

THE YANCEY RECORD

"Dedicated To The Progress Of Yancey County"

VOLUME TWENTY-SEVEN

Subscription \$2.50 Per Year

BURNSVILLE, N. C. THURS. DAY, JULY 25, 1963

Price Per Copy Five Cents

NUMBER FORTY-NINE

Nobody Is Talking Now, But... Something Is About To Happen

BY TOM HIGGINS
Something big is about to happen.

This is the consensus of Burnsville and Yancey County governmental and civic leaders.

But no one is talking. Not for the record (or The Record) at least.

Perhaps a story in last Friday's Winston-Salem Journal is the key.

The Twin City paper reported that Gov. Terry Sanford had appointed a committee to administer

money that the Ford Foundation is expected to give to the newly incorporated North Carolina Fund.

In January Burnsville and Yancey leaders were called together at an extremely secretive meeting and asked to propose ways in which they could deal with some of their problems if they had the money.

Ford Foundation executives attended the local meeting, which was held at the Nu-Wray Inn.

Following the session, the local

officials expressed a belief that Yancey would be richly benefited. Is this it?

No one is talking, but... The purpose of the non-governmental N. C. Fund corporation, which will have its headquarters in Durham, is "to find new and better ways to improve education, economic opportunities, living environment and welfare of the people," Sanford said.

The governor added: "there is no telling how much money the

fund will receive over the next four years, but we feel confident that we will have about \$10 million in foundation money, most of it by the first frost."

Sanford said that "20 or more rural and urban communities will be selected for special help by the organization." He said these communities "will develop their own comprehensive programs for making improvements, using schools, welfare, public health and other agencies."

"While the proposals are expected to be statewide in nature," the Journal reported, "they are also expected to include pilot projects in selected communities with the idea that community projects can be expanded to include several areas of the state."

Sanford has called a meeting of the N. C. Fund Committee in Raleigh Friday.

Is this it for Burnsville and Yancey County? No one is talking... just praying.



Do You Remember?

In the early 1900s visitors flocked to the "newly discovered" Western North Carolina mountain wonderland to take what many proclaimed to be the "most exhilarating ride anywhere."

This was the rail trip from Black Mountain to Mount Mitchell.

The rail line was originally built to convey logs from the Mitchell range's heavily wooded slopes to saw mills. Then someone came up with the idea that people would pay—and pay gladly—for a ride to the cloud-scraping summit in southern Yancey County.

The passenger service—in brightly painted, open-air cars—was instantly successful.

Seldom did the passenger train make a run to the peak that it was not jammed to capacity.

Passengers boarded near Black Mountain. It was a rather slow trip due to the large number of switchbacks which the train had to negotiate. A line ended at Camp Alice. From here passengers who wished to continue to the top had to walk a winding, steep trail.

The end of the line—Mt. Mitchell

Station at Camp Alice—is pictured in the lower photo. The trail to the top is in the foreground.

Pictured in the top photo is the first tower atop Mount Mitchell. It was a crude, rather rickety affair with a "crow's nest" at the top which would accommodate one observer at a time.

A suitable motor road to the peak and improved autos brought an end to the rail passenger service. And a subsequent increase in the number of visitors to Mount Mitchell necessitated construction of a more stable observation tower.

The tower pictured was replaced with a large wooden platform and then a tower of natural stone. The latter was razed in 1960 and replaced by the ultra-modern structure in use today.

These pictures were donated to The Record by Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Y. Sargent of Burnsville. They are part of a collection of 12 photographs taken by New England relatives of the Sargents during a visit to WNC.

Bald Creek Leader Proffitt Dies; Mrs. Jane B. Wray Succumbs

GLENN E. PROFFITT

Glenn E. Proffitt, 82, of Bald Creek, died in an Asheville hospital Monday at 12 noon after a long illness.

He was a son of the late Hooker and Alice Hampler Proffitt, a retired merchant and former trustee and superintendent of Bald Creek Methodist Church.

He served for many years as a school committeeman in the Bald Creek School district.

Services were held at 11 a. m. Wednesday in Bald Creek Methodist Church.

The Rev. Donald Noblett and the Rev. R. F. Hilliard officiated. Burial was in the family cemetery.

Pallbearers were James Neill,

Hendon Gibbs, Ray Tweed, Max Proffitt, Earl C. Wilson, Claiborne Scott, Albert and Allen Nance, Charles Tomberlin and Winters McIntosh.

