

Crafts Fair In 19th Year:

170 Craftsmen To Exhibit This Year

The Mt. Mitchell Crafts Fair, in its 19th year, will open Friday morning, August 1, at 10:00 o'clock in the middle of Burnsville. On hand for the opening and welcoming remarks will be the Honorable James A. Anglin, Mayor of Burnsville; O.W. Deyton, Chairman, Yancey County Board of Commissioners, and Benjamin Floyd III, President of the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce. Then the crafts demonstrations and exhibits will open to begin a two-day display of some of the finest crafts that can be fashioned by local and visiting craftsmen.

Long before the Fair officially opens, the grounds will be bustling with activity and voices of craftsmen greeting each other as they fill their booths with handmade crafts. The local craftsmen will be coming from places with such colorful names as Bowditch, Bee Log, Celo, Relief, Big Creek, Old Green Mountain Road, Hunt Dale, Pigeon Roost, Cane Branch, Bolen's Creek, Brush Creek, George's Fork, Indian Trail, Bandana, Micaville, Arbuckle and Hardscrabble.

In addition, craftsmen will arrive from Spruce Pine, Asheville, Charlotte, Statesville, Mars Hill, Butner,

Franklin, Mocksville, Vilas, Lexington, Weaverville, Bakersville, Valle Crucis, Brevard, Mt. Gilead, Swannanoa, Black Mountain Gerton, Barnardsville, Marion, Boone and Linville Falls.

Some other states represented at the Fair will be Tennessee, Virginia, South Carolina and Florida.

Among the craftsmen will

be Bertha Bennett, who lives just around the mountain from Burnsville and has been a part of the Fair since the years of its beginning. Like so many of the other craftsmen, Bertha spends a great deal of time during winter months using her skilled fingers to make quilts fit for a queen's treasure. Even though Bertha's years have slipped by

until she is past seventy, she has recently returned from a trip to Baltimore and is eagerly waiting for the Fair to begin.

In addition to quilts, there will be other needle crafts of almost every description, including bonnets, pillows, stuffed animals, crocheting, hats, needlepoint, rag dolls, tote bags, knitting, ties, afghans, and aprons. Also, there will be paintings, wood crafts, ceramics, glassblowing, decoupage, pine cone crafts, plaques, pottery, photography, leather crafts, batik, weaving, vegetable dyeing, tin sculpture, fabric flowers, nature crafts, lapidary crafts, toys, coin and other jewelry, clocks, stone collage, books, and apple butter making.

The craftsmen will demonstrate, display, and sell their crafts during the two-day event founded by the Parkway Playhouse in 1956, and now sponsored by the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce.

Added to the crafts and craftsmen will be music, singing, and dancing, provided on the hour by participants in the Yancey Jamboree, held in conjunction with the Fair. On Friday, there will be a Bicycle Skills Contest, and on Saturday a Bicycle Marathon covering several miles will be scheduled. Concessions will be sold during both days.

Friday is a big day for the Fair, but Saturday is even bigger. Preparations for the giant chicken barbecue will begin around 4:00 o'clock a.m. when the charcoal fire is made to get the grills hot for the first of around 1600 chicken halves to begin

cooking around 6:00 o'clock. Then the aroma of barbecuing chicken will move on the breeze from the middle of town to draw local people in town and county and visitors for a delicious and tasty plate of barbecued chicken, slaw, baked beans, and rolls.

On Friday, the Fair will close at 5:00 o'clock to open at 9:00 Saturday morning, with serving of the chicken barbecue to begin at 11:00, with the final closing scheduled for 5:30 Saturday afternoon.

Along with the Fair, there will be two other special events taking place in Burnsville. The Yancey Jamboree, also sponsored by the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce and a program of folk music, singing, and dancing highlighting Yancey young people enrolled in the public schools, will be staged at East Yancey High School on Thursday and Friday nights beginning at 7:00 p.m. On Wednesday through Saturday nights at 8:30 p.m., the Parkway Playhouse will be presenting Mary Chase's beloved comedy, "Harvey," the story about Elwood P. Dowd and his friend Harvey, a six foot tall invisible rabbit. W.C. (Mutt) Burton, guest artist will be recreating the role of Elwood. The production is truly a show for the entire family.

It is that special time of year again, a time when people will come from the coves, hollows, mountainsides, and valleys; and from distant places to see and buy crafts, to eat chicken and to be entertained, and to visit with each other as a traditional mountain fair is held once again. It is a time to remember.



Brooms And Baskets

J. Luther Thomas of Micaville is pictured above as he makes scrub brooms. The scrub brooms are quite durable and do a good job cleaning, according to Luther's wife, Bea, who will be at the Fair with her husband. They will have the scrub brooms, hark berry baskets, minerals, and jewelry. Both Luther and Bea have been long-time participants at the Fair.



Variety Of Crafts

Edgar Stohler, Grady Douglas, and Mrs. Douglas are shown with their woodcrafts and other crafts at a recent crafts fair in Morristown, Tennessee. They will be displaying and selling wagon wheel hub lamps, hand-woven veneer baskets, handbags, and other crafts at the Fair this year. The crafters are from Jackson City, Tennessee.

