

# THE YANCEY JOURNAL

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## Student In Current Play

Tommy's great grandfather, grandfather, father, and uncle have all been before Burnsville audiences, so it is only natural that Tommy should follow in their footsteps. The part of Harlan, the youngest member of the Clarence Day family in "Life With Father", Parkway Playhouse's fourth play of the season (July 25-28) will be played by Tommy Koch, a Burnsville Elementary School student.

In the early twenties, Professor Fred H. Koch brought his Carolina Playmakers here from Chapel Hill. Among his playwright-actors was Thomas Wolfe playing in one of his first plays, "The Return Of Buck Gavin." Another member of the troupe was Fred Koch, Jr., who recalls that when they came here it was dogwood time. Fred, Sr., rode part of the way on the top of a bus--so he could see the beauty of the dogwood-whitened mountains.

Fred, Jr., who had come as a child actor was destined to make Burnsville an important part of his life. Before, during and after the period when the University of Miami managed the Playhouse (Fred is a professor at the U of M) he directed plays to delight Burnsville audiences. Among those who worked with Fred, Jr. as actors were Lauren K. (Woody) Woods and his wife, Ellen (currently in their 11th season at the Playhouse) and W. C. "Mutt" Burton, veteran actor at the Playhouse.

Fred Jr's son, Thom spent childhood summers around the Playhouse. He became part of the tradition by acting in Miami, and performing as a pit musician in Parkway's "Dirty Work At The Crossroads." Thom's brother, Chris, played roles in a few plays at the Playhouse and served as an usher.

Thom and his wife, Sue, and their boys Billy and Tommy gladly gave up their city lot in Miami for a home on Bolen's Creek. They moved here last year and have become active in the community.

To the casual observer who sees "Life With Father" at the Parkway Playhouse, Tommy will be playing the child's role of Harlan, but to the members of his family, he bears the Thespian torch for the fourth generation.

## 'Singing Rambos' Present Show

The Singing Rambos, a gospel group from Nashville, Tenn. will present a show at the Mt. Mitchell Country Music Park Sunday, August 5 at 2:00 P.M. The show is being sponsored by the South Toe Volunteer Fire Department, and one-half of the profits from the performance will be donated to the Fire Department.

Tickets for the show will be \$3.00 in advance and \$3.50 at the gate.

Mt. Mitchell Country Music Park is located in the South Toe River section, 1-1/2 miles off Highway 80 on White Oak Creek Road.



Jim Fisher, Val Coyne, Tommy Koch Star In Production

## Playhouse Crew Excels In Comedy, 'Life With Father'

By Harry Maussen

The fourth production of the Parkway Playhouse season is the classic comedy hit, "Life With Father", and it is warm, happy, and hilarious. The comedy is one of the best staged at the Playhouse in many seasons and the company is to be credited for the high quality of the production in all areas, from performance to sets to costumes to direction. It is a delightful evening.

The production is directed by Parkway veteran Lauren K. Woods (director of "1776") who once again does a thoroughly professional and creative job. He has brought all the elements of this detailed comedy into fine focus and has coached his actors to marvelous performances.

Jim Fisher appears as the fiery but lovable Father and gives a performance of depth and warmth. It is a difficult role for any young actor and Fisher is fine. His comedy work is strong and he carries the age with no difficulty. Valerie Coyne matches Fisher every step of the way in a lovely performance as Vinnie, the sweet, but slightly addled wife. This, too, is a difficult role for a college actor, but Miss Coyne is excellent.

The family as a whole is fine. The four sons are all standouts and are played by Skip Lawing (who is charming in several love scenes with Pegi Dick who appears as Mary Skinner), Larry Treu (who is very funny throughout), and Kenny Woods and Tommy Koch who are adorable as the smaller children.

Lending fine support are Mary Sakalaris as giddy Cousin Cora, Miss Dick as Mary Skinner, Gloria Shott as the cook, John Tuck as the overly pious minister, Rick Rawitz and Bill Langbein as two doctors, and Mara Sage, Susan Spink, Vicki Wade, and Mo Newton as a long line of maids

fired by Father.

The sets are by Michael Voss and they are outstanding in capturing the 1880's Victorian period and the costumes by Lynn Emmert are great aids to the actors in the production, not only because they are attractive, but they help set the characterizations. The lights are by Michael Castania with a difficult properties assignment well handled by Rob Jarvis.

This is the kind of production that the Parkway Playhouse excels in and they once again prove it with this lovely production. This is one for the whole family. Don't miss it!

Next week the Playhouse will present the comedy hit "My Three Angels". Tickets are available by calling 682-6151 or at the box office. Curtain time is 8:30.

