

THE YANCEY RECORD

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NUMBER FORTY-EIGHT

"Stalag 17" Will Jolt Memories of County's Pow's

By Paul R. Burton

This Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 the Parkway Playhouse will present the comedy melodrama, STALAG 17.

The production will be directed by George Crocker, who gave Payhouse theatregoers LO AND BEHOLD and SUDS IN YOUR EYE last season. Crocker is noted for his detailed and precise direction.

The play itself incorporates a cast of over twenty men. The cast includes:

Ed Anderson, Tavernier, Fla., as "Sefton"; Victor Helou, St. Petersburg, Fla., as "Harry Shapiro"; Robert Cresse, Miami, Fla., as

"Stosh"; Eli Del Sette, Saratoga Springs, N. Y., as "Price"; Paul Burton, Burnsville, N. C. as "Hoffy"; Pat Martinelli, Miami, Fla., as "Red"; Chuck Drozd, Union City, N. J., as "Dunbar"; Ed Madden, Portland, Maine, as "Shultz"; and many others.

When the curtain opens the audience will be carried into the lives of resigned yet never hopeless, men who find themselves pawns of world strife in a German prisoner-of-war camp.

Here is found the clash of human personalities and emotions in an environment of suspension, of boredom, yet tenseness, and in spite of the omnipresent mental and physical suffering, these captive gladiators never cease to ferret out the humor in their adverse situations.

Laughter in their escape, their renewed faith and hope. This release becomes the very basis of their existence.

The audience will find themselves laughing with abandon as the prisoners find humor in one ridiculous episode after another. In contrast, the audience will be numbed into silence as tragedy and pathos weaves its way into the scene, and as torture and death descend upon the ill-fated.

STALAG 17, which is based on factual experiences, was first produced in New York by Jose Ferrer in 1951, and met with immediate success. It was later made into a motion picture which proved to be a smash hit, and won an Academy Award for William Holden, who played "Sefton" in the movie version.

Donald Bevan and Edmund Trzcinski, the brilliant authors of the stage play, were actually prisoners in the German stalag numbered seventeen. Gerald Honaker, Playhouse Set Designer, was also a prisoner of the same prisoner-of-war compound, and although the three never met, their talents will be combined on the boards of Burnsville's Playhouse in a rare exhibit of stage realism. Honaker also appears in the production in an acting capacity - playing the role of the "German Captain."

Be sure and see this true-to-life stage play at the Playhouse on the 27th and 28th of July. Curtain at 8:00 P. M.

BOOKMOBILE TRIP POSTPONED

The Yancey County Bookmobile trip to Pensacola area has been postponed. The regular trip, which includes Bowlers Creek, Pensacola, Cattail, Murchison and Low Gap, will be made tomorrow, July 27, instead of today, it was announced by Mrs. Dorothy Thomas, County librarian.



VIC HELOU, of St. Petersburg, Fla., and BOB CRESSE, of Miami, Fla., appear as the camp comedians, "Harry Shapiro" and "Stosh," in the Playhouse version of "Stalag 17" Friday and Saturday.

Hospital Report

The Yancey Hospital reports four births and eighteen other admissions this week. The births include a son, David Keith, born July 17 to Mr. and Mrs. John Henry McPeters of Star Rt.; a daughter, Linda Sue, born July 18 to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lee Grindstaff of Bakersville; a daughter, Patricia Ann, born July 21 to Mr. and Mrs. Bill Tipton of Rt. 1; and a son, not yet named, born July 24 to Mr. and Mrs. Nat Robinson of Rt. 1.

Other admissions reported during the past week included Alice McPeters, William Allen and Aylene Gregory of Burnsville; Luella Honeycutt and Christine England of Rt. 1; Bobbie Randolph and Wellington McIntosh of Rt. 3; Bettina McCourry of Micaeville; baby Deborah Cook of Celu; Beatrice Canipe of Green Mtn.; Ruth Grindstaff of Bandana; Don Michael Green of Bakersville; Beulah Woody, Martha Ann Hammett, Minnie Yelton and June Hammett of Spruce Pine; David Miles Metcalf of Mars Hill; and Viola Forbes of Fordtown, Tenn.

PTA To Hold Special Meeting

An important call meeting of the Burnsville P. T. A. will be held Tuesday evening, July 31, at 8:00 o'clock in the school lunch room. Mrs. James Ray, president, has called this meeting for the purpose of discussing important financial matters that need attention before the opening of school.

According to Mrs. Ray, the meeting will be very short, and she urges all P. T. A. members to attend.

LOCAL 4-H'ERS ATTEND STATE-WIDE MEET IN RALEIGH THIS WEEK

Betty Young of Green Mountain, winner of Yancey County's 4-H Dress Revue, modeled her pink cotton dress, along with other county winners across the State, on Wednesday evening in Raleigh.