The body remained in Holcombe Brothers Funeral Home until taken to the church to lie in state one hour prior to service.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Virgie Gibbs Proffitt; four daughters, Miss Katherine Proffitt and Mrs. Yates Bailey, both of Bald Creek; Mrs. Vera Steel of Asheville and Miss Mary Glenn Proffitt of Louisville, Ky.; two sons, James and Ralph, both of Bald Creek; four sisters, Mrs. Mary Scott, Mrs. Sarah Nance, and Miss Ethel Proffitt, all of Asheville, and Mrs. Lillian Eubanks of Greensboro; three brothers, C. C. of Asheville, Charles of Burnsville and Roy of Charlotte, and eight grandchildren.

MRS. JANE B. WRAY

Mrs. Jane Bellack Wray, 40, wife of the operator of Nu-Wray Inn, and an active civic leader, died in an Asheville hospital July 15 after an extended illness.

Services were held at 3 p. m. July 17 at First Baptist Church, Burnsville, of which she was a member.

Officiating ministers were the Rev. C. B. Trammel, the Rev. R. F. Hilliard, and the Rev. Woodward Finley. Burial was in Academy Cemetery. Pallbearers were Robert K. Helmle, Dover E. Fouts, Phillip Ray, Bruce Westall, Pete Coletta, John T. Morrison, Dr. M. W. Webb and Donald Burhoe. Holcombe Brothers Funeral Home was in charge.

Mrs. Wray had been a member of the Junior League since 1945, in her native Milwaukee, Wis., and in the Asheville chapter since 1955, when she came to Burnsville. She was a member of the Pisgah Girl Scout Council and served as Yancey County district chairman from 1956 to 1959, and was a Brownie troop leader from 1955 to 1958.

She attended Connecticut College and Milwaukee-Down Seminary, and was a graduate of the Wible Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Chicago.

In addition to her Girl Scout and other work in Yancey County, she assisted her husband, Rush P. Wray, in the management of

Nu-Wray Inn, and commuted regularly to Asheville to participate in Junior League programs, including the Craftsman's Fair, Doll Festival, placement committee, and other volunteer work. She was a Citizen-Times Woman of the Week several years ago.

Surviving in addition to her husband are a daughter, Mary Louise; her mother, Mrs. Helen Bellack of Burnsville; a sister, Mrs. E. H. Keator Jr. of San Antonio, Texas, and a brother, David Bellack of

Hollywood, Fla.

MAX ADKINS

Seaman 2. C. Max Adkins, 37, of the U. S. Navy, died unexpectedly Sunday in Portsmouth Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, Va.

He had been in the Navy for 15 years.

Surviving are the parents, the Rev. and Mrs. Gilbert Adkins; two sisters, Mrs. Ralph Tipton and Mrs. Ellis Renfro, both of Green Mountain; and two brothers, Lt. Dee Adkins and Plen Adkins, both of the U. S. Navy.

Funeral services will be held Thursday at 2:30 p. m. in North Bend Free Will Baptist Church. The Rev. Bill Beam and the Rev. Charles Webb will officiate. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery.

TROY ANGEL

Troy Angel, 55, died unexpectedly in his home Sunday afternoon. Services were held at 2 p. m. Tuesday in Holcombe Brothers Funeral Home chapel.

The Rev. Jesse Hughes officiated. Burial was in McIntosh Cemetery.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Lena Dellinger Angel; a daughter, Miss Patsy Lou Angel; two sons, Dennis and Mike, all of the home; the father, Burgin B. Angel of Burnsville; four sisters, Mrs. R. C. Brackett and Mrs. Bascorn Miller of Weaverville, Mrs. Pauline Carney of Seattle, Wash., and Mrs. Cecil Burnett of Burnsville; a brother, Cecil of Burnsville.

MRS. KATE BAILEY

Services for Mrs. Kate Whitson Bailey, 31, of Rt. 1, Burnsville, who died Sunday in a Burnsville hospital after a short illness were held at 2 p. m. Tuesday in Borings Chapel Methodist Church.

The Rev. Donald Noblett, the Rev. Lloyd Bailey and the Rev. Howard Buchanan officiated. Burial was in Woody Cemetery.

NEW OFFICERS—The Yancey County Chamber of Commerce elected last week its officers for the coming year. They are (left to right): Charles Gillespie, vice president; Mrs. Grace Banks, secretary-treasurer; and Ralph Adair, president. (Photo by John Hensley)



MRS. JANE B. WRAY

Surviving are the husband, Glenn Bailey; the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Whitson of Green Mountain; four brothers, Arthur, Carl and Jay Lee Whitson of Green Mountain and Claude Whitson of Burnsville; the paternal grandfather, Tom Whitson of Green Mountain; a stepson, The Rev. Lloyd Bailey of Cincinnati and a stepdaughter, Virginia of the home.

WILSE R. HYLEMON

Wilse R. Hylemon, 82, of Rt. 3, Burnsville, died unexpectedly at 10:30 a. m. July 13 at the home of a brother, Alf Hylemon.

