

# THE YANCEY RECORD

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## "The Corn Is Green" At Playhouse Friday And Saturday Nights

By: Joyce Anderson  
THE CORN IS GREEN, by Emyln Williams, the story of a great-hearted school teacher's struggles to help an ignorant, but talented, Welsh miner to rise above his stifling station will be presented for two performances, Friday and Saturday, July 31 and August 1 at the Parkway Playhouse.

The part of Miss Moffat, the resolute school-teacher who liberates the Welsh boy from a sordid life, is played by Miss Lee Trujillo, a guest star at the Playhouse, whose many acting credits include Alma in "Summer and Smoke", which was directed by Mr. Mike McElhaney, director of this evening's production of "The Corn is Green."

A basically autobiographical work, THE CORN IS GREEN is the real-life story of a Miss S. G. Cook and the author, Emyln Williams. While teaching underprivileged miners' children in Flintshire, North Wales, Miss Cook uncovered the talented

Williams; with her encouragement he went on to win a scholarship to Oxford and become a successful playwright.

Morgan Evans, played by Jack Rice, a member of the Parkway Drama Workshop, represents Williams himself. In the play, his talent is first revealed by a composition he has written for Miss Moffat; "... So the mine is dark. . . . But when I walk through the Tan. . . shaft, in the dark I can touch with my hands the leaves on the trees, and underneath. . . where the corn is green."

The local squire whose obstinacy presents an obstacle to Miss Moffat's school is played by Lauren K. Woods; a further impediment to Morgan Evans' progress is the seductive Bessie Watty, a Cockney trollop, played by Barbara Abbate. Bessie's mother, a reformed shoplifter, is portrayed by Gail Kellstrom.

Suzanne Hendry and Edward Anderson play Miss Moffat's aides in the schoolhouse. Miss Renbry and John Geronwy Jones, a hopeful old maid and a dour Welshman.

Supporting roles are played by Edgar Hay, Mayon Weeks, Al N. Midgette, Carol Ann Mendoza, Leslie Ann Charleston, Jon Cutala, Bob Taylor, and Eleanor Smith.

THE CORN IS GREEN is directed by the Chairman of Performing Arts from Bennett College, New York, Mike McElhaney; he will be assisted by Judith Rose Nann, a member of the Parkway Playhouse Drama Workshop.

## Two New Methodist Pastors In County

Two new Methodist pastors moved into Yancey County around the middle of June. Rev. Thomas Wallace Weeks and Rev. Gordon E. Keeler.

Rev. Weeks is a native of North Carolina. He is a graduate of Enfield High School and of Duke University where he received a BA degree in 1954 and a BD degree in 1957. He is married to the former Elizabeth Wyatt of Morganton, N. C. They have four daughters, Linda, age 5; Julie, age 4; Laura age 2½; and Karen, age 1.

Rev. Weeks served for six years as pastor of the McAdenville Methodist Church in the Gastonia district. He comes to Yancey County to serve as pastor of the Bald Creek Methodist Circuit.

Rev. Gordon E. Keeler has served in the Methodist ministry for 31 years. He retired from active service in June of this year at the Methodist annual conference session in Junauska. He is a graduate of Asbury College in Wilmore, Ky. He was pastor of the French Broad Avenue Methodist Church in Asheville from 1938 to 1950; he served in the Reeves-Brownview circuit in the Candler area for ten years; and in the Azalea-Tabernacle circuit for the past four years, until his retirement in June. He has one son, Raymond L. Keeler, who lives with his father. His wife is deceased. Even though he has retired he has been assigned as associate pastor of the Bald Creek Charge to serve at Borings Chapel Methodist Church on Jacks Creek. He and his son are living in the Jacks Creek Community.

Mr. Don Noblett who has been pastor at Bald Creek three years, has been assigned to the West Franklin Charge in Macon County. He will be entering the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga. this fall. He graduated from Mars Hill College with a BA degree in June. He will serve the Franklin Charge and commute to Atlanta where he will further his education.



Miss Judy Darlene Wildermuth is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Wildermuth of Rocky Mount, who announce the engagement to James Calvin Byrd, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Byrd of Green Mountain. An August wedding is planned in Mount.

## Street Will Assume Library Duties August 3

The Avery Mitchell-Yancey Regional Library Board met at Burnsville Monday, July 27, and unanimously elected Willie C. Street as Assistant Librarian for the Tri-County Library.

Street is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Don Street of Bakersville. He was educated in the Public Schools of Mitchell County and attended Appalachian State Teachers' College at Boone one year. He then transferred to East Tennessee State University and received his degree from that institution in August, 1963.

Street will assume his duties as Assistant Librarian the first Monday in August.

## "Harvey" Good Excursion Into Slapstick

BY: MARIETTA ATKINS

"Harvey" hopped along in successfully hilarious fashion.