Other Yancey County delegates at 4-H Club Week (July 23-28) are Norma McDougald, Hamrick; Lillie Estep, Bee Log; Brenda Phoenix and Glenna Brinkley, Burnsville; Verlene Silver, Jacks Creek; Duane McDougald, Hamrick; Edwin Bryan, Cane River; Johnny Ray, Tommy Ray, and Donald Buchanan, Burnsville.

Duane McDougald is the Western District 4-H Public Speaking Winner and will compete for State honors tomorrow in Raleigh. Tommy, Edwin and Donald competed Monday in the State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest, another function of the State-wide 4-H Club Week in Raleigh.

P. O. Building Rising Rapidly

The new Burnsville Post Office is beginning to take on the look of a building. All foundations have been laid and the block and brick walls are rising at a rapid rate.

J. W. Autrey, superintendent of the construction, said this week that the building should be completed sometime in November.

The first floor, or post office part of the building, will be 40 by 60 feet, with a loading platform at the rear, while the second story will cover the entire foundation of 60 by 80 feet. The loading platform in the rear of the structure will be sheltered.

Front entrance to the building, for both floors, is on the east side, and the post office entrance will be several feet south of the sidewalk corner at the east end of the courthouse, according to Autrey.

The building is being built by E. L. Briggs according to plans accepted by the Post Office Department.

Dr. Ray Property Sold For Business Site

When the old gives way to the new, progress is being made. And in Burnsville progress continues in the field of construction changes.

The Dr. Ray residence, one of the town's oldest land marks, is dismantled by the new owners, Banks, Patton & Webb. Mrs. Lena R. Tilson, daughter of the late Doctor and Mrs. Ray, recently sold the property to the firm mentioned above as a business site.

William A. Banks, one of the present owners, stated this week that the building was being wrecked as soon and as rapidly as possible, and that the entire lot would be cleared and leveled as business property. Banks stated that the Gulf Oil Company plans to construct a super service station on the east corner of the lot, and that the remainder of the lot will be available for business construction.

In speaking of the age of the house and the fine construction, Banks said that the entire house was constructed of the finest yellow poplar—something seldom seen in present day structures. Material from the house will be for sale, he said.

Benefit Movie At South Toe School

The South Toe River P. T. A. will present a benefit movie Saturday evening, July 28, at 8 o'clock in the school auditorium. The name of the movie is "Raiders of Sunset Pass" starring Gene Autrey.

The P. T. A. is presenting the movie in a money raising effort before the opening of school.

Fox Wins Commendation

Pvt. James T. Fox of Newdale received official commendation upon graduating from a course in Automotive Maintenance at Fort Knox, Ky., according to a release from the training center at Ft. Knox.

In the commendation, Brigadier General Samuel L. Meyers, commander, said the citation was made because of the record Pvt. Fox had made in his training. Because of his "superior manner of performance, attention to duty, and determination to become proficient" during his period of training at that center, Pvt. Fox was named as the number one honor student of the class.

Pvt. Fox is the son of the late H. J. Fox and Mrs. Fox of Newdale.

Set Designer Did Term In Stalag

Gerald Honaker, Set Designer at the Parkway Playhouse in Burnsville, N. C., was a tail-gunner in a B24 during the Second World War. On his last mission over Europe his plane was hit by enemy anti-aircraft while on a bomb run over northern Italy, and the ill-fated craft blown in half when the full bomb load exploded.

Only two men managed to escape the flaming hulk—the Captain of the bomber and Honaker. Both parachuted safely to earth, but were almost immediately captured and thrown into one of the many German prisoner-of-war compounds, or "stalags" as they are called in the German language.

The stalag in which Honaker was imprisoned was located in Mossebaugh, Germany, and in this PW compound something like 9,000 hapless men were confined. Such was the stalag numbered seventeen—the stalag which was to demand six long and trying months of this man's life.

Among the thousands struggling to survive on rotten potatoes, grass soup, and an occasional luckless dog, were two brilliant and promising playwrights, Donald Bevan and Edmund Trzcinski, who were to later immortalize "Stalag 17" in a comedy melodrama of the same name.

Even though Honaker never chanced upon the aforementioned playwrights in the real-life stalag 17, a strange "reunion" will take place at the Parkway Playhouse on the 27th and 28th of July. These dates mark the running of the Playhouse version of "Stalag 17," and Honaker as Set Designer, will draw upon his own recollections in recreating the setting.

So for two nights, the efforts of three "alumni" of stalag 17 will be displaced on the boards of a Playhouse nestled in the mountains of Western North Carolina.



Dick Banks, drama critic for the Charlotte Observer, congratulates Ed Downes, director of "Sabrina Fair", on opening night at the Parkway Playhouse. Looking on is Gordon Bennett, director of the Drama Workshop. Mr. Banks made a special trip from Charlotte to attend the opening night at the Playhouse in Burnsville.

Drag Racing Becomes Problem In County

"Drag racing" in Burnsville and other parts of the county is becoming a problem that is difficult to control, according to Policeman Ralph Peterson.

