

# THE YANCEY JOURNAL

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## Miller's 'The Crucible' Termed Poignant Drama

By Harry Maussen

Of all the shows that I have seen thus far at the Parkway Playhouse, I am sure that "The Crucible" by Arthur Miller is the best.

I enjoyed "A Thurbur Carnival," and I loved "1776," but this is the kind of American play that peels back the layers of history and reveals what is really underneath our surface. We haven't really changed all that much since 1692, which is the date of the happenings in the play. "The Crucible," even though its settings are reminiscent of the late 17th Century, is applicable to us today.

The story revolves around one John Proctor, played superbly by Greg France (who was John Adams in "1776"), who has before the play begins, fallen in love with a serving girl, his wife hired. When his wife (Pat Taylor) learns of the liaison, she throws the girl (Jennifer Daffron) out of the house.

The village girls led by the serving girl, play at witchcraft, which is a hanging offense in Salem in 1692, and are discovered. In order to save themselves, the girls and Tituba (Mary Leigh Best), their black serving woman, confess to having "tricked with the devil," and thus can be saved.

However, their innocent game becomes frightening when, driven by superstition, the entire town is caught up in "witch-hunt fever." Spurred on by an unpopular minister, portrayed by Michael Lilly (who is absolutely excellent) the town begins to hunt down and condemn even the righteous in the full belief that they are witches. The situation sounds much like the McCarthy trials or the Water-gate Hearings.

The performances range from the excellent to the passable. Greg France, as Proctor, Pattie Taylor as Elizabeth, Jennifer Daffron (who might be urged to let a little more of the

strength of her character shine out earlier in the play), Michael Lilly as Rev. Parris, Don Treat as Hawthorne, and all the "little girls" of the town -- Su Gilden, Brenda Lunsford, Ann L. on (who is a 19-year old playing a ten year old) are superb. These are some of the best performances I've seen at Parkway in many a year, and all of these people are genuine finds.

There are performances which are good, and better than average. There are not many weak performances to mar this show. I would like to point out that in the weak performances it is diction -- the pronunciation of the words -- that is at the foundation of the performance. The characters of Giles Corey and Mary Warren are guilty of this offense, which is not worthy of hanging.

Director Stan Dean has brought a great deal of fine direction to the performances. It is surely a difficult play to direct. Its tone is hard to sustain, its many subplots hard to intergrate. Yet, Dean's direction seems to be, for the audience, like watching a primer... It appears very simple on the surface with all the important points underlined and brought forward for your inspection. He is to be especially praised for the first scene in Parris' house and for the chilling Courtroom scene.

Perhaps I just like the kind of play "The Crucible" is, and perhaps I just like Parkway Playhouse, but I consider it one of the gems of our town -- one of the most precious. And any American who wants to know what goes on in his home town is certainly cheating himself out of one of the richest portions of his heritage when he thinks the theater is for "other people." "The Crucible" is definitely for just us folks. The box office can be reached at 682-6151, and the play will run July 18-21. The next attraction at Parkway Playhouse will be "Life With Father."



## Chicken Barbecue Set for Craft's Fair

Saturday, August 4, will be a big day on the Town Square in Burnsville. On that date, the second of the Mt. Mitchell Crafts Fair, chicken barbecue will be

sold during the day to hundreds of people who will be in attendance to enjoy all the fun that will be a part of the 17th annual Fair on the Town Square.

## Farmers Reminded Of Compliance Commitments

Yancey County farmers who have certified compliance with 1973 farm program requirements are reminded to continue to

carry out their commitment for the remainder of the year.

Wayne Ray, Chairman of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) County Committee, says that 209 farmers in Yancey County had certified compliance with this year's farm program by the June 30th deadline. Certification amounts to a pledge by the farmer as to his program acreage, his acreage set aside from production, if any and that he has complied with all program provisions, Mr. Ray said.

## Delegation To 4-H Congress

A delegation of five 4-H members will be representing Yancey County at North Carolina 4-H Congress in Raleigh, next week.

