

THE YANCEY JOURNAL

VOL. 5, NO. 14

BURNSVILLE, N.C. 28714

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1977

15¢

Hundreds Attend Meeting

Citizens Veto Park

BY JODY HIGGINS
Over 500 people crowded into the South Toe Community Building and others stood outside in the rain. They all came to the March 25 meeting hoping to learn more about the proposal to turn Mt. Mitchell State Park and thousands of adjacent acres into a National Park.

Most of those present wanted to know if their land would be taken and what would happen to our tranquil community if Burnsville became the gateway to a National Park.

Charles Willis, a Yancey resident, began looking into the proposed National Park several weeks ago and began a one-man drive to find ways to stop the project. The enthusiastic crowd echoed Willis' sentiments about the Park and voted him to serve

as chairman of a committee to stop the park. Martin Shuford was elected treasurer and Thelma Loftis, secretary.

Willis introduced Otis Wilson, a Forest Service employee, who explained the current status of the park and answered questions about the project.

According to their information, \$52,000 has been granted by Congress to the Department of Interior to make a "Feasibility and Stability Report" which will determine if this area is suitable for a National Park. The study will begin this summer. According to Wilson, the lay of the land, the water sheds and other features make this area a prime spot for a National Park.

"We cannot stop the study," Willis told the crowd, "but we can stop the park."

He urged each resident of Yancey to write letters to Congressman Lamar Gudger, Senator Jesse Helms, Senator Robert Morgan, and Governor James Hunt, informing them that the people of this area do not want a National Park.

A letter from former Senator Sam Ervin was read which advised people of the importance of letting their representatives in Washington know how they feel about the parks because Congress will decide this issue after the Feasibility and Stability Study is made—not the people of this area.

To those concerned that the boundaries of a National Park would take their land, Wilson explained that the boundaries will be set after the study is made and it is decided that this area is suitable for a Park. The area

to be studied by a six-man team for the Department of Interior includes over 200,000 acres in Yancey, Buncombe and McDowell Counties. A map outlining the study area is available from the Forest Service for 50 cents.

In answer to questions about how the use of this land would change as far as the public is concerned, Wilson said that in a National Park no timber cutting, wood gathering, hunting, berry picking, or root and galax gathering would be permitted. There would be limited recreation such as hiking, with advance permits.

What would become of privately owned land and homes in the proposed area if the study is completed, boundaries are set, and it is

[Cont'd on page 9]



Citizens Gather To Discuss National Park Study Photo by Jody Higgins



Youth Jamboree Planned

The Yancey County Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Youth Jamboree Saturday afternoon and evening, May 7, at Mountain Heritage High School. Applications for entry will be made available to all school children in Yancey County. One of the objectives of the Youth Jamboree is to preserve a part of our musical heritage. The songs and dances performed should, for the most part, represent the musical tradition of the mountain area. A limited number of modern ballads or folk songs will be allowed, but there will be no electric instruments or "Pop" music represented.

The purpose of the program is to provide a stage for some of our talented younger citizens and to have fun. There will be a number of trophies presented to outstanding performers, but the emphasis will be on entertainment, not competition.

The Chamber of Commerce hopes to provide an enjoyable event for the entire family. All students interested in applying should contact teachers in their respective schools. For more information call Jerry Newton [682-7413] in the chamber office. Pictured above, South Toe Elementary students perform at a recent talent exhibition at that school.

Local Ticket Agency Set For Asheville Civic Center

The Yancey County Country Store has been designated as the Asheville Civic Center Ticket Agency for the Yancey County area.

Seating charts are available for each event so patrons can select the seats they desire.

Having the Ticket Agency in Burnsville will be a great convenience, as reservations can be picked up here, saving a trip to Asheville.

General Admission tickets are also available.

To cover phone calls for reservations and other expenses an official fee of \$1.00 is charged for 1 ticket for a group of any size purchased at one time from the Agency. 25 cents extra for general admission tickets.

Gudger To Hear People At Town Meeting In Yancey

Congressman Lamar Gudger announced today that during the Easter recess period, April 7 through April 18, and in addition to other meetings scheduled, he will participate in three "Town Meetings". He said, "These town meetings are a new idea for Western North Carolina but promise to do a lot to bring us closer together."

The three town meetings already announced are scheduled for Andrews on Thursday, April 14, 1977 at 7:30 p.m. at the Andrews Community Center; in Rutherfordton on Friday, April 15, 1977 at 7:30 p.m. at the Rutherford County Courthouse; and in Burnsville on Saturday, April 16, 1977, at 8:30 p.m. in the Mountain Heritage High School Auditorium.

Each meeting will be

announced by post cards mailed out to all residents of the town and surrounding community which will give the time and place of meeting and provide some information concerning the program.

At each meeting the Congressman will give a 15 or 20 minute report on activities in Washington and will answer questions. The greater part of the program, however, will involve the Congressman listening and the people of the District speaking and the real purpose of the meetings will be to let the Congressman and local leaders learn from their constituents their views on matters of national and local concern.

At some of the meetings there will be an agenda listing topics for discussion such as

a local public works project, the Mt. Mitchell National Park or even reducing the European Boar population in the National Park, and it is expected that some of the meetings will be transcribed so that comments from the people can be recorded and used later in Washington when these comments relate to legislation or departmental matters there.

Mr. Tom Mallonee, District Assistant to Congressman Gudger, is working with local officials in preparing for these town meetings. Persons desiring to make sure that particular topics are developed, or wanting to be certain of an opportunity to speak, are encouraged to contact him at 1204 Northwestern Bank Building, Asheville, North Carolina.

When interviewed in Asheville about the town meeting idea, Congressman Gudger stated, "It is generally known that in the New England States Town Meetings have served for a hundred years to develop public participation in government and to keep the local officials aware of the public's interests in the towns in which these meetings are held."

"I have talked to some of my colleagues in Washington about these meetings and they have convinced me that these meetings can be useful here in providing a means whereby I can learn the principal concerns of the people of the 11th Congressional District."

"Furthermore, I stated [Cont'd on page 9]



Miss East Yancey Contestants

Early in March each class at East Yancey Middle School chose a class representative, by ballot, to compete for the title of Miss East Yancey Middle School. A total of thirteen 6th, 7th, and 8th grade girls were nominated by their classmates for this honor, and they practiced hard for the big day. On Thursday, March 31, at a school assembly program, they were judged for talent, poise and beauty by a special committee of judges. The winner and 1977 Miss East Yancey Middle School is Tonya Allen, whose talent was baton twirling. Talents displayed by other contestants were piano, guitar, clogging,

singing, and reciting. Pictured left to right are the contestants in their formal gowns: [front row] Kristi Robinson, Sharon Yuzluk, Keela Shehan, Tonya Allen, Belinda Hensley, Jeannie Frosnell, Sharon McClure; [back row] Angie Wheeler, Joy Bennett, Amy Proffitt, Renee Riddle, Kim Harris and Judy Holland. Photographer Joe Moody has pictures of each contestant performing their talent and in their long dress, as well as the group photo shown here. Any picture may be purchased at \$4 [8 x 10] or \$2 [5 x 7]. Call 682-6241 if interested, or call The Yancey Journal Photo by Joe Moody

REJOICE IN THE
MIRACLE OF EASTER