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## New Methods Seen In Farm-Home Tour

By Johnny Hensley  
Approximately 35 people accompanied the Yancey County Extension Staff and Wilbur Howard of the Farmers Home Administration to several farms and a home under construction Wednesday, August 7. Those who attended the Annual Farm and Home Tour were witnesses to the changing agriculture of Yancey County. Visitors to the county joined the tour of several different farm enterprises.

Agricultural income to Yancey County in 1973 was greater than \$5 million dollars and is increasing each year. Many of those who attended were amazed to see the system designed to allow one man to house up to 5 acres of burley tobacco. This method is currently being used by Grover and Warren Westall of Prices Creek, on an experimental basis in cooperation with N.C. State University experiment stations and TVA.

Others were more interested in the future of "Pick Your Own" strawberry operations such as that of Wayne McCurry or Walter Edwards, visited on the tour. Yet, other people were surprised to learn that an individual with a desire to achieve can obtain a satisfactory income farming without owning a single acre of land. Those attending the tour saw how Wayne McCurry of Pensacola is doing just this.

In addition to the above, members of the tour also learned how to measure the growth of a day-old beef calf using only a common yard stick. The group also looked at "Cutback" Rhododendron, relatively new to North Carolina. "Cutbacks" are young native rhododendron which are cut off at ground level and the roots are transplanted into a field and allowed to grow a new well shaped top. These cutbacks are then sold to the nursery industry and used in landscape plans.

The group paused shortly at the Walter Edwards farm for a refreshing break which included entertainment by Tommy Hensley, a Yancey County 4-H Club member, and a delicious slice of Strawberry Shortcake accompanied by apple juice. The refreshments were provided compliments of Cy Jordan Realty, Inc.

If you missed this year's tour but are interested in what is happening in agriculture in Yancey County, remember to attend next year's Annual Farm and Home Tour.



Tour Hears About "Walter" Tomato



Jeter McCurry Home Under Construction

## Performers Get Standing Ovation As Curtain Falls On Final Show

By Gloria Shott and Jim Fisher  
The twenty-eighth season at Parkway Playhouse has ended. The curtain has closed on the final performance and the stage is bare. The set flats have all been scrubbed and placed in their proper order in scene storage, the lighting and sound

equipment have been crated and trucked off, costumes have been sorted and stored, makeup has been gathered and the empty greasepaint tubes have been thrown into the trash--sad and empty reminders of the end of an exciting six weeks of putting on makeup and costumes

and appearing on stage before appreciative audiences. The students have all left for the Fall sessions at their colleges, staff members have returned to their teaching and/or acting positions, C.F. "Pete" Raby, Managing Director, has gone to Colgate University in Hamilton, New York, where he is a faculty member, and Lauren K. Woods, Managing Director, has returned to his faculty position at Monmouth College in New Jersey.

Parkway Playhouse is empty now, but as one sits in the last row of seats looking at the bare and darkened stage, with only the ghost light standing alone illuminating a small area, there are memories--pleasant memories--that run through the mind. There are the memories of the seats filled with enthusiastic Burnsvillians who so willingly and open-heartedly support the Playhouse with their attendance, the sound of laughter evoked by the riotously funny season-opener, *Tom Jones*, directed by Lauren K. Woods. The mood changes quickly as one remembers the strong impact of William Inge's romantic *Picnic*, directed by Stan Dean, the thrills and chills of *Night Watch*, directed by Larry Alford, and the nostalgic romance of Eugene O'Neill's *Ah Wilderness!*, directed by Woods. There is still laughter echoing through the empty

house at the hilarious antics of the characters in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, which was directed by Stan Dean, and if you listen closely you can still hear the sounds of the final production, the lovely musical, *My Fair Lady*, so artistically and superbly directed by Woods, the echoing strains of the familiar music--"I've Grown Accustomed To Her Face", "I Could Have Danced All Night", "Get Me To The Church On Time" and many others. You can still hear the applause of the Saturday night audience as they gave a standing ovation after the final curtain.

But now even the ghost light is dimming and, as one walks out of the theatre and down to the terrace to reminisce and to take one last look, the phantasmagoric laughter of the company crews can be heard as they take a break during strike after the closing of the show on Saturday night for a hamburger cotout at 1:00 a.m. And then, back to work for the rest of the early morning hours, putting up the set for the new show in the coming week. Memories now--on memories are the costumes being struck and the new ones being started for the next show, new lighting designs being installed by lighting crews waving the high beams of the theatre to hang new instruments and to strike others, and the

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## Yancey Railroad Gets Manager, Caboose

The Yancey Railroad, once in danger of abandonment, appears here to stay.

