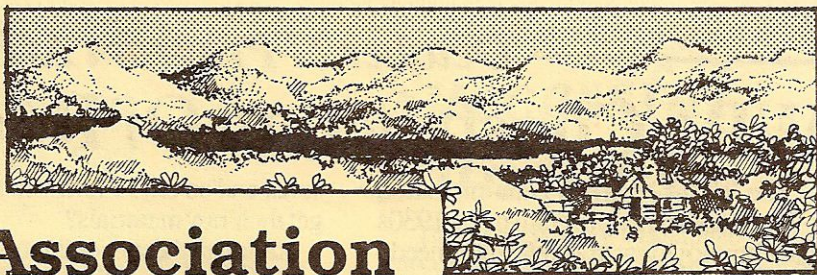


ESTATEEE

Quarterly Newsletter Yancey History Association



Volume IX, No. 2-4

Preserving Our Appalachian Heritage

June-Oct. 1995

Visitor Center Work Nears Completion; Restoration Of Museum Now Under Way

The new Visitor Center will open in a few weeks, thanks to additional funding from the county and town to complete necessary work on the project.

The board of commissioners approved \$10,000 and the town board \$5,000. The local governments had given \$7,500 each to the project as part of the match for a \$25,000 grant from the Janirve Foundation.

Half of the \$50,000 total went toward remodeling the gas station, with the remaining \$25,000 designated by the foundation for work on the museum. Stabilization work has been completed on the historic, pre-Civil War house and renovation work is now underway.

The project also received a \$50,000 grant from the N.C. Dept. of Cultural Resources

and a \$10,000 grant from the Hanes Foundation.

The gas station remodeling phase ran short of funds to complete finishing work that would allow the Chamber of Commerce to move its headquarters to the new visitor center.

The converted gas station is part of a Museum/Visitor Center Complex. The entire project is a joint effort by the Yancey History Association and the Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber makes mortgage payments on the gas station property and in exchange has a long-term, rent-free lease. The structure will also house the Yancey County Economic Development Commission once additional funding is obtained to complete that portion of the gas station.

A steering committee made up of representatives of both groups and one official from the county and one from the town oversees planning and development of the project, which is being completed in phases.

The steering committee recently sponsored a fundraiser with dinner and entertainment that raised several thousand dollars from ticket sales and donations by individuals. The Yancey History Association presented plaques at the event to steering

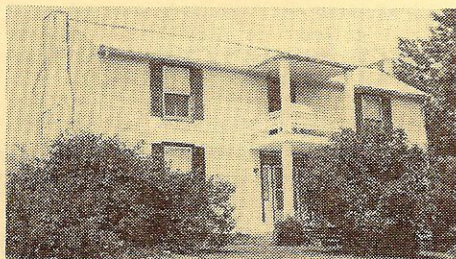
committee members John Doyle and Roger Bard, YHA fund drive chairman Mack Ray, and commissioner John Renfro for their dedication to the project.

Doyle said the committee is applying for grants at least once a month and is also pursuing other avenues of funding. Additional funds will be available for the project from the Dept. of Cultural Resources.

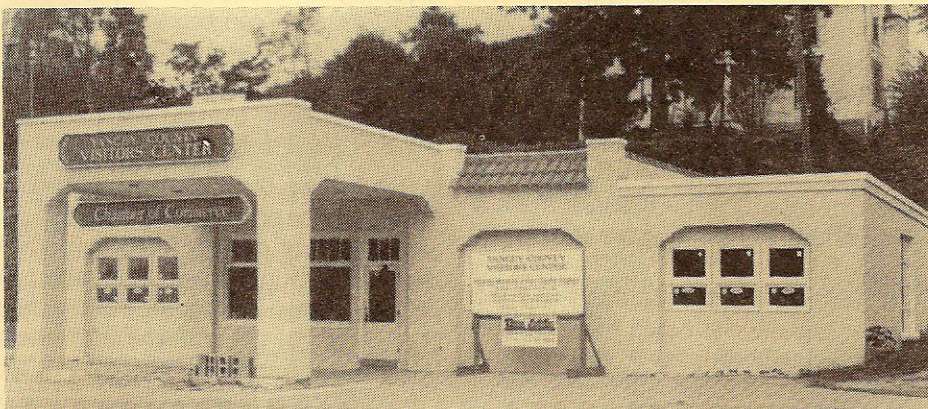
The committee is in the process of applying for a federal transportation grant to complete the Visitor Center phase of the project. This grant will complete work on the EDC office, display areas, parking area, terracing and landscaping.

As part of the request for the transportation grant, the steering committee is seeking the designation of a specified portion of the town as a nationally recognized Historic District. Preliminary work necessary for the designation is now in the works.

