshments will be served.

## Wildlife

## Hearings Scheduled

A series of nine public hearings was announced by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission in Raleigh at its regular monthly meeting on January 24, 1977. The meetings, which are held across the State each April, will offer sportsmen an opportunity to offer suggestions and comments concerning any changes in regulations which may be proposed for the 1977 hunting and trapping seasons.

"These hearings are held each year, and we urge all interested sportsmen to attend," said a spokesman for [Cont'd on page 2]

# THE YANCEY JOURNAL

VOL. 5, NO. 5

BURNSVILLE, N.C. 28714

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1977

15¢

## Fuel, Power Conservation Urged

## Severe Cold Is Forecast

Due to a 5% cutback in voltage by Carolina Power & Light Company in late January, French Broad EMC also was asked to implement a 5% reduction plan also. The extreme cold weather resulted in record-peak demands for electric power, and the voltage cutback is expected to last for an indefinite short period. This reduction in voltage does not interfere with residential usage or affect home appliances.

French Broad EMC is requesting all members to please cooperate by curtailing any excessive use of electricity. Please postpone any cooking, washing, etc., that is not absolutely necessary. If there are any areas of your home or business that are not being used, please turn off the heat to these areas. If you have your thermostats set higher than 65 degrees, please lower them.

If the cold weather continues, and you do not use more conservation tactics, the cooperative is warned it may be necessary to cut off power for two-hour periods on a rotating basis. Your cooperation in using as little electricity as possible during this time will be appreciated and may mean the difference in whether these two-hour blackouts will be necessary.

## Fuel Charge Skyrockets

The Purchase Power and Fuel Adjustment on French Broad EMC's bills was back up in January due to an increased fuel charge from CP&L. The fuel charge on the Cooperative's bills from CP&L in January was \$0.0377 --up from \$0.0040 in December--which meant an increase from 40¢ per 1000 KWH to \$3.77 per 1000 KWH that

French Broad EMC had to pay CP&L. The rate increase that occurred in May of 1976 was already being passed on to French Broad EMC's members as an increased Purchase Power & Fuel Adjustment, and any increases such as this runs this charge higher.

French Broad EMC realizes that this higher fuel charge comes at the time of year when most members' usage is higher, and this is very disturbing. But there is no way the Cooperative can pay higher fuel charges to CP&L without passing it on to the members. This will also carry over into February for bi-monthly accounts as the Purchase Power & Fuel Adjustment for bi-monthly billing is based on an average of the two months period. Since the February bi-monthly accounts will cover from December 20 to February 20, this higher fuel charge in January will still affect bills in February.

The best thing members can do is use as little electricity as possible. Charles R. Tolley, French

Broad EMC Manager states: "There are people who are rapidly reaching and going beyond the point of real financial hardship. Again, I want to urge you to please use as little electricity as you possibly can. If you have wood readily available, please take steps to use it to the maximum. The cost of electricity, fuel oil, gasoline, natural gas, and coal will continue to rise."

## Classroom Temps Low

Yancey County Schools, along with other schools and institutions across the state, will be forced to maintain lower than normal classroom temperatures for the remainder of the winter. School Superintendent, Edgar Hunter, states that fuel consumption in the schools is expected to run at least 30-35% higher than normal this year due to

the cold weather. In addition to the scarcity of fuel oil, the increase in cost in recent months is rapidly depleting the funds budgeted for fuel. Although many schools are turning thermostats back to 65 degrees, and some as low as 62 degrees, Yancey Schools hope not to have to lower the temperature below 68 degrees during school hours.

School officials are greatly concerned about the loss of instructional time for students as a result of lost school days this year, a year in which almost ten percent of the school time will be lost. In order to compensate for at least a part of the time lost, teachers in all schools are asked to make an extra effort to make the best possible use of the instructional time from now until June 10. Class parties, trips, and other activities that do not have a definite educational value will be eliminated. Students may be expected to do some additional homework, and parents are urged to help students wherever possible.