Peterson said this week that racing around the town square is becoming more annoying to people living close enough to the "race track" to hear the noise. The sound of racing high-powered motors and the squealing of tires keep citizens awake until the small hours of the morning, the policeman said. Racing usually begins after Peterson and Patrolman Rector leave town for the night, it was said. And after being called back by residents, the racing stops until the officers have again left town. The

violators slow down or park when one of the officers return to town, then the racing begins again as soon as the "all clear" is given.

Last summer, Peterson said, a large group of visitors checked out of the Nu-Way Inn at 3 a. m. because with the noise, sleep and rest was impossible.

About half of the speeders drive all night, the policeman said. They sleep during the day and are usually ready for another night of fun. Most of them drive a car belonging to someone else, Peterson said, and disregard the danger to other persons or to property.

Many Yancey boys out for a night of dangerous fun motor over to the Madison "straight" on the new Asheville highway for racing. And some, not wishing to venture too far away from home base, take the Bolens Creek road as a take-off place. But all in all, the majority of drag racing not done around the town square is carried on west of Burnsville, it was said.

Peterson said a hit and run case will be heard in court her Saturday. Mark Hughes of Burnsville is charged with hitting a parked car around 11 p. m. three weeks ago Saturday. The parked car was owned by Ransom Pate, the policeman said.

Bob Pruitt of Morganton has been training here with Patrolman Arnold Rector and will leave for Chapel Hill Saturday for the Highway Patrol School. After completing his training there, Pruitt will return to Burnsville for full time patrol duty.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY ENTERTAINS VETERANS

Patients at Oteen Hospital, Swannanoa Division, were entertained with a party Monday evening, July 23rd, by the American Legion Auxiliary of the Earl Horton Post 122 in Burnsville.

An hour long variety show was given by a number of students from the Parkway Playhouse of the U. of Miami under the direction of Miss Eva Lee Savage, a senior majoring in music at Miami. A folk dance team from Penland also entertained.

Local auxiliary members who aided in the party were Mrs. Howard Simpson, Mrs. J. G. Low, and Mrs. R. K. Helmle.

First Play Opens To Record Attendance

By Hope Bailey

Last Friday night, the Parkway Playhouse in Burnsville was jammed with the largest opening night audience in its history. Summer residents, vacationists, townspeople, and visiting VIPs were in attendance to see Samuel Taylor's "Sabrina Fair" given a fine presentation by the University of Miami's Drama Workshop.

The curtain went up at 8:10, revealing one of the most realistic stage settings I have seen at the Playhouse. Gerald Honaker, set designer, constructed for the cast a most believable and workable set, complete with water fountain.

As I sat during the 2 1/2 hour performance, I found myself becoming a part of the Larrabee family of the North Shore of Long Island; and eventually the hearts of the full-house audience, as well as my own, were completely captured, inasmuch as the cast was called back for four curtain calls.

More notable in the cast were Sharron Frye who portrayed Sa-

brina, and Warren Hansen who characterized Linus Larrabee Jr. Sabrina Fairchild, the chauffeur's daughter, was a most engaging, flighty young lady who interrupted the lives of everyone she met. Miss Frye gave a vivacious performance as she flitted from one amusing situation to another. Throughout Warren Hansen's convincing portrayal of the stolid eldest son of the wealthy Larrabee family, I was convinced that he must have had a great deal of dramatic experience. To my surprise, however, I found that he was making his debut on the stage. The pace picked up the minute he made his first appearance on stage.

Other featured players were Robert Gwaltney as Linus Larrabee Sr., Jim Reynolds as the younger brother, and Grace Klein as Maude Larrabee. Gwaltney gave an excellent characterization of the absent minded tycoon father whose hobby was attending funerals. His absent mindedness had a natural quality as he made an effort to keep up with changing situations of the plot. Jim Reynolds was casual, relaxed, and gave a fine performance as David, the spoiled younger brother. Grace Klein was convincing in her role as Maude Larrabee, the wife and mother.

One of the funniest scenes in the show was when the chauffeur, Fairchild, given an excellent portrayal by Ed Anderson, comes upon the scene and tells all present that he is worth over a million dollars. (Continued on back page)

POLIO VACCINE

The Salk Vaccine for poliomyelitis is one of the greatest discoveries to benefit mankind.

However good it may be, it helps no one unless it is taken. Some in our county have taken the shots, but not nearly as many as should.

This has been a growing concern of the medical societies and therefore, they at this time are strongly urging all to receive the injections.

Who should take the shots? All between the ages of one and nineteen and women who are pregnant.

How many shots are needed? Three. One immediately, to be followed by one in two to six weeks, and the third at least seven months later.

Where to receive these shots? Either at the Health Department or your family physician.

Be sure to have your children vaccinated and prevent polio. Walter M. Ost, M. D., President, Yancey-Mitchell Medical Society.

See "STALAG 17" AT PARKWAY PLAYHOUSE FRIDAY & SATURDAY