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Chamber Gives Scholarship Check To Playhouse

Cortland F. [Pete] Raby, left, and Lauren K. [Woody] Woods receive a scholarship check for the Parkway Playhouse from Grace Banks, Secretary of the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce, at opening night festivities for the Playhouse's 28th season. The intention of the Chamber in giving the scholarship is to encourage a

Yancey County male student to participate in Playhouse productions next year. The check provides full sponsorship for such a student. The sex of the student is specified because of the shortage of male actors in the present Playhouse Company.

Support, New Funds For Hospital Building Program

The Building Program for the Blue Ridge Hospital System is still alive and progress is being made, regardless of the current tales you might have heard.

Club To Hold Barbeque

The Burnsville Mens Club is having its annual Barbecue Supper at the Community Building on Monday, July 22 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased from any club member or at the Northwestern Bank, Burnsville.

While bids for the proposed expansion of the Spruce Pine Community Hospital and the construction of an Extended Care Facility in Burnsville were exorbitantly high and were summarily rejected, according to a spokesman for the Hospital System; after conferences with the Medical Care Commission, Raleigh, it was decided that if the bids were broken down into ten prime contracts that more reasonable bids could be obtained.

Bids have been advertised again but in ten categories and are to be opened August 8th at

2:00 p.m. at the Spruce Pine Public Library. If these bids will come near the budget set for this program, the spokesman continued, construction will get under way shortly thereafter.

The Medical Care Commission in Raleigh has pledged its continuing support in the building program. The following letter was received from them by the hospital board on June 21st:

"Dear Mr. Carlisle: It is pleasing to advise that the North Carolina Medical Care Commission at its quarterly meeting on June 21, 1974 increased its

allocation of grant funds to your project by the sum of \$415,695. This brings the total grant allocation to \$1,000,000 along with the loan commitment of \$3,000,000.

"Notwithstanding the setback which we have encountered by opening bids, the Commission is of the continuing opinion that the project is very meritorious. Accordingly, we are desirous in working with you to bring about its fruition by exploring any alternatives that might be appropriate.

"If you have any questions

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Flag Ceremony Promotes Citizenship

The opening ceremony at Extension's Food and Nutrition Day Activities program provided boys and girls with opportunities for spiritual and citizenship growth. Shown above are youth participating in the Flag Ceremony at Bald Creek School. Twelve days of Food Fun Activities have been held in four areas of the

county including Bald Creek, Bee Log, Clearmont and South Toe Elementary Schools. The purpose of the program has been to provide learning experiences for developing and maintaining good food habits and the relation of good nutrition to health for boys and girls enrolled in Extension's Food and Nutrition Program.

Parkway Thriller, 'Night Watch' Set

By Cary Easley

For its third production of the 28th season, the Parkway Playhouse is presenting the hit Broadway mystery thriller *Night Watch* by Lucille Fletcher, author of the famed radio mystery, "Sorry, Wrong Number." *Night Watch* is a fascinating, intricate puzzle and its shocks and thrills are many.

Under the fine direction of Larry Alford, who directed last season's *A Thurber Carnival* and appeared in *1776*, this exciting play is given a very polished production by the Parkway company. Alford has carefully molded all elements of the play to form a giant jigsaw of clues and hints leading to the surprising finish.

It is difficult to say much about the plot of the play without spoiling it for audience members, but the acting is certainly up to the usual high caliber of the Parkway company. Gillian Didier, who appeared in *Tom Jones* earlier this season, plays Elaine Wheeler, a neurotic woman who hears and sees many strange things happening in the building next door. Miss Didier, in a complete turnabout from her *Tom Jones* role, gives

an outstanding performance. John Stringer plays John Wheeler, Elaine's husband, and is equally fine. He displays great finesse in his role. Barbara Bridgers, who gave one of the best performances in last week's *Picnic*, also gives a strong performance here.

As a matter of fact, the evening is filled with good performances. Gloria Shott, a familiar Parkway face, is terrific as Helga, Elaine's German maid; Doug Root plays Appleby, a neighbor, with a quiet strangeness; Jonathan Jones is Lt. Walker; Doug Preis is Vanelli; Nancy Shaheen is fine as a psychiatrist; and Carl Keator is very funny in a small role as Sam Hoke, a storekeeper. All of them are suspect, and all give sterling performances.

The lovely set for *Night Watch* is by Stephen Edelstein with stylish costumes by D. R. Edwards. Standing out, as usual, is the beautiful lighting by Michael Castania. Props are by Leslie Knox with technical direction by Eric Olson.

Who did it?? Well, you'll just have to catch *Night Watch* at the Parkway Playhouse now through Saturday to find out! Curtain time is 8:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale at the box office or by calling 682-6151.