## Ramsey, Crawford Appointed To Advisory Budget Commission

Governor Jim Hunt has appointed Liston Ramsey of Marshall to the Advisory Budget Commission. A retired merchant, Ramsey is serving his ninth term in the House of Representatives. He has served on the Advisory Budget Commission since 1973.

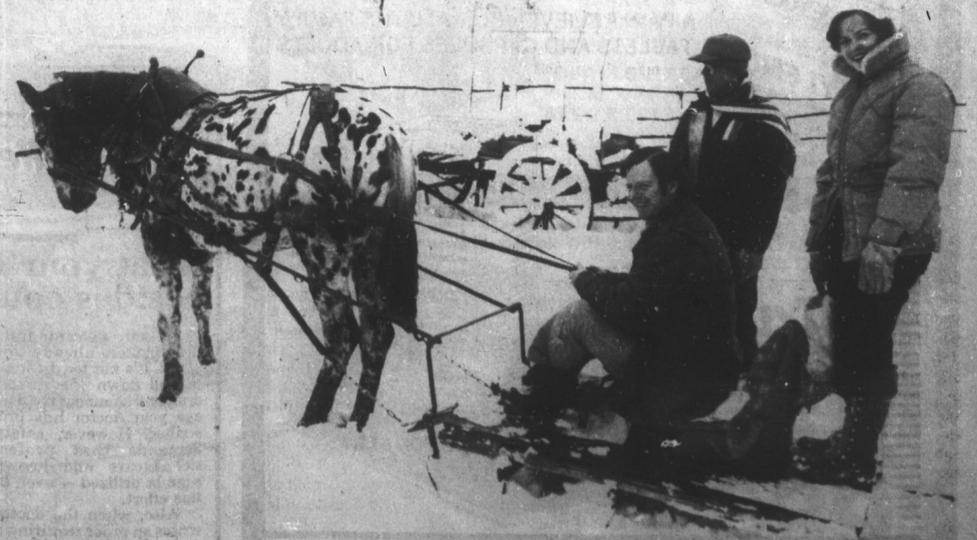
Ramsey has served on many legislative committees, and has held the chairmanship of the Finance Committee. He is currently serving on the following House committees: Aging, Courts and Judicial Districts, Election Laws, State Government, and

Transportation. The Madison County representative served during World War II in the Army Air Corps as Sergeant. He was a delegate to the 1968 Democratic National Convention. He has been active in area civic clubs and veterans' organizations. Ramsey and his wife Florence have a daughter, Martha Ramsey George, who lives in Gulfport, Mississippi.

Lieutenant Governor Jimmy Green has announced the appointment of Senator I.C. Crawford of Asheville to the Advisory Budget Commission.

The appointment is effective immediately and is for a two year term.

In announcing the appointment Green emphasized the importance of having someone on the panel with the qualifications that Senator Crawford has as an experienced practicing attorney. Green also feels that it is important to have qualified persons from a geographical cross-section of the State serving on this Commission and that Senator Crawford will well represent the interests of the people of the mountain areas.



## A New Look For Driver's Ed.

When Adrian Buchanan of Jack's Creek (standing) built a "one horse open sleigh" this winter he found just the right person to drive it. Dan Wilson, driver's ed teacher at Mountain Heritage High School, took the driver's seat behind Shellfire, a patient little filly who appears to be highly skeptical about the

whole affair. We didn't ask [and we weren't told] how Dan fared or whether his skill at driving cars helped him under the circumstances. His wife Lucy, however, seems to have enough confidence to take a precarious perch behind...at least while nothing's moving!

## Sales, Use Tax Report

The North Carolina Department of Revenue has issued a statement showing local one percent sales and use tax collections by county for the month of December, 1976. The report shows Yancey County collected the amount of \$17,959.07.

Yancey collections compared with those of Madison County in the amount of \$14,661.02 for the same period; Avery County with the amount of \$19,973.07; and Mitchell County with the amount of \$29,990.00 for the month of December.

The report is issued each month by Mark G. Lynch, Secretary of the State Department of Revenue.

## Fire Calls

January 30, Sunday at 7:30 p.m. the Troy Boone residence on Plum Branch Road. Fire around flue with approximately \$900 damage to building. 18 firemen and 2 trucks responding.