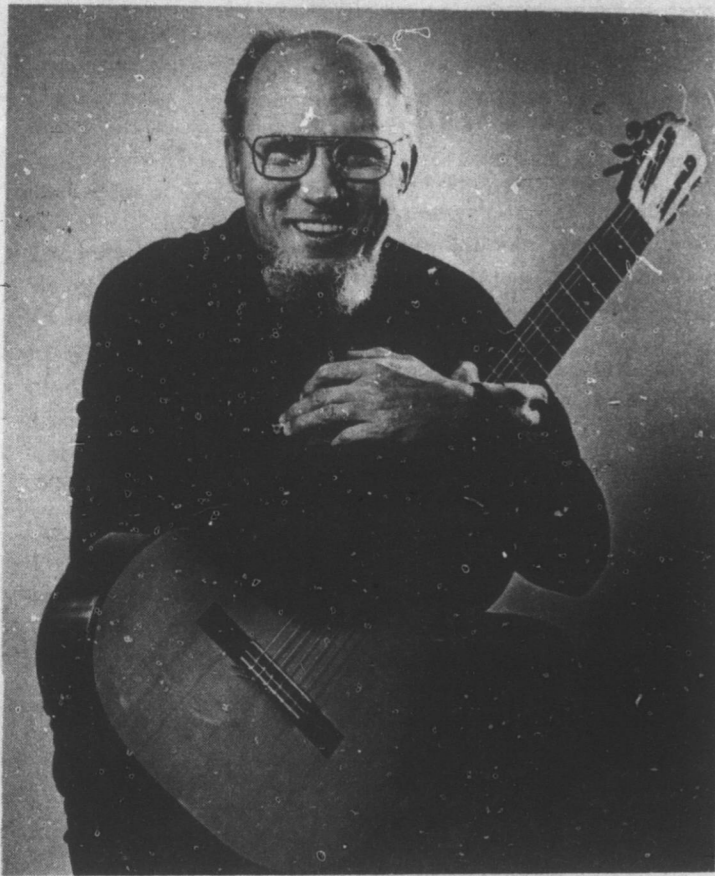


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Folk Guitarist, Singer George Britton

## July 4th Concert Features Guitarist George Britton

A jubilant occasion awaits folk music lovers at George Britton's special concert July 4 at 4 p. m. on the town square, Burnsville. Known nationwide as a guitarist, singer and composer, Britton appears for the fourth year as a feature of the concert series of Music in the Mountains.

Britton, who has made many recordings for Folkways, 20th Century and MGM, serves as director of the George Britton Folk Studio. Outstanding for his organizing ability, he is the founder of the Philadelphia Folk Song Society and Coffee House, Main Point, in Philadelphia.

A baritone, singing in fourteen languages, Britton has traveled throughout America, endearing himself to people of all ethnic groups. He conveys a zest for life, an earthy quality indispensable in a folk music singer. His repertoire of some 1,500 songs embraces American, ethnic and old English themes.

The choice of a musical career was inevitable for Britton. Since his father was a concert musician and music critic, he was exposed to good

music at an early age. Possessed with exceptional musical talent, young George embarked on a serious study of classical music, intending to pursue an operatic or concert career. Fate determined otherwise. A chance encounter with "Uncle Remus" plus his instant rapport with people everywhere led to his decision to enter the folk music field. Today, his name is synonymous with the folk song movement.

Mr. Britton becomes eloquent when discussing various aspects of his career, stating "I love teaching and have taught some 7,000 people to play the guitar." With equal enthusiasm, he reveals "I love to sing and to perform. I guess I am a true ham." According to Mr. Britton, his aim is to provide "a really rollicking time and invite the audience to participate in sing-along numbers."

Due to his awareness of the social scene and current problems, much of his music is contemporary. His Fourth of July program will include songs by him and other composers that allude to Watergate, pollution and other timely topics, but the emphasis will be on fun.

His wife, Charlotte, whom he laughingly describes as "a normal person", serves as a ballast for this ebullient man. With great pride, he states that his two sons and two daughters are all musical. Parental tenderness is obvious in some of his compositions, with one of his songs entitled "To My Daughter Ellen Upon Leaving For College".

Britton's association with Music in the Mountains was the outgrowth of his friendship with Eve Lynne Reeve, its founder. He enjoys his participation in the music festival and lavishly praises the gifted artists, stressing that "it is a privilege to be associated with musicians of their caliber".

A heavy travel schedule encompasses performances at colleges, concert series and museums. Britton explained, citing that he is a regular on the college campus. He believes that his music draws disparate groups together.

## PROGRESS

The Yancey Journal staff would like to express their appreciation to the businessmen in Yancey County whose stories and advertisements have made possible this "Progress In Business" edition and whose support throughout the year enables this publication to better serve the needs of Yancey Countians.

