

THE YANCEY RECORD

Dedicated To The Progress Of Yancey County

Volume 30

Burnsville, N.C.

Thursday, July 28, 1966

Number Forty Eight



W. RAYMOND TAYLOR

W. Raymond Taylor Directs 'Our Town' At Playhouse

After a long absence from the Parkway Playhouse in Burnsville, W. Raymond Taylor, nick-named by his students "Teach," returns to direct the beloved American classic "Our Town." Mr. Taylor started the theatre department at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, then called the Woman's College, and is also founder of the Parkway Playhouse in 1947. He and his son now operate the Stage Decoration and Supplies Co. in Greensboro.

During the opening season in 1947 "Teach" directed a production of "Our Town" using a cast of students and local Burnsville people; also appearing in that first production was W. C. "Mutt" Burton. Many of the original cast will be returning to work with Mr. Taylor this year. "Mutt" Burton will repeat his famous role as the Stage Manager. Also returning with Mutt for this 20th Anniversary production will be Hardy Root, Exum Lewis, and Bill Banks. Other local people appearing will be Randy Banks, Elizabeth Bennett, Chris Koch, Phyllis Downing, and Marsha Banks.

The play, which won the Pulitzer Prize, has been done by people everywhere, all over the world. The story begins in 1901 in Grover's Corners, N. H. It tells of the Gibbs and the Webb families and how their lives are intertwined, of their joys, disappointments, loves, and sorrows. John Mason Brown said that it is "more than an adventure in playgoing... a spiritual experience."

Another event of interest at the Parkway Playhouse this weekend is the presentation of a play for young people, on Saturday, July 30. There will be two performances for youngsters of all ages—one at 10:30 and one at 2:00 p. m. The play is being directed by Diana Lawrence, assistant to the managing director, with a cast of Playhouse actors and local talent as well. The play is "The Unwicked Witch," by Madge Miller. It is full of fun as well as suspense and mischief. Admission is general for these presentations and no reservations need be made.

Lions Will Meet Tonight

Burnsville Lions Club will meet tonight at the Amberjack at 7 p. m. Club officials urge that every member be present to discuss and plan for the next fiscal year of Lions International.

The Lions Club in Burnsville is active in aiding the blind and in the preservation of sight. The Eye Clinic held regularly at the Health Center here is sponsored by the local club. And Lions in North Carolina sponsor the Eye Bank in this state.

Lions International has active clubs in every country in the world except those controlled by Communism.

Head Start Group Meets Today

The Head Start Development Advisory Committee will meet again Thursday, July 28, at 2 p. m. in the Court House, according to Miss Ethel Boone, supervisor. The committee is to help the local Project Head Start unite persons who are working in or interested in Project Head Start, as well as to encourage public support and help teachers and parents work together in needed areas.

At the first meeting of parents, teachers and aides held Thursday, July 21 at the Court House a constitution was adopted. Guest speaker was Miss Jane Wentworth, a state nutrition advisor. Miss Wentworth pointed out that nutritional anemia is a common health problem of children. She urged the feeding of more fresh fruits and vegetables to supply needed vitamins and minerals, and perhaps a decrease in milk. Fewer sweets were recommended for better teeth. Health also will be improved by screening and treatments, under Mrs. Fajerie Carr, nurse, it was announced.

The third Head Start meeting will be Thursday, August 4, at 2 p. m. in the Court House. All persons interested are invited to come to these meetings as well as to help in the local school programs.

Newly elected officers include Mrs. Thomas Weeks, chairman; Mrs. William McKinney, vice chairman; and Mrs. James Neuhauser, secretary-reporter.

Drought Damages Some Areas

Several Northwestern Bank managers in a meeting in North Wilkesboro Wednesday indicated that the economy of the farming industry in the Piedmont section of North Carolina will be lowered because of drought. Although, they stated, many farmers used irrigation on tobacco crops, the total leaf crop will be lowered as well as other crops if rain does not fall soon.

There is little damage to crops in this area due to lack of rainfall at the present time. However, a continuation of hot dry weather will bring on crop damage in the mountain counties.

Lower elevation crops are in a better condition than those on high hillsides. To the present time corn grown for the silo is pretty well grown off on most farms. But it has been noted that some tobacco crops have been "stunted" because of lack of moisture.

Plans For Annual Crafts Fair Begin

On August 12th and 13th for the tenth consecutive year the Village Green of Burnsville will become the show place for the rich cultural heritage of Yancey and neighboring counties.

Master craftsmen will exhibit their work under bright colored canopies and the swishing skirts of the Cane River Square Dance Team will be seen as the dancers promenade around the statue of war veteran Otway Burns, BUT this year something is different! This year's festival has a new management, a new name, a new favor.

The Arts and Crafts Festival of the past nine years under direction of the Parkway Playhouse has turned over its management to the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce in turn found a new name for its project. The name chosen for the festival is The Mount Mitchell Crafts Festival.

For the first time in the crafts fair history the Chamber of Commerce has decided to have a two day festival in order that people of Yancey and neighboring counties along with out of state visitors will have a better opportunity to view mountain craftsmanship and be entertained by local folk talent.

Among the craftsmen participating in the Mt. Mitchell Crafts Festival is Wyie Blevins, the beloved chair maker of Celio. Mr. Blevins will display and demonstrate

the art of chair making, an art that has been passed down in his family for generations.

Rock hounds will be delighted and fascinated by local lapidary artist Harold Butner as he cuts and polishes native gems. The Chamber of Commerce will also sponsor a field trip to a local mine on August 13th.

For the entertainment and music enthusiast the Chamber of Commerce has invited the popular Apple Cider Singers, Susan Hensley, Bill George and his banjo, and E. L. Beeson will play the sweet mountain music of his hand-crafted dulcimers.

Yancey County's first taxi, a horse drawn carriage loaned by the Pendulum Antique Shop will give youngsters a ride around the village green.

Horse shoe tournaments, sack races, and other mountain games will be offered for all participants.

The goal of this year's festival is to show the people of Yancey county as well as tourists the heritage of our mountain culture. This objective is being carried out by trying to get a wide range of crafts, folk talent, games, costumes and mountain foods that have been handed down from generation to generation.

It is the hope of the Chamber of Commerce that this festival will give all who attend a great deal of pleasure as well as an insight into the past and present of Yancey county.



While curious rock hounds peer over his shoulder, lapidary artist Harold Butner displays the craft he will demonstrate at the Mt. Mitchell Crafts Festival to be held on August 12th and 13th.