The museum house is currently one of several in the town listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The entire Museum/Visitor Center Complex has been designated by the state as a Regional History Site, one of only a handful in North Carolina.



Restoration work has begun on the historic house, which will serve as a county museum.



The Chamber of Commerce will be moving into the remodeled gas station on Main Street when work is completed in a few weeks. Additional funds from the county and town are completing the necessary work to get the facility open while additional grants are being pursued.

YHA OCT. 21 Meeting On Depression-Era WPA School Projects

The fall meeting of the Yancey County History Association will be held on Saturday, October 21 at 7:30 p.m.

The location will be at the Bee Log Elementary School, one of the five stone school buildings constructed in the 1930s by the Works Progress Administration to provide jobs following the economic devastation caused here and throughout the country by the Great Depression.

WPA Construction Of Rock Schools In 1930s

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) assistance program in the 1930s gave employment to a great many needy persons in our country, state, and county, and resulted in the construction or repair of more than eight-hundred schools in North Carolina.

Locally, five wonderful stone school buildings were constructed through this program in Yancey County. Four of the sturdy and distinctive buildings are still being used as elementary schools and the fifth, located in Burnsville, has been remodeled to house the school system's administrative offices.

The October 21, 1995 meeting of the Yancey History Association will be held at Bee Log Elementary - one of these surviving monuments to the time period of the Great Depression and the WPA job program.

What was the condition of Yancey's school buildings before this period of construction? According to reports, they were terrible. What were the specifications of the new buildings in terms of space, lighting, and heating? What local officials administered the project? Who were the construction workers (designers, superintendents, stone ma-

sons, and so on)? From where did they get their raw materials?

Although these events took place only a little more than fifty years ago, it is astonishing how little has survived in terms of written records and even in people's memories. This program will be the first attempt to gather such information before it is lost forever.

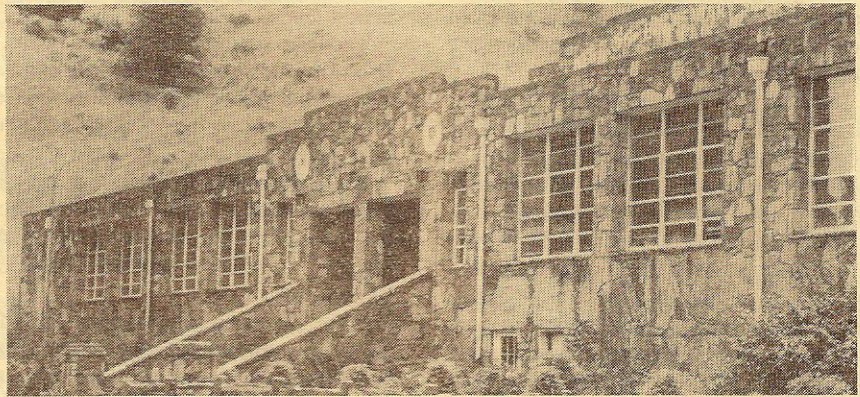
***Edgar Hunter**, former superintendent of Yancey's schools, will report on records that survive in Yancey.

***Lloyd Bailey** will discuss the records to be found in the State Archives.

***Arnie Pate** will supply personal memories of the construction era.

***Sheila Pate Ramsey**, daughter of Arnie Pate and current principal of Bee Log, will tell about events and improvements to that structure - the smallest school in the county, student-wise.

Anyone who has documents, photographs, and newspaper articles that they can share, either about the beginning of these buildings, other WPA projects, or about their further history, would be making an especially valuable contribution.



The October 21 meeting of the Yancey History Association will be held at Bee Log Elementary School, one of five built in the county in the 1930s through the WPA program following the Depression.

Good News For Yancey's Outdated Schools

To help the United States pull out of the Great Depression, Franklin D. Roosevelt had a plan. In a speech to the Democratic Convention which nominated him for president in 1932, Roosevelt pledged himself to a "new deal for the American people."

After his election, he inaugurated a series of "New Deal" agencies which were aimed at providing financial relief for individuals -- and for reforms in the areas of business, agriculture and industry.

One of the programs, founded in 1935, was entitled the Works Progress Administration. Commonly referred to as WPA, some local talk reckoned it to mean, "We Piddle About."

The goal of the WPA was to provide jobs by building parks, bridges, highways, streets, schools, and other projects of long-range value for the area in which the construction was undertaken. There was also a section of the program

that provided work for writers, actors, musicians and artists.

All in all, the WPA provided employment at one time or another for eight and one-half million people in the U.S.

This was good news to the citizens of Yancey, many of whom scarcely had enough money on hand at the end of the year to pay their property taxes. By 1939 in Yancey, 356 men and women were earning a living from labors on WPA projects.