These community-minded merchants, in turn, deserve the support of the people in this area which they serve. Money spent at home stays at home—and that means progress for business and for Yancey County.



## \$5 Million Blue Ridge Hospital System Project Proceeds Despite Many Setbacks

The five million dollar expansion and improvement project of the Spruce Pine and Yancey County hospitals, being undertaken jointly as the Blue Ridge Hospital System, has from its inception over four years ago been beset by uncertainties, delays and disappointments. According to members of the hospital board, however, these frustrations are simply "par for the course" in projects of this sort, involving numerous federal and state agencies, and for which the financing comes from many sources.

From all the uncertainty—particularly with regard to the financing of the project—assurances and progress are, at last taking shape. Now, although many matters still remain unresolved, the project is more assured of realization than ever before.

Items of progress include recent approval by the State Medical Care Commission. Assurance has been received of a \$584,000 grant under the Hill-Burton hospital aid program. The Kate B. Reynolds Health Care Trust has approved a grant of \$125,000. The Duke Endowment, which from the start has shown great interest in this two-county project, has given assurance that a sizeable grant will be forthcoming, the amount, as yet, not decided.

Among other uncertainties still overhanging the project is the possibility that additional Hill-Burton money may be obtained. Congress is now expected to extend the hospital aid program for another year, overriding, if necessary a possible

presidential veto. Notwithstanding this favorable development, uncertainty still exists since the Administration may impound the appropriation instead of distributing it.

For a time, the gloomy expectation was that no Hill-Burton funds could be expected, since termination of the program was scheduled for June 30 of this year, and funds for the Blue Ridge System were not available before that date. Happily, however, unused funds from other North Carolina projects were available and these in the amount of \$584,000 were reallocated to the Blue Ridge System.

A grant of funds from the Appalachian Regional Commission is in somewhat the same state of uncertainty as funding under numerous other Federal Aid programs. Hopefully a grant of at least \$250,000 from this source appears possible.

In view of the several uncertainties still unresolved, a final budgeting of the costs of the hospital project is still not possible. Adding all the grants, together with money from local contributions, still falls short of the total cost by a sizeable amount. In this connection, the drastic decline in the price of Brad Ragan stock, which greatly reduces the value of the 12,000 share gift, was a heavy blow to the financing program.

The board of directors, at a recent meeting authorized the borrowing of the needed amount under a federal program that provides partial subsidy of the interest payments. A feasibility study is currently being made by one of the large accounting

firms to determine that the project is financially sound, and that the loan can be repaid. The approval of the project by the Medical Care Commission as well as by HUD, which will

provide the interest subsidy, is dependent on a favorable finding by this study. The hospital board is confident that the soundness of the planned financing will be established.

## Facelift Of Town Square Gains Momentum, Support

A project for giving the Burnsville town square a much needed "facelift" is now, after eighteen months of discussion and planning, making good headway.

The Westco Telephone Company is now in process of placing its unsightly telephone cables underground, which formerly crossed the center of the square. A committee formed by the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce, with representatives of the several community organizations, is actively at work on the project.

Cost estimates for the various parts of the job have been obtained by Donald Westall, chairman of the Chamber committee, and practical means of obtaining the financing are under consideration. Mayor James Anglin of Burnsville has stated at a Chamber of Commerce board meeting that the Town Board is favorably disposed to spending some of the funds received under the revenue sharing program on the facelift project.

Support for the project comes from numerous directions. Generally recognized is the fact that with much of the town's business shifting to the bypass, it is highly important for the town's future to keep the old downtown section of Burnsville attractive. Otherwise deterioration of the old main street may set in.

Recognition of the need for improving the appearance of the square started about two years ago. Late in 1971 The Yancey Record devoted a special issue to the desirability of giving downtown Burnsville a facelift. Shortly thereafter the Yancey Chamber of Commerce, through contact with John Marius, Economist for the TVA took under consideration a possible "demonstration pro-

## Burnsville Water System Project Nears Completion

The project for improving the Burnsville water system which has been under construction for the past eighteen months, and prior to that, for four years the subject of planning and negotiating with Federal agencies for financial assistance, is now at last nearing completion.

The new 2,000,000 gallon reservoir, which stands conspicuously on the waterworks hill above the town, is now full of water, although not as yet regularly feeding water to the town. The reconstruction of the two intake dams at the head of Bolens Creek is now complete. Extensive additions to the town's water mains are now in service.

All that remains to be done is the final finishing touches at the rebuilt filter plant. One of the old reservoirs is to be taken out of service, and much of the complicated electronic equipment that will automate the plant's operation, has still to be placed in service.

