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Bob Hazel (left) With Jesse Hicks

Memorandum Pledges Support For Environmental Concerns

A new Memorandum of Understanding pledging support for environmental concerns has been signed by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and the

USDA-Soil Conservation Service.

Under the agreement, signed in Raleigh recently by Executive Director Robert B. Hazel of the Wildlife Resources

Commission and State Conservationist Jesse L. Hicks who heads the SCS, personnel of both agencies in North Carolina will work together

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Yancey Youth Jamboree Set For Saturday Night

The Yancey County Youth Jamboree, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce will take place this Saturday, May 7, at Mountain Heritage High School.

The first part of the program, consisting of various forms of folk and square dance, will begin at 3:00 p.m. outside in the amphitheater. At 7:00 p.m. the entertainment will continue with singing and instrumental numbers in the auditorium of the high school.

Tickets for both performances will be sold at the door, \$1.50 for adults; \$1.00 for students. Anyone purchasing a ticket to the afternoon performance should hold that ticket for admittance to the evening show.

The performers for this occasion come directly from

the public schools of Yancey County. For some of the children it will be their first time before an audience, but many of the participants are old hands at performing in competition. A large number of these talented youngsters have won recognition in former years at this Jamboree and the one at Asheville. Some have won numerous trophies and others have made records of their songs. About one third of the participants have entered in exhibition and will not be competing for trophies.

A great deal of work has gone into the preparation of all these performances. The dances sometimes involve as many as twenty children at once and require intricate steps and formations. Most of the dance groups have been

organized in the classrooms under the direction of one or more teachers. The singers and instrumentalists usually receive their training at home or from a private tutor. Hours of practice are necessary to achieve the degree of poise and discipline these children exhibit.

In addition to the Youth Jamboree entries, there will be short presentations by a choral group conducted by Jerry Collins and a group from the high school band conducted by Lisa Mauney.

Proceeds from the Youth Jamboree go to provide scholarships for a number of graduating seniors each year. The Chamber of Commerce hopes this will be an entertaining event and well attended by the community.

Population Growth Estimates:

Yancey Census Is Up

The latest estimated figures for North Carolina's permanent resident population as of July, 1975 were released recently. This report was prepared by the Office of State Planning in Raleigh (now known as the Division of State Budget and Management). Figures are based on those persons living in the incorporated areas defined by July 1, 1976 boundaries. The estimates are certified by the Secretary of Administration for the allocation of certain tax

monies to counties and municipalities.

The figures of importance to Yancey County are ones which show the total percentage of change from the 1970 census of the 100 counties of North Carolina to the population of mid-1975--a period of 5½ years. The estimates were developed by the U.S. Bureau of the Census and the Research Division of the State Planning Office using five methods of computation which were then averaged to reach the most accurate figure projecting population growth.

Here are the results: Yancey County had a census of 12,629 in 1970. This figure was estimated to have jumped more than 10% by 1975--to a census of 13,900. The town of Burnsville was also estimated to have grown by 7.6%--which works out to slightly more

than 100 people in 1975 than there were in 1970.

Mitchell County, on the other hand, had a census of 13,447 in 1970 which is estimated to have grown by less than 5%--to 14,100 in 1975. Spruce Pine was almost at a standstill: an estimated growth of only .3% (approximately 7 people added to the census).

Madison County estimated figures are also well below those of Yancey County with an estimated population growth in the 5½ year period of 5.6%. The town of Marshall had a negative growth estimate of -35.9% (almost 600 people dropped from the census from 1970-1975.)

Avery County was slightly ahead of us in estimated census growth for the 5½ year period--showing a census rise of 11.4% during this

time (from 12,655 to 14,100).

Watauga County was well ahead with an estimated increase of 23.1%. The booming town of Boone jumped ahead by more than 3,000 to reach a census projection at 37% higher than in 1970.

Another figure of interest to Yancey County is shown in a table which shows annual growth rates for a 10 year period from 1960 to 1970, and then for the 5½ years covered by the current survey, 1970-1975. Yancey County had a negative growth rate from 1960 to 1970 of -.98%. This has changed in the 1970-1975 figures to a positive annual growth rate of 1.85%. The positive annual growth rate for our neighboring counties of Mitchell and Madison, from 1970 to 1975, was .89% and 1.03% respectively.



Jenny Burgin

Benefit Dance For Jenny

The Student Government Association of Mayland Technical Institute has organized a community Square Dance to raise money to help a fellow student pay medical expenses for his dying 15 month old daughter.

The student, Dennis Burgin of Yancey County, and his wife, Judy, have their infant daughter, Jenny, in a Memphis, Tennessee hospital. She has a rare case of bone cancer and doctors there give her little hope of survival. She is being kept alive by massive blood transfusions in addition to special drugs. Medical treatment for Jenny's type of illness is very expensive and requires complete hospital care. The possibilities are great that she may never get to come home again.