## Rescue Squad Meeting Held

The newly-formed Yancey County Rescue Squad met this week to elect officers and discuss fund-raising activities. Earlier this year the Rescue Squad had filed articles of incorporation with the North Carolina Secretary of State and has now been chartered as a non-profit corporation.

The stated purpose of the Squad is to protect lives and assist other agencies in the protection of property in Yancey County. In addition, the Squad will endeavor to assist agencies in neighboring counties as the need arises.

Newly-elected officers include Arnold Higgins, president; Jerry Laws and Wade Styles, directors; Charles Crowder, captain; Don McCalliard, first lieutenant; Clarence Buchanan, second lieutenant; William B. Higgins, first sergeant; Kermit Banks, sergeant-at-arms; and John Humphrey, secretary-treasurer.

## Yancey School Board Buys Property For New School

The purchase of the T. K. Riddle property, one half mile east of Riverside on Highway 19E was completed by the Yancey County Board of Education on Monday, July 23. The one-hundred and twenty-four acre tract is to be the site of a new central high school. Voters approved one and one-half million dollars in bonds for construction of the school in a county wide referendum on May 22.

The school site is located in almost the exact geographic center of the county and will require only additional minutes of transportation for students living in the most remote areas of the county. The property includes extensive frontage on Highway 19E and will provide excellent access and parking areas. It is bounded on the back side by Cane River and includes wooded acreage which is a natural setting for studies in science, agricultural and farming methods. The main building of the central school will probably be situated on the highest elevation of the property providing a panoramic view including Bald Mountain and Mt. Mitchell. Included in the overall plan are football stadium, lighted softball fields and band-practice fields. The school is being planned by the Asheville architectural firm of Padgett and Freeman. It is expected that site preparation will begin this fall with actual construction to start in the spring or early summer of 1974.

The referendum on May 22 included funds for the renovation and reconstruction of existing buildings. Workers have been busy at several schools installing carpet in libraries and kindergarten rooms. Board of Education plans call for tiling of floors where there is now only a concrete base. Plans also include lowering of ceilings and installation of modern fluorescent lighting where it is needed. Painting and other general repairs are being made during the summer.



BY JIM DEAN

The heavy rains that fell Memorial Day weekend caused the most destructive flooding in recent years in many areas of western North Carolina. Bridges were washed out, creeks were scoured, and some folks saw their property and homes damaged.

Particularly hard hit were several areas in the northeast section of the mountains.

Recently, I visited the Daniel Boone Game Lands northwest of Lenoir in part of the Pisgah National Forest. I knew the flooding had been rather extensive, but I was hardly prepared for what I found.

I was interested in seeing how the trout streams had fared. Not very well, as it turns out.

Only the smaller streams escaped without rather severe damage. Damage on the larger streams was so extensive in some places that I did not even recognize areas that had previously been very familiar.

Most of the large pools are heavily silted. In some pools where once you could not see the bottoms, the water is now shallow and flowing over sand and silt. True, the floods gouged out some new pools, but more were lost than gained.

The banks of the streams are barren of trees in many areas now. The waters pushed them over and also carried away the grass, mosses and topsoil. In some places, nothing remains but bare, sun-baked rock where once there were birches and other trees shading the stream, keeping it cool. The sun on the rocks has warmed the waters, and even in what was once the highest quality trout water, temperature checks showed that the water was 70 degrees in the larger streams of the area.

When water temperatures in a trout stream climb above 70 degrees, the streams begin to "die" as quality trout habitat. Doubtless, before the summer is over, the temperature in many of the streams will top 75 degrees. That doesn't mean necessarily that the trout will die, but fishing will probably be poorer for the next few years.

In some cases, the streams have abandoned their old channels for hundreds of yards and are scattered across the white rocks in small runs and riffles. Debris hangs in some of the remaining trees 20 feet above normal water level.

But it could have been a lot worse. The Daniel Boone area has suffered two disastrous floods during this century, one in 1916 and another in 1940. The 1940 flood wiped out whole villages. The trout survived, but it took years for the watershed to recover.

I have an old photograph taken prior to 1940 of one of the logging, resort, and industrial towns in this area. The town is gone now, washed away by the flood. By looking at the photograph, it is not difficult to see why the 1940 flood

(Cont'd on page 3)



Madame Lili Kraus

## Madame Lili Kraus Views World, Music Contribution

By Carmela Woodruff

World-famous pianist Madame Lili Kraus, whose annual benefit concert Sunday at 3:30 p.m. in the Burnsville Baptist Church will again enthrall her audience, is "totally open to life." Many celebrated musicians live music-centered lives to the extent that world problems are not allowed to intrude. Madame Kraus, who has appeared with great orchestras and in music festivals on all continents and is a lecturer in residence at Texas Christian University, is a rare exception. Her concern includes today's most grievous problems. Greed and lack of forethought, in her opinion, are at the basis of many current world ills.

