

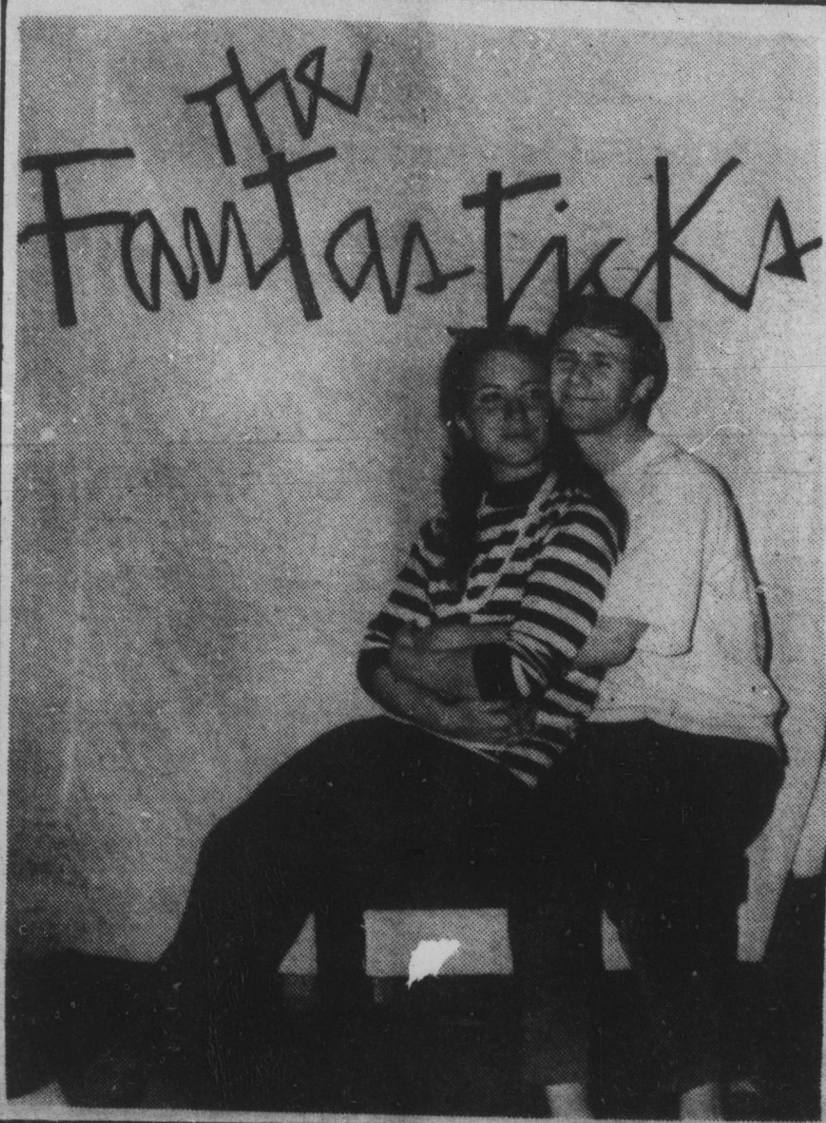
THE YANCEY RECORD

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Hit Musical 'Fantasticks' Opens At The Parkway Playhouse

When you enter the Parkway Playhouse this week, July 19, 20, 21, 22, you will behold a platform stage built out beyond the normal stage line. There, upon it, will be a tattered drape, hung loosely across its breadth. It is lettered, "The Fantasticks". Slowly the lights fade and a quick tempted overture begins. Gaily dressed characters slowly enter and bow politely to the audience. The narrator of the tale is last. He approaches the audience and in song asks them to come along with him into the fantasy of the play—"Try to remember the kind of September when life was slow and oh so mellow". He wants each member to follow along, leave the outside world at the theatre's entrance and enjoy the beauty of the world of The Fantasticks.

The above scene is one that has been repeated to audiences all over the world. In nine years of its existence, The Fantasticks has allowed audiences to leave their own complicated worlds behind and enter into its own special unique world. Whether it is done in English, or the many languages it has been translated into, each time it permeates its own distinct magic.

The Tom Jones and Harvey Schmitt musical masterpiece has the distinct honor of being the longest running play in the history of the New York theatre. It is still running there, and it appears there is no end in sight.

The Fantasticks is a beautiful story, told simply, unlike the average musical. There are

only eight characters in the play. Together, as an ensemble, they tell a "parable about love". The audience meets Luisa and Matt, two young lovers, as Act I takes place in the Romantic Moonlight.

The Fathers, the audience learns, are pretending to feud

in the hope that since children do whatever you tell them not to do, this will bring the couple closer together.

Love blossoms, until Act II arrives. Here, the story moves to the sunlight and Matt and Luisa begin to see the world in its full reality.

The Fantasticks moves along and the story unfolds to some of the wisest dialogue and prettiest music to come out of the musical theatre in many a year. The original cast recording has sold more copies than any record of its kind.

Director C. Robert Jones, who last year directed the hit "mellodrammer", Pure As The Driven Snow, has collected an experienced cast for this most worthy musical.

Karen Lucia brings a professional singing voice to the role of the girl, a role, incidentally, she has portrayed twice before the audience's approval. Karen has sung in night clubs and dinner theatres in her native New Jersey. A senior at Monmouth College in New Jersey, she has appeared in numerous musicals including the leads in Little Mary Sunshine, Damn Yankees, and Bye, Bye Birdie. In Parkway's Li'l Abner two years ago she brought Daisy Mae to life in song for Burnsville.