The locally-owned twelve mile Yancey Railroad has a new general manager effective August 19, 1974. J. V. Cannon, a Spartanburg, S.C. native, will take the helm of the short-line on that day as a result of the reorganization and revitalization brought about when the four major shippers on the line bought controlling interest in it and set out to keep the small line in operation.

Mr. Cannon, who brings many years of railroad operations experience with him, said that there would be many projects in the immediate future to upgrade the railroad. The track will have first priority, along with new bridge timber for some of the trestles. He stated that there would be no personnel changes and that the present employees would continue to serve the railroad. At a later date, some additional help may be added as the work load increases and business becomes better.

Beginning his railroad work with the Piedmont and Northern Railway in South Carolina, Cannon has most recently worked in the operating department of the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad in Spartanburg. He was once the chief officer of a short line in South Carolina which he rebuilt and had on a sound footing when a flood destroyed four major bridges and doomed the line. His comment about the Yancey Railroad: "The railroad has a great potential and a fine future, given someone who will take an interest in it and the support of its shippers. The area needs rail service, and we intend to see that the Yancey not only remains in service but becomes a major asset to the economy of Yancey County. A town and county without rail service cannot hope to entice new industry and have a good basis for expansion. Yancey County will have its railroad."

One of the first acts of the new general manager toward improving the operation of the railroad has been the acquisition of a new caboose, or rather an old caboose, which after a thorough overhaul, will serve on

freight trains of the local line. The history of their caboose over its long life has been extraordinarily varied. Up until 1957 it clattered over the rails of a short mountain railroad in northeast Georgia, the Tallulah Falls Railway. When that road gave up the ghost and was abandoned, the caboose was donated to the Clinton Mills who, in turn, refurbished it and placed it on a short stretch of track on a hilltop for use as a Boy Scout meeting place.

Over the years since 1961 it has taken some abuse, and mill officials decided it had outlived its usefulness. What to do with

it became the query--what does one do with a derelict caboose? It would be a shame to destroy so historical a car.

The new general manager of the Yancey Railroad, appraised of the unhappy situation of the unwanted caboose, opined that the Tallulah Falls X-5 would be "just the thing" for the Yancey. Upon making arrangements to obtain the car from Clinton Mills, he set about to overhaul it and give it a face-lifting, new paint, and some new timber. What had been a sad caboose now became a smiling, happy caboose, that is if you choose to

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## Mayland Tech To Hold Commencement

Mayland Technical Institute will hold its second Commencement Exercises on Thursday evening, August 22 at 8:00 p.m. at Grassy Creek Baptist Church. Dr. Harold Robinson, Chancellor of Western Carolina University and a native of Mitchell County will deliver the address.

Dr. Robinson, popularly known in the area as "Cotton", is a native of Bandana in Mitchell County, the son of Mrs. Fred Robinson and the late Mr. Robinson. He is a graduate of Bowman High School and has served in many important positions through the years since his graduation. He has been Provost of Purdue, Vice

Chancellor of the University System of Georgia, Administrative Dean for Research, Director of the Institute of Biological Sciences, Assistant Director of Agricultural Experiment Station and Professor and Head of the Department of Genetics at N.C. State University. He is presently a member of the planning committee on World Food, Health and Population, of the National Academy of Science-National Science Foundation.

Dr. O. M. Blake, Jr., President of Mayland Tech and Bill Wilkins, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, will present diplomas and degrees to 67

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## Thank You, Ingles

For the 3rd consecutive year, the chickens for the special barbecue dinners sold at the Mt. Mitchell Crafts Fair were supplied at cost by Ingles Supermarket in Burnsville. According to Grace Banks, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, the chickens were not only priced at wholesale to the Chamber by Ingles, but Larry Stewart, meat department manager there, stayed at the store after the 10 p.m. closing time and spent the greater part of the night cutting up the chickens free of charge in time for the barbecue.

A spokesman for The Yancey Journal which sold hotdogs on Friday at the Fair, reported that these were also purchased from Ingles at cost.

The Yancey County Chamber of Commerce and The Yancey Journal wish to express their appreciation to Bob Ingles for his donation, and to employees at Ingles Supermarket for their cooperation in helping to make this year's Crafts Fair a success. Support like this makes an invaluable contribution.



## Back By Popular Demand!

Don Phillips, Manager of Maxwell Home Furnishings in Banks Family Square Shopping Center, reports that he has been swamped with requests to have the Toe River Valley Boys come back for another rendition of Bluegrass and Country Music which is their specialty. The group is again heralding a special sale at Maxwells, this one is the "Annual August Sale" which promises to be a big one. The public is invited to come and listen to the Toe River Valley Boys in front of Maxwells on Saturday, August 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and, at the same time, take advantage of the savings offered on furniture and appliances by Maxwells.

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Curtain Call Of Tom Jones, Parkway's Season Opener