

THE YANCEY JOURNAL

VOL. 5, NO. 46

BURNSVILLE, N.C. 28714

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1977

15¢

\$40 Million Damage To Private Property

Damage Estimate Soars

BY CAROLYN YUZIUK

"I had no idea Yancey County was hit as bad as this," said Congressman Lamar Gudger Tuesday as he viewed the devastation torrential rain and flood waters had caused here.

That is just the problem that Commissioner Carl Carter has been facing in his

efforts to bring relief operations into this area. Yancey County officials had hoped for a visit by Governor Jim Hunt Monday as he toured flooded areas by helicopter, but they were disappointed. Hunt flew back to Raleigh after making brief stop at the Enka-Candler and Hot Springs area. It is hoped that he will mention Yancey County in his request for a disaster declaration from President Carter.

Yancey County has barely been mentioned in news reports and is being overlooked by government officials who are viewing the flood damage. Commissioner Carter said Monday he had been on the phone six times to Raleigh and each time was told someone would call him back. "Nobody called back," he said.

Typical was the news report on one TV station in which a reporter mentioned getting to Cane River in Yancey County where the bridge was out. He then went back to Asheville and con-

veyed this information as though that was Yancey's sole disaster.

EMERGENCY MEETINGS

At emergency meetings held in the courthouse Monday and Tuesday, town and county officials worked with state and federal agencies to find ways of getting immediate help to people who were hardest hit. Already helping in invaluable ways are members of the Yancey County Rescue Squad, Radio Patrol, Sheriff's Department, Fire Department, Ambulance Service and National Guardsmen (who are operating the helicopter). Some of the men have walked for miles to cover areas 4-wheel drive vehicles can't reach, bringing out families who were driven from their homes or who need medical attention. The helicopter crew has transported at least three emergency cases to hospitals in Asheville. Rescue and relief efforts are still being carried out as clean-up work begins.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

"Private property damage in Yancey County is estimated at \$40 million dollars," said the Chairman of the County Commissioners. Farm damage estimates already total over three and a quarter million dollars. The golf course is another half million.

Power lines and telephone lines are down in many places. Westco and French Broad EMC employees are working round the clock to restore service.

ROAD DAMAGE

Damage to highways and secondary roads is monumental. Eighteen main bridges and more than 100 private bridges are gone. At least 75% of the state secondary

roads in Yancey County have been washed out and repairs will take many months to complete. Nearly every private road in the county has sustained severe damage.

SCHOOL REPORT

Yancey County School Superintendent Ed Hunter stated that unless a tremendous amount of help is forthcoming from the Highway Department, Yancey Schools may even be out until after the Thanksgiving Holidays. Limited bus operations will be started as soon as possible, said Hunter, but there is no way to get the full routes established until the roads are fully restored. Hopefully by this Friday or Monday a more definite announcement can be made, he added. According to Hunter, flood damage at Clearmont School to furniture, doors, appliances, etc. may amount to nearly \$25 thousand. "Nearly everything in the school has been moved

about and knocked around by flood waters, he stated. He had received no word from Bee Log School at that time. The Mountain Heritage High School sewer system is washed out also, but the superintendent stated that all other school buildings have no major damage.

TOWN WATER SITUATION

Apparent leakage in the Burnsville water system caused the town to go into a state of emergency with water rationing Monday. Water is being shut off for repair work except for about 2 hours each day and people are being warned to boil water for drinking purposes. Repair work is underway and it is hoped the water situation will be back to normal within a short time.

DISASTER RELIEF

Congressman Gudger, who was flown in by helicop-

(Cont'd on page 7)

Reward Offered

The Yancey County Board of Education is offering a one hundred dollar cash reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons involved in a series of school break-ins between October 21 and October 30, 1977.

During the weekend of October 21 the school bus garage was entered. Entry was gained by breaking a window in the office area. On Tuesday night, October 25, Burnsville Elementary School was entered. Several doors and cabinets were damaged as a result of being forced open with a metal object. On

Thursday night, October 27, the same school was entered again with further damages resulting. During the weekend of October 28 vandals beat the outside door lock off of Micaville Elementary School, then forced their way through the office door. On Sunday night, October 30, extensive damage was done as several doors and filing cabinets were forced open by vandals who wrecked several areas of the Mountain Heritage High School apparently in search for money.

Information may be given to the Sheriff's Department or school officials.

Burnsville Election Results

Election returns for the town of Burnsville are as follows:

Mark Bennett	208
Rev. Ralph Jacks	221
Bob Helmle	187
James Fox	159
Jim Anglin (write in)	69
Bob Young (write in)	9
David McIntosh (write in)	6

The first three listed are Mayor and Town Aldermen, respectively.

Elk Shoal Church Was Swept Away; Corner Stone Remains

Raging River Tears Down Steel Bridge At Pensacola

More Photos On Pages 6 & 7

Many sections of Yancey County had even more extensive flood damage than the areas pictured in this issue, but we were unable to get through to these places because of road and bridge wash-outs. Next week the Journal will report on clean-up operations all over the county with more photos of flood damage in areas which are virtually inaccessible at present.

House Washed Down River At Micaville