

Obituaries

Milton Bradley Higgins, III, of Burnsville, a larger-than-life man, passed from his earthly home on Thursday, June 24, 2021.

A land-surveyor by trade for over 35 years, Milton walked thousands of miles over the ridgelines and hollers of the Appalachian Mountains that he loved and called home. He knew the names of every tree and flower that grew.

Milton was an accomplished actor as well as a gifted entertainer, comedian, and storyteller. He acted in numerous plays in western North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. He was a dedicated member of the Burnsville Little Theater. He performed at the Parkway Playhouse, the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium, and in a one-man show titled "The Prince of Dark Corners" which was filmed and continues to be featured on PBS. In particular, he will always be remembered for his performances in "Look Homeward Angel," "You Can't Take It With You," "Arsenic and Old Lace," "Dearly Departed," and dearest to his heart, "The Raindrop Waltz" in which he performed alongside Elizabeth Westall.

Milton lived his life fully. He loved more than anything to be outdoors: riding his old jeeps and four-wheelers, fishing the rivers, and camping with his



Milton Bradley Higgins, III family and friends.

Milton was preceded in death by his parents, Milton (Bub) Jr. and Evelyn Higgins; his paternal grandparents, Milton Sr. and Pearle Higgins; his maternal grandparents, Rev. Cecil and Hazel Higgins; and his special nephew, Shawn Duncan, whom he thought of as his son.

He is survived by his wife, high-school sweetheart, and love of his life, Linda; his daughter, Charity Higgins Sutphin and her husband Will of King, NC; his son, Tyler Higgins and fiancé Sarah Westhusing of Burnsville; his five grandchildren, whom he adored and who loved their "Papa": Millie Jo and Theodore Kephart Higgins, Charlie Hos-

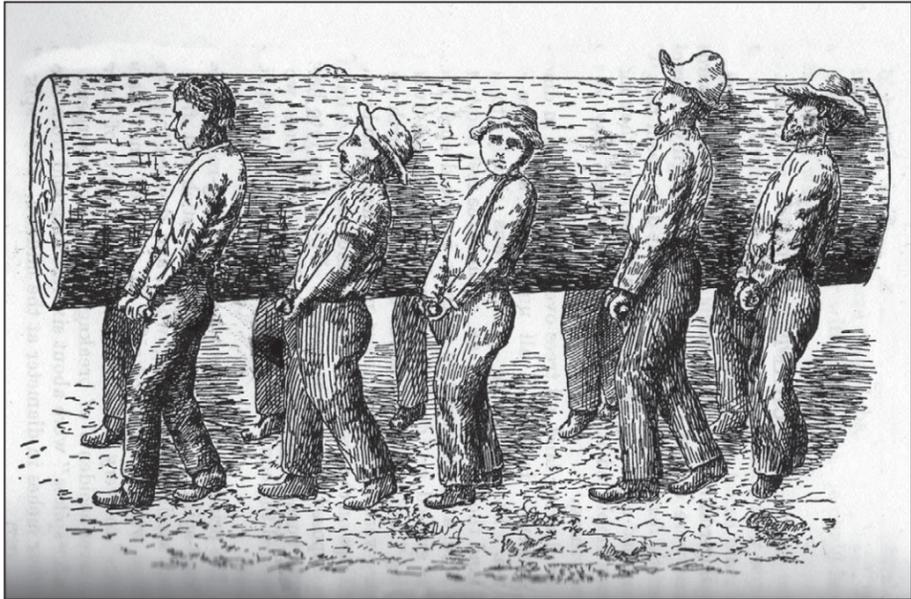
ton, Margie Pearl, and Samuel Floyd Sutphin; his sisters, Andrea Moore and husband Jack of Celso, and Audrey Higgins of Surf City, NC; and his surrogate mother of many years, Mrs. Elizabeth Westall of Burnsville. He also leaves behind several cousins, many nieces and nephews, and countless others who saw him as "Uncle Milton." His friend's past and present are among too many to count, but he loved them all and never met a stranger.

A friend to all, cheerful in all weathers, and always quick with a joke, Milton valued love, laughter, and friendship above all worldly wealth. He will be missed and remembered forever after. Thanks for the memories.

A celebration of Milton's life will be held in the Chapel of Holcombe Brothers Funeral Home on Saturday, July 31, at 1 p.m. The family will receive friends and loved ones after the service. Memorial donations can be made to Compassionate Care of Western North Carolina, the Yancey County Public Library, or Yancey County Feed-A-Child.