The finishing up of contract work has proved far slower than originally estimated by the contractor, the Brown Construction Company of Concord. In fact, completion of the job is now over six months behind the date called for in the contract. A variety of excuses has been offered by contractor, including weather, failure of suppliers to meet delivery dates, the receipt of defective material on the job, and scarcity of experienced labor.

The final date for completion of the job is still uncertain. Following inspection of the system by the State Health Department, and final acceptance of the completed job by the Town, the Town Board is understood to be planning an open house on the waterworks hill.

Among the many improvements that have been made, has been the erection of a chainlink fence surrounding the waterworks, topped by forbidding barbed wire. Heretofore, the waterworks has been unprotected from possible vandalism by trespassers, and from time to time minor mischief has been perpetrated. From now on the plant should be secure from any acts that might endanger the public health.

The entire cost of the water project will approximate a half million dollars, the funds coming from several different sources. Two outright grants were received, one from the Appalachian Regional Commission for \$138,500 and the other from the Farmers Home Administration for \$45,400. A loan from the latter federal agency has provided \$230,000, and the Town is supplying the remainder from savings accumulated to help pay for the project.

## ARC Approves Health Grant

U.S. Rep. Roy A. Taylor announced last Tuesday the approval of a \$128,998 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission for a two-year project of dental health care education in seven western North Carolina counties for fifth grade children.

The counties in the 11th Congressional District are Avery, Mitchell and Yancey. Others include Allegheny, Ashe, Watauga and Wilkes.

Total cost of the project is \$155,928 with local sources providing \$26,930.

## Boyd Deyton Family To Represent U.S. At International Festival in England

The Boyd Deyton family of Green Mountain has been invited to represent the Hubert Hayes Mountain Youth Jamboree at the 19th International Festival to be held at Sidmouth, England August 1 through 14.

This will be the first year that the United States has been represented at this Festival which is attended by most other countries and sponsored by the English Folk Dance and Song Society, whose president is Princess Margaret.

The Deytons are appealing to the people of the county to help with the remaining \$1400 in expense money needed to make the trip. They have already raised \$11,000 of the \$2500 necessary to make the trip. According to Mrs. Deyton, other United States groups and individuals attending are being sponsored by organizations or aided by fund raising efforts. "We have concluded that we cannot raise the remaining \$1400 without the support of the county," she said.

Contributions are tax deductible and checks should be made out to the Hubert Hayes Jamboree International, Mrs. Hubert Hayes, 30 Maney Ave., Asheville, N.C. A note should be made that the contribution is for the Deyton Family of Yancey County.

The Deyton family, including Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Deyton and daughters Barbara, 13 Suzy, 5 and Jeannie, 11, will represent the two generation typical American family at this international festival.

"The Deytons, who sing and play tradi-



Boyd Deyton Family

tional mountain instruments, will be able to choose from some 200 fringe events that will take place in dance, song and music. The form of the festival demands that they perform each day for about 10 minutes, and will present their entire repertoire at some time during the festival.

Because the Deytons will be representing the United States, they will perform in red, white and blue traditional costumes.

Accompanying the Deytons to England will be a representative of the Asheville Citizen-Times and a filming company from the University of North Carolina to film the festival in sound and color for educational purposes.

## Wood Crafts At Crafts Fair

On August 3 and 4 the 17th annual Mt. Mitchell Crafts Fair on the Town Square in Burnsville will feature Harry and Lin Golderer, well-known wood craftsmen of South Carolina and the Appalachian Mountains.

The Golderers have displayed their crafts in many fairs, including Burnsville's Mt. Mitchell Crafts Fair. The Golderers are members of the South Carolina Craftsmen, Foothills Arts and Crafts Guild, Blue Ridge Heartside Crafts Association, and the Smokey Mountain Crafts Guild. Lin is a former president of South Carolina Crafts.

Quality craftsmanship will be exemplified in the originals of wood which the Golderers will bring to the Fair.

## Yancey County Youths Hurt In One-Car Accident Here

Two Yancey County youths were injured in a one-car accident which occurred at 2:30 p. m. Thursday approximately four miles north of Burnsville, on N.C. 197.

Listed in critical condition on arrival at Spruce Pine Community Hospital was Ronald Honeycutt of Green Mountain, a passenger in the 1972 Ford Mustang driven by Jimmy Joe Deyton of Burnsville. Accord-

ing to the hospital, both youths were later listed in fair condition.

According to Trooper A.T. Morrison of the highway patrol, the vehicle ran off the right side of the highway, traveling a distance of 309 feet before crossing to the left side of the highway and striking an embankment. The vehicle then overturned and skidded another 101 feet. Damage to the vehicle was estimated at \$2500.