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the increased cost without unduly burdening the taxpayers. In other words, we are fully capable of making sound decisions with a 15-year history to back it up. If you want to live in a county where we will not spend any money or make any improvements, you are in the wrong county.

**Q. What is your philosophy related to improving our county and economic development opportunities?**

A. I want Union County to continue on our present course of always trying to improve our quality of life by providing new equipment, facilities and infrastructure including roads, when needed. We have one of the best counties anywhere in the state or country in my opinion and I feel it is our responsibility to make this a place where our retired population, current employed and young people have opportunities to enjoy and improve our county. To provide long term sustainability, we want our young people to have an opportunity to return here and raise their families and provide a decent living. It is also where people want to move to because of our quality of life and also because of the friendliness and caring of our people. We are a blessed county and God has provided us with an abundance of natural resources to help make this one of the most majestic places to call home anywhere. I feel so blessed and fortunate to have been born and

raised here while many others feel just as fortunate to have finally gotten here when they could. All are appreciated.

**Q. With growth and prosperity, are there some down sides?**

A. While very few, one of the most noticeable impacts to growth is increased traffic. We are continually upgrading and improving our county road system and are encouraging the state to improve their roads as well. Our GDOT has received increased funding as a result of the changes in the Legislative funding law passed last year and all counties are much more encouraged about future road projects and funding from the State of Georgia.

**Q. We are still concerned that the county has not placed a red light at the intersection of Pat Colwell Rd and Jack Lance Highway (US 19/129 N). Why has this not been done?**

A. Some people are still confused about road systems. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) controls their state roads and intersections. They have very specific guidelines for red lights and many other traffic control devices. The county nor myself have control of this. I am in constant contact with GDOT and letting them know of our wishes and concerns and this is one of those, but in the end, it is their decision, not mine or the County Road Department, related to state highways.

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Today, our conversation evolved toward SPLOST, that highly-touted, tax-saving measure which has been given credit for several upgrades and improvements in and for Union County.

Judging from the tone of his comments, I asked, carefully, "Much good has come of SPLOST, hasn't it...?"

"What we're not told about SPLOST is what happens down the road, after the construction is completed, after the improvement has become part of life in Union County."

"What do you mean?"  
"SPLOST doesn't account for, doesn't include,

doesn't allow for, paying for future repairs, upkeep — all those things which are part and parcel of maintaining the facility.

"The only readily-available source of income for the County government is taxation. Taxpayers pick up the tab after the glister of the new SPLOST-funded benefit wears off."

"So, SPLOST is only for The Now? There's no built-in allowance for unforeseen eventualities, no fall-back outside of raising taxes?"

"That's about it," he said.

"Well, now," I said.  
"Isn't that interesting!"  
**George Mitchell**

**Fowler ... continued from Page 4A**

if no Calvary the empty tomb is empty of meaning. "He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest...to make propitiation for the sins of the people" (Heb. 2:17). So, either there is a Christmas miracle or Christianity is incoherent.

"A Child is born" tells of the first coming. As surely as Jesus fulfilled ancient prophecy in that way, He will come again as promised. But the second Advent will be a great trumpet and gathering, infinitely more glorious than the grandest presentation of Handel's (and Jenens') Messiah.

**Mountain Writer's Club annual Christmas luncheon**



Attendees enjoying luncheon

The Georgia Mountain Writer's Club wrapped up the year with their annual Christmas luncheon at Brother's Restaurant in Young Harris on Wednesday, December 9. There were twelve members present along with several spouses. The Georgia Mountain Writer's Club is celebrating its 15th year. Many of those in attendance have been with the group for those 15 years and spouses enjoyed catching up. For the newer members it was a chance to get to know each other better. The luncheon ended with a book exchange.

The club will have a new meeting time and location beginning in January. We will meet at G&G's Restaurant, in Blairsville on the third Wednesday of the month from

10-12. G&G's is located on Hwy. 515 across from Ingles Grocery. Although our table was full at our luncheon there is always room for more writers! We are always looking for new members to come share their work, lend their expertise, or ask for advice. We have a well rounded group of writers covering all aspects of writing, from newsletters, to full-fledged novels and non-fiction, poetry or children's books. There are no dues in the club, or cost to attend the meetings. If you enjoy writing we hope you will join us in January. Come to G&G's, buy a cup of coffee and a donut and see what we are all about.

Submitted by:  
*Connie Rosenberry*

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season, except around the dinner table. There were several loathing responses to Brussels sprouts, asparagus, cabbage, peas and creamed spinach. The other color of the season, also took some hits, especially in its darker shades. The merits of beets got beat up, a lot. And, there isn't a traditional holiday table that doesn't serve cranberry sauce, yet so many expressed their abhorrence, particularly to the style with the berries still in tack.