The zaniest character of the evening was Blanche Kelly in the role of Veta Louise Simmons. Sprightly throughout, her funniest scenes included the moments of eye-drooping, cooling mistaken confidence in junior psychiatrist Sanderson (Mervyn Deskins) at her initial attempt to have brother Elwood committed to Chumley's Rest and her disheveled, hose-hanging reappearance at home following her brief accidental involvement. Her jerky, clawing hands and trembling tones as she gasped out her sufferings to testy, glasses-wiping old Judge Gaffney (Mayon Weeks) and her gawky daughter, Myrtle Mae (Suzanne Hendry) were delightful.

Somewhat more subdued was alcoholic brother Elwood P. Dowd, but as played by W. C. ("Mutt") Burton, he appeared to be a rather pleasant old mellow sot, both in and out of his continued duet with the invisible Harvey. His flaccid eye-glitters during a chance telephone conversation with a female magazine salesman, the arch looks at Harvey concerning the nature of young Dr. Sanderson's and nurse Kelly's (Leslie Charleston) "mistake" during the fervent apology at Chumley's Rest, his affable incomprehending repeated insistence "Let's all go down to Charlie's and have a drink" later at Chumley's Rest—all-in-all, the impression was of a slightly exasperating sort for society aspirants. Veta Louise and Myrtle Mae to have to live with, but otherwise harmless.

A mischievous scene-stealer who proved endearingly funny was attendant Wilson. Played by Robert William Taylor as an uncouth personage with a quite creditable hillbilly accent, Wilson remained unawed by anyone. With his foolish grin as he picked at his white jacket, he first became notable in his exuberant leap-and-jump description of the capture of an unreasonably difficult Mrs. Simmons, but this fine moment was followed by many others. Not the least of them was the conoling pat on the shoulder rendered a by then Erzye/intimidated Dr. Chumley (Lauren K. Woods) while Wilson himself retained an appropriately deadpan expression throughout the good doctor's babbling pleas not to leave him.

As for Dr. Chumley, Woods, in a dark suit, looked the part and the tones of interest in his "What's the matter" to Mrs. Simmons, following her discovery of the picture of Elwood and Harvey placed over her mother's picture on the mantel, was quite professional. His reduction to a finger-chewing status following drinking acquaintance with Harvey was a splendid gibe at the psychiatric profession.

As for Harvey himself, his most imposing moment was perhaps the aftermath of his introduction to imposing matron Chauvenet (Gail L. Kellstrom). Mrs. Chauvenet's tentative fit into the air where Harvey was supposed to be standing, with gloved hand which gradually wed, were most amusing. It was, however, most of the other moments in the play, a road excursion into slapstick.

## McCurry Promoted To 2nd Lieut.

CHERRY POINT, N. C. (PHT-NC) — Marine Second Lieutenant Kenneth D. McCurry, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. F. McCurry of Burnsville, N. C., upon being promoted to his present rank July 1, had his bars pinned on his wife, the former Miss Max L. Fox of Burnsville and Major R. K. Wood, Officer-in-Charge, Sub Unit One, Marine Air Base Squadron 27, a unit of the Second Marine Aircraft Wing, Fleet Marine Force at the Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, N. C.

A graduate of Burnsville High School, 2nd Lt. McCurry entered the service in June 1952.

## Eighth Annual Arts & Crafts Festival Will Get Underway On August 8th

By: Joyce Anderson

Early Saturday morning, August 8, on the town square in Burnsville, the eighth annual Arts & Crafts Festival will get underway.

Initiated and continued under the auspices of Gordon R. Bennett of the Parkway Playhouse, with the support of the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce, the Burnsville crafts fair is unique in that the craftsmen demonstrate what they can do. The

participants, wherever possible, do not merely exhibit but can be observed in the actual craftmaking process in which they excel.

A distinguishing feature of the Burnsville fair is the presence of Daniel Boone, VI. His forge, located in the outskirts of Burnsville, is a community landmark and tourist attraction with a functional steam engine visible in back of the building made entirely by Mr. Boone. An expert

machinist, the rambling work area he occupies contains a quantity of oversize machinery. At the Fair he will be busy forging with hammer and anvil.

Warla Lea of the Celso Community will be demonstrating the pottery-making process in its various stages. With her she will have a pottery wheel to make examples of the ceramics for which she is well-known. A fascinating craft to watch, the clay takes shape from her hands effortlessly—or seemingly so—as the wheel turns.

Several other local craft products will be presented: cane-bottom chairs, bark baskets, woven materials, gem work, preserves.

The ladies of the Higgins Memorial Church will operate a concession stand at the Fair. The food provided will be in keeping with the Fair, in that it will all be homemade.

The entertainment program will include a puppet show by Girl Scout Troop 88, whose leader is Mrs. Coletta, square dancing led by Mr. Robert Peterson, and folk singing. Mr. Doug Terrell of Mars Hill College, who is acting as Music Director for the coming Parkway Playhouse presentation, LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE, will present a few songs from the show. A member of the Parkway Playhouse Drama Workshop from Fayetteville, Mayon Weeks, will accompany himself on the guitar; Pat Powers, costumer for the Playhouse, will also sing ethnic folk songs.

