

Children's Playground Donated

By Carolyn Yuziuk

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Plumer of Miami, Florida, who also are summer residents of the Cattail Creek Community, set aside a substantial sum of money for their teenage daughter's college education. But 18-year-old Penny Plumer never got to college. Her life came to an early and tragic end when the dread cancer cells invaded her body and won the battle for her life.

This happened a year ago or more, and the Plumers, with their generous hearts and love for all children, have donated the money that was to have been for Penny's college education, towards building a children's playground for the Cattail Creek children in Pensacola, N. C.

Percy Threadgill, original builder and developer in Cattail, having given an acre of land to the project, announces that the playground is progressing daily. The ground has been leveled and plans made for a tennis court and other recreational facilities. The Plumers, says Mr. Threadgill, have travelled extensively in Europe and may use some of their delightfully original innovations in completing the playground facilities. There may be picnic tables and benches included for the parents who bring their children to play. He estimates the total cost of the playground may run close to \$10,000.

Mrs. Mary Plumer's story of her daughter's fight for life appeared in the Miami Herald on November 10, 1968 in the form of a letter to her 16 year old son, Chris. It is a plea for her son to stop smoking and "listen" to Penny. The story, entitled "Penny Plumer's Bequest" has been condensed by Reader's Digest who published it last month in their October, 1969 issue.

The Plumers showed their courage and compassion when they made their daughter's story public so that perhaps a lesson could be learned from it. They showed their generous spirit in contributing Penny's "College money" for a playground other children can enjoy. Their selfless act will be remembered by all of us who know their story.



Photo by Asheville Citizen-Times

'Sing Out Asheville' Shown On Tour

'Sing Out Asheville' Program Will Be Sponsored Next Week By E Yancey PTA

The East Yancey PTA is sponsoring "Sing Out Asheville" at a program to be presented in the East Yancey Gym on Friday, November 7, at 7:30 p. m.

Sing Out Asheville has reaped bountiful praise for the talent and enthusiasm of its musical offerings since being founded just over a year ago. It began when local students in Asheville were exposed to the "Up With People" show given in Asheville and heard 300 bright young people from across the country sing unabashedly of patriotism, brotherhood, love of God and hope for a better future, and the response was instant and overwhelming approval.

From all types of homes and from all types of schools, they banded together to form

their own "Sing Out Asheville" patterned after the national organization sponsored by Moral Rearmament.

They practiced songs like "What Color Is God's Skin?" and "Freedom Isn't Free," they organized and elected officers and an action council, and within a few weeks they held a show for an enthusiastic audience of parents and friends. The movement grew and spread, the young people rehearsed and sang. They project a new image of young people who care about people.

Their presence here is a reminder to local youth of how far an idea can go.

Members of "Sing Out Asheville" cast range in age from Junior high through college age. The age limit now

is 15. The group includes a band, the Pioneers, which features guitars, brass, drums, piano and flute. They present special choreography for nearly every song.

Sing-Out Asheville's business affairs are handled by a board of directors composed of Asheville businessmen. They include Joe Kowal, chairman, who is with North American Van Lines sales department; Carl McIntosh, vice president, who is a senior account agent for Allstate Insurance; Charles Mills, treasurer, with the accounting department of Engineering Associates; Jerry Heckler, secretary, who is with the sales department of Fitzpatrick & Sons. Boyce Orr, the group's ex officio member of the board.

Carl McIntosh, vice president of the board, is a former native of Burnsville. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis McIntosh of Burnsville. McIntosh says, "If enough interest is generated by 'Sing Out Asheville', the kids of Yancey County could form a group of their own and present 'Sing Out Yancey!'"

Although the "Sing Out Asheville" group is a non-profit organization, they must charge for appearances to pay expenses for instruments, repairs, etc. Admission to be charged at the door will be \$1.50 for adults and 75¢ for students. Students may buy their own tickets through their schools for only 50¢ if bought in advance.

Panthers To Play Last Game Of This Football Season Fri.

By James Bagwell

This Friday night, October 31, East Yancey will play their last game of this football season. The Panthers will travel to Beaver Creek.

We hope that you will make an effort to support the Panthers their last game.

This past Friday the East Yancey Panthers traveled to play Rosman.

The ball game turned out to be fairly close with Rosman able to score their first touchdown by 31, Jimmy Kitchen during the first quarter. The Panthers also scored by

their number 40, Jimmy Ray. During the second quarter Rosman scored again by 10, Jimmy Hall. No score that quarter by East Yancey.

After half-time Rosman again scored, this time by 42, Ronnie Joe Owan. No score the third quarter by the Panthers.

During the final quarter, the Panthers number 41 made a touchdown by 41, Rodney Bishop, followed by two extra points by Jimmy Ray.

The final score of this football game was Rosman 13 East Yancey 14.

Birchettes Offered As Substitute

Reprinted from Asheville Citizen-Times
By John Parris

BURNSVILLE - Appalachian sweet birch, long esteemed by mountain folks as "tasty to chew upon and good to firm up the teeth and gums", is destined to find new popularity as a substitute for cigarette smoking if a young mountain man has his way.

Bill Banks, a 45-year-old Burnsville lumberman, is planning to market birch twigs this week under the name "Birchette" with the hope they will help folks quit smoking.

"The thing I'm reaching for most," he said a couple days ago, "is that we might be able to save one human life."

Banks calls the Birchette "the switch worth fighting for" and a subsidy for will power. It has the bark on the wood instead of in the throat.

"I got the idea two years ago," he said, "by chewing on a birch twig on a hunting trip as a substitute for a cigarette. I talked about it for a year and everybody laughed when I mentioned it."

But the more he heard and read about the hazards of smoking, the more he liked his idea. He felt so keen about it that he decided to stake a small fortune on it.

Six weeks ago, after designing his own machinery, Bill Banks opened a processing and packaging plant here and began turning out Birchettes by the tens of thousands.

He put eight women on the assembly line. And into the woods he sent a birch-gathering crew of 20 - mostly men and women who because of age, lack of skills, or infirmities are unemployable.

For most of the woodworkers it was a new lease on life, an opportunity to earn much-needed cash.

"I pay them a dollar a pound for birch delivered to the plant in limb form," said Banks. "Since most of them are in their 60's and 70's they are only able to work in the woods a few hours a couple or three days a week. Even so, my payroll is running

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