Mrs. Reilly's American pantry has changed over the last 6 decades. Maybe here in the South, you'll still find canned green beans (home grown and canned, most likely), but Del-Monte's string beans and heavily salted, pasty soup with less than an ounce of diced mushroom, are no longer staples in most cupboards. Yet, the Green Bean Casserole lives on. When I Googled "Variations of the Green Bean Casserole", there were 98,900 responses. I found that the ever popular FoodTV had 57 variations of the recipe on their website. Daytime TV's popular chef Rachel Ray adds chicken to her casserole. Southern chef Tyler Florence replaces the fried onion crisps with sautéed shallots while Iron Chef Alex Guarnaschelli has created a method of cooking it on the stovetop instead of taking up precious room in the oven.

Whether your Christmas buffet is featuring turkey or ham, the chances are that the host will be serving cranberries, and a good host knows that means that there has to be two kinds of cranberry sauce offered. I will, only under du-

ress, eat the gelled version, indented with the lines of the tin can it was packaged. My mom always made her cranberry relish from scratch with crushed pineapple added. That's my preference; but most often I'm outnumbered.

I'm also only willing to eat a small spoonful of Green Bean Casserole, and done just to save hurting the feelings of my host. I detest tomato aspic, but love cream cheese lime-pineapple gelatin mold. I'll pass on most stuffing. It usually has too much sage, or too few giblets, and is most often either too dry or too wet. I don't like my sweet potatoes ultra sweet, so save all the crunchy brown sugar toppings and the toasted marshmallows. Mashed potatoes are something else that is mediocre in a sea of luscious alternatives.

When it comes down to what I most prefer at my Christmas meal, I have to say it is as many people possible to share it with — for it is the joy of friends and family gathering around to share this celebration that matters most.

At this year's holiday feasts, when we bow our heads as grace is said, let us take the opportunity to be grateful for all that we are blessed with, including life's challenges that often seem daunting. For it is these challenges that build our strength, our character, our resolve.

And if your host has chosen to serve Christmas dinner without the Green Bean Casserole, you can be grateful for that, too. I don't think it will bother Dorcas Reilly one little bit.

**Evans ...continued from Page 4A**

By Ms. Ramsey's standard, President Carter should also be taken to task for his despicable behavior. Obviously, his mother didn't properly teach him what one "does and does not do in life." But then

his mother also probably told him {as did mine} that if you can't say something nice about a person, you should just hold your tongue!

**David H. Evans**

**Tully ... continued from Page 4A**

Consequently we, the rest of the community, have no say or can even request anything with any hope of success.

I was at the corner of Murphy Highway and the 515 on a dark evening recently when there was a loud crunching sound. At first we didn't know what it was but eventually it was determined that a pickup truck had collided with a log hauler. I'm not interested in who was at fault. But instead I would like to point out that for some reason when the people who determine the intersection layouts do so but only in keeping with the least amount of cost. I assume this is done to make securing another grant or SPLOST project easier to obtain. The turn lane where the accident occurred was apparently never looked at for the ability of a log hauler or a semi to make the turn without blocking part of the 515. With the number of large trucks on our roads it would seem someone would have thought of that.

It's time to come into the 20th century, Mr. Sole Commissioner and realize that the two lane ruts that were sufficient for buckboard traffic are not capable of handling today's vehicles. It's time to spring for some tax money to make our roads safer even in spite of the short sighted state people.

**Richard D. Tully**

*Editor's Note: The Sole*

**Cummings...**

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a Santa Claus I always think of our eldest son because Will never trusted that suspicious looking character. He did not sit in Santa's lap and ask for presents. Don't know why, but, Will did not like Santa.

As I recall all these Christmas presents I have received or gave in the last 52 years it occurred to me that it wasn't the actual gifts that provided so much happiness. It was the people around those gifts. All these gifts were centered on people that were important to me. People like my grandparents, my uncle, my mom and dad, my wife, my two sons and my friends. So, during this Christmas season take time to enjoy the people who are close to you.

The giving of gifts began with the birth of Christ and the gifts to the Baby from the wisemen 2,000 years ago. Today we give gifts to people we love and appreciate. So, give the gifts and take time to make some memories with those people you love. Because at the end of your time you may not remember all the gifts you gave, but, you will remember the ones who gave them to you. Merry Christmas everyone.

**UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Children's Story Time	<b>Every Monday:</b>	Union County Library	11 am
Kiwanis Club		Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
A Course in Miracles		298 School Circle	2 pm
Civil Air Patrol		Blairsville Airport	6 pm
Boy Scouts #101		United Methodist Ch	7 pm
Tri State Bus. Women	<b>Every Tuesday:</b>	Blairsville Restaurant	8 am
Tuesday Strippers		Mtn. Presbyterian Ch	9:30-2:30 pm
Get Fit		First UMC	5:15 pm
Smoky Mtn. Melodies		United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Hi Country Harmonizers		Branan Lodge	6:30 pm
Spiritual Living Group		UC Comm Cntr., Rm 101	6:30 pm
BINGO	<b>Every Wednesday:</b>	Civic Center	7 pm
Masonic Luncheon	<b>Every Thursday:</b>	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Rotary Club		So. Bank & Trust	Noon
Get Fit		First UMC	5:15 pm