Booths are being constructed by members of the Playhouse, who will also supply electrical power where it is needed, under the direction of chief electrician, Gerald F. Jones. Any person who has not made arrangements to participate in the Fair, and would like to do so, may contact the Director, Harry Greene.

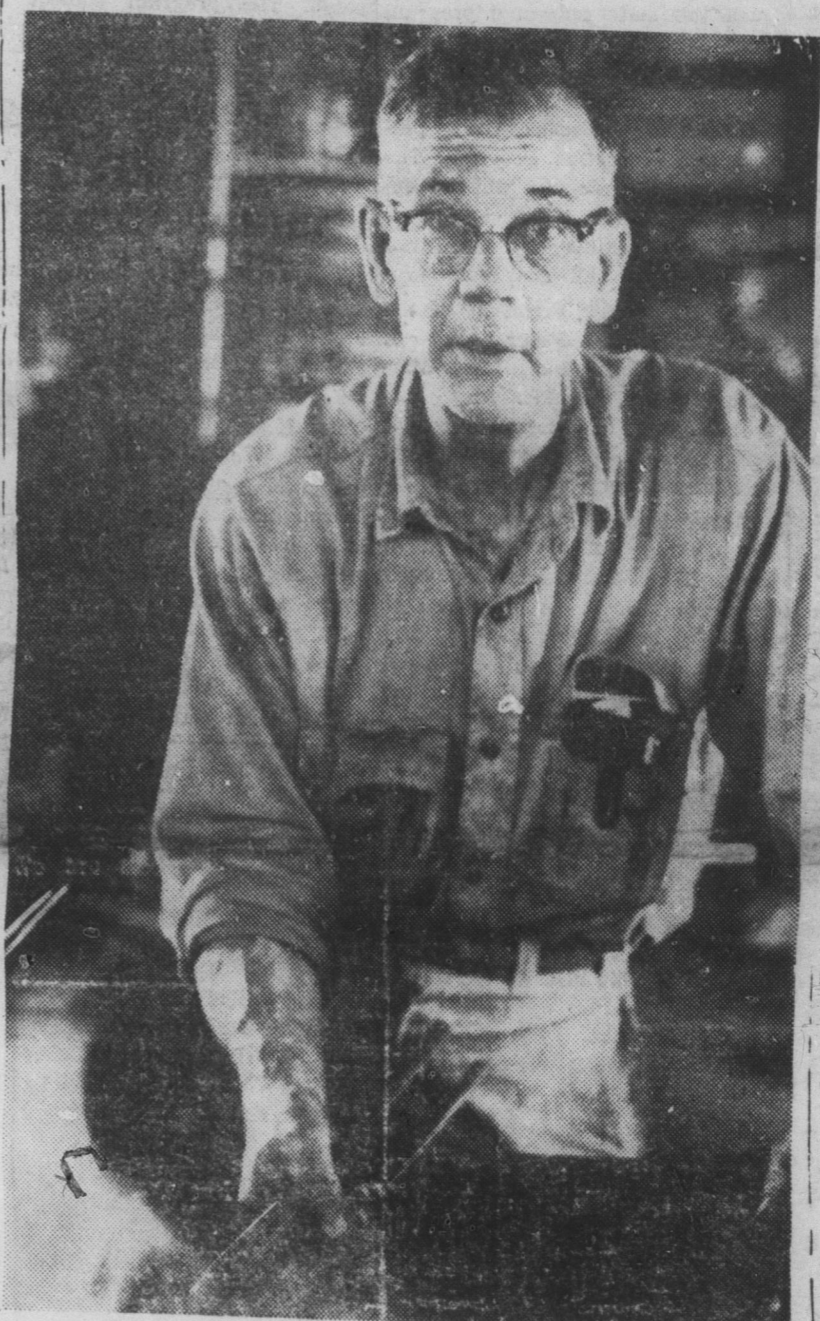


Photo by A. T. Schneider  
Yancey County's Daniel Boone preparing to remove iron from gorge to the anvil where it will be handwrought into a beautiful piece.



Sylvia Schwintzer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Schwintzer of RFD 5, Burnsville, is among 17 students, shown above, in the creative writing area at the Governor's School in Winston-Salem this summer.



DRESS REVUE—Top honors in the state 4-H dress revue were announced during state 4-H Club Week in Raleigh. Shown above are (left to right) Ramona Bowlitch, Yancey County, 3rd place; Janie Shipley, Watauga County, 1st place; Harriet McRae, Anson County, 2nd place.



Photo by A. T. Schneider  
Lee Trujillo and Jack Rice in a scene from "The Corn Is Green"



Photo by A. T. Schneider  
Lee Trujillo and Barbara Abbate in scene from "The Corn Is Green"

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U.S. SAVINGS BONDS.