

# THE YANCEY JOURNAL

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Yancey Men, G.D. Robinson And Jeter McCurry Change Flat Tire



Hayes Of Siler City Working In Yancey

## Filing For Primary

## Board Of Elections

## Notes Time Changes

The Board of Elections asks voters to note the change in the time period for filing for office in the 1978 elections. The time has been shortened to one month: noon January 2 to noon February 6, 1978.

County offices to be filled are the Commissioners (two year term), Clerk of Court, Sheriff and Coroner (each a four year term), all subject to the May 2 Party Primaries.

There will be two places on the Board of Education to be filled on a non-partisan basis, the final election to be held May 2 at the same time

as the Primaries. Candidates for Soil and Water Conservation Supervisors, which is also a non-partisan election, have until September 8, 1978 to file.

The filing fee, by law, is 1% of the annual salary for most offices, \$10.00 for County Commissioners and \$5 for Board of Education.

Registration of voters may be done at any time by the Registrars and Judges or at the Elections office in the courthouse until April 3rd, and then voter registration is closed for the month preceding the Primary.

## Gudger Plans Workshop

Congressman Lamar Gudger has extended an invitation to all local officials of Western North Carolina to attend an Intergovernmental Energy Conservation Workshop to be co-sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development and himself. The workshop is scheduled for January 4th and 5th at the Inn on the Plaza, Asheville.

"The workshop will be designed to inform local officials of energy conservation practices and opportunities that are important to local units of government," Gudger said. "I feel that this upcoming conference will be very important because of the great emphasis being placed on energy conservation at the national level. While we must all be thinking about energy conservation, local governments in particular are in an excellent position to set an example for their communities. Energy conservation not only saves energy but saves dollars! Furthermore in the near future, additional federal funds may be available to local governments that choose to participate in energy conservation efforts."

Gudger said that energy conservation experts from Federal, State and local governments as well as the private sector will be speaking at the conference on how local governments can utilize existing energy conservation programs. All local units of government should attend the workshop and should encourage their council or commission members, professional managers and administrators, building inspectors and public works directors to attend this conference.

The workshop will begin at 1:00 p.m. on January 4. In addition to the regularly

scheduled program, an informal gathering with Congressman Gudger and guests is planned for the evening of January 4.

The Congressman went on to explain that the Intergovernmental Energy Conservation Workshop is the first part of a two phase energy conservation program for Western North Carolina to be administered by the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development. Phase one of the program is aimed at informing local governments about energy conservation practices and encouraging the involvement of local governments in energy conservation. The second phase of the program intends to provide assistance to local communities in conducting energy conservation workshops for the people in their communities.

## Burnsville Fire Calls

December 22 at 2:30 p.m. Margaret Shade residence, Lincoln Park. Fire of undetermined origin completely destroyed house and furnishings. 12 men, 2 trucks responding.

December 23 at 5:05 a.m. B.H. Higgins residence on Depot Street. Fire of minor damage to outside wall and floor of house from fire starting in wood pile outside of house. 2 trucks and 15 men responding.

December 23 at 12 noon Dennis Edwards residence Lincoln Park Road. Smoke Damage to house due to faulty fireplace and chimney. 10 men and 2 trucks responding.

## DOT Busy Repairing Flood Damage Here

If you think your car is hard to start on a cold winter morning, you should try starting a bulldozer in zero-degree weather.

Or if you think a flat tire is a hassle to change, imagine changing a flat on a backhoe that sits in the midst of a frigid mountain stream.

Such are the obstacles, along with lots of mud and misplaced rocks, that Department of Transportation (DOT) maintenance crews have had to face as they piece back together the roads and bridges in Western North Carolina that were so badly damaged by heavy rains and flash floods in early November.

Obstacles or no, they have continued at full-speed ahead working from "dawn to dusk", first, to free those who were stranded or isolated and, second, to make emergency repairs. Secretary of Transportation Thomas W. Bradshaw, Jr. said, "An additional 1200 employees and almost 200 pieces of equipment were moved from other parts of the state into the disaster area, encompassing Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey Counties, to assist in the repair work.

State Representative Ernest B. Messer of Canton, upon touring the areas devastated by floods, observed convoys of DOT equipment.

He talked with many who suffered from the disaster and they "...were highly complimentary of DOT's efforts to get the roads and bridges back in operation as rapidly as possible," he said. "I never heard any criticism," he added. Representative Messer's district includes Haywood, Jackson, Madison and Swain Counties.