The program was especially good news for the local school system, since some of the old buildings were in such bad condition that it was unsafe to be in them.

A writer at the time described the one at Micaville as being so dangerous that it was to be torn down. Another said that it was unwise to hold commencement upstairs in the auditorium, and that the "outside appearance looks as

though it would fall." The Yancey superintendent stated that "it is generally conceded that we have the poorest school buildings in the State."

The October program presented by the Yancey History Association seeks to recover whatever information remains about how, and by whom, the county's five formidable stone school buildings were constructed in the 1930s.

Although this took place in the relatively recent past, it has proven exceedingly difficult to find anyone who worked on the school projects, the plans from which they worked, or photographs of the construction progress.

As part of the YHA program, there will be reports on information contained locally in minutes of the school board and of the county commissioners, and information from WPA records and other sources contained in the state archives.

The French And Indian War

Three Soldiers And Toe River Valley Connection

"The Weapons of French and Indian War Soldiers" was the topic at the Yancey History Association's meeting on June 17.

Herbert Robinson, a former employee of the National Park Service and now a resident of Yancey, presented an informed discussion on weapons, dress, and related lore of the war period. It was

especially interesting to hear his discussion of methods of duplicating some of the skills of the time (for example, starting a fire with flint and steel.)

The following sketch of the war, with emphasis upon Yancey's connection, was written by Lloyd Bailey and handed out to those attending the meeting.

The great events of American history, and in particular the early ones, often seem quite remote from the Toe River Valley. It is hardly surprising, then, that students in the public schools find the subject dull and uninteresting. Little do they realize the extent to which local people have some connection with those long past happenings.

A good illustration is the French and Indian War, fought so long ago and far away from the protective confines of the hollows of the Cane and Toe Rivers. Nonetheless, within the boundaries of the Valley repose the bones of one the veterans of that conflict (in a marked grave), and possibly two (a large monument commemorates him, in any cases), and descendants of yet a third reside here.

The following is a brief sketch of the conflict, centering upon the famous Battle of Fort Duquesne ("Braddock's Defeat"), now Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in which the three soldiers fought on July 9, 1755.

The westward expansion of the English-speaking colonists in America was limited by the presence of the French along the Mississippi Valley. (In North Carolina, this reality is reflected in the names of a series of rivers as one progresses from east to west: the First, Second, and Third English Broad Rivers, then the French Broad. Only the last of these designations has survived until modern times.) The French, with centers of strength in Quebec and New Orleans, sought to solidify their control of the Valley by the mid-1700's with series of forts along its length. This resulted in tensions with a westward expanding English-speaking colonists. With the materialization of French plans to build forts along the length of the Valley, it became apparent to a few Colonial leaders that they must "Unite or Die!"

Col. Joshua Fry of Virginia, whose Lieutenant was George Washington, took the lead, hoping that other groups would soon come to his aid. Lieut. Washington

set out on April 2, 1754, from Alexandria, Va., and were soon informed that the French had indeed begun to fortify at the Forks of the Ohio River (Fort Duquesne, later to be called Fort Pitt by the British, now Pittsburgh, Pa.). Washington's troops pushed on and on May 28, there was a skirmish with French forces at which several soldiers on each side were killed.

By June 3, Washington reported to his superiors that he had erected a small fortification, which he called Fort Necessity. On July 3, French forces from Fort Duquesne reached the "the Great Meadow," and after a day of battle a truce was called: the French would return to Duquesne and the Colonials would return to Wills Creek, Md.

The British Government, alarmed by the spread of French fortifications along the Ohio and Mississippi river valleys, dispatched an army of two regiments of Irish regulars, commanded by Major-General Edward Braddock. His force was to be supplemented by colonial troops until the regiments numbered about 700 soldiers each.

Braddock set out up to Potomac River from Alexandria, Va., on April 12, 1755. They reached Fort Pleasant, at Wills Creek, on May 10. Here, the army renewed its provisions, sought Indians as guides and soldiers, and incorporated the Virginia Militia who were stationed there into its ranks (including, apparently, Edmond Bailey, to whom a monument exists near Spruce Pine).

It was on that fateful day, July 9, 1755, at 1 p.m., that they crossed the Monongahela River, some seven miles from their objective, Fort Duquesne. The two forces encountered each other and were both taken by surprise. The French recovered enough to begin a flanking movement, shooting from behind trees and lying on their stomachs.

Braddock urged his forces forward, which had the unintended result of con-

centrating them in a narrow corridor where the enemy fire could be poured down upon them with greater effect. The colonial militia immediately "treed" (took to the timber of fight "Indian style"). This was effective, but the panicky British Regulars, shooting at anything that moved in the woods, killed a large number of them.

