## Parkway Visitors Decline

Blue Ridge Parkway travel uring the 1974 calendar year was 13,987,273 visitors, which was slightly less than the 1973 calendar year, according to Supt. Granville B. Liles. 1973 travel exceeded 14 million visitors, the greatest in Parkway history.

The decrease is attributed to the closure of about 250 miles of Parkway in the winter of 1974 to reduce travel and save fuel; less travel during the balance of the year apparently was due to efforts of Americans to save fuel.

The Parkway will be open during the winter months so long as it is safe to travel. As in the past, sections will be closed, particularly at higher elevations, because of snow, ice, slides, or other natural decurrences which make it insafe for travel.

di A specific effort will be made to make it safe for travel around Asheville and Roanoke, since these areas do account for the greatest travel on the Parkway.

Supt. Liles emphasized that snowmobiles are not permitted on the Parkway motor road at any time.

Under the Federal Recreation Fee Program, the Golden Eagle Passport and the Golden Age Passport will again be available. There is no entrance fee for travel on Blue Ridge Parkway, as charged in some national parks and recreation areas; however, the Golden Eagle passport will be on sale at major Parkway offices.

In addition, the Golden Age Passport for persons sixty-two (62) years of age or older will be available. This Passport does provide a 50 per cent reduction in camping fees. Camping fees again will be required in Blue Ridge Parkway campgrounds, all of which will be fully opened on May. 1.

When you think of prescriptions, think VARNER'S. adv.

#### Hints From The County Extension Chairman By - Jerry Purser

losses in cattle production in

feed costs remain high, feeder

cattle prices will remain low

relative to slaughter cattle

prices. But, high feed cost will

also cause slaughter weights

to remain light which will tend

to strengthen slaughter cattle

prices. High feeding prices

also encourage increased

slaughter of calves and "baby

beef" which is the quickest

way to eliminating a future

On the other hand, lower

feed costs will tend to raise

feeder cattle prices relative to

slaughter cattle prices and

improve the profitability of

cow-calf operations. Also,

lower feed cost could make

cattle feeding more profitable

even at lower beef prices.

And, the current "surplus" of

beef is a surplus only because

production costs are high.

There is little doubt that lower

feed costs would be preferred

Current indications are that

acreage of corn planted in 1975

will be roughly equal to the

"intended" acreage planned

for 1974. With a "normal"

yield per acre, total U.S. corn

production could be up 40 - 50

per cent over the 1974 crop.

Even with a strong world

demand that would be a

sizeable increase. With

decreasing supplies of poultry and hogs \$2 bushel corn is not out of the question for next

fall, but \$2.50 might be a more likely figure. A similar weakness is also possible in the soybean meal market.

by most cattle producers.

over-supply of beef.

BEEF CATTLE - CURRENT taken the brunt of the total SITUATION

the more recent months. It has The cattle producing inbeen estimated that the cost of producing a 600 pound feeder dustry is in serious financial steer may average about condition. The problem is not really oversupply or low prices. Forty dollar cattle \$50.00 per cwt. under typical midwestern conditions. Over the past 3 months such feeder aren't cheap compared to cattle have averaged just over prices feeders have been \$30.00 in price. These figures happy with in the past. Can the represent a loss of about \$20.00 producer really expect the per cwt. of \$120.00 per head on consumer to pay any more for the amount of beef sold at a 600 pound feeder. retail than she is paying now? GENERAL OUTLOOK FOR Marketing margins are wider than they have been in the past but that only accounts for The outlook for feeder cattle a small part of the cattle is based on the outlook for feeder's plight. The major problem of cattle producers slaughter cattle and feed cost prospects. The key to outlook today is neither consumer for cattle in 1975 is feed cost. If

USDA estimates that it would require a price of over \$45.00 for the January - April 1975 period for feeders to cover the cost they will have in cattle already on feed. They may be lucky to cover the cost of feeder cattle and feed (roughly \$5.50 - cwt. less than total costs). There is little prospect for profits in the near future for the cattle feeder.

demand or marketing costs,

the major problem is high feed

Midwestern feed costs have risen dramatically in just the past year. Corn prices are estimated at \$3.49 - bushel for cattle placed on feed October 1975, compared to \$2.11 bushel for corn fed to cattle a year earlier. Hay prices have risen from \$24.00 per ton in 1973 to \$37.75 per ton a year later in October 1974. Corn silage is \$23.68 per ton compared to \$14.51 per ton a year earlier. And 30 per cent protein supplement is up from \$8.60 per cwt. in October 1973 to \$9.90 per cwt. in October

Higher feed costs have forced large losses in cattle feeding over the past months and prespects for continued losses into the future. But the feeder cattle producer has

# Board Eyeing U. S. Development Grants My Neighbors plicants must submit an

Annual Application containing the following information:

A summary of a 3-year plan which identifies needs and biectives and demonstrates a strategy to meet those needs.

