



## HILLBILLY WORLD ARTICLE OFFERS FACT FRAGMENTS SAYS LOCAL WRITER

(Reprinted from Greensboro Daily News)

BY W. C. BURTON

The title of the piece is "the bittersweet world of the hillbilly girl." It is set like that, in lower-case letters. It appears in the February issue of Cosmopolitan magazine. It is about how girls in and around Burnsville, North Carolina, live and pass the time.

At least that is what it pretends to be about. It is, in fact, as affected and phony as the typography and wording of the title. The piece is by a fellow named John Bowers. He may be a nice guy, personally.

TRUTH IS NOT IN HIM

As the author of a piece about Burnsville, a town I know and love, I find him superficial, trite, false, patronizing, supercilious, archly titillating, and unscrupulous. In other words he is a skillful professional magazine feature writer, and the truth is not in him. If it is, he is going to see that it doesn't come out. It would ruin too many of his stories.

Fragments of truth flicker, if rather feebly, now and then in Mr. Bowers' article, but carefully selected fact and half fact are more frequently passed off as substitutes. Truth is pruned and garnished to the writer's taste and purpose. The technique is familiar; it serves to conceal rather than reveal the true picture.

Bowers even brings in that hoary cliché, by intimation, that moonshining and bootlegging are

standard occupational choices among the mountain men of Yancey County. Yancey is a "dry county," which means that it is legally or nominally dry, not actually dry, just as it does in every "dry county" in the United States. Bootleggers exist but the vast majority of people in Burnsville and Yancey County are as law abiding, upright, decent and moral as those of any place you care to name.

In describing one "mountain girl," Bowers observes that "her accent would be better understood in Elizabethan England of four centuries ago than in the America of today." Since no one actually knows what the speech of Elizabethan England sounded like this is a pretty loose assumption, tossed into the piece

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## Youth Opportunity Task Force Plans Second Annual Yancey Youth Jamboree

Members of the Youth Opportunity Task Force of the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce and teachers from local schools met recently to begin formulating plans for the Second Annual Yancey Youth Jamboree to be held again this summer in conjunction with the Mt. Mitchell Crafts Fair. The Fair including the Jamboree is sponsored annually by the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce and has become one of the outstanding events of the county each year, attracting visitors and craftsmen from far and near.

The Jamboree will be staged two evenings, August 7, 8 with judging and awarding of prizes each evening. Participants in grades 1-6 will perform August 7th with 7-12th grades performing the evening August 8.

Last year's Jamboree consisted of 33 entries with each Yancey County School represented. The Folk Five of East Yancey High School — Janet Crisp, Bonnie Hess, Martha Hess, Patricia Randolph and Jerry Clevenger — was named Grand Champions. South Toe River School's Smooth Dancing Team won the Team Dancing Award. Wanda Hollifield of East Yancey was the Individual Talent Winner; Willoree Baker and Norma Jean Allen of Cane River High School won the Group Talent Award.

As in the past, talent is being recruited through the schools of Yancey County. Participation is open to all regularly enrolled students, grades 1-12 in the county schools. Applications must be

submitted through teacher representative for the Jamboree. Mrs. Virginia Phillips, Bee Log; Mrs. Eva Robertson, Bald Creek; Mrs. Judy Sparks, Cane River; Miss Sarah Hensley, Burnsville; Mrs. Ruth Rice, Clearmont; Mrs. Orlena Williams, Pensacola; Mrs. Louise Hughes, East Yancey; Mrs. Bernice Justice, Micaville; Mrs. Caroline Deyton, South

Toe; and Mrs. Gretchen Robinson, Robinson's School of Music.

The Yancey Youth Jamboree is to provide an opportunity for school children to display talents relating to their rich heritage of folk singing, dancing and music.

James Byrd and Claude Vess are chairmen of the Jamboree Committee.



School Children In Yancey Youth Jamboree Performance

## Town Board Announces Election Day

The Town Board of Burnsville has announced that the bi-annual election of mayor and commissioners will be held in the Town Hall on Tuesday, May 6th.

The town board has appointed John G. Wilson as registrar and Loy McCurry and Philip Ray as judges for the election. Registration books for new qualified voters will be open from Friday, April 18 through Friday, April 25, excluding Sunday. On Saturday, April 19, the books will be open at the Town Hall all day. On other days new residents of Burnsville may register at Mr. John Wilson's home on Longview Drive during the hours 9 A. M. until 5 P. M.

The residence qualification for voting in the town election is residence in the State for one year and in the Town of Burnsville for one month preceding the election.

Challenge day will be on Saturday, April 26, on which day challenges may be entered from 9 A. M. until 3 P. M. at the town office.

Under the election laws of North Carolina governing this municipal election, candidates are not limited to those nominated by mass meetings, and the election is held on a non-partisan basis. Candidates may file to have their names on the ballot up until noon on Saturday, April 26.

The resolution of the town board covering further details of the election is posted in the town office.