Annual contest set for Saturday

From page 1

in the area at the turn of the century but almost lost today.

"Hollerin', as a lot of people see it today, is just a lot yelling and screaming," Godwin said. "But back then it was a valuable means of communication.

"The farmer would holler in the morning going to work in his fields and in the evening coming in from his work," he said. "He did it for sheer enjoyment and sometimes to tell his neighbor, a half mile or sometimes even a mile away, that he was up and working."

The holler carries best 'at sunrise and at sundown, Godwin said, because the dew on the tree leaves sets up a pattern of reverberation for the sound. "I've heard a man say that when there's a heavy dew, he could holler and see the leaves shake," he said. "Now, I don't know if that's true; that's just what I've been told."

The holler was sometimes a farmer's only contact with his neighbor during the entire

week, Godwin said. "Old Bill would hear Joe hollering and would holler back with his own holler," he said. "Everyone had a pitch of his own, so in the case of an emergency—say, a fire or a sickness—everyone would know who was hollering."

This year, a distinguished group of North Carolinians will judge the hollerin' contest. The chief judge will be Thad Eure, N.C. Secretary of State.

The other judges from North Carolina will be Charles O. Whitley, U.S. congressman from the third district; James A. Graham, N.C. commissioner of agriculture; Bill Foster, head basketball coach at Duke University; Pat Dye, head football coach at East Carolina University; Bobbie Battista, newsperson with television station WRAL in Raleigh; and York Kiker, marketing specialist in the N.C. Department of Agriculture.

The hollerin' contest, sponsored by the Spivey's Corner Volunteer Fire Department, will be held on the football field of Midway High School, one mile south of the intersection of U.S. Highways 421 and 13. Spivey's Corner is located 10 miles southeast of Dunn.

Spivey's Corner festivities

The day's festivities will run as follows:

At 8:45 a.m. the Hollerin' Run, a six and two-tenth mile cross country run, will get underway. Runners must register before the

- At 9 a.m. the Fourth Annual Ham Holler In, a program of various communication displays will begin. It will last until 5 p.m.
- From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. there will be family entertainment, including a greasy-pole climb, a watermelon roll, bingo and arts and crafts.
- From 10:45 a.m. to 8 p.m. the Spivey's Corner Volunteer Fire Department will serve fried chicken and barbecue dinners along with hamburgers and hot dogs.
- At 11 a.m. an antique car-showing will begin at Midway High School.
- At noon the winners in the Hollerin' Run will receive their awards.

The deadline for entry into the following events is 2 p.m.

- At 4 p.m. youngsters up to age 12 will be competing in the Junior Hollerin' Contest.
- At 4:30 p.m. the Whistlin' Contest will be held. There is no age requirement.
- At 4:45 p.m. the Conch-Shell and Fox-Horn Blowin' contests will begin.
- •At 5 p.m. the North Carolina Corn-Shuckin' Contest will get under way.
- •At 5:25 p.m. the Ladies Callin' Contest will be held. Iris Turner, 1977 champion, will be present to give her famous Basque Holler.
- At 5:55 p.m. Carolyn and Randy Parrish and the "Buck Swamp Kickin' Cloggers" will perform.
- And at 6 p.m. the main event of the day, the 11th Annual National Hollerin' Contest, will get under way. Contestants must be at least 13 years old. James A. Graham, N.C. commissioner of agriculture, will be the master of ceremonies. All former Hollerin' Champions are expected to be on hand to give their winning calls.



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Thursday, June 14, 1979 / The Summer Tar Heel / 13