

# THE YANCEY RECORD

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William Cwikowski playing his girl Laura, rehearsing for the part of Eugene Gant (Thomas Wolfe) and Janet Whisnant, Friday's opening of "Look Homeward Angel".

## Parkway Playhouse Opens Twenty-Third Season

For twenty-two seasons, Parkway Playhouse has presented the theatre in Burnsville. This season should prove to be no exception.

One need only look at the season's opening presentation for an example of the high caliber of shows Parkway will present for 1968. Look Homeward Angel is Ketti Fring's stage adaptation of the novel of the same title which was authored by Thomas Wolfe, the great American novelist and one of North Carolina's most honored sons.

The play recreates the heart warming story of Wolfe's youth which was spent in nearby Asheville of the 1920's — as he, himself lived it. Look Homeward Angel recreates the life of the Wolfe family and the events that took place in their boarding house, "The Old Kentucky Home", the Dixieland of his play.

Look Homeward Angel is capable of moving an audience to tears one moment and causing tears of laughter in the next. Here is truly a show for every single member of your family—one it is hoped, you will never forget.

Look Homeward Angel has always proved to be a popular show with North Carolina audiences. This season makes the third time Parkway has presented this play. The show has always played to capacity audiences and at final curtain has left them a little warmer than at the moment of their arrival.

This season every effort has been made to make this the best production to date of Look Homeward Angel, Director Lauren K. Woods, in his 6th year at Parkway, has insisted upon keeping his play as realistic as possible. Frank Silherstein's set is as close to the real Dixieland as the stage permits.

Recently Director Woods

brought his entire cast to the Wolfe home in Asheville for an actual rehearsal upon the boarding house porch, the setting for the play. Woods felt the cast benefitted by seeing

the actual locale where their individual characters lived.

The cast itself is a most capable one. Portraying Eugene Gant, Thomas Wolfe in the play, will be William Cwikowski, beginning his fourth year at Parkway. Bill, a graduate student at Smith College in Massachusetts, is a fine actor having played Eugene once before while a student at Monmouth College in West Long Branch, New Jersey. Last year's audiences will remember him for his excellent portrayal of Mr. Maningham in Angel Street.

Janet Whisnant of Asheboro, N. C., portrays Laura James, Eugene's first love. At Gardner-Webb College, Janet recently appeared in such shows as Our Town and South Pacific.

W. C. "Mutt" Burton, a familiar face to Parkway audiences, once again brings his fine acting talents to the part of W. O. Gant, Eugene's father. Mutt has been a favorite at Parkway since he appeared in the first production of Our Town, 22 years ago during the Playhouse's first season. This week, 22 years later he is still pleasing audiences.

Blanche Kelly, also a familiar personage at the Parkway Playhouse will bring her professional talents to a difficult role. This year Blanche will portray Eliza Gant, Eugene's mother.

Last year's audiences enjoyed Blanche's portrayal of Opal in the Comedy hit, Everybody Loves Opal.

Madame Elizabeth will be portrayed by Mary V. Cwikowski. Mary V., the wife of Will-

## Bowditch On Duty In Vietnam

WITH U. S. COMBAT AIR FORCES, Vietnam — Airman First Class Harold E. Bowditch, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Bowditch of Rt. 5, Burnsville, N. C., is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam.

Airman Bowditch, an airframe repairman, is a member of the Pacific Air Forces. Before his arrival in Vietnam, he was assigned to the 19th Military Airlift Squadron at Kelly AFB, Texas.

A graduate of East Yancey High School, he attended Western Carolina University.

William Cwikowski met Bill last year when they starred opposite each other in Parkway's production of Angel Street. A professional relationship blossomed into love and this year they return to Parkway as husband and wife.

Robert Leh, a member of Parkway's '66 Company returns this season. Bob plays Ben Gant, Eugene's brother. Two seasons ago Bob appeared in such shows as Our Town and See How They Run.

Rounding out an experienced cast will be Sharon Mills, Claire Marty, Gerald Carter, Carlton Ward, James Burgin, Julia Willis, Jane Banks, Burke Downing, Charles Jayce, Laura Gilden, Stephen Edelstein, Fames Kuntz, and Edward Barrett. Assistant to Mr. Woods will be Larry Bloom.

When the curtain rises on performance nights, July 12, 13, 15, 16, every effort will have been made to make Thomas Wolfe's, Look Homeward Angel an evening of theatre to remember.

## Hylemon Awarded Bronze Star, Other Medals



Specialist E-5 Daniel R. Hylemon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hylemon of Bald Creek, left a couple of weeks ago for Hunter Air Force Base, Savannah, Ga., after a year spent in Viet Nam and a 57 day leave with his family.

Before leaving Viet Nam, Hylemon received a number of commendations and citations, as well as the Purple Heart.

Hylemon received the Bronze Star Medal for distinguishing himself by outstanding meritorious service in connection with ground operations during the period May 1967 to May 1968.

