

THE YANCEY RECORD

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13TH ANNUAL MT. MITCHELL CRAFT FESTIVAL

By Carolyn Yuziuk

Thousands of people from all over the country are heading for Burnsville once again to attend the Mt. Mitchell Crafts Festival which is held annually on the Burnsville Town Square. This exciting event has become one of the most entertaining to be found anywhere. For two full days, the 8th and 9th of August, from 10 a. m. until 5 p. m., exhibits will be held, there will be demonstrations by expert craftsmen, games and contests, folk songs, square dancing and every other type of talent imaginable — all scheduled in such a manner as to enable the visitor to enjoy all the wonderful events. The Festival culminates at 8:30 p. m. on Saturday when the hilarious comedy THE ODD COUPLE will be performed by the superb actors at the Parkway Playhouse.

The Parkway Playhouse started the Crafts Festival over 12 years ago to give local craftsmen a chance to display and sell their crafts. The Fair grew to be such a huge event that in 1965 the Playhouse requested the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce to assume sponsorship, which they agreed to do. Exhibitors at the festival come

from Watauga, Avery, Mitchell and Yancey Counties and their displays and demonstrations include wrought iron works, wood carvings, hand made dulcimers, pottery, chair making, lapinary, basket weaving, candles, lea-

ther work, spinning wheels, rug making, weaving, needlework, quilts, knitting, dolls and bonnets. 31 craftsmen have entered their wares at the Festival this year. One special event in this year's Crafts Festival will

be the Edd Presnells with their dulcimers. Mr. Presnell is a master craftsman at making dulcimers and has won many ribbons for his art. Mrs. Presnell is well known for her impressive talent on this instrument and we are

looking forward to hearing her on Friday, August 8th, on the Square.

Contests and games include the sack race, three-leg race, egg race, egg roll, horse shoe pitching, bicycle race (bring your own bicycle), egg throwing contest, hidden treasure search, knife throwing contest (bring your own knife), spitting contest (spit a seed), balloon blowing contest, feather race, leap-frog race and sweeping contest (sweep up ping pong balls). A trophy and prizes will be awarded winners.

Also on the Square, the Yancey County Country Store will be open for browsers of all ages to look and marvel at their unique collection of antiques and old timey items on display; and the Chamber of Commerce will have Concession Stands, with ice cream, soft drinks and other refreshments, open during both days of the Crafts Fair. They will be operated by Yancey County teenagers.

A gala undertaking on Saturday, August 9th, will be a chicken Barbeque by the Chamber of Commerce. As in past years, a 60 foot Barbeque Pit will be set on the street in the

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Edd Presnell, Renowned Craftsman At Wood Carving



THE ODD COUPLE

YOUTH JAMBOREE

Last night the Parkway Playhouse opened its fifth production of the season, Neil Simon's hilarious comedy, THE ODD COUPLE. My hat is off to the

ABC Store Defeated

The ABC Store Issue was defeated in the August 5th election by 47 votes. Out of the 600 registered voters in Burnsville, 583 cast their ballots. The vote was 315 against and 268 for the establishment of an ABC Store.

Parkway Company for this show, which is surely destined to be the hit of the season. The production's fast pacing and wry humor kept the opening night audience in stitches. Lauren K. (Woody) Woods, no newcomer to the Playhouse stage, and Bob Waldron are responsible for much of the play's success.

Mr. Woods' Oscar is both sensitive and jovial, the perfect complement to Waldron's nervous Felix with his comical idiosyncracies. Marsha Gitkin and Carol Dreesen are alluring and believable as the two British playmates from upstairs. Other

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Presented in conjunction with the Crafts Fair is the 2nd Annual Yancey Youth Jamboree which will begin the night before the Festival. Mrs. Hubert Hayes, director of Mountain Youth Jamboree of Asheville, will light a candle to get the Jamboree underway tonight, August 7, at 7:30 p. m. and there will follow the most talented and expert folk dancing, square dancing, clogging, and singing the young people of Yancey County have to offer. Tonight will feature 1st through 7th grade students and tomorrow night at 7:30 p. m. our talented 8th thru 12th graders will give a like performance. A Grand Champion Trophy will be awarded each night in addition to awards in several divisions: Folksong, folk ballad, religious singing, buck dancing, smooth square dancing, Western square dancing and

folk dancing. Certificates will be given to each participant in the Jamboree. The Edd Presnells will be present with their dulcimers on Friday night, August 8.

All of the judging of the local talent will be done by judges of other counties. The judges are: Mr. and Mrs. James Malloy of Union Seminary in Richmond, Va. who are very interested in folk music; Mr. Woody Rhodes of Arden, N. C., who is a band director at T. C. Robertson High School, and his wife; Mrs. Anna Hancock of Asheville, who is a longtime associate of the Mt. Youth Jamboree; Mr. Artus Moser of the Parkway Playhouse who

has received wide recognition in the field of folk music and has recorded N. C. folk ballads; and Fred Koch, also of the Parkway Playhouse, who is well known in the theatre world.

Approximately 160 young people will be in competition during the two nights. Many of them are returning again from last year. Many more are making a first appearance. Bill Banks, local businessman, will emcee the program again this year.

The Yancey Youth Jamboree is sponsored by the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce to attract attention to the talented

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Note Of Thanks

We appreciate Frank Moody's assistance with the art work in this special Crafts Festival issue. —Ed.