Next week the Playhouse will present Eugene O'Neill's comedy *Ah, Wilderness!*, a warm and charming account of a New England family at the turn of the century. Don't miss it!



Gillian Didier in 'Night Watch'

Pritchard Dies At 54

Warren H. Pritchard of Spruce Pine, an attorney and former member of the North Carolina House of Representatives, died unexpectedly Saturday. He was 54.

Mr. Pritchard attended Mars Hill College and graduated in 1941 from Wake Forest College. He received his law degree in 1947 and was president of his law school fraternity and law school class. He also attended the school of business administration at Harvard University.

He served as a representative from Mitchell County in the 1949 General Assembly and was nominated in 1952 by the North Carolina Republican Party as its candidate for lieutenant governor of the state.

He was an attorney in Spruce Pine for 27 years and was counsel for both the town of Spruce Pine and Mitchell County at the time of his death.

Mr. Pritchard was a veteran of World War II and was a member of Grassy Creek Baptist Church where he was chairman of the deacon board and Sunday School teacher. He was also a member of the Spruce Pine Rotary Club, Masonic Lodge No. 554 A.F. & A.M., the board of directors of Mayland Technical Institute and the Chamber of Commerce.

His father, the late Clyde Pritchard, was once a sheriff of Mitchell County.

He is survived by a son, Gary Ledford of Spruce Pine; and several cousins.

Funeral Services were held at 2:00 p.m. Monday at Grassy Creek Baptist Church. Revs. R.M. Cassity and Ben Lee Ray officiated and burial was in the church cemetery.

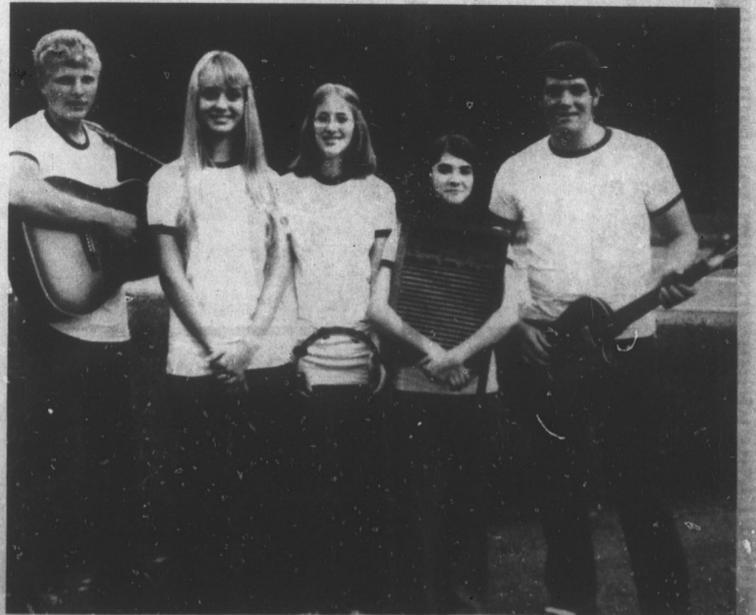
Banks Creek Homecoming

Homecoming for Bank's Creek Union Church will take place the third Sunday in July, the 21st. The Church Service will begin at 10:00 and lasts all day, with dinner at 1:00 p.m.

There will be special groups for singing in the afternoon. Sherrill Whitson, pastor, urges everyone to come.

Workers Are Saying 'Hello'

Ten workers of the Legion of Mary, Baltimore Senatus, are visiting in the Burnsville area. They are doing the visitation at the request of Father Michael Hoban, Pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Burnsville. They are just saying "hello" to the neighbors, pastors and people of all churches.



Yancey 4-H'ers To Attend 4-H Congress

During the week of July 22-26, several Yancey County 4-H members will be attending the N.C. 4-H Club Congress which is held annually on the campus of N.C. State University. The week is the highlight of the 4-H year, with 4-H'ers from across the state meeting together for state competition in many activities, election of state officers, and lots of fun and fellowship. The Green Mountain Heritage Band, whose members include Lisa Doyton, Debbie Doyton, Sarah Doyton, Kathy Bailey, Earl Grindstaff and Phillip Deyton all of the Clearmont 4-H Club, has been invited to appear in the State Share-The-Fun Program. This group was a blue ribbon winner in the District Share-The-Fun Program. The band will be performing "That Ain't What It Takes To Love Me" and they accompany their act by playing the wash tub, washboard, spoons, tambourine, and piano. Mrs. Gretchen Robinson directs the group.

Other 4-H'ers who will attend the Congress include Peggy McQuade from the Bee Log 4-H Club, and Debbie Miller, Susan Wilson, and Jan Hensley, all from the Pensacola 4-H Club. Members will observe demonstration run-offs, state fashion revue and state health pageant in addition to participating in special interest sessions, tours, and recreation.