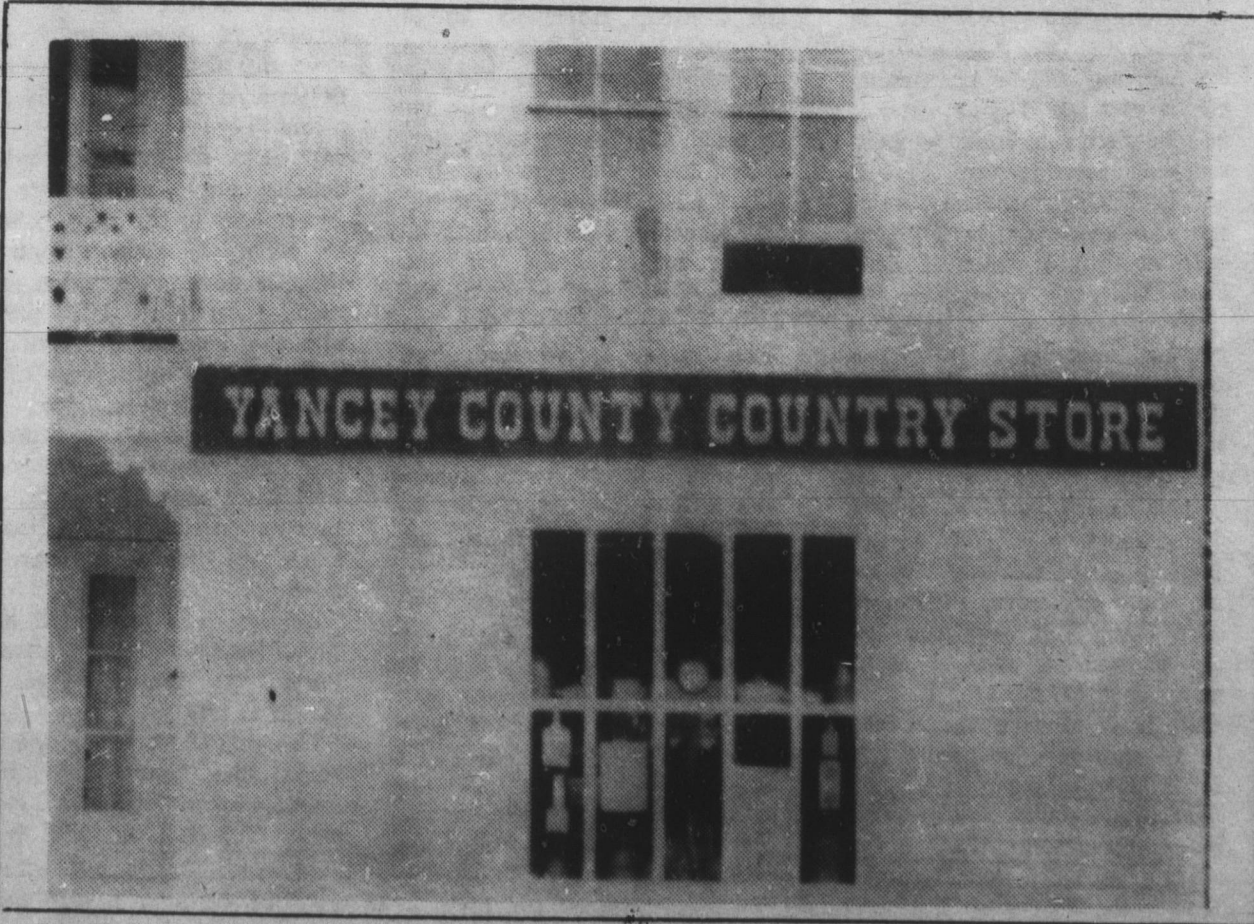
The Air Medal was presented to Spec Hylemon for distinguishing himself by meritorious achievement while participating in sustained aerial flight in support of combat ground forces of the Republic of Vietnam during the period May 20, 1967 to May 29, 1967.

Hylemon was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for Heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. On Jan. 31, 1968, while serving as a crew chief of an armed helicopter during a combat mission near Quant Tri, when a helicopter was downed in enemy controlled territory, Spec. Hylemon's aircraft landed near the disabled helicopter. Disregarding his own safety, he exposed himself to the enemy fire as he left his aircraft to assist with the evacuation of the injured crew members.

The Purple Heart was given Spec Hylemon for wounds received in action on August 9, 1967. The Purple Heart is one of the oldest Medals given by the President of the U. S. It was established by General George Washington at Newburgh, N. Y., August 7, 1782.

Hylemon's First Cavalry Division Combat Certificate reads: "Let it hereby be known that SP5 Daniel R. Hylemon has faithfully served his country with Troop C, 1st Sqdn, 9th Cavalry in the Republic of Vietnam for the period April 1967 to April 1968.

We must all agree that this is a "heap of honors" to come to one 20 year old youngster. Yancey County should be justly proud of SP5 Daniel Hylemon, as well as many other Yancey County boys who have distinguished themselves. Contrast this, please, with young men in other areas who are tearing down and burning our Flag and burning their draft cards!



Mrs. Downing opens 'country store' on east corner of Square.