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Senior Citizens At Grandfather Mountain

On Wednesday, September 23, fifty senior citizens and five workers loaded on three buses and went to Grandfather Mountain for a picnic. The weather was great; the scenery, with the leaves beginning to turn many colors, was beautiful. The wind was cold but must have been just right for the Gliders as there were half a dozen or so flying over and around the mountain in the afternoon. The senior citizens visited the Bears

and some walked across the Mile High Swinging Bridge. The trip was enjoyed by everyone, and the lunch was packed by Servation, who delivers lunch every day to the Nutritional Feeding Program at the Community Center in Burnsville. Anyone who would like to participate in this program should call WAMY, 682-2610, or the Feeding Site at 682-7563.

Yancey Gets Road Funds

State Secondary Roads Councilman Ted Smith of Swannanoa announced today that \$48,400 of supplemental road construction funds have been allocated for use to improve secondary roads in Yancey County.

This allocation is part of a \$4.6 million statewide supplemental allocation of secondary road construction funds

for Fiscal Year 1976-77 and was approved by the Board of Transportation last month. These funds are in addition to the \$30 million dollar allocation enacted by the General Assembly during its Second 1976 session.

Yancey County's share of the \$30 million allocation released in July was \$313,200, bringing the county's total

share of secondary road construction funds for this fiscal year to \$361,600.

"The Yancey County share of the funds is based on a formula that puts all counties on an equal footing by considering estimated local construction costs, the number of unpaved miles of secondary roads in any given county and the relationship of this mileage to the overall mileage of unpaved secondary roads in the State," Smith explained.

There are 151 miles of unpaved secondary roads in Yancey County and the average cost of constructing a single mile of roadway in Yancey County is estimated at \$70,350.

Smith will coordinate the planning and selection of construction projects within

Yancey County that will be financed by this supplemental allocation. "We will be working very closely with the county commissioners in determining what projects to present to the Secondary Roads Council for its final approval," concluded Smith.

Sales, Use Tax Report

Local 1% Sales and Use Tax collections during the month of August, 1976, were reported recently by J. Howard Coble, Secretary, N.C. Department of Revenue. The report shows Yancey County collections for that period amounted to the sum of \$20,647.31.

Meet The Candidates GOP Dinner Slated

The Yancey County Republicans will host a "Meet the Candidates" dinner at Mountain Heritage High School cafeteria, Saturday, October 9, at 7:00 p.m.

Musical entertainment will be provided by the choir from the Burnsville A.M.E. Griffith Chapel. This choir has gained an outstanding reputation for their talent and enthusiasm.

Speakers for the event will be Dave Flaherty, GOP candidate for Governor, and Bruce B. Briggs of Mars Hill, Republican candidate for Congress from the Eleventh Congressional District.

Robert L. (Bob) Rhinehart, candidate for Chairman of the Yancey County Board of Commissioners, Walter Edwards and K. Lyda Letterman, will also be in attendance.

Other Republican candidates expected to be present are the District Court Judges, Ray Braswell and Bob Lacey, both from Avery County; James D. McKinney of Marion, Representative for McDowell and Yancey Counties; Ted Smith from Swannanoa and Edward B. Krause of Asheville, candidates for State Senators for the 26th Senatorial District.

Tickets for the dinner are \$5.00 and may be purchased at Republican Headquarters between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. or

they will be delivered if so desired by phoning 682-7211 or 682-7108. They may also be obtained from Republicans throughout the county.



Smokey Visits Headstart

Blain Ray, forestry technician from the U.S. Dept. of Forestry brought Smokey the Bear to visit the Headstart Center in Burnsville on Thursday, September 23. He showed a film on fire prevention and let Smokey talk to the children and give them handouts to make them more aware of the problem of forest fires. There were 24 adults and 40 children to greet Mr. Ray and his good friend Smokey. Afterwards there was a Headstart and Homestart parents meeting where officers were elected for the coming year. William and Violet Thomas were elected co-presidents, with Clifford and Ingrid Deyton elected vice presidents and Buleah Hughes secretary-treasurer. The next meeting will be on October 26 at 7:30 p.m. during which a Halloween Party in full costume will be the major event. All Headstart and Homestart families are invited to attend.

In Our Opinion:

No Park Please!

BY CAROLYN YUZIUK

Is everyone in favor of establishing a Mt. Mitchell National Park? How could anyone be against it. It sounds wonderful!

Well, we've heard a few home truths in the past two weeks that makes us wonder if the establishment of Mt. Mitchell National Park is really in the best interests of the people of Yancey and Mitchell Counties. We also wonder if other people are as ignorant of all the facts about the rules and restrictions governing a National Park as we were.

We must realize that the area which the proposed National Park would encompass is mostly in Yancey and Mitchell Counties. And we're talking about thousands of acres. One suggestion was for 50,000 to 100,000 acres to be set aside for this purpose. If a National Park is created from these lands, these acres would pass right out of U.S. Forest Service management. We would have, in essence, a Wilderness Area under management of the Department of Interior.

A LOT OF NO'S

There could be no hunting, no back country travel by jeep or truck, no taking of galax, moss, shrubs for yards, or even wildflowers, no management of timber cutting to enhance deer and grouse habitats--not even for firewood and not even if the trees are dead--in a National Park.

Sportsmen in our midst may think twice at this point, but other conservationists and nature lovers may believe we should be happy to let the government take over the preservation of our land in its natural state. What better way to make sure that the same unspoiled beauty we enjoy will also enrich the lives of our sons and daughters and their children.

