

THE YANCEY JOURNAL

VOL. 5, NO. 47

BURNSVILLE, N.C. 28714

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1977

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President Carter To Get First-Hand Report

Schneiders, Gudger Visit

BY CAROLYN YUZIUK

Greg Schneiders, President Carter's Aide, who said he was here as Carter's personal representative, assessed the damages in flood-torn Yancey County on Monday, November 14. Accompanied by U.S. Congressman Lamar Gudger, the men flew over the Pensacola area, one of the hardest hit, before setting down at Mountain Heritage High School. They then drove to the county's Disaster Relief Center at Cane River Middle School.

Schneiders, who is a close

friend of the President, and Gudger talked personally with Yancey County Commissioner Carl Carter and other Yancey County people including county newsman Ed Yuziuk, before addressing over 200 people in the Cane River gym.

Schneiders told them, "The President has a personal interest in this situation and wants me to report back to him. We hope we can do something to take care of your needs. What we need to know is how the Federal government can best assist you."

He urged people to "be

aggressive" about reporting flood losses. "It's your tax dollars being put to use," he said.

With Schneiders and Gudger on the tour were David Britt, state coordinating officer; Herb Temple, representative from the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency; and Joe Winkle, Federal disaster relief coordinator who has stated that Yancey County is the hardest hit county in the disaster area.

Congressman Gudger said that he hoped citizens with flood losses will not feel

ashamed to seek assistance from any of the emergency centers set up over the District.

"I know how proud mountain people can be," the Congressman said, "but this is not a hand-out. It isn't welfare. It is assistance supported by your tax money, set aside for just such emergencies.

"Citizens who qualify for casualty loss tax refund can receive immediate refund of income taxes they have already paid in, rather than having to wait until April 15 to apply for refund at that time. Persons who have lost homes

will be provided with temporary housing and will be eligible for loans to rebuild.

Congressman Gudger said the funds and services are available not just for poor and disabled persons, but for all eligible citizens of the counties listed for disaster assistance.

"We encourage our mountain people to take advantage of this disaster relief program," Gudger said, "and not to look on it as a handout or dole, which it is not. It is a program whereby taxpayers can get back on their feet after suffering losses which no

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Clyde McIntosh, Gudger, Schneiders And Yuziuk

Schools Stay Closed Until November 28

All Yancey County schools will remain closed until the Monday after Thanksgiving, November 28, according to Ed Hunter, Yancey County Superintendent of Schools. "We will make up some of this time by shortening the Christmas holidays," he said.

At the present time school buses could only make about 25% of the bus routes. Hopefully in two weeks time more of the roads will be in

acceptable condition for the buses to travel.

The Superintendent added that he hopes to have Clearmont Elementary School repaired so that those students can also return by the 28th. An inspection team from HEW will visit the school Wednesday, November 23 and major repairs will start immediately thereafter.

Federal aid will be available to help with the cost.



Carl Carter, Joe Meyers Of Civil Defense, David Britt

Radio Patrol Evacuates Aged

BY JODY HIGGINS

"I've been here since 1925 and there's never been anything like this," said 85-year-old Percy Threadgill as he waited on Rocky Fork Road for members of the Radio Patrol Emergency Service to bring his sister and brother, Lillian Hackett and Henry Threadgill, out of isolated Cattail Creek Community Tuesday by stretcher.

Mrs. Elmer Day, a 76-year old Cattail resident with a heart condition was the first to be carried out through a rushing creek and up a steep, wooded embankment in the five-hour operation to evacu-

ate four elderly residents of this community of vacation homes. Except for about 20 people, the usual summer population, some 150 families had already abandoned Cattail for the winter months.

The Pensacola section, heavily damaged by the November 6 flooding, was left without electricity, telephones and roads and bridges for several days. Cattail was one area that was inaccessible by vehicle as bridges were destroyed and roads became creeks and rocky river beds.

Fred Ewing, who was ill, and his wife, had been taken out of Cattail the previous day by helicopter. These remaining four residents who were elderly or in ill health had been waiting for promised helicopter evacuation for several hours, when four Radio Patrol members walked the one mile into Cattail that was inaccessible by vehicle to inform them that if they wanted to leave they would have to walk out or be carried out by stretcher because the helicopter could only be brought back into Cattail for an extreme emergency.

