

SBA Makes Flood Recovery Loans To Eligible People

By November 15, 1977, the Small Business Administration (SBA) had distributed more than 2,000 applications for flood recovery loans in Western North Carolina.

Mr. George Marshall, District Director for the SBA, answered questions for those now preparing their disaster loan applications.

Q. Who is eligible for the low interest SBA loans?

A. Anyone in the 16 counties declared a "major disaster area" in North Carolina or bordering counties within North Carolina who has suffered any residential, business, farm or personal property flood damage. Included are mobile homes, churches, nonprofit organizations and renters' damages.

Q. Can SBA funds be used to repair or replace a private road or bridge?

A. Yes. The work can be done by either the individual or a contractor and the loan can cover all costs except the individuals' own labor. Complete records of the funds spent must be kept in each case.

HOMES AND PERSONAL PROPERTY LOANS

Q. What type loans can homeowners and renters receive?

A. Homeowners can borrow up to \$50,000 for structure repairs and up to \$10,000 for personal property losses or a maximum combination of \$55,000. Renters can borrow up to \$10,000 at 1% to repair or replace their losses.

Q. What will the interest rate be?

A. The simple interest rate

on primary residences and personal property will be 1% on the first \$10,000; 3% on the next \$30,000, and 6 5/8% on amounts up to \$55,000, including refinancing.

Q. Are mobile homes covered?

A. Yes.

Q. How can I expedite the disaster home loan request?

A. Applications must include an itemized list of losses with repair or replacement costs. A contractor's estimate of structured damage is desirable, but homeowners can make their own estimate. Also, include proof of income by your most recently filed federal income tax return, W-2, or employer's letter stating pay rate and length of employment. Where structural damages are involved, a copy of your deed or mortgage is necessary. Applications submitted with all the necessary materials can be processed much faster.

Q. Is there an age limit for these loans?

A. No.

Q. When will my first payment be due?

A. The first payment is normally not due for 5 months. This deferment will enable the borrower to get back on his feet before payments begin.

Q. Are automobiles and recreational vehicles covered?

A. Yes, but only if insurance does not cover the loss. The loan can be used to purchase a vehicle of similar age and quality.

Q. Are the payments expensive?

A. Each repayment schedule is individually designed to avoid undue financial hardship. If necessary, loans can be made for up to 30 years.

Q. Is upgrading of my home or business allowed?

A. Upgrading is only allowed where necessary to

meet local building code requirements.

Q. If a vacation home was damaged by the flood, can these funds be used for repair?

A. Yes. The interest rate is 3%.

BUSINESS LOANS

Q. How can I use the SBA money?

A. Funds are available to return businesses to a pre-flood condition including repair of structure, inventory, machinery and equipment.

Q. What is the interest rate for businesses?

A. 3% on the first \$250,000 and 6 5/8% on higher amounts.

Q. What information does SBA need?

A. SBA needs financial statements and federal income tax returns for the last 3 years showing profit and loss margins. Also needed are itemized lists of losses with dollar estimates for repair or replacement of each item. Businesses are urged to document their losses and repayment ability as thoroughly as possible.

Q. What about apartment houses?

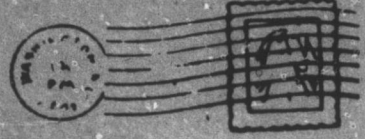
A. The apartment house situation is unique. Owners who occupied their duplex, triplex, or quadplex, apartment buildings can qualify for 1% interest loans up to \$10,000. Larger and non owner occupied buildings would come under the commercial program i.e. 3% up to \$250,000 and 6 5/8% interest on higher amounts.

Q. What procedure should I follow if I had both home and business damage?

A. Separate applications must be filed since there are different interest rates for home and business loans.

Applications should be returned to any of the Disaster Assistance Centers.

Letters To The Editor



Dear Editor:

Members of the 211th M.P. Company North Carolina Air National Guard, would like to take this time to express our deepest appreciation for the wonderful help that we received from Mr. Holt, Kathy Lee, Susan Crisp and Judy Brown of the Yancey County Department of Social Services, in delivering needed food and clothing throughout Yancey County. Thanks for an outstanding job well done.

Lt. Col. James H. Barnett
109 M.P. Bn. Commanding

Dear Editor:

I heard they were going to build Elk Shoal Church on Hardscrabble, well I don't mind saying I am against it. Elk Shoal Church has been there ever since I can remember it. I can remember the old church and then they built the new church. It just will not seem like Elk Shoal Church any where else. Besides, if they build it back on Hardscrabble, they will get it completely out of the community. Elk Shoal Community ends at Hardscrabble bridge and Cane River begins. Well Cane River community has a church. So has Bald Creek; so has Higgins.