At times she views the major crises in the world with despair. She abhors the devastation and waste that brought about the desecration of the earth's environment. Deploring the havoc wrought by war, she is convinced that the vast sums spent on destruction could be used to reclaim the earth. She expressed anguish at the spread of narcotics addiction, which she has learned has claimed even six-year-old children as its victims. Pornographic shows she considers degrading to actor and viewer alike.

The present plight of mankind, she feels, will not endure. Man will resolve pressing problems, she is firmly convinced, because in the eternal conflict between good and evil, good will triumph. Drawing upon her contacts with students at the many universities where she is a lecturer, Madame Kraus affirms her faith in today's young people, insisting "the majority of today's youth is serious, pure and with high aspirations."

Commenting on "pop" music, she felt it has its place but that the much-heralded "Jesus

Christ Super Star" fails to convey a religious message and in her opinion is merely entertainment.

Madame Kraus attributes her continuing acclaim as one of the great contemporary pianists to "my deep desire to do justice to the Lord who gave me my talent, to the composer, to the work and to myself." Her willingness to adhere to a grueling schedule is motivated, she explains, by "my wish to lift people into the realm of eternal beauty."

Her lengthy career received a cruel jolt when she was interned in a Japanese prison camp during World War II. She dismisses the hardship and horror of that period with the philosophical observation that it enabled her to identify with suffering humanity.

Beauty, charm, warmth and graciousness are facets of the vibrant personality of this spectacularly gifted musician. When Madame Kraus performs on a concert stage or enters a room she projects a radiance. Her choice for the opening number in Sunday's recital is Haydn's "Fantasia in C Major", which she claims shows the "versatility and infinite richness of Haydn's mastery". This will be followed by Mozart's "Quintet in E Flat Major" for piano, clarinet, oboe, horn and bassoon. The next selection, Mozart's "Fantasia in C Minor" is in contrast to the first two pieces, Madame Kraus pointed out, and is "as tragic as the quintet is gay". "Valses Nobles" by Schubert will close the program.

Because of her passionate interest in music in the Mountains, she has assumed the role of its guiding spirit as well as honorary director. She stresses that full credit should be given to Eve Lynne Reeve, whose

(Cont'd on page 3)

## Farmers Are Tour Hosts

Two Yancey County farmers will be host on Tuesday, July 31, to a group of agricultural administrators from North Carolina State University and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

County Extension Chairman W. C. Bledsoe said the administrators will be visiting the farms of Grover and James Warren Westall and Wayne Mc Curry. They will also observe a 4-H project of Johnny Harris.

"The administrators are visiting with farmers in several western North Carolina counties," Bledsoe explained. "They want to take a first hand look at problems associated with the production of farm enterprises, and to discuss opportunities to increase farm income. They will also discuss resources needed to meet the needs of farm people in this area."

Representing NCSU on the tour will be Dr. J. E. Legates, dean of the School of Agriculture and Life Sciences; Dr. George Hyatt, Jr. of the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service; Ed Foll, assistant extension director; and Denver Robinson, district extension chairman. They will be accompanied by several department heads and commodity specialists at NCSU.

Representing TVA on the tour will be William L. Jenkins, a director; Dr. Porter Russ, chief of the Resource Development Branch; and Hobart N. Stroud, assistant gen. manager.

Bledsoe said the visitors will observe new research on curing burley tobacco on the Westall farm, a commercial Strawberry demonstration on the Mc Curry farm, and a vine-ripened tomato on the demonstration by Johnny Harris.

## Debaters At ASU Institute

Iris Gail Gouge and Sherry Dale Bennett of Relief are attending the High School Debate Institute on the Appalachian State University campus July 16-27.

Iris is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Gouge of Tip-top Hill Road, and Sherry is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bennett of Relief.

They are among 17 students from North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee at the two-week institute to prepare the 1973-74 high school debate topic and learn debate principles. ASU speech professors Dr. Howard Dorgan and Terry Cole are directing the institute.

Students will participate in a practice debate tournament July 26-27. They will debate whether the federal government should provide a guaranteed minimum income for families.

## Craft's Fair Edition

Next week's edition of the Yancey Journal will focus on the Mt. Mitchell Craft's Fair and Youth Jamboree to be held in Burnsville Aug. 2-4.

Photographs, articles and advertisements for this edition must be at the Yancey Journal office by 5 P.M., July 27.