(Edmond Bailey, from whom most of the Baileys in Yancey, Mitchell, and Unicoi Counties are descended, was, according to family tradition one of only six survivors in his unit.)

The British Regulars refused to retreat, despite massive losses, but neither would they obey Braddock's commands to advance. For three hours, the General bravely rode through the gunfire and tried to rally and organize his troops, but to no avail. Finally, he was shot through the arm and lung, and then the British fighting unit unraveled in a general rout. Those who could be reached were scalped by the Indians.

During this same year (1755), the British, unable to secure the loyalty of French inhabitants of Acadia (Nova Scotia and New Brunswick), expelled many of them. This is the origin of the Cajuns (Acadians), who reside in Louisiana to this day. The expulsion is memorialized in Longfellow's famous poem, "Evangeline."

War was declared by Britain and France in 1756, formally beginning the French and Indian War (known as the Seven Years' War in Europe). England finally realized victory in 1763, following the siege of Quebec. Thereby France transferred almost of her territory in North America to Great Britain and Spain. That part west of the Mississippi was secretly returned from Spain to France in 1800, only to become part of the United States in 1803 (the so-called Louisiana Purchase).

Those who wish to sense something of the times should read James Fenimore Cooper's famous novel, *The Last of the Mohicans* (and see the recent movie of that title, most of which was filmed in Western North Carolina and some scenes in the Toe River Valley). In addition to Edmond Bailey, William Davenport (who is buried in a marked grave on Three Mile Creek, Avery County), fought in this struggle, as did an ancestor of the Cox family (a "regular" in Braddock's Irish regiments).

August Program

Early Funeral And Burial Customs

Hershel Holcombe and Program Chairman Lloyd Bailey offered an interesting presentation at the Aug. 19 meeting on early funeral and burial customs and how they have changed over the years.

Hershel, with over 50 years in the family-owned business, presented a look at the changes he and the staff of Holcombe Brothers Funeral Home have experienced over the years.

Before there were funeral homes to provide for families following a death, the tasks of preparing the body and burial were taken

on by family members and neighbors, he reported.

Prior to the 1920s, ready-made caskets were often sold at general stores. Proffitt's Store in Bald Creek had the word "caskets" written in large letters beneath the store name. E. Lewis Briggs' mercantile store also sold general merchandise and caskets at his Burnsville business.

Hershel's father, Fred Holcombe, and Bob Tilson went into the mercantile business in Mars Hill in 1925. Because there was no funeral business to provide services

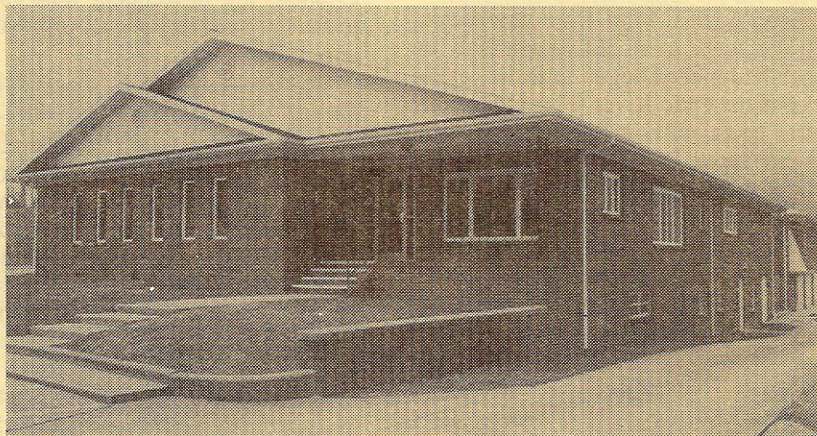
for families at this time of need, Fred often helped people however he could from his store.

He prepared the deceased for burial, and with Bob's approval added a line of caskets to the store's inventory to make the service more complete, which began their venture into the funeral business.

