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h of the same. Mars Hill.

Berry, Georgi Laos.

eek for his pe^f On November 29, 1979 two firsts were nat stopped decorded in Mars Hill. One was the first nowfall of 1979-80. The other was the rrival of the Thavichith family from nt will be staraos at the Asheville airport and their were held eaubsequent journey to their new home

There are nine members of the Veek here at havichith family: Mr. and Mrs. Pheng-Veek here at Mavichith family: Mr. and Mrs. Pheng-Free" always homma Thavichith, their five children, s Steve Campho range from 5 to 15 years in age, nalf, his second Mr. Thavichith's brother and ted District 26 usin. They have been living in a nsive Player of fugee camp in Thailand since 1975, week when Shere they owned and operated a weav-pbell is a 5-9 g shop. Mrs. Thavichith in an ac-e asset to the smplished weaver and cook, and Mr. havichith is skilled in auto mechanics

havichith is skilled in auto mechanics ad was a policeman for fifteen years

Saturday, but The religion of the Thavichith family Buddhist, the official religion of of the George mily visited the Mars Hill Methodist my touchdow urch and are planning to visit many so Kenny Phiore area churches in future weeks.

passes. Keel The biggest problem to be overcome the family is the language barrier hich exists between them and the wn game was Gars Hill community; they speak only sacks every gatian; a dialect of Thai. English y he received asses have been started by college ld community volunteers, all of whom leak no Laotian. The volunteers say s Gym. Therat although there are some difficul-see them play is involved, the eagerness in which e family has pursued the project is helped to make enjoyable their starting very fort to communicate with the Lactians heville at 7:00 such methods as sign language. The glish classes have not only helped

Thavichith Family Arrives at Mars Hill



the family adjust to their new home but also the children to the new school they began attending Monday, Decem-

In making adjustments other than in language, the family has had to become accustomed to Mars Hill's cold climate during the months from December to February, for in Laos, the average temperature for there months is 60 degrees, and it is considered the dry

On December 1, the Thavichith family traveled to Hickory, North Carolina to reunite with a cousin, and his family who settled there only nine months ago. This cousin speaks English quite well and has been assisting in the development of communication between the family and the community.

Members of the Mars Hill com-

munity and a few hard-working members of Mars Hill College (including faculty, staff, and a very few students) have served on the various committees involved in enabling the Thavichith family to adjust to all phases of living in Mars Hill. These committees have furnished the family's home and have provided clothes and food. The committees are trying to secure employment for the Thavichith's but still need financial support until the family is economically stable.

If you are able to help the Thavichith family by giving money and/or time to help with the English lessons and cultural adjustment process, then please do. Your contributions will be greatly appreciated.

David Perkins

NATION! Package Store in Buncombe County

After five and a half months of surveyand deliberating, a three-member nmission has ruled that the package re in Forks of Ivy on the Madisonncombe County line is legally in Bunbe County.

The Commission, consisting of one resentative of Buncombe, one of discountry idison and one of Rutherford County, ned in a split decision to Buncombe unty Superior Court on Nov. 26. The senting vote was cast by Robert L. wards, the Madison County represen-

According to the original terms that lated this commission," said Edwards, county's superintendent of schools, ich of us had the right to hire another veyor if we were not satisfied with results of the original surveyor. I int to North Carolina State University employed a professor by the name J.W. Horn; you can't get a more qualid person than that. He surveyed this property and did not come to the same

conclusion as the original surveyor.
"Therefore," he went on, "since the professionals could not get together on this, then I would say there is doubt in the matter. And if I understand the court system correctly, you just don't do something like this if there is doubt."

The commission was appointed last June by Superior Court Judge William T. Grist of Charlotte. It includes, in addition to Edwards, Asheville attorney Gary S. Cash and Charles D. Owens, a land developer from Forest City who was chairman of the commission.

A hearing to consider any objections to the decision was conducted at 9 a.m. Nov. 27 at the Buncombe County Courthouse, but it was not clear what legal standing such objections might have. The hearing was called by Judge Robert E. Gaines of Gastonia, who had previously granted a third 30-day extension in the preparation of the report.

The decision of the commission was made Nov. 19 during a meeting. For that meeting the Madison County member prepared a statement which included the following points:

*Madison County has collected taxes on the disputed property since 1851.

*Persons presently living on the property are receiving social welfare benefits from Madison County.

*Children who have lived on the property have attended schools in Madison County.

More than thirty people have signed affadavits alleging that the property has historically been regarded as belonging in Madison County.

"It appears," said Edwards, "that the commission is going solely by the survey in making this decision, disregarding a good deal of other evidence. To me that's just like getting two doctors together and one says you have a toothache and the other says you have appendicitis. You just have to take your

The package store in question, known as Peabody's Discount Center, is owned by Robert T. Soffield, Jr. and Edward J.R. Kirkpatrick. They were issued a permit by the state Alcoholic Beverage Control Board to sell beer at the store a year ago. The controversy has raged since then.

People in the community have objected to the package store because it is directly across the street from the Forks of Ivy Baptist Church, in a community comprised largely of elderly, nondrinking residents. According to the Rev. Ralph Hogan of that church, many residents resent the proximity of the store to the church and worry about driving past it during busy sales periods. Some 600 residents have signed petitions asking that the store be closed.

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