**Scheduled Events
1975 Crafts Fair**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

Morning:

- 10:00 Opening--Honorable James A. Anglin, Mayor of Burnsville; O.W. Deyton, Chairman, Yancey County Board of Commissioners; and Benjamin Floyd III, President, Yancey County Chamber of Commerce
- 10:10 Crafts Displays and Exhibits Open
- 10:30 Craft Demonstration
- 11:00 Concessions Open; Entertainment, Singing
- 11:30 Craft Demonstration
- 12:00 Entertainment, Dancing.

Afternoon:

- 12:30 Craft Demonstration
- 1:00 Entertainment, Singing
- 1:30 Craft Demonstration
- 2:00 Entertainment, Dancing
- 2:30 Craft Demonstration
- 3:00 Bicycle Skill Competition
- 3:30 Craft Demonstration
- 4:00 Entertainment, Singing and Dancing
- 4:30 Craft Demonstration
- 5:00 Closing of Crafts Displays and Exhibits
- 7:00 Yancey Jamboree, East Yancey High School
- 8:30 Parkway Playhouse, "Harvey"

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

Morning:

- 9:00 Crafts Displays and Exhibits Open
- 9:30 Craft Demonstration
- 10:00 Entertainment, Dancing
- 10:30 Craft Demonstration
- 11:00 Chicken Barbecue Serving Line Opens, Plates \$2.50;
- Entertainment, Singing
- 11:30 Craft Demonstration
- 12:00 Entertainment, Dancing

Afternoon:

- 12:30 Craft Demonstration
- 1:00 Entertainment, Singing
- 1:30 Bicycle Marathon Race
- 2:00 Craft Demonstration
- 2:30 Entertainment, Dancing, Instrumental
- 3:00 Craft Demonstration
- 3:30 Entertainment, Singing
- 4:00 Craft Demonstration
- 4:30 Entertainment, Dancing
- 5:00 Craft Demonstration
- 5:30 Fair Closes
- 8:30 Parkway Playhouse, "Harvey"



Homemakers Exhibit

Mrs. Edna Bowditch of Route 5, Burnsville and Mrs. Mary Margaret Deyton, Home Extension Agent, display craft work done by Mrs. Bowditch, who will be coming to the Mt. Mitchell Crafts Fair and who has creative and native talent, especially for working with nature materials. She makes pine cone crafts, birds, plaques, and flowers, and has been coming to the Mt. Mitchell Crafts Fair for four years. Her crafts have been sold in Texas and as far away as Alaska.

Exhibiting Craftsmen

[Cont'd from page 7]

- Gary Gilland, Burnsville--Batik
- Ellen Shankin, Franklin, N.C.--Pottery
- Laura Ann Ball and Barbara Mengis, Asheville--Appliques, Needlecrafts, Painting
- David Meriwether, Linville Falls, N.C.--Photography
- Sharon McClure and Betty Bledsoe, Burnsville--Homecrafts
- James Luther and Carrie Fagan, Southmont--Needlecrafts, Clocks, Memory Boxes, Flower Arrangements, Woodcrafts
- Karoon Leather, Alexandria, Va.--Leather Crafts
- Norma Cheren, Burnsville--Embroidery, Crochet
- Aliene and John Alessi, Burnsville--Stained Glass, Macrame
- Marclie Williams, Jewell Chambers, Marian Embler, Asheville--Needlework, Homemade Toys
- Cecil Herring, Titusville, Florida--Metalwork, Sculpture; Jewelry in Steel, Bronze, Copper, Gold and Silver
- Lula Street, Relief--Homecrafts
- Elouise Renfro, Relief--Homecrafts
- Polly Buchanan, Loretta Buchanan, John Martin; Bakersville & Burnsville--Ceramics
- Lizzie Payne, Mae Edwards, Harold Garrison, Lloyd Fish; Madison Co.--Homecrafts
- Julia McDonnough, Leigh Lutze, Peggy Propster; Newland--Plants/Macrame Hangings
- Sid and Bettie Solomon, Athens, Georgia--Portrait Sketching
- Anita and Roger Neal, Cumberland Gap, Tenn.--Candles, Quilts, Leather Crafts, Copper Enameled Beads
- Toby Cobb, Burnsville--Pottery
- Virginia Smith, Evelyn Hamill, Weaverville--Crochet, Sewing, Flowers
- Steve Henry, Asheville--Leather Crafts
- Suzie Spears, P.J. McClain; Raleigh--Clay Wood Chimes, Other Pottery
- Virginia Tate, Atlanta, Georgia--Leather Crafts
- Mary Lou Forster, Miami, Florida--Macrame Hangings, Necklaces, Sachet Hangings
- Mike Orr, Burnsville--Woodcrafts
- Leonard Solof, Vilas, N.C.--Candles, Macrame
- Shaw and Glenn Wells, Fletcher, N.C.--Turquoise and Sterling Silver Jewelry, Woodcrafts
- Howard Roark Gilliam, Burlington--Saddles, Other Leather Crafts
- Annie Lee Ray, Burnsville--Handmade Crafts
- Edgar Stohler, Grady Douglas; Johnson City, Tenn.--Woodcraft
- Bald Mountain Community School, Burnsville--Homecrafts
- J. Billingsley, Daytona Beach, Florida--Jewelry



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