Dennis is attending Mayland Tech on the GI Bill to upgrade his vocational skills so that he can get a higher paying job. Unfortunately, because of his daughter's illness his wife has been forced to quit her job so that she can be at the hospital at all times. Even more unfortunate is the fact that the young couple have no medical insurance. Relatives and friends are helping out by keeping their four year old son and by giving financial assistance as they can afford to.

MTI's Student Government Association will hold a "Jenny Burgin Benefit Square Dance" on Friday, May 6, from 8:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. The square dance will be held outdoors on the Mayland Tech parking lot at the new campus. Music will be provided by the Toe River Valley Boys who have agreed to donate their time and effort. There will be an admission [Cont'd on page 6]



Henry Flowers

Flowers Is Guest Preacher

Reverend Henry Flowers, pastor of Haywood Street United Methodist Church in Asheville will be the guest preacher at the revival at Higgins Methodist Church May 8-11.

A native of Georgia, Reverend Flowers is a graduate of Birmingham Southern College and Duke Divinity School. He has served as pastor of numerous churches in Western North Carolina. Prior to his pastorate at

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Arts Council Sponsors Evening Of Poetry Here

Described by TIME magazine as "his own best poem," Poet John Beecher is considered a one man recorder of American experience. You will have the opportunity to hear such a poet! The Toe River Arts Council is sponsoring "An Evening With John and Barbara Beecher" on Saturday evening, May 21st, at The Deli' in Burnsville. A \$5 ticket will furnish you with

dinner at 7 p.m. followed by John Beecher and his poetry reading at 8 p.m. All tickets must be purchased prior to May 21st; no tickets will be

hour shifts on the open hearth furnaces when he was 16. Here he received the impressions which made him a rebel and a poet. He attended VMI, Alabama and North Carolina, as well as Cornell, Harvard and the Sorbonne. Beginning in 1927, he taught off and on at Dartmouth, the University of Wisconsin, San Francisco State College, Arizona State University and elsewhere. For eight depression years he administered New Deal special programs in the South.

Beecher served under a black captain aboard the first racially integrated American ship in World War II and wrote a widely reviewed book about his experiences. He was at various times a journalist in Birmingham, New York and Washington. During the civil rights movement of the mid-Sixties he was a Southern correspondent for the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Ramparts*. Previously he had as a teacher refused to sign California's unconstitutional "loyalty" oath when it was adopted in 1950. Blacklisted, he turned to ranching. He and his wife started a press to print his work and that of other poets.

John Beecher has of recent years served as poet in residence at half a dozen colleges and universities from the Pacific Coast to the Deep South, the Midwest, and New England. He has given hundreds of poetry readings across the United States and Canada. The *American Poetry Review* has described him and his poetry: "Beecher has learned how to make great poems consistently. His work potentially speaks to millions of Americans without speaking down to them."

For an evening with a unique and natural poet, don't miss the Toe River Arts Council's "Evening with John & Barbara Beecher" on Saturday, May 21. Only those with purchased tickets prior to May 21 will be admitted. For more information about this event, contact Theresa Coletta at 682-2282.



John Beecher

Quartet Presents Sacred Music

One of the five Ensembles representing Bob Jones University on tours throughout the country this summer will present a program of sacred music at Faith Fellowship Baptist Church, on Mitchell Branch, Saturday, May 7 at 7:30 p.m.

This male quartet will sing special arrangements of familiar hymns and sacred classics. Members of the quartet are Terry Haskins and Willard Lohnes, tenors; David Gustafson, bass; Dirk Crawford, baritone; and Mac Lynch, pianist. Director of the group and speaker will be Rick Phillips.

Mr. Haskins is a graduate assistant in the School of Fine Arts and is pursuing the master of arts degree. Mr. Lohnes, Mr. Gustafson, and Mr. Crawford are seniors majoring in humanities, English and music education, respectively. Mr. Lynch is a postgraduate student in the School of Fine Arts, and Mr. Phillips is a graduate student pursuing the master of divinity degree.

The group of six-who come from California, Ohio, South Carolina and Massachusetts-is typical of the students of Bob Jones University, which is located in Greenville, S.C.



MTI Painting Class Exhibits At Library

Yancey County Public Library visitors view paintings by members of Mayland Technical Institute's Continuing Education Painting Class being held at Mayland Middle School. The paintings, on display through mid-May, were done

by Norma Howell, Charles Gillespie, Janice Young, Della Ogilvie, Mildene Laws, Helen Books, Maurice Woodruff, Dorothy McHugh, and Hattie Silver. Photo by Brian Westveer

Glen Raven Pay Hike In June

Donald I. Burhoe, vice president and general manager of Glen Raven Mills, Inc., Burnsville Division, announced Thursday that a wage increase will become effective June 12, 1977 for all hourly paid and production employees.

The amount of the increase has not been finalized, but it will be in line with increases given by other major textile companies.

Glen Raven employs approximately 280 in its filament weaving plant at Burnsville in Yancey County.