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Mt. Mitchell Golf Club Gets Pro; June Opening Set

Richard Gragg, 30-year-old pro at Blowing Rock Country Club for the past 10 years, is to be the golf pro at Mount Mitchell Golf Club which is scheduled to open June 15, 1975.

The selection of Gragg to serve as pro at the new 18-hole public course, located at the foot of Mt. Mitchell's slopes on N.C. 80 was announced by Verne Floyd, president of Mt. Mitchell Lands. The project was begun three years ago by Floyd and Harold King of Hickory. Lee King and Jim Floyd serve as managers at the 650 acre development. To date, 130 homesites have been sold with 4 miles of all-weather roads and a central water system completed.

A native of the Blowing Rock area, Gragg served as assistant to Bruce Sudderth until he moved up to head pro more than three years ago when Sudderth became head pro at Gastonia Country Club.

"Gragg was highly recommended for the position at Mt. Mitchell by Sudderth and more than half a dozen other pros," Floyd said. "We selected him for his ability as a teaching pro, club manager and good merchandising ability," he added.

"One of his finest recommendations as a teaching pro came from Robert Kepler, golf pro at Hound Ears

Country Club. Kepler, coach of Jack Nicklaus and Tom Weiskopf while they were at Ohio State, had worked with Gragg in the teaching field to some extent during the past few years," Floyd continued.

In addition to his position at Blowing Rock during the spring, summer and fall,



Richard Gragg

Gragg at times had helped at Cedar Rock Country Club at Lenoir and Hound Ears. During the winter months he was at Pine Lakes International Country Club at Myrtle Beach, S.C.

A Class A member of PGA, Gragg will assume his duties at the Mt. Mitchell club May 1.

In addition to announcing

Gragg as the club pro, Floyd revealed that work on the club house at the rolling golf course has started. "We hope to have the club house in operation for the opening of the course in mid-June," Floyd said.

The new Mt. Mitchell 18-hole layout will conform with gentle slopes of the land, 6600 yards in length. Built around the South Toe River that sidwinds through it like a lazy snake, the course will have small, well contoured greens in keeping with most recent trends in greens construction. Fifty-five white feldspar sandtraps and three fast moving streams add to the beauty and challenge of the course which was laid out so it can be traversed easily on foot or by cart. Sand will be added to the traps in May. Penncross bent grass will cover the greens and tees; fairways will be a mixture of highland bent, fine bladed fescues, and Kentucky bluegrass. Irrigation has been installed on fairways and greens; seeding is now complete.

The club has announced that a number of season passes are available lasting for a 1-year period from the opening date. Persons interested should call 075-4223 or come by the sales office on South Toe River Road for more information.



Mt. Mitchell Golf Course Is Nearing Completion



Vacation Homes Are Part Of Mt. Mitchell Lands Project

Young Peoples Theatre To Perform In Yancey County

The Theatre for Young People Professional Touring Repertory Company is coming to Yancey County on April 1 with its exciting production of *Rumpelstiltskin*. The colorful adventure-filled adaptation of the Grimms' fairy tale will be performed by a cast of seven talented young actors. The appearance at Cane River High School gym is made as part of a ten-week tour set up by the Department of Drama and Speech at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. The effort is part of the University's College of Arts and Sciences attempt to bring live quality theatre to the young people of the state and provide employment for North Carolina artists.

The part of Rumpelstiltskin will be played by Junious Leak who has played leading roles at A & T University in Greensboro in "The King and I", "A Raisin in the Sun", "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?", "The Blacks", "Slow Dance on the Killing Ground", and "In White America". Junious was awarded the Best Actor award from A & T in 1973 and 1974 and is dedicated to becoming a successful actor.

Sybil Rosen will play the Miller's Daughter who with Rumpelstiltskin's help spins straw into gold. Sybil graduated from UNC-G in 1972 and has since played roles in "Godspell", "The Fantasticks", "The Killing of Sister George", "Two for the Seesaw", and "Teahouse of the August Moon" for theatre throughout the South. For UNC-G Theatre she played leading roles in "Dark of the Moon", "Waiting for Godot" and "The Tempest", and many more. This past summer she led an improvisational workshop for children at Lake Lanier, Georgia and has appeared in several children's theatre productions.

The greedy Kins will be portrayed by Barry Bell who has played leading roles in UNC-G Theatre productions of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof", "The Balcony", "That Championship Season", and "Luv" and he has played leading roles for Dinner Theatres in Greensboro, Atlanta, Charlotte and Kingsport, Tennessee. He is from Charlotte and was active in high school and community theatres there. Barry appeared in "The Emperor's New Clothes" and "Good Grief, A Griffin" for TYP. In January he was chosen to audition for the University Resident Theatre Association.

The Prince will be played by Michael Lilly. Michael

most recently played the lead in "Barefoot in the Park" at the Dinner Theatre of the Sir Walter Hotel in Raleigh. A recent graduate from UNC-G, Michael appeared in "The Orestia" which was chosen to perform in the American College Theatre Festival at the Kennedy Center in Washington. No stranger to TYP Touring, Michael played several roles including the Devil in the 1973 show, "Punch and Judy".