"Cold weather and possible rain or snow is moving in tonight, and we need to get these older people out who are in bad health and don't have heat, electricity or communication with the outside," Keith Presnell of the Radio Patrol explained. If the weather gets worse it might make it harder or impossible to get them out tomorrow or in the next few days.

It was a long five hours for the four Cattail residents and Radio Patrol members Presnell, Bill Beaver, Mike Prickett and Ruben Trivette, but the operation went smoothly

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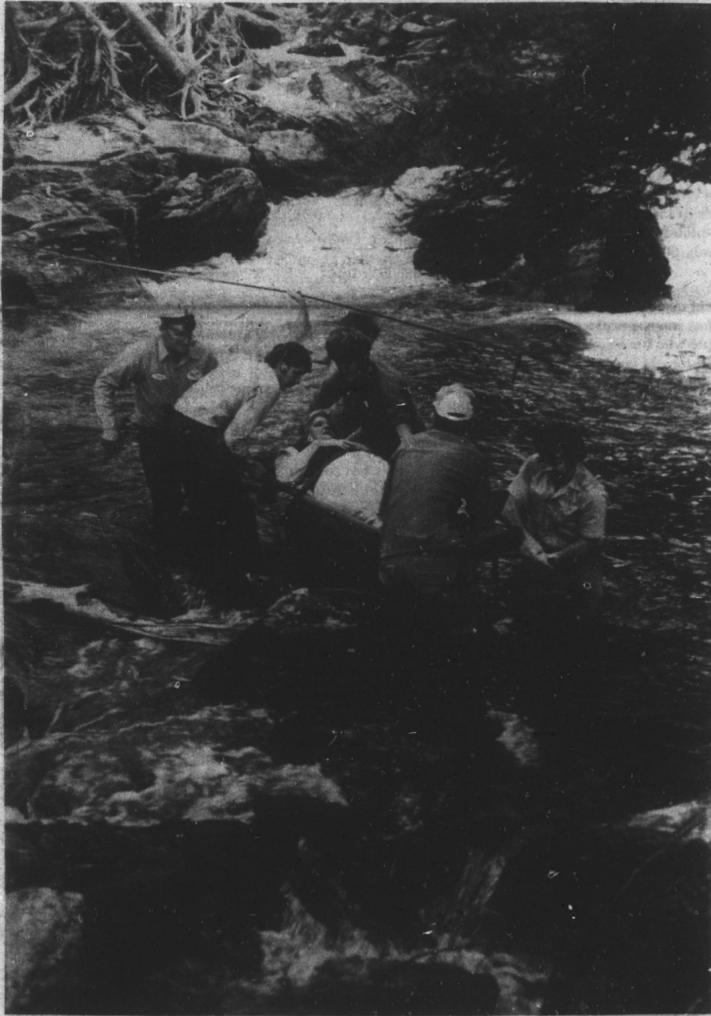


Photo by Jody Higgins

Radio Patrol Carries Mrs. Lillian Hackett To Safety



Mrs. Elmer Day Had Been Ill And Isolated Before Radio Patrol Arrived



Photos by Jody Higgins

Rep. Gudger Speaks To Citizens At Cane River Disaster Center

HUD Team Arrives

BY JODY HIGGINS

Monday afternoon Tom Musgrove of the General Services Administration and Grady Roberts of the Housing and Urban Development Team met with County officials to arrange housing and offices for 40 to 50 HUD disaster team members who will be coming to Yancey County to process applications for the HUD program.

Roberts explained that the small group presently operating out of Cane River Middle School is only the beginning of the operation.

Musgrove made arrangements with the County and the Blue Ridge Hospital

System to take over the old Yancey Hospital building. HUD will begin operating out of that facility almost immediately.

"HUD will be operating

here for three months at the minimum and possibly for a year," Roberts said. "We have one major concern right now; to find housing, in

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Fatal Accident Here

A Bakersville woman, Dorothy Woody, 36, became the first victim of Sunday's flooding in Yancey County at 7:10 Monday night, November 14, when the jeep she was driving north on NC 197 near the Brush Creek intersection went off the edge of a road damaged by the flood. As she lost control of the vehicle, it

went across the left side of the road and overturned into the Toe River.

The driver was thrown from the vehicle and the body was found about 100 feet from the vehicle. She was returning home after working Monday at the Disaster Center at Cane River Middle School.