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Meeting With Gudger Will Follow Chamber Dinner

BY JERRY NEWTON
Chamber Exec. Director
The Yancey County Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring an open meeting with Congressman Lamar Gudger Saturday, April 16, at 8:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Mountain Heritage High School. This meeting should not be confused with the

Annual Chamber Dinner which will be held in the cafeteria beginning at 7:00 in the evening. The Annual Dinner is a business meeting of the Chamber of Commerce and is restricted to Chamber members and invited guests. The open meeting has been described by Congressman Gudger's office as a

"Town Meeting", but we would prefer to call it a county meeting because the topics of discussion will concern all the citizens of Yancey County. The meeting will begin with Congressman Gudger giving a 15 or 20 minute report on activities in Washington. The remainder of the meeting will be conducted by

a moderator who will suggest topics for question and comment by the audience. There has been an informal agenda suggested which includes such topics as: the National Park Study, local road construction, the Blue Ridge Parkway, Social Security, Housing, taxes and others.

We hope to conduct an orderly, informative meeting. The Board of Education has generously allowed us to use their facilities and fire regulations will be enforced. There will be no smoking, drinking or eating allowed in the auditorium.

Due to the length and complexity of the evening's activities, the Board of Directors has decided to cancel the exhibits by local clubs and organizations. We hope to start organizing the exhibits earlier next year and make them an important part of the program.



Cane River Students Visit Journal

Students in Tom Koch's 7th grade class at Cane River Middle School visited The Yancey Journal and Yancey Graphics, accompanied by their student teacher, Belinda

Robinson, on Thursday, April 7. They learned something about the composing and processing of a newspaper and job printing during this visit, and enjoyed the trip.

Editorial:

Time To Act!

BY CAROLYN YUZIUK

The National Park feasibility/suitability study is of great concern to Yancey County people—and we should be concerned before it's too late!

Despite soothing words by our legislators who want us to realize that this is only a study, we believe that now is the time to worry. When great powers and pressures in Washington are brought to bear on an issue under study, the issue often becomes so separated from the people at the grass roots level that no one really knows what's happening until an idea becomes a reality.

Roy Taylor's proposal was for a three-year study of the feasibility of establishing a Mt. Mitchell National Park. Although the study is not due to begin until May of this year, much of the groundwork has already been laid. Now a news release from the National Park Service, dated April 8, 1977, tells us that the feasibility/suitability study is expected to last only 8 months.

The news release also mentions that the study area covers the Black Mountain Range, federal land adjacent to the Blue Ridge Parkway, and the Craggy Mountains, as

well as Mt. Mitchell State Park.

Whether our homes and lands could or would be confiscated for a Park is not the issue at present, although that thought is understandably of primary importance to every individual who lives in the study area. What is of major importance right now is the overall view of what the creation of a National Park would do to Yancey County.

In providing an extreme sort of land protection, many thousands of acres coming under the National Park Service would have limited access and tough restrictions on land use. Not only would this land be lost to us as far as the free use we now enjoy, but the remainder of our land—which is not taken for the Park—would surely become a garish nightmare for residents and tourists alike.

It is strange, but sadly true that the National Park Service in taking part of an area into their protective custody, creates havoc with the peace and beauty of surrounding lands. As many people crowd into our area to view the beauty in the Park itself, so many other people will crowd in around the Park boundaries to take advantage of the big tourist dollar to be spent.

Congressman Gudger has stated that the study would disclose many problems. Among these he mentions that North Carolina is not interested in yielding up its number one State Park to federal control, the logging business on National Forest lands would be suspended, and owners of small tracts who may have their holdings confiscated would be against a Park.

These are problems, indeed, but the thousands of people living in Yancey County who are not loggers or living in the study area must also be heard as a strong voice of opposition, both at the State and National level.

Citizens of Yancey County should attend the "Town Meeting" at Mountain Heritage auditorium this Saturday, April 16, at 8:30 p.m. (note: The time was mistakenly printed as 7:30 p.m. on a card sent to area residents), and let Congressman Lamar Gudger hear your views. Write to Governor Jim Hunt, Senator Robert Morgan, Senator Jesse Helms, and anyone else who can carry your emphatic "No Park, Please" to the United States legislators.