Formulation of a program to meet needs and objectives, indicating resources available (other than Community Development funds) and taking into consideration environmental factors.

A description of a program to prevent slums, blight, and deterioration and to provide community facilities and public improvements where necessary and appropriate.

A Housing Assistance Plan (HAP) which surveys the conditions of the community's housing stock, assesses the

Continued From Page One needs of lower income per- Transporation Grant. sons, specifies an annual goal (number of units or persons) and indicates the general locations of proposed housing.

> In limited circumstances, all requirements except the HAP may be waived.

A total of \$63.54 million will be available for North Carolina cities and counties, and it appears that 20 per cent of the money will go to nonmetropolitan area.

This grant application must be completed by April 15, so the commissioners have little time to lose in defining the needs of the county.

The commissioners will also open bids for the placement of the general fund in one of the three local banks. The commissioners also need to give final approval to the Rural

Transylvania County is one of the few counties in the state involved in transportation and this two-year grant would allow transportation to be expanded to transport the poor and the elderly to such things as doctors' offices or other necessary trips. This grant would provide 100 per cent funding.

The Commissioners will be asked to approve the sale of the remaining school bonds. Only \$700,000 in bonds remains unsold and the school system will be needing some of this money to complete the buildings recently let to contracts.

Bond experts feel that a March sale will probably hit the market at the lowest possible interest cost.

A petition to add the

Riverside Estates road to the State Secondary System will be on the agenda for approval.

The Social Services Director is asking for \$6,000 to match a \$48,000 State grant providing chore service for home bound elderly or disabled persons.

Mr. Morrison told Commission Chairman Bill Ives that he believes this will save the county money because if the persons have to be institutionalized, then the county must bear half the cost of institutional care and this can amount to several thousand dollars for one Beneficial To Cattle person alone.

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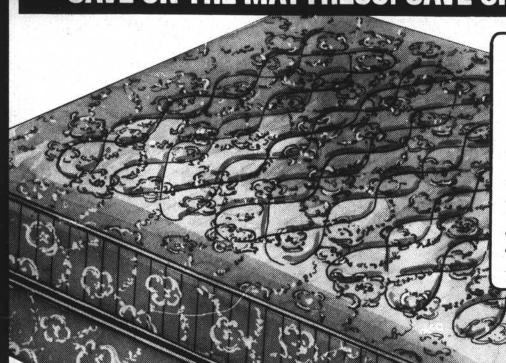
### Sawdust May Prove

South Dakota State University researchers have found that untreated Ponderosa pine sawdust may have beneficial effects for cattle.

Tests have shown that the state inspectors certified as coarse sawdust can be used as wholesome about 120 billion a roughage substitute at levels pounds of meat and poultry up to 15 percent with no sub-products from some 5,800 stantial loss in animal perform-



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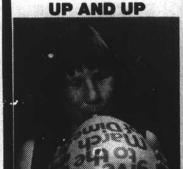
cost of inflation. It's Nationwide Homeowner's Insurance with built-in inflation protection. Based on U.S. Department of Commerce cost index figures, Nationwide automatically adjusts your coverage each month-so that your home is covered today for what it's worth today. Call your Nationwide agent for details.





m D. H





ALLOON BLOWING is fun for all hildren as Jamie Weaver, March of mes National Poster Child, shows. ven though she was born without yes, the nine-year-old from Spoane, Wash., gets along great in this world just the same. Jamie represents some 250,000 children born with birth defects in the United

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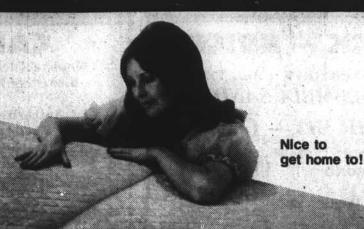
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