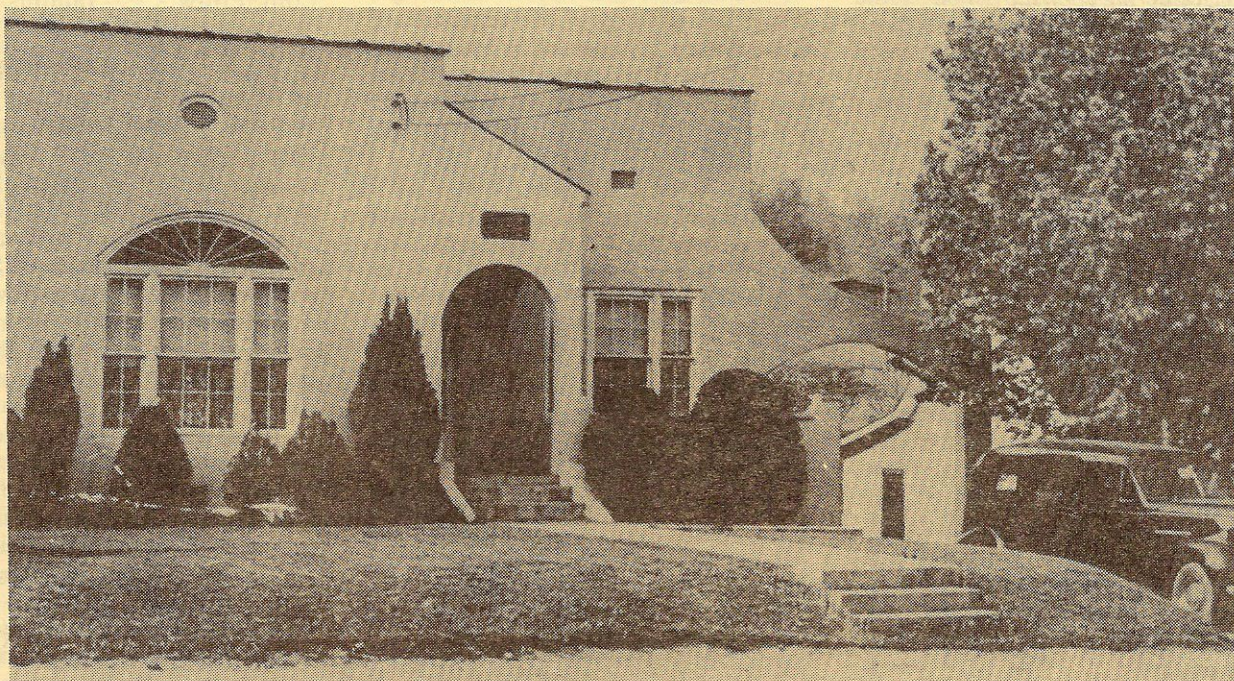
By 1929, the Holcombe-Tilson Funeral Home was doing so well they expanded the business into Yancey County. They bought property and built a funeral home where the new, expanded facility now stands. Fred ran the Mars Hill business and Bob operated the one in Burnsville.

Fred's sons, Hershel and Harlan, became interested in the business, and by 1935 Harlan had his mortician license and was working in both businesses. In 1938, a year after Bob's death, Yancey Sheriff Harmon Edwards bought the Tilson interest, and in 1940, the sons bought their father's share. Harlan came to Burnsville fulltime, and Hershel came to work in his place when Harlan entered the military in 1942.

The two bought Edwards' interest in 1946 and the business became Holcombe Brothers Funeral Home. They expanded the facility in 1960, and in 1961 Hershel's son, Jerry, entered the family business. Jerry's son, Bobby, also joined the business, as did brother-in-law Charlie Hensley. Harlan died in 1980 and Hershel retired in 1988, but still serves as president of the corporation.



Since the 1920s, Holcombe Brothers has been helping local residents in their time of grief and loss. Through the years, Holcombe Brothers Funeral Home has continuously grown and expanded and now contains two chapels, one capable of seating 200 people.



Holcombe Brothers Funeral Home in Burnsville is a family owned business known for the personal and caring attention provided to the community. The business was established in Mars Hill, then expanded to Yancey County in 1929 by owners Fred Holcombe and Bob Tilson. The business is still owned and operated by family members.

Yancey History Association Budget For 1995

REVENUE:

Bank Accounts:

- First Citizen's Checking Account (Balance as of 1/95)		\$ 45,806.
General Carryover	\$20,806.	
Specific - Janirve Grant	\$25,000. (For Museum House)	
- First Commercial Bank Special Account (Balance as of 1/94)		124.
- Interest Earned on accounts		1,000.
Images of Yancey Sales Revenue:		7,500.
Anticipated sale of 200 books		
a) 200 @ sale price \$37.50	\$ 7,500.	
b) 200 @ cost to YHA \$17.95	3,590.	
c) Profit	3,910.	
North Carolina Archives & History Grant		50,000.
New YHA Memberships (at large/ 20 @ \$5.00)		100.
Chamber of Commerce Room Sales Tax		7,200.
4 Quarterly property payments @ \$1,800.		
Miscellaneous Income		300.
	TOTAL	\$112,030.