Online condolences may be made at www.holcombebrothersfuneralhome.com

Holcombe Brothers Funeral Home is respectfully serving the Higgins family.



This procedure may be hard to envision, and it is fortunate that I have found a drawing to illustrate it from F.D. Srygley, *Seventy Years in Dixie* (Athens, Alabama: Truth Publications; Second Printing, 2018, p. 128). The author wrote in 1891, and was born in 1816. Used with permission.

Log-rolling was procedure used in pioneer days for clearing new ground of large trees

By Lloyd Bailey

Is there a person yet alive in the Toe Valley who has participated in the dangerous activity of log-rolling? Before anyone answers, "Yes," I must advise you that it does not involve actually rolling logs!

Well, it does involve the related procedure for clearing a "new ground" of trees in pioneer days, but modern power equipment has long ago replaced it!

Among the first things to which a pioneer settler turned his attention was the erection of a simple log cabin so that his family would be "in the dry." Soon thereafter, his attention turned to the clearing of areas of forest so that he could plant crops in the coming Spring and in years to come.

Foremost in his concern would have been how to prepare for planting patches of corn, the seed of which he surely would have brought along!

Indeed, "corn was king" in the way that cotton was later regarded in the flatlands of the Southeast. Corn took far less time and labor than wheat to reach the stage of food, it would grow in poorer soil, and it produced four times as much food per acre.

In addition to food for human consumption, its by-products (leaf blades, fodder tops, shucks, and cobs) fed the livestock through the winter months.

At this point, however, a "little fly" appeared in the ointment of the average settler and potential farmer in the Appalachian Mountains. The soil was initially rich and productive because it had resulted from centuries of uninterrupted buildup of decaying woodland foliage.

However, crops very quickly depleted the soil's reserve of

Looking Back

By Lloyd Bailey



nutrients, and then food productivity drastically dropped after around three years. Furthermore, heavy rainfall would have stripped most of the topsoil from the unprotected fields and leached it of nutrients. Such things as fertilizers and erosion barriers lay far in the future!

There is an old joke about the farmer who rejected new techniques for farming by appealing to his years of experience. He had, he said, been at it so long that he had already "worn out" a couple of farms!

The defense against the depletion of soil nutrients was to prepare a "new ground." Each Spring in February-March, if a settler was not yet in need of deadening trees for his own new field, he joined his neighbors for such activity on their land. When the task was finished on one farm, the crew moved to another.

At least one place in Yancey still bears the name of such activity. My Bailey ancestor (Ansel) settled on Lower Browns Creek near Celso around 1800. A large cleared area in the forest, on Bailey Mountain, is known by old timers to this day as "The Bailey Deadening."

The term "New Ground" is still heard, here and there, even for activity that was done years ago.

How was a "New Ground" prepared? Small trees were

simply cut down and dragged away. Larger ones (and they could reach nearly one hundred feet in height and easily more than six feet in diameter) were "girdled" with an ax to a depth of two or three inches (or a strip of bark removed) and left to die. Thus "deadened," they lost their troublesome foliage in future years and were much easier to cut down and grub up "by the roots."

It took immense labor to cut such fallen gigantic trees into sections, and so the fewer cuts the better... as long as a group of neighbors could still carry them away. Sections were usually from ten to fourteen feet long, depending on their weight and thus the number of men that it would take to remove it.

Such removal was called "log-rolling," although that was not literally the procedure. (Perhaps shorter cuts and literal rolling were tried in former days and found to be unproductive.)

The immense log-section had a series of strong poles ("hand-spikes") placed crosswise beneath them at roughly equal distances, so that a strong man on either side could contribute to lifting it and carrying it away.

How they could be placed beneath this immense weight, I do not know. It might easily weigh a ton, and a misstep or falter by one of the men would lead to a shift in the weight that could cause the log to roll in that direction. This could easily lead to a crippling or fatal injury.

Lloyd Bailey, a prolific collector and publisher of local history, is a Yancey County native and retired professor of religion at Duke University. Contact him at 4122 Deepwood Circle, Durham, NC 27707; 919-489-8731; lloyd@alumni.duke.edu.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE ADVERTISEMENT FOR UPSET BIDS

PURSUANT TO the terms and provisions of NCGS 160A-269 The Yancey County Board of Education, (hereinafter "Board"), received an offer to purchase those lands located in Yancey County, North Carolina, more particularly described as follows:

All that contiguous tract or parcel of property containing 4.9 acres, more or less, located at 100 Bald Creek School Road, Burnsville, NC 28714, and commonly known as "The Bald Creek School Property." Said 4.9 acres appearing on The Yancey County GIS maps having PIN No. of 988000643674000. AND BEING further described in deeds recorded of public record, including those deeds recorded at Yancey County Deed Book 143, Page 416, (hereinafter "property").