The Yancey County delegates will be among some 1,200 4-H members, leaders and extension agents participating in the annual four-day program which will begin Monday, July 23 on the North Carolina State University campus.

The program consists of recreation, discussions, competition, election of state officers and a lot of fellowship.

"North Carolina 4-H Congress offers an excellent opportunity for personal growth and development," comments Dr. Chester Black, state 4-H leader. "It is an event that 4-H'ers look forward to each year with great anticipation."

During the week state winners will be determined in more than 30 demonstrations programs and various judging activities.

Lisa Deyton, from the Green Mountain 4-H Club, who won a blue ribbon with her vocal solo and dance in the District 4-H Talent Show, has been invited to appear at the state 4-H Show.

Members of the Yancey County delegation attending Club Congress will be Peggy McQuade, Bee Log Club; Debbie Miller, Pensacola Special Interest Group; Connie Wheeler, Special Interest Group; Jan Hensley, Pensacola Special Interest Group; and Lisa Deyton, Green Mountain Club.

## Dual Transportation System Planned For County Schools

Edgar Hunter, superintendent of schools has announced that a dual bus transportation system is being planned for the county this year.

Funds for this program were appropriated by the 1973 legislature in order to eliminate the necessity for so many small children having to leave home so early to get to school. This system will have some buses hauling only high school students while other buses will haul only elementary grade students. This will make it possible for elementary schools to send their students home at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon without having to wait for buses to arrive from the high school.

High school students will be used to drive high school buses again this year, but the elementary schools will find it necessary in most cases to use adult drivers.

Since additional adult drivers will be needed in all elementary schools, anyone interested should contact their elementary school principal as soon as possible. The rate of pay will be \$2.07 per hour from state funds and \$20.00 per month from local funds. A special class to instruct bus drivers will be set up around August 1 for those who do not have a bus driver's license.

Although the county does not have enough buses at the present time to make a dual system

work ideally, it is felt that a modified system can begin now with a bus or two being added each year. (Although the state finances the transportation system, it should be pointed out that the county must buy any new buses that are added.)

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## School Tours Scheduled

Preliminary plans are progressing on schedule for construction of the new high school, according to word from the office of the superintendent of schools.

Although actual construction will not begin until next spring, the architects have agreed that this building will not be built from the blue print of another school, but will be designed and constructed specifically to meet the needs of the people of Yancey County.

In order for everyone possible to be able to offer ideas on the type structure we will have, bus tours to a number of schools in western North Carolina are being arranged for later this month. Visits will be made to schools listed by the State Planning Division as having outstanding facilities. Some small groups will also go to central and eastern North Carolina for the same purpose.

Every interested adult who can make one of the one-day trips on the activity bus should call the Board of Education office (682-6101) and reserve a seat. There will be no expense to the individual except his lunch.

## Husband And Wife Team Asset To Music Program

By Carmela Woodruff  
Musicians Frank and Eva Eil contribute to the growing success of Music in the Mountains. The highly gifted Frank Eil serves in a dual role as music director and clarinetist. Eva, his talented and charming wife, is a cellist.



Director Frank Eil

Despite his youth, Mr. Eil has an imposing background, bringing a wealth of experience and deeply developed talent to the festival. Born in Kalamazoo, Mich., he was deflected from his original preference, the trumpet, because his school, the Kalamazoo Conservatory, needed clarinetists. Accordingly, he changed instruments, to become eventually one of America's outstanding clarinetists.

Years of intensive study followed. Eil attributes some of the mastery of his technique to his studies with Anthony Gignotti, first clarinetist with the Philadelphia Orchestra. Subsequently, Eil performed with the Interlochen Arts Woodwind Quintet in every major American city. For a time, he taught music.

Awarded a Fulbright scholarship, he pursued his studies in Amsterdam, Holland. Following a tour with the Netherlands Wood Ensemble, he achieved the enviable post of solo clarinetist with the Rotterdam Symphony Orchestra.