It's not that simple, however. At least, not for those of us who live here.

As one far-seeing Yancey citizen said on the subject, "If this bill passes, the land surrounding Mt. Mitchell National Park will be as crowded as Coney Island on the 4th of July."

If a National Park is created in this area we'll be listed in the National Parks directory, and there would be no way of preventing the rest of Yancey County from becoming another Gatlinburg. Whether we think this is bad or not depends on our feelings about "boom" towns with wall-to-wall motels and bumper-to-bumper campers.

Not even the wilderness we would be trying to preserve would be spared. The hiking trails in the Smoky Mountain National Park have become so crowded that the Park Service has had to drastically limit the hiking use by issuing permits.

A GOOD ALTERNATIVE

There is one alternative, however, to saying a flat "no" to the creation of a National Park--an answer that would allow us to use our land without losing it eventually to land developers and private interests. It is important for everyone to be aware that an option exists between the extremes of the creation of an untouchable National Park on one hand, and what could be an inevitable exploitation of that same land by private developers on the other hand.

The answer could be to suggest and promote the creation of a National Recreation Area instead of a National Park. The people in Southern Virginia made this choice a few years ago when a National Park was proposed for the Mount Rogers area near Marion, Virginia. They decided on what is now the Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area.

WHAT MAKES NRA WORK?

What makes a National Recreation Area work for conservationists, sportsmen and just about everyone else who uses the forest? A National Recreation Area is designated by an Act of Congress and would be administered by the U.S. Forest Service under multiple use management with emphasis on recreational uses. These uses would include hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, wilderness experiences, horseback riding, jeep travel ways, etc. The Act would also designate boundaries and would empower the Forest Service to buy lands needed to preserve areas such as the top of the Black Mountains from eventual development.

Under this plan, timber cutting can be done much as it is presently being done under Forest Service jurisdiction, but the stress is on management of timber to enhance the area rather than on timber production.

When a National Recreation Area is established, master plans are drawn up by the Forest Service for construction and maintenance of jeep roads to enhance hunting and fishing in the area. Additional monies are devoted to the construction of new hiking trails and their maintenance, and needed campgrounds are established and maintained in the area. The whole emphasis for the land is on use without abuse.

JUDGE FOR YOURSELF

We urge everyone to judge for themselves how the establishment of Mt. Mitchell National Park would affect them and whether the benefits of simple land preservation would be worth the

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New Little Theatre Production Slated

"Spoon River Anthology," the latest production by Burnsville Little Theatre will be presented Thursday, Friday and Saturday, September 30, October 1 and 2 at Parkway Playhouse. This is the Little Theatre's first production using the facilities of the Playhouse. Performances begin at 8:15 p.m. Edgar Lee Masters' *Spoon River Anthology* stands as one of the classics in American poetry and this successful stage adaptation by Charles Aidman serves well to convey the pertinent and powerful nature of Masters 1915 work.

The style of the play is

unique. Former residents of the imaginary town of Spoon River speak from their graves and sketch out the story of their frustrated lives. The bitter truth to be found in this play has made it a classic piece of theatre. Musical accompaniment in the form of a chorus and guitars make it a well rounded evening of entertainment.

The cast includes Kim Aldridge, Barbara Bailey, Becky Bingham, Gail Deyton, Pat Hardy, Kevin Shirley, Tim Thompson and Fred Topping. The musicians are Jennifer Lee, Bob Rissman, Willie Riddle and Sam Stewart.

Phillip Shore, who appeared in Burnsville Little Theatre's production of *Don't Drink The Water*, is directing *Spoon River Anthology*.

Tickets are available in advance from Little Theatre members and at various businesses in town. Admission at the door will be \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for students.

Weekend Highway Accidents

Two automobile accidents on Yancey County highways caused injuries but no fatalities last weekend.

On Saturday, September 25, David Bishop of Miami, Florida was involved in a one-car accident when his car went off a 50 ft. embankment, striking trees and overturning on N.C. 197 South near the Buncombe County line. Bishop was taken to the hospital for treatment.

Trooper B.R. Owens investigated the accident.

Sgt. Don Reavis investigated a three-car accident at 2:00 p.m. Sunday at the Prices Creek and 19E Intersection. Paula Mae Higgins of Route 3, Burnsville was attempting a left hand turn when Arthur T. Morrison apparently lost control of his car and hit the Higgins Car and another car driven by Bill Arrowood.

Mrs. Higgins was taken to an Asheville hospital. Mr. Arrowood and his wife, Nancy were also taken to a hospital but were not seriously injured.

Damage to the Higgins vehicle was estimated at \$1,200; to the Arrowood vehicle \$900; and to the Morrison vehicle \$4,000.

Region D Grant Is Approved

Congressman Roy A. Taylor announced the approval of a grant of \$45,000 by the Economic Development Administration for the Region D Economic Development District's planning program through June 30, 1977. The Region D Council of Government will provide \$15,000 to complete the \$60,000 total cost.

Region D Economic District, headquartered at Boone, N.C., consists of Avery, Mitchell, Yancey, Alleghany, Ashe, Watauga and Wilkes Counties.

Tent Revival

Tent Revival Services by Miracle Revival Team are now in progress, 7:30 p.m. daily, Rt. 19 between Ingles and Northwestern Bank Branch. The public is cordially invited.