DISBURSEMENTS:

Salary:

Executive Secretary (part-time @ \$6.50 hr)		\$ 1,500.
Service Station Property Quarterly Payments		7,200.
Stabilization of McElroy/Museum House		800.
Carryover work - \$300.		
Grounds Upkeep \$500.		
Utilities for Museum House:		1,000.
a) Phone Bills \$550.		
b) Electric Bills \$100.		
c) Alarm/Security System Contract \$350.		
Insurance & Professional Fees:		1,550.
a) McElroy House Insurance \$ 500		
b) Bond Insurance for 3 \$200.		
c) Workmen's Comp. Ins. \$350.		
d) CPA Service Fees \$500.		
Miscellaneous Expenses (printing, promotional, p.o. box rent, etc.)		2,000.
Museum/Visitors Center Project		75,000.
a) Overall Project \$50,000.		
b) Museum House (Janirve Grant) \$25,000.		
Contingency Reserve Funds:		22,980.
	TOTAL	112,030.

Approved by Yancey History Association
on April 29, 1995

Bibliography Of Articles About Yancey County

(This listing of articles, publications and books relevant for reading and research on local history was assembled by Lloyd Bailey, 4122 Deepwood Circle, Durham, NC 27707.)

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Morley, Margaret. *The Carolina Mountains*. See esp. Chapter XXIX: "The Forks of the River Toe." Several Photos. An interesting book from beginning to end.

Neuhauser, Kenneth Reed. *A Structural and Petrographic Analysis of the Bank's Creek Serpentine*. M.S. Thesis, Univ. of So. Carolina, 1971.

North Carolina Government, 1584-1974. Raleigh: _____. Gives election returns by county for presidential, congressional, and gubernatorial elections. Also lists members of the State Assembly (Legislature) by counties. A massive, well indexed volume.

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North Carolina Mica Spots: Mitchell, Macon, Gaston, and Yancey Counties. United States Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Mines; by L.A. Dahners and F.K. McIntosh (R.I. 4241; April, 1948). Discusses individual sites under such headings access, history and production, sketches of location, plan map, reports of core drilling, etc.

Olmstead, Frederick Law. *A Journey in the Back Country*. New York: Mason Brothers, 1863. Pp. 266-269 relates his trip through Yancey and Mitchell Counties (in the 1840's?), including a funny story about Bakersville.

Parker, Francis H. "The Yancey RR. Layout," *Model Railroader* (Aug., 1974, pp. 33-39). Concerns the operation of the Yancey Line, with notes on building an operating a model railroad.

Parker, John M., III. *Geology and Structure of Part of the Spruce Pine District, North Carolina*. N.C. Department of Conservation and Development, Bulletin No. 65 (1952?), containing an extensive bibliography.

Pratt, Joseph Hyde. *The Mining Industry in N.C. during 1911 and 1912*. N.C. Geological Survey, Economic Papers #34. Raleigh, 1914 (pp. 218-219 concern Toe River Valley).

Reid, H. *Clinchfield's Old No. 5--Now No. 1 Attraction*. Richmond: Old Dominion Chapter, National Railway Historical Society, 1972. Pp. 33. On the rebuilding of one of Yancey's Black Mountain engines.

Ross, Malcolm. "My Neighbors Hold to Mountain Ways." *National Geographic Magazine*, CXIII (June, 1958), pp. 856-880. Interesting text and fine photos. An article which aroused mixed feelings locally.

Sappington, Roger E. *The Brethren in the Carolinas*. The Preface was written at Bridgewater, Va., in July of 1971. Pp. 229, plus photos and index. This history of the Church of the Brethren (sometimes called "Dunkards") contains several sections on the Toe River Valley under the heading "Mitchell County."

Schenck, David (Judge). A typescript of the diary of this Circuit Court Judge is preserved in the Southern Historical Collection (Wilson Library, UNC-CH). See Vol. VIII, pp. 21-37 (for Oct. 12, 1879-Nov. 7, 1879) for the Yancey Court. Quite colorful, with mention of several local citizens who were in deep legal troubles.

Schwarzkopf, S. Kent. *A History of Mt. Mitchell and the Black Mountains*. Raleigh: N.C. Dept. of Cultural Resources, 1985. Pp. 117, with maps and photos. An interesting and well researched volume, but with the maddening habit of not giving its sources.

Sharp, Cecil J. *English Folk Songs from the Southern Appalachians*. London: Oxford University Press, 1932. 2 Vols. Contain numerous songs (words and music) collected in Yancey County, between 1910 and 1920. These have been gathered together in *Estatoee*, Vol. V, no. 2 (June, 1990).

Sheppard, Muriel E. *Cabins in the Laurel*. Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1935 (reprint, 1991). A wonderful and invaluable book that aroused considerable opposition locally (since it depicted the "old times" rather than the more "progressive" present). Events related to its publication are chronicled by Charles Alan Watkins, "Merchandizing the Mountaineer,"

Appalj, Spring, 1985, pp. 215-238. [This journal is issued by Appalachian State University.]

