

# The Yancey Record

Established July, 1936

TRENA P. FOX, Editor & Publisher

MISS ZOE YOUNG, Associate Editor

THURMAN L. BROWN, Shop Manager

ARCHIE BALLEW, Photographer & Pressman

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY

YANCEY PUBLISHING Company

Second Class Postage Paid at Burnsville, N. C.

THURSDAY, AUG. 4, 1966 NUMBER FORTY-NINE

SUBSCRIPTION RATES \$2.50 PER YEAR

## Scene From Top O' The Hill

By: Jack Kelly

This "ecumenical" brotherhood is spreading like wild-fire. Last week I mentioned about the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh hiring a Methodist to run the Catholic Charities. This week, I see that the National Council of Churches has hired itself a Jesuit priest. This is another first in our great Country's history.

Seems like LBJ pulled a "Harry Truman" last weekend when he made nine speeches in four States all in one day. According to the papers, he really pulled them in! All of the pictures printed show the folks with big smiles and their hands outstretched to shake hands or touch him. This has to prove something. Wonder what the poll-taking people think about it?

Personally, I am more interested in what happens with a bride and groom when three extra men (Secret Service Agents) accompany them on a Honeymoon. Looks like they will always have a "fourth" for Bridge.

The impending White House marriage proves the value of the family. Remember the fine feelings you had when you saw a picture of the late JFK with his little ones? A similar feeling now comes when you see LBJ and the daughter to be married. Makes everything worthwhile. My pappy claimed that a son stood you right at one hundred dollars a pound on his 21st birthday and a daughter cost the same on her 18th birthday. I checked it out on my own sons and it is remarkable how close to the mark he came.

This column is from Washington but the Heavens only know where the next one will emanate from. I have only been back for two days and, already, the various Chiefs are casting traveling glances my way. Oh well, if you can't be in Burnsville, it doesn't really matter where

you are, does it? Up here it is hot and sultry, with promises of rain.

If you want to win two-bits, just make a bet that we will have a man on the moon before November of '68.

The best two bucks you can spend will get you a copy of the latest U. S. Government Organization Manual. It is published by the office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration. Order it from the Government Printing Office. It covers everything you can think of, and a whole lot more. This book shows how and where your Government is, which is everywhere. Most of which is all for the good, despite what some critics say. Too many people, when some particular piece of legislation disagrees with their notion on the matter, are prone to cry "Wolf!" and talk about what happens when "a camel gets his nose in the tent" (an old Arabian desert legend which claims the camel's backsides follow his nose and makes the tent rather crowded) but, when you leaf through this book, you will find that our Government does not do the camel trick.

Special for the Ladies — Luci's wedding cake will be a summer-fruit, seven-layered, white-frosted one with sugar-swans and arches all over it.

Up in this area, "Abe" Lincoln, the husband of Eve'lyn Lincoln who was President Kennedy's private secretary for twelve years, is running for Congress in Maryland. "Abe" brought a new wrinkle to campaigning. He has an "office on wheels" consisting of a fully equipped Volkswagen-type of thing and he vows "You won't have to come to Washington to see your Congressman. He will be at (name of town) every (day of the week) from (names the time)". Quite an idea. New in this area.

## IT NEVER FAILS



## 'Our Town' Is Given Aesthetic Interpretation At Playhouse

By Hope Bailey

The 20th anniversary production of Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" was given a smooth, aesthetic, and enjoyably slow-paced interpretation by the huge cast of thirty-one local and Parkway Playhouse company actors.

"Our Town," which opened last Friday night to a receptive audience, was under the skillful direction of W. Raymond Taylor, who founded the Playhouse here twenty seasons ago and who directed a production of "Our Town" that first season of 1947.

Several of the original cast returned to work with Mr. Taylor in this season's production, including W. C. "Mutt" Burton, (referred to as the "Reidsville Editor" of the Greensboro Daily News) who played the role of the "stage manager" with his usual aplomb, distinction, and expert power of insight into the character of any role he undertakes.