For Eva Schafer, a minister's daughter, the organ was a natural choice, but she soon found the cello to be her best medium. The future Mrs. Eil was born in East German, where she studied at the University in West Berlin. She performed both as a soloist and in ensembles with the Berlin Chamber Music Orchestra and performed in numerous concerts and festivals, occasionally in other European countries. She too engaged in teaching.

Eva and Frank met while performing in the Rotterdam Symphony Orchestra. The next few years, their lives were parallel, traveling and performing in

the larger European cities. Following their acclaim in Europe, they continued their careers in the United States, but first they were wed in Frank's home city four years ago.

A heavy schedule ensued for the Eils. Eva was initially a member of the New Jersey Symphony and the New York String Sextet. Frank is artist in residence at the University of Delaware. The two Eils performed with the City Center Opera, the

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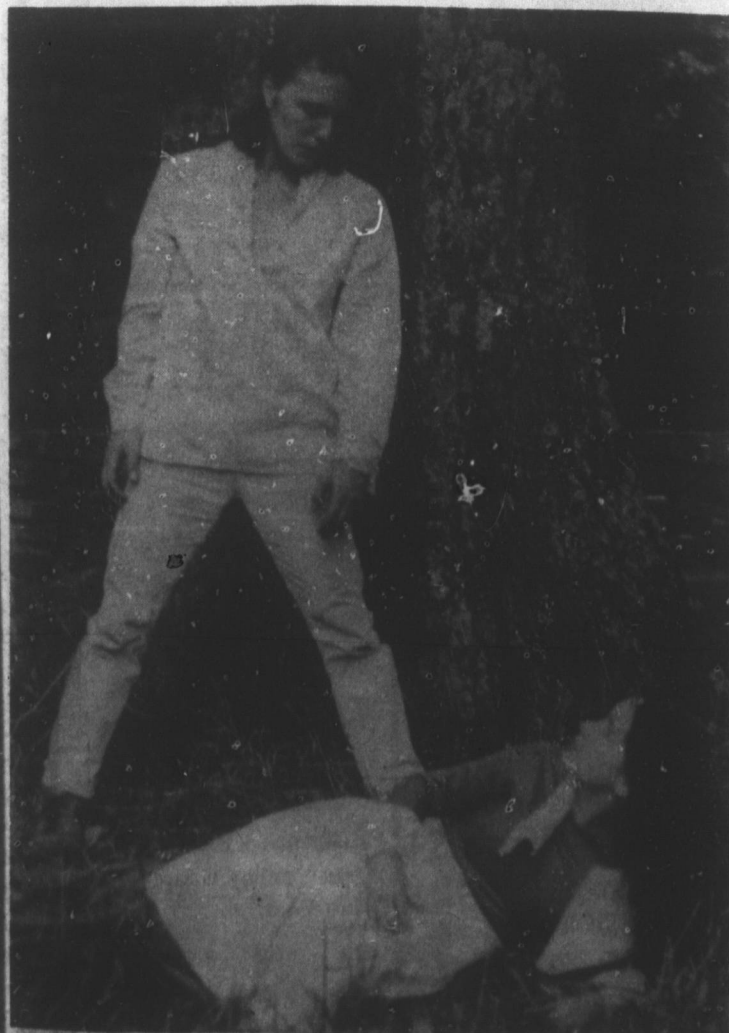
## Memorial Established

Friends of Rodney M. Styles have established a memorial through the North Carolina Wildlife Commission, in his name.

Rodney loved the western North Carolina mountains and the opportunities which he had to come back to enjoy hunting and fishing.

Employees of the shipyard where he was employed, specified that their donations be used for this type of memorial.

The North Carolina Wildlife Commission has stated that any funds which they receive, will be used in or near Yancey Co.



Scene From Playhouse Production Of 'The Crucible'



Cellist, Eva Eil

## Craft's Fair Edition Coming

The August 2nd edition of the Yancey Journal will focus on the annual Mt. Mitchell Craft's Festival and Yancey Youth Jamboree to be held in Burnsville August 2-4.

Anyone wishing to submit photographs, information, articles, or advertisements for this edition must bring or send them to the Journal office by 5:00 P.M. Friday, July 27.