Sheppard, Muriel E. "The Forgotten Valley." *South Atlantic Quarterly*, XXXIII (1934), pp. 63-82. Contains supplements to interviews in her *Cabins in the Laurel*, plus new ones (one of the most interesting being with a woman of white, negro, and indian ancestry).

Southern Regional Council, Report L-27 (Oct. 5, 1961). Concerns integration of the public schools in Yancey. [Item Cp 379.4. Y21s in the Carolina Room, Wilson Library, UNC-CH.]

The State Magazine (Raleigh, N.C.) contains many articles, amongthem:

IV, no. 46 (April 17, 1937): "Taking Timber for a Ride."

IX, no. 6 (July 12, 1941): "Ogle Meadow." XII, no. 18 (Sept. 30, 1944): "The Cane River Valley."

XII, no. (Dec. 9, 1944): "New Mountain Industry" (a pipe factory: from roots of rhododendrons).

XIII, no. (March 10, 1945): "Where Folks Really Eat" (Nu-Wray Inn).

XIV, no. 16 (Sept. 14, 1946): "He's Far Away From His Customers" (Lusk Edwards).

XV, no. 9 (Aug. 2, 1947): "Nate Dempsey and Tom Wilson."

XVI, no. 50 (May 14, 1949): "Jack Dempsey's Grandfather" [the genealogy here is erroneous!]

XVII, no. 39 (Feb. 25, 1950): "They Helped Build North Carolina" (Rush Wray).

XIX, no. 3 (June 16, 1951): "The Citizens of Lost Cove."

XX, no. 2 (June 14, 1952): "Valley on the Roof of North Carolina." See also "Beneath the Soil: Mica Boom--One of Many--Excites the Toe Valley" (pp. 12-14).

XX, no. 25 (Nov. 22, 1952): "Lost Cove."

XX, no. (Jan. 10, 1953): "The Smithy's House" (Daniel Boone, VI).

XXI, no. 8 (July 25, 1953): "A Trip to Flattop in the Balds." XXI, no. 48 (May 8, 1954): "Big Bald--the Mountain."

XXVII, no. 25 (May 14, 1960): "From Murphy to Manteo" (notes on Daniel Boone, VI, and Ewart Wilson).

XXVIII, no. 9 (Oct. 1, 1960): contains several items on Yancey. _____, no. _____ (March 15, 1971): "Epitaph for Lost Cove."

continued on next page

Successful Fundraiser

The Joint Steering Committee of the Yancey History Association and Chamber of Commerce for the Museum/Visitor Center Project headed up a successful fundraiser on August 19.

The event was geared to raising money and community awareness for the ongoing project. Over 130 guests attended, including local government officials.

The fundraiser, which included a reception at the Visitor Center and tour of the project, ended with an exquisite dinner and evening of entertainment at the Garden Deli.

Entertainment was provided by the Donnelly and Smith families and by Shelia Adams, well-known musician, ballad singer and author, who waived her normal performance fee for the event.

During the event, YHA president Theresa Coletta thanked all those who have helped to keep the project on track with their support. Special recognition in the form of plaques of appreciation went to Steering Committee members John Doyle and Roger Bard for their many hours of devotion to overseeing the work on the project. Fund Drive Chairman Mack Ray was recognized for his efforts in helping obtain funding from the Dept. of Cultural Resources, and Commissioner John Renfro was recognized for his mediation efforts to keep the project moving along.

Ten dollars from each of the 130 tickets sold at \$25 each went to the project. The event also resulted in a number of donation and pledges for this important project.

ESTATOOEE

*Published Quarterly by the
Yancey History Association
P.O. Box 1088*

Burnsville, North Carolina 28714

Estatoee (es-to-toe-e) Also spelled Estootowie in early records. A Cherokee place name, shortened to Estatoe/Estatoah, from which the name Towe or Toe River is derived.

Newsletter Editors:
Lloyd Bailey & Jody Higgins
Program Committee: Lloyd Bailey,
John Doyle, James Byrd
Officers of the Association (1994):
President: Theresa Coletta
Vice-President: Lloyd Bailey
Treasurer: Miladene Laws
Secretary: Jody Higgins
Directors: John Doyle, James Byrd
Steering Committee Chair: John Young



Secretary McCain Tours Project

N.C. Secretary of Cultural Resources Betty McCain (left) recently toured the Visitor Center and Museum. YHA president Theresa Coletta (right) presented her with a copy of "Images of Yancey" in appreciation of the state's support for the project. Commission chairman Keith Presnell was among local officials who welcomed McCain to Yancey County.

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continued from previous page

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297. Several photos of construction and floods. Consult "Yancey County" in the index.