One DOT employee, on the job in Yancey County, remarked that he had "been working 12 hours a day, seven days a week for 35 days with only four days off. I've got a little one at home," he added. "I don't get to see her very often."

DOT field personnel assigned to help with the flood damage repairs experienced long hours on the job and little time at home with the family.

DOT Maintenance Crew Leader Blaine Peterson of Yancey County bragged on his men, "Every man has done his part and more. Each one has been mighty cooperative," he said, as his crew labored moving rocks, putting in pipe, re-routing streams and operating equipment to repair an unpaved secondary road in Yancey County.

At this point, DOT, having rescued those stranded or isolated, now starts completing emergency repairs and will start making permanent repairs to damages estimated at more than \$15 million. A total of 91 bridges and one reinforced concrete box culvert was destroyed. Eighty-

eight other bridges on the State highway system were severely damaged. Approximately 390 miles of roadway on the system were damaged extensively. Of this, some 289 miles were secondary roads and some 101 miles were primary roads.

"This step marks only the beginning of reconstruction," said Jim Medlin, DOT's Highway Division Engineer for Buncombe, Burke, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Rutherford and Yancey Counties. "It will take several months to get our roads and bridges back in the condition they once were. The damages are so massive and the winter months will slow the construction process down considerably," he added.

So far the weather has been "pretty good," according to DOT crews in Yancey and Buncombe Counties. By a couple of mornings the temperatures have plunged near zero, and that's when David Camp of Rutherford County had trouble starting his diesel-fueled "dozer." "It wouldn't even stir for two days," he said. It seems he was particularly anxious to remove one of many rocks from an unpaved roadway in Yancey County so an area resident "could get his tobacco out before Christmas."

But the worst is yet to come, warned Medlin. Not only will the weather get colder, but snowy and icy

conditions are almost inevitable.

As Medlin's Assistant Division Engineer Dan Martin explained it, "Just because many of the damaged roads are passable does not mean they are wholly restored. There are still portions of undermined roadway, sections of broken and cracked pavement and stretches where great chunks of pavement were completely washed out. A heavy snow will obscure these hazards and ice will make the routes even more treacherous," he said.

All major roads damaged by the floods have been signed and, in some cases, lighted with smudge pots. "But, as DOT's Flood Damage Coordinator Floyd Bass put it, "there are just not enough signs and lights to go around," so some of the lesser travelled roads may not be properly marked.

State transportation officials have strongly advised motorists, those familiar and, even more so, those unfamiliar with the roads in the disaster areas, to avoid travelling the damaged byways unless absolutely necessary.

Of course, DOT maintenance crews will continue to alleviate the problems as weather permits, but it will probably be spring before construction can be on a full-scale basis.

Although State forces will perform most of the repair

(Cont'd on page 4)



## Burnsville Lions Get L.I.F. Grant

Burnsville Lions Club has received a grant from Lions International Foundation [L.I.F.] of \$4,000 to aid families who have suffered from the recent disaster in Yancey County. Jack Allen, President of Burnsville Lions Club, is shown above receiving the check from Marvin Calloway, Chairman Zone II, District 31-B, of International Lions Club. Dr. Harry Baldwin, District Governor of District 31-B International Lions Club was unable to be present at the ceremony. The L.I.F. awards grants to areas of natural disaster all over the world. Funds are received from Lions Clubs in 441 countries around the world. This makes the first time L.I.F. has made a grant to North Carolina.

Mr. Allen has been appointed Chief Administrator of the funds. He has appointed Lions Jerry Newton, Director Chamber of Commerce, and Everett Dillingham to the

committee to handle the Burnsville Lions Club Disaster Fund. The Burnsville Lions Club has pledged an additional \$400 to the fund and it is expected that other Lions Clubs in District 31-B of Western North Carolina will provide an additional \$1,000 to the fund.

The grant will be used to provide emergency medical prescriptions and drugs, hot meals, and fuel to families who have been hard hit by the flood. Those people desiring assistance because of the flood may contact Jack Allen of Cy-Jordan Realty Office, Jerry Newton at the Chamber of Commerce or may apply through WAMY Office of the local coordinating disaster committee.

Pictured left to right are Jerry Newton, Jack Allen, Marvin Calloway and Frank Thomas, a Lion from Mitchell County.

# NEW YEAR GREETING