They had a meeting at Bald Creek. It is my opinion that some of the big shots don't want the church put back where it was. It's true Elk Shoal Church does have some members that think they are better than the rest of the Poor folks. I guess that is true because some of them have good jobs, fine homes, new cars and fancy clothes. But in the eyes of God, they are no bigger than the poor folks.

It is my opinion-I could be wrong-that since the creek roads and bridges were washed away and some of the older members that could remember the old church couldn't be there, it gave them the opportunity they needed.

The river wasn't to blame as much as some people blame it. The river has been in the church before. True, it was up more than usual, but once it got in the church it had no way of getting out so the pressure kept building up till it exploded. Then the river washed it away.

I know I don't count for anything because I am a poor person, but to me Elk Shoal Church will not be Elk Shoal Church except where it was. Thank you for letting me share my thoughts with others.

Sincerely
A Concerned Citizen
(Name withheld on request)

Dear Editor:

As Captain of the Yancey County Rescue Squad I would like to apologize to the people we were unable to reach on Sunday morning of the flood because of the high waters and roads being washed out. We received our first call at approximately 3 a.m. from a family in the Pensacola area but were unable to get any farther than Carlie Rice's because of the high water. We turned and came back and found we were needed at Wheeler Trailer Park. When we arrived we found the situation well under hand. Sheriff Banks along with the help of his brother Robert and the very fine work of Bill Stallings of the N.C. Highway Patrol who had waded water above his waist to carry people out, had everything under control. Burnsville Police Chief Joe Gillespie had also been in the water along with several members of the Burnsville Fire Department and Police Department who had been called in to help. These men had got everyone out who was in danger and had them waiting where the Rescue Squad and Ambulance Service transported them to the Ambulance Hall. There they were given dry blankets and a good warm place to stay.

Having this trailer park taken care of, we were advised the Riverside Trailer Park was becoming flooded down next to the river. When we arrived we found all of the families out but the Fred Cooper Family. So we decided we would try to take the Rescue Squad's four-wheel-drive army vehicle in to get the Cooper family. Chief Gillespie said he would drive, so Bill Stallings, Willie Jobe from the ambulance service, Lawrence Bolick and myself from the Rescue Squad got in the back and made our way into the trailer park. We found six people in the trailer, one of whom was confined to the bed and had to be carried out by stretcher to an ambulance which was standing by. The others were brought out by the four-wheel-drive. When we finished at Riverside we found out the water had gone down some so we made the first trip up the river to Pensacola where we would stop and check on people and ask them if they were okay. We talked to several at the store at Pensacola and they were almost sure everyone was accounted for. We then made our way up to Shanty Town Trailer Park where we found it almost completely destroyed, but everyone accounted for.

We left there and stopped at Mountain Wilderness and brought a man and his wife and two-week-old baby back out to Burnsville where they had some anxious friends waiting.

So if we didn't get to you on Sunday morning we are very sorry but we were trying our best to get to the ones we could.

While we were gone to Pensacola the bridge at Riverside fell in and this hampered our work because we have men on that end of the county who had been called out but could not come to help us. So they decided they would take from the bridge back and did a good job on that end of the county.

Then on Monday we started working the Jacks Creek, Ramseytown, Murphytown, Bee Log and Little Creek areas trying to get to as many people as we could. We worked these areas almost all week delivering food and clothing to the ones we could get to. We realize we spent many man hours and probably didn't get to all, but I would like to thank the men in our Rescue Squad for a fine job they did and to also thank Sheriff Banks and his entire department; Chief Gillespie and his entire Police Department; Chief Charlie Hensley and the Burnsville Fire Department; Troopers Bill Stallings and A.T. Morrison from the N.C. Highway Patrol who have helped in numerous ways and should be commended for it. Also the North Carolina Radio Patrol who have helped in numerous ways and did a fine job. Last but not least by any means, we would like to say many thanks to Captains Sandy Stokes and Bob Youngblood of the North Carolina National Guard who have provided us with Helicopters which have been of vital importance to help get food, medicine, clothing, fuel oil, feed for farm animals and to bring the sick out to waiting ambulances so they could be transported to the hospitals and get proper treatment. And also for the National Guardsmen with the water tankers, the MP unit and all the other individuals who have contributed food, clothing, money and whatever to the many needy.

I think all of these groups have worked very close together and if it had not been for this, we would have had a lot more problems than we did. Sheriff Banks did an excellent job in coordinating our many activities and this was of great importance. Without it we sure would have been in a mess.

The Rescue Squad meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month and we extend a welcome to anyone who would like to be a member and help other people in times like this.

Sincerely,
Jerry K. Laws, Captain
Yancey County Rescue Squad, Inc.

From The ESC

Apology

The Employment Security Commission wishes to express their regret for any hardship, inconvenience, or false hope of employment it may have caused any of our citizens recently concerning possibilities of employment with the Army Corps of Engineers.