The part of the Miller will be played by Bill Raulerson who has performed in Dinner Theatres in Greensboro and Charlotte, Atlanta, and in Kingsport in leading roles in "The Lion in Winter", "One

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[Photo by V. Floyd]

Project Will Bring Back Deer Scenes Like This

Wildlife Afield:

Deer Restoration Underway

BY JIM DEAN

There are more whitetail deer in North Carolina than at any time in recorded history.

Biological estimates run as high as half a million deer, and there are parts of the state—particularly in the east—which are so overrun that deer are considered a nuisance to gardens and crops.

But despite this population explosion, there are still pockets in the state where deer are scarce. Some parts of the piedmont and mountains still have few deer.

However, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is in the process of conducting a restoration program which will increase deer populations in more than a dozen areas of the state. The projects are paid for entirely by hunters and fishermen (no general tax funds are involved).

STOCKING DEER

"We're already at work stocking three areas and we're about 20 percent finished," said Larry Warlick, assistant chief of the Division of Game. Warlick is in charge of the overall deer restoration program.

"Game management field crews have already put about

30 deer in the New Hope area in Chatham County," said Warlick. "We're planning to stock about 75 there. As of the middle of February, we have also released about 15 deer in the Bluff Mountain section of Madison County, and about 15 in the Cowee Mountain section of Swain, Jackson and Macon counties. The reason we're ahead in Chatham County is because we already had some deer penned nearby which we used for stocking."

"We're planning to put about 50 deer in Bluff Mountain and 50 in Cowee," added Warlick. "All these stocked deer will be wild, live-trapped deer."

PAUSE DURING SEASON

Warlick said that trapping and stocking will continue until sometime in April and hopes are high that the first three areas will be essentially stocked by then.

Trapping and stocking will resume following the next hunting season, and Raven Rock State Park is slated to be one of the next areas to be

stocked. In fact, stocking at Raven Rock may begin this year if enough deer are trapped to do it.

"If we get a good deer population established on Raven Rock, they'll expand into the surrounding area," said Warlick.

AREAS STUDIED

Warlick showed me a list of the areas being studied for possible deer restoration. Among those being evaluated are the Broad River section of Cleveland County, the Snowbird Mountain area of Swain, Graham and Cherokee counties, and Elk Knob in Ashe and Watauga counties; however, these are only tentative at this point.

"We're not just stocking deer, of course," said Warlick. "We're also going to do habitat improvement in these areas and we're already working on this in the areas we're now stocking. Habitat improvement is important and is a continuing program on all deer restoration areas."

Warlick explained that in

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Land Needed For Recreation

The Yancey County Recreation Commission has been formally approved by the Board of County Commissioners. The newly appointed commission held its first meeting at the courthouse last week. At this meeting by-laws were adopted, standing committee appointed, officers were elected and overall program goals were formulated.

Commission members have been selected from all areas of the county. Current petitions are being circulated throughout the county in an effort to demonstrate citizen support for a county recreation program. The support and cooperation of the entire county is requested by the commission. Ideas and proposals from groups and for individuals are welcomed.

Land acquisition is the first priority of the commission. It is hoped that a central recreation facility can be built along with several mini parks in outlying areas of the county. Other counties that have undertaken programs of this nature have relied heavily on land donations (which are tax deductible) from individuals and groups.

The appraised value of the donated land will be matched dollar for dollar by the Federal Government. This approach permits the county to obtain Federal funds for construction. Persons wishing to donate lands (any acreage will be considered) should contact: Chairman Yancey Recreation Commission P.O. Box 728, Burnsville, N.C. 28714 Phone 682-6773 Or Chairman Acquisition and Development Committee Yancey County Recreation Commission Box 97 Rt. 6 Burnsville, N.C. 28714

Monthly Billing Is Slated

French Broad Electric Membership Corporation Offices will be closed on Easter Monday, March 31, 1975, for Holiday.

French Broad Electric membership Corporation Announces a 30-Day Billing Cycle for all consumers. Commencing with the bills rendered on April 1, 1975, all consumers served by French Broad Electric Membership Corporation will be placed on monthly billing.

For many years, the rural residential consumers (farm and home) of French Broad EMC have been billed bi-monthly.

Members will continue to receive meter reading cards bi-monthly as in the past. On the interim month, and estimated bill will be rendered and an adjustment made on the bill when a true reading is received the following month.

Graduation Dance To Be Held

Mt. Mitchell Swingers Western Square Dance Club will have its 2nd graduation dance on Friday, March 28, at 8:00 p.m. in the East Yancey High School gym.

People who are interested in the new class are invited to come and watch. The new class will begin May 17th.

Come and enjoy the fellowship of square dancing. The two main rules of square dancing are no drinking and have fun.

ATTEND EASTER SERVICES IN CHURCH