Paul Young Retires From Yancey R.R.



The retirement of Mr. Paul B. Young as agent and "general faciotum" of the Yancey Railroad Company and Express Agency marks 27 years in railroading for him, two of which were spent with the C.C. & O. Railroad (1921-22), 13 with the Black Mountain Railroad 1942-55), and 12 years with the Yancey Railroad.

There is hardly any job in railroading that Paul has not been called upon to do at some time. In the early days at Bur-

Robert Bodford, who makes his first appearance on the Playhouse stage, portrays the young boy, Bob, just a sophomore at UNC-G, has appeared in such musicals as Carousel and Oklahoma. He has also portrayed the difficult role of King Arthur in the musical Camelot. Most recently at UNC-G Bob sang in A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.

Robert Leh who portrays the narrator returns for a second season at Parkway. Last week Bob played Ben Gant in Look Homeward Angel. Two years ago at Parkway he appeared in such shows as Li'l Abner, Our Town and See How They Run. Bob is a freshman at the North Carolina School of the Arts.

William King, a graduate student in theatre at Ohio University, will be seen as the girl's father. Bill last year at Parkway appeared in Everybody Loves Opal, Pure As the Driven Snow and the musical, Once Upon A Mattress. He has also been in such shows as Antigone, Krapp's Last Tape, and Little Mary Sunshine in which, incidentally, he also played Karen Lucia's father as he does here.

Gerald Carter, the boy's father, is a junior at UNC-G. He

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Red Cross Bloodmobile At Armory July 24

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at the Armory in Burnsville Wednesday, July 24, from 1:00 to 6:00 p. m. Dr. W. A. A. Y. Sargent will be the doctor and Mrs. Luellen Honeycutt the nurse in charge. Ladies from Sacred Heart Catholic Church will be in charge of the canteen.

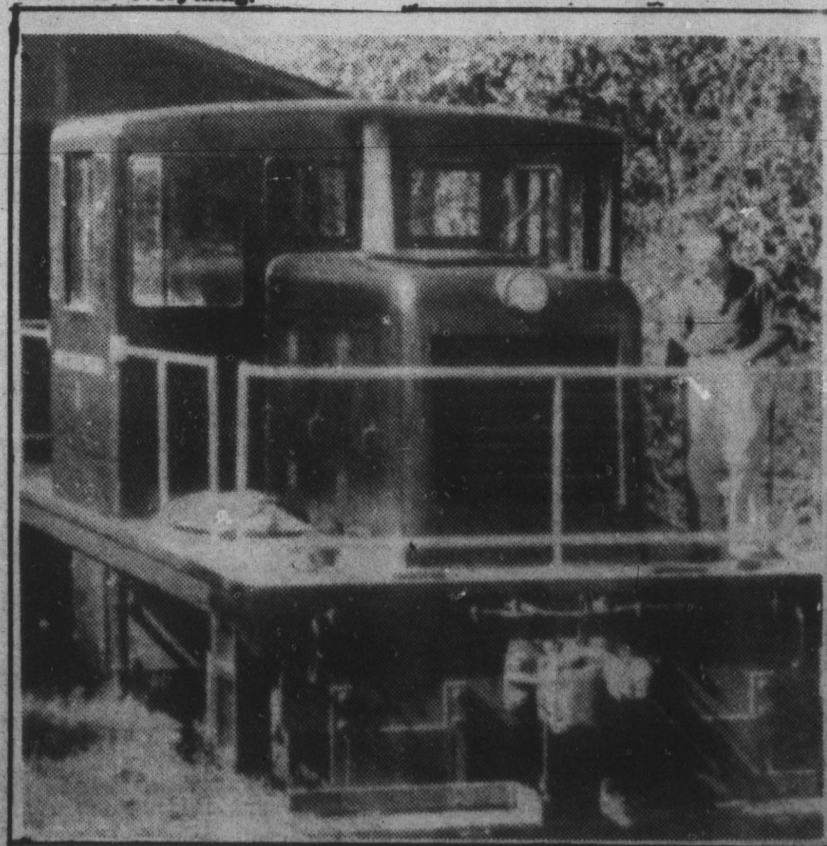
Since this visit is following so soon after the last visit of the Bloodmobile, it is not pos-

sible for those giving blood on the last visit to give blood this time. Therefore, an appeal is

being made for new donors. Anyone between the ages of 18 and 61 is eligible. It is necessary for a person between 18 and 21, if unmarried and not in the armed services, to have the consent of their parents. A person who has ever had hepatitis, jaundice or malaria is permanently disqualified.

few people realize the many advantages of donating blood. First, he is given a partial physical examination (consisting of blood test and blood pressure). If in the opinion of the examining doctor he is not physically able to give blood he is turned down, but is given free coverage for three months just for trying. By donating one pint of blood the donor and his (or her) get one month of insurance. This coverage extends to his children, grandchildren, the parents of both, if over 60, and both sets of grandparents. All this for a few minutes of your time, and a relatively painless and harmless operation. Can you think of better insurance, or an act that would be more worth while.

Yancey County consistently falls short of the goal set. This visit coming so soon after the last rules out those giving blood on that visit. Therefore, it will be necessary for new donors, or persons who did not give on the last visit, but who have given in the past, to come forward. Blood is badly needed at all times, and especially during the summer months when much surgery is performed on school children as well as adults.



Deisel engine used by Yancey R.R.