



# THE YANCEY JOURNAL

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## One Year Ago...

One year ago—on November 6, 1977, flood waters raged through Yancey County tearing down bridges, destroying homes, washing out roads and devastating farmland. It was a disaster of major proportions and Yancey County was officially declared a Disaster Area by President Carter.

Many individuals and many organizations have worked long and hard to help restore the county, and in some ways, these efforts have been successful. But no one who was here the night of the flood will ever forget its impact, which has left its mark on our minds and hearts.

Three expectant mothers were

flown out from the Big Creek section of Yancey County by helicopter after the flood had left them in dangerous isolation, and delivered their babies safe and sound in Memorial Mission Hospital, Asheville. The three babies celebrated their first birthdays a few days early with a birthday party at the home of one of the mothers, Mrs. Benny Phillips, last Saturday. The babies are Michael Garry Fox, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth G. Fox, born November 9; Raymond Curtis Phillips, son of Mr. and Mrs. Benny Ray Phillips, born November 9; and Tara Renee Briggs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Briggs, born November 8, 1977.



RAYMOND PHILLIPS, born November 9, 1977



TARA BRIGGS, born November 8, 1977



MICHAEL FOX, born November 9, 1977

## Council Explores Needs:

## Forum On Women

The former Harris High School Auditorium in Spruce Pine, (now Harris Middle School) will be the gathering place for people of Western North Carolina to meet to discuss "The Southern Female Myth—Hopefully, Gone With The Wind." The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Friday night, November 10. Refreshments will be served at 7:00 p.m.

The guest speaker will be Carey Connell Sutton, a

professional actress who has studied and performed in places ranging from San Francisco to Minneapolis to New York City.

Sutton will dramatize several humorous yet poignant historical profiles of rural Southern women in their own words. She will portray their feelings about themselves as well as the society they lived in.

Local people taking part in the program include a panel of respondents, Mrs. J.C.

Hollifield, Mrs. Norris Masters and Mrs. James Johnson. Also, Elizabeth Hunter will be moderator for the program.

This is the third in a series of public forums on the theme "Images of Appalachian Women." The forums are sponsored by the Council on Appalachian Women, Inc. and local community organizations. The Council was established to define the needs and design programs to meet the needs of the women in the thirteen Appalachian states. The series of forums is an initial effort in support of public educational programs.

The programs are funded by a grant from the N.C. Humanities Committee.

This program is open to the public and is being brought to you by members of the local planning committee.



WIND OF THE WEEK  
YANCEY COUNTY  
COUNTRY STORE  
Hi ~ 74°  
Lo ~ 35°

## South Toe VFD Closes FHA Loan

The Board of Directors of the South Toe Volunteer Fire Department would like to announce the closing of the Farmers Home Administration loan in the amount of \$190,000.00. The loan is to be used to construct a firehouse at Buechel, purchase a new 4-wheel drive Ward LaFrance Pumper, upgrade present fire communications equipment, and train and equip an Emergency Medical Technician Team. The closing was completed on Thursday evening, November 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the courtroom.

This loan will enable the fire department to handle fire and other emergency situations more effectively.

Plans are being made to have an open house as soon as the firehouse has been completed and the pumper received, so that the public may see what purchases have been made.

There is presently a twelve-member team of technicians for any medical emergency, as well as the fire-fighting team. The telephone number to call for the South Toe Volunteer Fire Department is 682-2421.

## Attorney Thomas Dies

Phillip M. Thomas, 43, a prominent Burnsville attorney, died November 2, 1978 at Spruce Pine Hospital of an apparent heart attack.

Mr. Thomas was a former district attorney for the 24th Judicial District, an attorney for Yancey County and the Town of Burnsville, past president of the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce and a member of Vesper Lodge No. 554 of Spruce Pine.

Phillip Thomas graduated from Berea College and the University of North Carolina School of Law at Chapel Hill where he received a degree of Juris Doctor. He was admitted to the N.C. State Bar Association the same year of graduation and later became a member of the American Bar Association.

A native of Yancey County, he was a son of the late Lowe Thomas, former superior court clerk of Yancey County, and Ethel Hughes Thomas.

Mr. Thomas was known for his love of recreation and sports activity. He was a former little league coach for Yancey County and the large bass on his den wall could testify to his fishing skills. Those who had the privilege of being on the golf course with Mr. Thomas will remember the sportsmanship and competitive spirit he displayed. Phillip won several tournaments at Mt. Mitchell Golf Course this past year and recently had a hole in one on the 11th hole at Mt. Mitchell.

This past Saturday services were officiated by Revs. Don Shuman and Ben Lee Ray and were held at Higgins Memorial United Methodist Church in Burnsville. The family and many friends, including Congressman Lamar Gudger and Superior Court Judges William Anglin and Ronald Howell attended.



## Bivouacking

Helicopters were a common sight at this time last year, when the National Guard came to help Yancey County at a time of great need. The helicopters seen this week, however, are not from the National Guard, but belong to the U.S. Army, Troop C, First Squadron, 1-17 Cavalry, 82nd Airborne from Fort Bragg. The squadron is bivouacking at Mountain Wilderness for maneuvers. The 130 men, who helped volunteer firemen put out a fire in the Pensacola area Saturday, are using three types of helicopters—the AH-1 Cobra, UH-1 Huey and OH-58 Bell. The helicopters and army vehicles with their occupants clothed in khaki camouflage uniforms, look more like TV news participants than part of our quiet, rural life.

Photos by Harvey Blatz