This agency, acting in good faith in response to a telephone call from a representative of the Corps of Army Engineers, took immediate and positive steps to meet a labor demand of 300-400 people. It now appears that poor coordination within the Army Corps of Engineers resulted in conflicting planning for work to be done in Yancey County. Apparently very little direct hiring will be done by the Army Corps of Engineers. It appears that work will be let to a private contractor who may have need for employees.

Employment Security Commission, acting in the best interests of those in need of work and those in need of physical repairs to their roads and bridges, acted immediately to muster the requested work force. Radio stations WTOE and WKYK provided extensive publicity to disseminate the call for workers.

The response was very effective and could meet the Army Corps of Engineers initial request. Needless to say, this agency was very disappointed that bad information had been provided to us and so many individuals had been adversely affected by it. We apologize, but will continue to act in what we feel is the best interests of the local citizens.

Guardsmen Aid Local Teams

[Cont'd from page 1]
be back at a moments notice if the need should arise.

"If there's more rain or heavy snow, we'll have to come back," said one officer.

"If we don't get called back, we'll be up to visit - don't be surprised if the whole company shows up one day," said one pilot, sealing bonds of shared experiences with handshakes before boarding his helicopter flight back to Salisbury.

Centers Help With Paperwork

[Cont'd from page 1]
will be there to help."

The four centers, now scheduled to operate at least through November 26, will be in Burnsville at the Cane River Middle School; in Boone at the recreation center, 609 E. King Street; Asheville, One Oak Plaza, College St. at Valley Ave.; and in the Morganton Recreation Center, Collett and King St.

Hours for the centers will be 1 to 5 p.m. Monday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. All centers will be closed Thanksgiving Day.

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Real Estate

By Wanda Proffitt

REALTOR

FUTURE SHOCK!!!

Who would have thought that we'd ever look forward to an annual inflation rate of 6% with an emotion close to ecstasy? Yet, today that's what we're doing. The reason, of course, is that after three successive yearly hikes - averaging better than 9%, 1976's 6% increase looks pretty good. Don't be fooled - 6% inflation is high. At that rate prices double in 12 years.

30 years it would sell for \$258,456.

What does all this mean? Whatever your age, you must find a way to create an income in addition to your pay check. Although there is no such thing as the perfect investment, real estate may be the nearest thing to it. It can be an income producer, a shelter from high taxes, and an ideal protection from the ravages of inflation. Real estate values historically increase faster than general inflation prices and maintain a higher value than most assets in depression. The ideal hedge.

What would happen to housing prices with a 6% yearly cost-of-living increase? A home that cost \$45,000 now would increase to \$90,548 in 12 years. In 20 years it would cost \$144,320. In

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Thanksgiving is for giving

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It is true. God loves a cheerful giver. And as your Pharmacist let me attest to the rewards of cheerful giving. Such rewards come with kind comments, or from after-hours thank-yous for filling emergency prescriptions.

I'm especially thankful this Thanksgiving for the opportunity to serve you. Join me in counting our blessings and have a giving Thanksgiving!

Your Pharmacists

Charles Gillespie, Jr., Dawn Higgins, George Brookins
Pollard's Drug Store, Downtown, Burnsville, NC
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Thanksgiving

Here's wishing you a Thanksgiving holiday that's bountiful in all life's joys.... good friends, good health, good fun! Enjoy it!

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MAPS

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Gudger Report: Congressman Speaks Of Pride

SPECIAL BREED OF PEOPLE - It is difficult for me to express the pride I feel in representing the 11th District. An area where the people are so self-sufficient that they really do not expect help from the government when misfortune befalls them. The resourcefulness of the mountain people continually amazes me. And it has certainly impressed the government officials visiting in the area due to the damaging flood earlier this month.

I am finding a fantastic community spirit. Volunteers have readily stepped forward to assist in the emergency centers. In many ways, I am reminded of the pioneer spirit that prevailed 200 years ago when there was no government to assist in times of disaster. It was up to families to help each other. That same spirit can be seen today in Western North Carolina.

No one has been without shelter or food. Compassionate neighbors provided this kind of help immediately and they continued to work with the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and the Federal Disaster Assistance people when these agencies arrived on the scene.

Now that the emergency centers are in place and grant funds, as well as loans are available, I am also impressed with the way our mountain people have shown the patience to wait in line for the processing of their claims and to continue to wait for those benefits such as grants and loans which have to be processed through Charlotte and Atlanta.

Our mountain men and women are a special breed of people. I am so proud to be one of them. I am particularly proud to be their representative in Washington.

Because of the kind of people we have in Western North Carolina, many of them have been reluctant to visit the emergency centers and apply for assistance. I encourage them to please not hesitate to come in their nearest center and make application for all assistance due them. This is not a hand-out. As one official said, "This is like an insurance program. You paid the premium (taxes) and now you're submitting a claim for damage. It's that simple. This is your tax money at work helping you."