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Highland Games At Grandfather

These kilned Americans of Scottish ancestry last year gave their all for the home of their fathers in the Tug-O-War competition at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games and Gathering of the Scottish Clans, which takes place again this weekend, July 9-10, in North Carolina's high hills.

Photo by Hugh Morton

Bank Assets Increase

John Logan, president of First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Erwin, announced today that the financial firm has reached the 50 million dollar mark in total assets.

During the last twelve months, the savings and loan association has increased its assets over 8 million dollars, a 19.8 percent gain.

First Federal was organized in Erwin in 1925. It now has additional offices in Blountville and Jonesboro.

The firm specializes in financing new and existing homes. It is also authorized to finance apartment buildings and commercial property. The loans are funded by a wide variety of insured savings plans that include passbook savings and longer-term, higher-yield certificates.

Directors of the association are John Howren, Rex Lewis, John Logan, W.H. Logan, Hal Masengill and Doug White.

Accent on Agriculture

BY JOHN SLEDGE
N.C. Farm Bureau Federation

'A Look At 2000'

What will it cost to farm, and what will it cost consumers to eat, in the year 2000? An economist at Kansas State University has come up with figures—based on an inflation rate of 6 percent—that include \$78,000 for a tractor and \$3.10 for a dozen eggs!

Dr. T. Roy Bogle says farmers can expect a drastic increase in all farming expenses although some will rise faster than others. For example, a '77 model tractor, selling for \$20,000 today, will cost at least \$78,000 in 2000 if inflation continues at 6 percent—but it could sell for more than that because machinery prices are tied closely to labor costs which could exceed the 6 percent figure.

Fertilizer and fuel costs are expected to increase faster than the inflation rate in the next 23 years because of shortages. If it costs \$8 an acre to fertilize wheat ground today, Bogle says it will cost more than \$31 an acre in 2000 and fuel costs for wheat would jump from \$4.50 an acre to approximately \$17.50.

What this means is that if all expenses increase at 6 percent a year, the cost of producing a bushel of wheat will soar from approximately \$3.25 today to \$12.58 by 2000.

And the same applies for other crops and livestock.

The farmer's cost of producing a pound of beef or a half gallon of milk will also increase. Simply stated, if a farmer spends 50 cents to produce a pound of grain today, it will cost him \$1.95 by 2000. If it costs a dairyman 9.5 cents to produce a pound of milk this year, it will cost him 37.5 cents in 23 years.

Six percent annual inflation also would take its toll on consumers. If there is 3c worth of wheat in every loaf of bread today, there would have to be approximately 12 cents in every loaf in 2000.

Consumers would have to pay \$2.75 for a pound of hamburger; \$3.30 for a half gallon of milk, and \$3.10 for a dozen eggs in the year 2000.

Although there are many variables in connection with this type of projection, it does give great cause for concern.

Whether you look at the figures from a producer's viewpoint or a consumer's viewpoint—inflation is a real problem and one that must be brought under better control.

Letters TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

On June 27, 1977, a hearing was held at the Yancey County Courthouse by the County Commissioners to present the proposed 1977-78 budget. This budget included a property tax increase of 25%. Concern for the school and Sheriff's Department budgets and the tax increase brought out approximately 100 people.

I thought the hearing was poorly planned or as some citizens suggested "very well planned". There were no charts or copies of the proposed budget available for reference during the hearing. There was no formal presentation by the Commission or the County Manager. There were no up-to-date figures of actual 1976-77 expenditures to compare against the 1976-77 and 1977-78 estimates. There was no means of examining line items, only large departmental totals. There was no secretary to record comments by the citizens. The Chairman did not introduce himself or the men seated with him. One Commissioner arrived late and the other Commissioner sat through the hearing with no comment.

As the hearing progressed it was apparent that the audience was being confused by jumbles of figures. That confusion coupled with a hastily drawn up increase in the Sheriff's budget quieted many who came prepared to speak. Having a child in the school system, I was looking forward to some vigorous comments by Mr. Hunter, the Superintendent of Schools. I was disappointed to say the least.

For those of you unable or unwilling to attend, here are some facts obtained from the hearing and from the minutes of recent County Commission meetings:

-No matter what the budget is as of July 1, it can be amended at any time by the Commissioners, and most budgets are.

-In fiscal year 1976-77, the County revenues greatly exceeded estimates due largely to Federal grants. The April 18 Commissioners meeting noted that revenues had reached \$1,719,560 or approximately a half million more than the \$1,208,791 estimate.

-Due to the increased revenues most department budgets were increased during 1976-77 except for two very important ones: School expenses and the Sheriff's Department.

-Many dept. budgets show cuts for 1977-78 but were increased so heavily in 1976-77 that the so called cuts are unrealistic.

-Yancey County spent only \$256,500 on School Expenses (the lowest per pupil in North Carolina) but spent \$247,451 as of February 7, 1977 on the ambulance service, the landfill and the garbage pickup.