Mr. Hylemon was a retired farmer and a native and lifelong resident of Yancey County.

Surviving in addition to the brother, are two daughters, Mrs. Floyd Sparks of Williamsburg, Va., and Mrs. Willie Tull of Baltimore, Md.; five sons, Ray of Rt. 3, Burnsville, Lawrence and Robert of Williamsburg, A. G., and Wince of Jonesboro, Tenn.; a sister Mrs. Sallie Harris of Paolet Mills, S. C.; a brother, John Hylemon of Cowpens, S. C.; 17 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral Services were conducted July 15 in the Bald Creek Methodist Church. The Rev. Donald Noblett and the Rev. E. J. Hall officiated.

Playhouse To Present The 'Angel'

"Look Homeward, Angel," the play based upon the novel by Thomas Wolfe, will open at the Parkway Playhouse in Burnsville Thursday, (July 25) and play through Saturday, (July 27).

The third production of outstanding American plays presented in celebration of the N. C. Charter Tercentenary, "Look Homeward, Angel" is the often humorous and poignant semi-biographical story of the early life in the Asheville novelist, Thomas Wolfe.

Returning in the same roles they created in the highly successful Parkway production of three seasons ago will be Blanche Kelly as Ethel and W. C. (Mutt) Burton as Gait. "Angel" will be directed by Anthony M. Maltese, remembered for his direction of such memorable productions as "Diary Of Anne Frank" and "The Grass Harp."

Director Maltese has assembled an outstanding cast which includes Lewis Jacobson as Eugene (the young Tom Wolfe), Robert Hathaway as Ben, Rosemary Osborne as Laura, Carol Robinson as Patsy, Ellen Woods as Helen and Carla Miner as Mme. Elizabeth.

Others featured in the cast are William Memobes, Bob Del Passio, Jonas Boly, Lesle Omelianuk, Irene Manger, Alexandria Stefanski, Gerald Jones, Sandra Hager, Lauren Woods, Joe Rose and Jim Thomas.

The novels of Thomas Wolfe are part of the American heritage. They are highly auto-biographic, often presenting very thinly disguised portraits of the people and places he knew. The setting for "Angel" is "Old Kentucky Home," the boarding house and home his mother ran in Asheville.

It is perhaps ironic that a play should be written, based upon the work of Thomas Wolfe. Although he was to become one of America's great novelists, he always harbored a desire to be a playwright. While a student at Chapel Hill, the young Tom Wolfe studied playwriting with the late Fred Koch Sr., whose son, Fred Jr., is a summer resident of Burnsville.

The Ketti Frige play is one of the most highly acclaimed of recent years. It received both the Pulitzer prize and the N. Y. Drama Critics' Award. The Parkway Playhouse production of "Angel" is newly designed by Vern Smith. Curtain time is 8 p. m.

State To Spend \$500,000 A Top Mount Mitchell

The state will spend well over \$500,000 in Yancey County within the near future, Rep. Mark W. Bennett disclosed this week.

Bennett said a transmitting tower for the state's public school educational TV program will be erected on Clingman's Peak near Mount Mitchell at a cost of approximately \$250,000.

He added that another \$300,000 had been earmarked for addition of facilities at Mount Mitchell State Park and for enlargement and improvement of existing facilities.

The park atop the 6,684-foot peak is one of the most popular tourist spots in the state.

Bennett said that he understood the additional facilities will make the park even more alluring to the thousands of tourist who visit Western North Carolina each year.

Thick Foliage May Hold Up Road To Peak

It will be at least mid-September before the route for the new Burnsville-Mt. Mitchell highway can be pinpointed. The Record learned this week.

State Highway Commission engineers who have been studying the location problem have decided that it will be necessary to "fly" the area and make aerial photographs before committing themselves to a route.

They say that pictures taken now would be virtually worthless. A true picture of what must be cooped with cannot be obtained until the leaves have fallen from the trees, they said.

Meanwhile, Nick Stigallo, developer for the Illinois farm whose plans for a multi-million dollar resort in the Mt. Mitchell area inspired construction of the road, arrived here.



NEW OFFICERS—The Yancey County Chamber of Commerce elected last week its officers for the coming year. They are (left to right): Charles Gillespie, vice president; Mrs. Grace Banks, secretary-treasurer; and Ralph Adair, president. (Photo by John Hensley)

Shepherd Gets Top Lion Post

Raymond Shepherd of Burnsville was installed as zone chairman of the Lions Club Monday Night at a meeting on Grandfather Mountain.

Shepherd is immediate past president of the Burnsville club. He was accompanied to the installation ceremonies by Jack Kelly and Paul Wooten, president and secretary, respectively, of the local organization.