

Yancey Schools In Screening Program

(Cont'd from page 1)
U.S. to use it. The staff involved in the program feels that the results will be a great asset to our teachers and administrators here in providing quality education for all our students. We are grateful to

those recommending the Yancey County Schools for the \$25,000 grant to carry out the screening program, to Ms. Paula Mae Higgins, Principal at Burnsville Elementary School for allowing her school to be used as the centralized screening site, and to Edgar Hunter, Superintendent, principals, Board of Education members, Trade and Industries Department, Health Occupations Department, test administrators and K-1 teachers, for their support and cooperation in helping make the screening program a success.



A SERIES OF TESTS ARE PERFORMED BY Dwight Johnson and Amanda Bunny Bennett, teachers of exceptional children, who screen a 1st grade student shown balancing on a walking board.



Photos By
Harvey
Blatz



ABOVE RIGHT: Mary Lou McCurry, elementary school media coordinator for Yancey Schools, tests a student in tactile discrimination. The student is asked to identify objects she cannot see by using her sense of touch.

ABOVE CENTER: Janet Banks, teacher of exceptional children at Burnsville School, screens student for motor coordination.

ABOVE LEFT: Beth Lackey, school physical therapist and Marsha McKinney, kindergarten teacher at Burnsville School, check student for muscle strength.



SHARON GEOUGE, teacher of exceptional children at South Toe, tests a student in the area of mathematics processes.



BETTY ROBINSON and Brenda Fox, kindergarten teachers at Micaville, screen a student with visual tests.

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Bluegrass/ Country Music Event

Tri County's own Barbara Belinda English returns with her two sons, who make up the second generation, to play in concert for the Newdale Fire Department at Micaville School on November 15, 7:30 p.m.

The music will be Bluegrass, Country and Gospel, with Allen, 16, on the banjo and Greg, 11, on the guitar. Greg, who has been on the Hee Haw Show on TV, is 3 years winner on the guitar. Barbara says, "Tell all my friends in Yancey, Mitchell and Avery counties to come and see me and say howdy again, meet my sons and shake hands!"

Also featured at the event is one of the best Bluegrass bands in McDowell and Yancey County—Denver Norris on the banjo and guitar and one of the top female banjo pickers, Robin Crowder, another second generation of Edith Robinson now with her children.

This is one of the best shows to come this way. Come on out and see two great bands for the price of one—Charter Oak Bluegrass and the English Family. Admission is \$2.50 and remember the date, Saturday, November 15, 7:30 p.m. at Micaville school.

Know-How Becoming Essential

Computer Age Is Here

Americans may find themselves branded as functionally illiterate some time in the future, even though they can read and write, if they can't operate a computer.

Within a few years it will be necessary to be able to program and operate a small electronic computer in order to get and hold a job, a number of scientists and technicians warn.

Arthur Luehrmann, computer-research director of the University of California says computer illiteracy could become a national headache by the end of this decade. "We will need 40 million persons able to use computers by 1990 and I don't know who is going to teach them," he warned.

The world of the computer has changed so radically that the electronic marvel now is affordable for all institutions, businesses and individuals, but the thinking about it in many of the educational systems has not changed.

Too many educators still think of the computer as a scarce resource whose use must be rationed.

"The day will come when we will need to have a computer sciences department in every grade school," said Edward W. Warmsthus, publisher of the magazine, Technical Horizons in Education.

Warmsthus said Dr. Sylvia Chapp proved in a program in Philadelphia schools that computer literacy can be achieved in grade school.

But school administrators still are loathe to spend money on computer training and in any event Dr. Warmsthus wasn't hopeful about solving the problem in schools because he said most persons capable of teaching computer skills already are employed in the business world.

This means, Warmsthus said, that "for the foreseeable future, business is going to have to solve its computer literacy problem itself."

Luehrmann agreed with

that and added that with the prospect of 10 million computers of all sizes being in use as early as 1985, the task of training people to program, operate and service them looks staggering.

Since business will do a large part of the training job it needs computers that are in effect self-teaching, says Chairman George Ryan of CADO Systems Corporation.

Working with Phoenix Performance Systems of St. Paul, CADO developed a system of interactive self-teaching programs for its little computers in such functions as work processing, which means operating automatic typewriting and data storage and retrieval banks, and general, payroll, and inventory accounting.

These programs were tested on many persons, including two groups of high school students not previously exposed to the computer. Ryan said the results were astounding. The kids mastered each course in an average of four

hours. Although it will take a huge national effort, computer illiteracy can be averted and will have to be if young people hope to compete in the job market.

"The person who can use a small computer can command a far better salary than persons burdened by computer illiteracy," Luehrmann said, "because their productivity is so much greater than other workers with similar background and education."

Recognizing some of these present and future needs, Mayland Technical College offers courses in computer programming designed to introduce people to this interesting new field. In addition plans are being made which will enable students to take programming courses on an individual study basis so that they can take courses at a time convenient to them. Persons interested in the computer field should contact Jerry Cox, Mayland Technical College, 765-7351.

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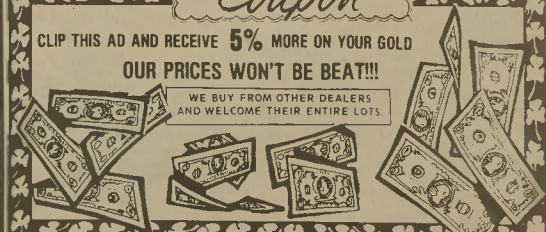
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