Hardy Root, of Greensboro, another veteran of the 1947 production, gave an ingenuous performance as Editor Webb of The Grover's Corners Sentinel; and Exum Lewis and Bill Banks, both of Burnsville, returned to give their good, simple-hearted characterizations of Dr. and Mrs. Gibbs.

The Parkway Playhouse production of this Pulitzer Prize winning play opened with only one glaring stage lamp creating an eerie effect on the otherwise bare stage. Mr. Burton made his entrance and skilfully directed the "assistant stage managers" as they casually paced a few chairs, tables, step-ladders; and, as the "stage manager" said a few moments later, "a couple of trellises for those who feel they have to have scenery." Mr. Wilder requires no other scenery for his play, yet it is remarkably realistic.

Mr. Burton, after a while in place, leisurely strolled to the side of the stage, leaned against the proscenium pillar lazily smoking a pipe as he began his narration of the play.

As the lights came up the audience soon lost all awareness of the almost bare stage and easily visualized the little town of Grover's Corners, New Hampshire at about the turn of the century, and surrendered to the spell of Mr. Burton's sonorous voice as he described the town and the people living there.

John Mason Brown said of this play, "... an exceptionally personal play. More than most plays, (since by its sweet simplicity it seeks to get in contact with the inmost nerves of our living, it is the kind of drama which depends upon what we bring to it. . . . Though laid in a New Hampshire village, it has the human heart as its real setting."

Among the many members of the Playhouse company who appeared in this infinitely tender play were Bill Cwikowski as a pleasingly timid and gentle George Gibbs, who falls in love with Emily Webb, played with delicacy and charm by Becky Reeder; Maynard French, a member of the UNC-G theatre department, who gave an extremely credible portrayal of the infamous choir director, Simon Stimson; Jo Carson as a delightfully juvenile Rebecca Gibbs; and Armando Contardi, who played the role of the milkman with a perfect New England accent, acquired especially for this role.

Other performers from the Burnsville area, who contributed outstanding performances in this poignant production, were Elizabeth Bennett, Phyllis Downing, Chris Ketch, Randy Banks, Burke Downing and Marla Banks.

Since Mr. Wilder's "Our Town" requires little scenery, lighting and costuming become even more significant than in most plays. Costume Assistant Rosemary Sil's deserves the highest praise for the early-1900 costumes, as does Technician Stephen Edelstein, who created the excellent lighting effects, all of which added to the magical illusion of reality.

## GRASSROOTS OPINION

LAKE WALES, FLA.,

NEWS: "There is a lot of hazy thinking over the country as to education. The mere fact that a boy or girl manages to get a college diploma does not necessarily testify conclusively that their education has been a success. It takes more than dates, facts, formulae and figures to make an educated human being. There are men and women who have never been inside a college, but who, nevertheless, are better educated than some of the young graduates. When you know what we mean by this, you are beginning to show signs of education yourself."

MUNSING, MICH., NEWS:

"Government handouts to a selfish, lazy public are making our governmental costs go up, up, and up, as much as anything and it is hard to see when and where it's going to stop."

TOWER CITY, PA., HER-

ALD: "Inflation means to 'blow up'. It can be conjugated thus: 'Inflate, inflated, busted.' Those who believe inflation can be controlled at any desired point may also believe that an atom bomb can be exploded just a little."

JEFFERSON, OHIO, GA-

ZETTE: "There are the 'free' lunches for school, the 'free' milk—not that some of the indigent children do not need (of course they do) but when do they start learning that they must pay for all this free loading, and pay dearly? . . . Everywhere you turn, the people of this once proud, once free country, are looking for a handout from the federal government."

FREDONIA, KAN., CITI-

ZEN: "The Agriculture Department is now trying to encourage the growing of more wheat. Our memory is pretty short, but it doesn't seem too long ago, that wheat was the nastiest word in the Department's vocabulary and farmers were skunks for contributing to the surplus. How time changes things."

DON'T OVERLOAD YOUR BOAT!

AND PLAY SAFE—SEE THAT EACH PERSON WEARS A LIFE JACKET. (CUSHION-TYPE PRESERVERS OFTEN FLOAT OUT OF REACH.)

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