All that contiguous tract or parcel of property containing 1 acre, more or less, located at 57 Pleasant Valley Road, Burnsville, NC 28714, and commonly known as "The Bald Creek Day-care Property." Said 1 acre appearing on The Yancey County GIS maps having PIN No. of 988000741626000. AND BEING further described in deeds recorded of public record, including those deeds recorded at Yancey County Deed Book 734, Page 652, (hereinafter "property").

All that contiguous tract or parcel of property containing 7.9 acres, more or less, located at 55 Bee Log Road and 21 Bee Log Road, Burnsville, NC 28714, and commonly known as "The Bee Log School Property." Said 7.9 acres appearing on The Yancey County GIS maps having PIN No.'s of 989300107163000 and 989300201329000. AND BEING further described in deeds recorded of public record, including those deeds recorded at Yancey County Deed Book 105, Page 427 and Yancey County Deed Book 688, Page 476, (hereinafter "property").

All that contiguous tract or parcel of property containing 11.46 acres, more or less, located at 1175 Clearmont School Rd., Burnsville, NC 28714, and commonly known as "The Clearmont School Property." Said 11.46 acres appearing on The Yancey County GIS maps having PIN No.'s of 082200463395000 and 082200452957000. AND BEING further described in deeds recorded of public record, including those deeds recorded at Yancey County Deed Book 85, Page 446 and Yancey County Deed Book 618, Page 454, (hereinafter "property").

The Board proposes to accept said offer, which said offer has been accompanied with a deposit of \$56,250.00 which said deposit has been made with the Board. Pursuant to the above referenced statute The Board is now publishing notice of said offer.

The property which is subject to the offer is that property more particularly described herein above.

The amount of the offer made for the purchase of the said property is \$1,125,000.00 cash or certified funds, pursuant to the terms of an Agreement for Purchase and Sale of Real Property, a copy of which is on file with, and may be obtained from the Clerk to the Board.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that within ten (10) days of the date of this publication any person may raise the bid price by not less than 10% of the first \$1,000.00 of the original bid price of \$1,125,000.00 and 5% of the remainder. If the bid is raised the bidder shall deposit with the Clerk to the Board 5% of the increased bid and the said Clerk shall re-advertise the offer at the increased bid amount. This procedure shall be repeated until no further qualifying upset bids are received, at which time the Board may accept the offer and sell the property to the highest bidder, or may at any time reject any and all offers including this offer.

This the 28th day of July, 2021.

Xan Robinson
Clerk to the Yancey County Board of Education
100 School Circle, Burnsville, NC 28714
828-682-6101 ext. 102
rxrobinson@yanceync.net
Published July 28, 2021

LEGAL NOTICE IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE, YANCEY COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of Billy Clyde Higgins of Yancey County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons and corporations having claims against the Estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of October, 2021 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate please make immediate payment.

This the 21st day of July, 2021.

Rita Higgins
686 Langford Br Rd
Burnsville, NC 28714
Published July 21, 28,
August 4, 11, 2021

LEGAL NOTICE IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE, YANCEY COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Administrator CTA of the Estate of Mary Hazel Huskins of Yancey County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons and corporations having claims against the Estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of October, 2021 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate please make immediate payment.

This the 21st day of July, 2021.

Dewayne Ray Huskins
10 Amber Mr. Rd.
Bakersville, NC 28705
Darryl Van Huskins
43 Deneen Road
Burnsville, NC 28714
Published July 21, 28,
August 4, 11, 2021

LEGAL NOTICE IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE, YANCEY COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of Karen James, late of Yancey County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at the office of Patrick U. Smathers, 118 Main Street, Suite B, Canton, North Carolina 28716, on or before the 12th day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 14th day of July, 2021.

Patrick U. Smathers
Attorney for Joycelyn James Tate
Executrix of the Estate of Karen James
Patrick U. Smathers
118 Main Street, Suite B
Canton, NC 28716
Published July 14, 21, 28,
August 4, 2021

MY Meds Medication

MY Meds Medication and Health Ministry is a local non-profit organization that provides help to Mitchell and Yancey County residents who have no prescription health plan. If you need help paying for needed prescription medications call MY Meds office at 766-6337.



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