The time to be concerned is now. The time to act is now.

Special Olympics Planned

It's Special Olympics time in Western North Carolina! The date is set for April 22 on the campus of Appalachian State University in Boone. Four schools from Yancey County will be participating. They are Bald Creek School, Micaville School, South Toe School and Cane River Middle School.

The Special Olympics is a National Activity held regionally each year for Exceptional Children. It is a track meet consisting of four events: softball throw, 50-yard dash, standing broad jump and the wheel chair race. Each child is eligible for two events.

The primary purpose of the Special Olympics is to allow each Exceptional child to experience success. Each child competes only against children on his level.

The participating schools of Yancey County would like to thank Wanda McNeil and the staff of the Yancey Public Health Dept. for their outstanding efforts in setting up and securing the required physical examinations for the county's forty participants. We would like to thank Dr. Carolyn Cort for so generously giving her time to administer these examinations free of charge to each child.

The participating schools of Yancey County would also like to express our gratitude to the Mt. Mitchell C.B. Club who, under the leadership of Mr. Carl Penland, has graciously donated the entire sum of \$100.00 required as an entry fee for the Special Olympics by each participating county. This money helps cover the cost and expenses of the Olympics and insures the Exceptional Children of Yancey County the opportunity to participate and succeed at the Special Olympics.

Our Exceptional children are a valuable asset to our community. They can serve in many varied ways if only given the opportunity. The Special Olympics helps them develop self-confidence. We invite you to support and encourage the efforts of these Exceptional Children by attending the Special Olympics in Boone.



Micaville Kindergarten Comes To Town

On Friday, April 8th, the Micaville Kindergarten class presented an Easter Program for their parents, teachers and friends at the Micaville Elementary School. Following the

program they enjoyed a trip to Burnsville and ate lunch at Bantam Chef. Joyce Dale, Teacher, and Betty Robinson, Aide, accompanied the students to Burnsville.



\$25 Awarded To FFA Team

The Yancey Soil and Water Conservation District has awarded \$25 to the FFA Soil Judging team at Mountain Heritage High School. The team consists of Wade Biddix, Frankie Gouge, David Gibbs, and Scotty Hicks. They are coached by Mr. Herb Allen.

The team won first place in the District Contest held in Haywood County on March 22. They participated in the State Contest held in Yulandville, N.C. on April 2 and took Fourth place honors there. The team has been invited to participate in the National Contest which is scheduled for May 4-5. If the team can raise the funds they hope to attend the contest which is being held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The Yancey Soil and Water Conservation District is proud of the success these boys have achieved and wish them luck in their future contest. Pictured above are FFA students of Buncombe, Madison, Yancey and Mitchell counties engaged in a Soil Judging Contest. Photo by Ray Dorsett

'Rainmaker' Auditions Are Slated

Auditions for the Burnsville Little Theatre spring production, "The Rainmaker," will be held this week at the First Presbyterian Church in Burnsville.

Tryouts will be April 14 and 15, Thursday and Friday evening from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. and on April 17, Sunday afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. All persons interested in acting or production should attend one of these tryouts. "The Rainmaker" will be directed by Jim Priesmeyer.

"The Rainmaker," a comedy by Richard Nash, takes place during a drought in the west. The father and two brothers of a girl are more worried about her becoming an old maid than about their dying cattle. When a smooth talking character claiming to be a rainmaker appears, all their worries about the drought and their daughter seem to be over. "The Rainmaker" is a delightful and touching story.



Pottery Class Begins

Mike Cyzycki, who with his wife Becky runs a pottery studio near Bakersville, will teach an introductory pottery class on Thursday at the Newdale Community Center from 7 to 10 p.m. The first class and registration will take place at the center on Thursday, April 14. The class is cosponsored by the Toe River Arts Council and Mayland Technical Institute and registration is \$5. Wanda Levin's class in stained glass will begin Wednesday, April 13, at 7 p.m. at the Newdale Community Center. For further information call 765-2652 in Mitchell County or 682-2483 in Yancey County.