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Works Progress Administration of North Carolina, Bulletin. For work in Yancey, including several of the high school buildings in the 1930's, see II, no. 2 (July-Aug., 1936); II, no. 8 (2nd half, 1938); Jan., 1940. [Duke Univ. Library, Documents, Y3.W89/2:70N91c/1]

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Zeigler, Wilbur G., and Ben S. Grosscup. *The Heart of the Alleghanies or Western North Carolina*. Raleigh: Alfred Williams and Co., 1883. Pp. 46-47, 114-123, 202-203, 270-277 are about Yancey and Mitchell Cos.

(Check with your local public library for these books, publications and articles.)

Minutes From Previous YHA Meeting

The Yancey History Association held its August 19 meeting at the Yancey Library Annex. President Theresa Coletta welcomed members and guests. Minutes from the April and June meetings were read and approved.

Milidene Laws presented the treasurer's report. A financial report through Aug. 15, 1995 was approved by the membership.

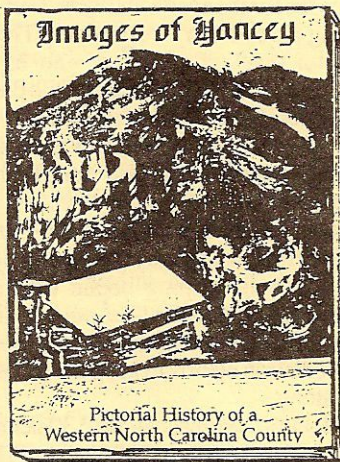
Steering Committee member John Doyle discussed the upcoming fundraiser set for later this month, which will also serve to focus community awareness on the project. He reported that the EDC, not TRAC, will occupy the other portion of the Visitor Center. The EDC, he said, can pursue additional funding for the project that is not available to the YHA or Chamber of Commerce. He reported that the \$100,000 available for

work on the project from the \$50,000 grant from the Dept. of Cultural Resources, the \$25,000 grant matched by the county, town and YHA, plus an additional \$900 from the YHA for cost over run, has been spent or allocated. A total of \$75,000 went into the Visitor Center, with \$25,000 from the Janirve grant and a \$10,000 grant from the Hanes Foundation going toward work on the Museum, where work is now in progress on the foundation under the direction of Archives and History Restoration Specialists. Cost over-runs leave a total of \$13,000 needed to get the Chamber into the center. The Steering Committee has asked the county for an additional \$10,000 and the town for \$5,000 to complete this phase and get the facility open.

Theresa reported on the early August visit and tour of the project by N.C. Secretary of Cultural Resources Betty McCain. Theresa presented her with a copy of "Images of Yancey" as a show of appreciation for the department's support of the project and possible future funding the secretary advised could be available.

Program Chairman Lloyd Bailey assisted Hershel Holcombe in presenting the evening's program on early funeral and burial customs. The next meeting of the YHA will be held at Bee Log School on October 21 and will explore the WPA program of the 1930s that resulted in construction of five rock schools in the county.

The meeting was adjourned following the program.



Images of Yancey

Second Printing

Available at:

**Baker's Everything
From A to Z**

on Main Street just off town square

Cost is \$37.50

(Mail orders available at \$40, which covers shipping and handling. Send request along with payment and address to: Yancey History Association, P.O. Box 1088, Burnsville, NC 28714)

Purchase of *Images of Yancey* will automatically enroll you as a member of the Yancey History Association, allowing you to be a part of preserving the past for the future

Future Program To Salute 50 Years Of Parkway Playhouse

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Burnsville's Parkway Playhouse, the Yancey History Association will present a program in 1996 on the history and activities of the summer theatre that has added so much to the cultural life of the area.

The oldest summer theatre in the state, Parkway Playhouse has survived many changes over the years, but has always stayed in operation with strong local support. The theatre is currently operated by the local board of directors and managing director Bill Dreyer.

Garrett Dixon Bailey, who was involved with the theatre during its early days in the late 1940s, will take part in the YHA program. This is just one of the activities planned for 1996 to celebrate the 50th anniversary.

Let's Make History In Yancey County

Enclosed is \$5 for a one-year membership to Yancey History Association (Members will receive *Estatocoe*, the quarterly newsletter which contains history & genealogy articles, and information about meetings, publications and projects)

I would like to contribute to making Yancey history come alive with a donation to the museum project. (Includes membership)

\$1000 \$500 \$200 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other _____

I will consider museum project in my will to bequeath real estate, antiques, or money to help Yancey History Association preserve our past for the future.

Name _____ Address _____

Town, State, Zip _____

Mail To: Yancey History Association, PO Box 1088, Burnsville, NC 28714

All Gifts to Yancey History Association are tax deductible. Thank you for your support.

Yancey History Association
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