-Salaries of new ambulance attendants are higher than experienced Sheriff's Deputies.

It appears from the facts and figures that none of the increased revenues were banked for the future and were certainly not spent on the schools. They were channeled into budgets such as "special appropriations" and ambulance service. Perhaps the extra revenues had Federal strings attached controlling their use—perhaps not.

At any rate we are told to accept a tax increase of 25% or a cut in services. The Commissioners blame the higher costs on inflation, the Social Services increase on Raleigh and H.E.W., an expected drop in Revenue Sharing on Washington. They would like to appear blameless but I suggest that ALL taxpayers in Yancey County take more interest in Commission decisions and decide where the blame should be placed.

Terry E. Shankle
Route 5
Burnsville, N.C.

Dear Editor:

I thank the Lord for what the W.A.M.Y. has done for me. I am a widow and a cripple. They take me to the doctor and also to the grocery store and help me get my groceries. They are fixing my house which needs fixing to keep me warm in the winter. They give me fertilizer and seeds and now I have a garden.

I am 80 years old. There has never been anything in Yancey County that has helped as much as the W.A.M.Y.

Julia Boone and Johnnie Kenfro

Dear Editor:

As a Senior Citizen I wish to thank Burnsville for their W.A.M.Y. project. Mr. Williams and Mrs. Thomas and their staff of courteous workers, for scheduled transportation, clean and pleasant meeting place, good food, courteous instructors for various crafts and hobbies.

I was working as a public school teacher when World War I broke forth. I was caught up with the excitement and needs of the time, joined the Red Cross Volunteers and the American Legion Auxiliary, helped with their many activities. Very soon wounded and sick soldiers were coming home and "Uncle Sam" was building hospitals and working on rehabilitation problems and I found work with the Veterans Rehabilitation and Occupational Therapy program until 1951 when I retired—and joined the hospital and nursing home volunteer aids. I was church hostess for several years. 1975 found me as an older woman. I moved to Burnsville where I am finding old friends and new friends for which I am thankful.

A Senior Citizen
(Name withheld on request)

Dear Editor:

Lill Kraus exceeded her usual magnificence Sunday, June 19th. The printed program booklet, however, had Lill's repertoire on an insert. We take this to mean that each Music in the Mountains concert all summer will use this same booklet with weekly program inserts.

On one page it states how far Music in the Mountains has come from "...the first small gatherings...at the home of Eve Lynne Reeve in 1970..." On the inside front cover the board and officers are listed. In NO place other than the list of financial contributors can one find the name JOAN PRICE REEVE. It was HER livingroom, faith, ingenuity, patience and serving as first president that kept the fledgling group growing. After illness forced her recent resignation from the Board, a letter came to Winged Rhythm under a Music in the Mountains letterhead with a glowing testimony saying that to many "Joan Price Reeve is Music in the Mountains." So glowing, so memorable the contributions that Joan Price Reeve's name could not even be mentioned in this booklet? Eve Lynne Reeve Snyder did not singlehandedly wave a magic wand and today's Celso Chamber Players, Music in the Mountains organization and accomplishments including Lill Kraus' love and devotion just appear. Joan Price Reeve is the Co-Founder.

We, her family, are deeply hurt by whomever put together this booklet, slighting one of the most loving, gracious, generous, world famous people Burnsville has ever had the privilege to call a member of the community when now more than ever she needs everyone's support to help her get well and again feel needed by this community, her home.

The Reeve-Snyder Family

Sales, Use Tax Report

Local 1% sales and use tax collections were reported by county for the month of May, 1977 in a recent bulletin from the State Department of Revenue. The report shows Yancey County collected the amount of \$19,532.16 for that month.

This compares with collections of \$15,677.27 by Madison County for the month of May and just over \$20,000 collected by Avery County for the same period. Mitchell County collected over \$29,000 during May, 1977.

JULY Sale

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Where not to be in lightning

Lightning is always beautiful at a distance. It is necessary for greener grass and taller trees, but when experienced too closely, it can stunt growth! By George, it's even dangerous.

So, take a few tips from me: Avoid hilltops, open spaces, tractors, motorcycles, wire fences, clotheslines, and small sheds in exposed places.

when lightning approaches. If no shelter is available, kneel with hands on knees, rather than lying flat in open. Keep away from open windows, doors, fireplaces, radiators, stoves, metal pipes; Never use plug-in electrical appliances. Avoid using the phone. Don't swim, or go boating. Observe lightning from a safe place.

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Tax Course

"In this life two things are certain: dying and taxes." Many of us have just paid to have our income tax returns prepared when we could have saved money by doing them ourselves.

This summer Mayland Technical Institute is offering a course in taxes which will teach you to prepare your own returns. Be ready for next year and save money by preparing your own return. You may even make money by preparing friends' and neighbors' returns.

The class will meet every Monday night from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and Tuesday night from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. and will run through September 20.

For more information contact Barry Weaver at 765-7351.

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