

# THE YANCEY JOURNAL

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THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1977

15¢



Lt. Gov. Jim Green

## Lt. Gov. To Speak At MTI Ceremony

Jimmy Green, Lt. Governor and Chairman of the State Board of Education, will deliver the Dedication Address during formal dedication ceremonies for Mayland Technical Institute's new \$1.5 million building. The ceremonies are set for Sunday afternoon, May 22, at 2:00 p.m. in the parking lot at the new building. Lt. Governor Green's address will cap a weekend of public activities sponsored by the Institute.

On Saturday, May 21, beginning at 2:00 p.m., the building will be open for public viewing and faculty and staff will be on hand to talk with visitors about the Institute's programs. Each instructional department will have an exhibit to acquaint the public with its activities. Other Saturday activities include performances by the Mountain Heritage Band and Chorus, the Harris High Cloggers, the Mayland Tech Instrumental Ensemble, the Avery High Cloggers, the Blue Ridge Opry Boys, the Bowman High Chorus, and a special demonstration by Patrick Caule, a lutenist, and Shanna Hollander, a harpsichordist. Dr. Ted Ledford will give a sight and sound

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## Chamber Passes On 'No Park' Resolution

On Thursday, May 5, 1977, the Board of Directors of the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce voted unanimously for a resolution to oppose the creation of a National Park in the Mt. Mitchell area. A spokesman for the Chamber stated that in their view the establishment of a National Park encompassing an area generally fitting the study area would seriously interfere with the attraction of new industry to Yancey County as well as the possible expansion and everyday activities of our present industries. Not only would federal acquisition of land eliminate many industrial sites, he continued, it would also make other sites undesirable due to high commercialization of the area. It is possible, he stated, that our labor force could be depleted due to relocation of families.

The Chamber feels that the establishment of a National Park would bring a short-lived boom to present retail businesses, especially those geared to tourist trade, but in the long run it would not benefit the general merchants. The influx of new business would consist primarily of the tourist oriented trade: the fast food restaurant, the trinket and junk peddler. A National Park would not attract department stores, the stable food chains, the stores which sell quality merchandise at reasonable prices. Also, it is believed that a park in the area would force the cost of necessities up, not only for the tourist but for the

year-round resident as well.

There is also concern for the stability of a tourist-based economy, according to the Chamber Directors whose greatest concern is for the citizens themselves. The creation of a National Park could disturb county finances to the extent that taxes for industrial, commercial and private property might double their present rate. Park customers do not pay county taxes! The Federal Government does not pay County taxes, and yet the county must continue to provide services. It was pointed out that in some cases these services would be expanded, for example the Sheriff and Police Departments, trash pickup, road maintenance, etc. And revenue to support these services will have to come from the citizens of Yancey County.

Chamber members also stated that recreation would be restricted if a National Park were created since there would be no hunting and virtually no fishing in a National Park. Also, off-the-road trails for vehicular use would be prohibited. The Chamber feels that in effect we would be taking the free use of thousands of acres of land away from the people whose birthright and heritage it has always been, in order to put the land on display for others.

Not only would a park take out of production a significant amount of land for farming, it would also make a larger area undesirable, says the Chamber, due to commercialization. At this stage farmers are reluctant to invest capital to upgrade their

production. It is possible, even, that a National Park could force property taxes so high as to make farming impossible in Yancey County.

The chamber discussed their concern that textile mills which move a majority of their products and raw materials by truck would suffer from the traffic congestion during peak tourist season (estimated at 500 to 700 cars per hour). The mining and logging industries would also be affected, which, in turn, drastically affects the lives of people who live and work in this area. The building industry has already begun to feel the effects of the park study. People are reluctant to build or remodel homes in an area in which the federal government might force them to move-or which may change beyond all recognition if the Park idea goes through.

Approximately 5,500 people in Yancey County live within the boundaries of the National Park Study area (this figure is a conservative estimate drawn from the '74 census). These people must live in uncertainty until the park study and Congressional action (if any) are completed.

The Yancey County Chamber of Commerce wishes to make their opposition to the creation of a National Park clear. They vigorously support the efforts of the Concerned Citizens Committee and will do everything in their power to oppose the creation of a National Park in the area which they serve.



## Soil Stewardship Week

Soil Stewardship Week, a nationwide observance which emphasizes man's responsibility to protect and conserve soil, water, and other natural resources, will be May 15-22 this year, Carlie Rice, Chairman of the Yancey County Soil and Water Conservation District, announced today. "This year's theme, 'When We Care', will help each to examine his own motives and actions in the conservation of God's manifold gifts," said Mr. Rice.

Among the churches in the District that are scheduling special Soil Stewardship services are the First Baptist Church, Burnsville, and Higgins Memorial United Methodist Church. "We hope," said Mr. Rice, "that during Soil Stewardship Week, millions of Americans will pause for a moment to consider their responsibilities for the protection and proper care of the Lord's earth."

This is the 23rd consecutive year that the National Association of Conservation Districts, along with almost 3,000 local Districts throughout the nation, has sponsored Soil Stewardship Week.

Photos by Ray Dorsett



## Hunter Survey To Aid Wildlife Improvement Program

If you bought a North Carolina hunting license this past year, you may receive a letter from the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission shortly-if you haven't already. The Commission is mailing a hunter survey questionnaire to approximately 1.5 percent of North Carolina's 400,000 licensed hunters.

According to Hal Atkinson, chief of the Commission's Division of Game, the purpose of the mail survey is to obtain information from hunters about game harvested and areas they hunted, their success or lack of it, and their favorite game species and hunting areas in the State.

"Information from previous studies has furnished a valuable base for making decisions affecting North Carolina's wildlife program," said Atkinson, "and this survey is needed to maintain this information base and to identify trends in hunter preferences, attitudes and success."

The 6,000 or so hunters who receive the survey questionnaire are selected at random from hunting license records of North Carolina hunters. "It is important that

each hunter fill in and return the questionnaire," said Atkinson, "even if he did not hunt or make any kill during the 1976-77 hunting season. In order to properly evaluate the game harvest for the past season, we need a return from each individual in our statistically selected sample."

## Dreyer Named Director Of Summer Concerts

Donna Jean Dreyer of Winston-Salem has been named administrative director of the Music in the Mountains summer concert series. Mrs.



Waldo of the Week  
Yancey County  
Country Store  
22 in 85°  
10 in 32°

The questionnaires will be analyzed by the Southeastern Cooperative Fish and Game Statistics Project at N.C. State University and the information obtained will assist the Wildlife Resources Commission in improving North Carolina's wildlife management program.

Dreyer will be responsible for publicity, business management and general administration.

The Music in the Mountains series will begin June 19 and continue through August 14 with concerts in Burnsville, Spruce Pine, Swannanoa, Asheville and Hendersonville. Mrs. Dreyer, who will be residing in Burnsville after June 1, is the associate producer of the Carolina Theatre Company in Winston-Salem. From 1971-76, she was Director of Public Relations for the North Carolina School of the Arts. She also serves as regional representative to the national board of the American Friends Service Committee.

## Legislators' Addresses Helms' Team Invites Local Park View

**NORTH CAROLINA SENATE**  
26th District: (Buncombe, Madison, McDowell, Yancey), I.C. Crawford (Buncombe) 10 Hampshire Circle, Asheville, N.C. 28804, and Robert S. Swain (Buncombe) Route 5, Box 1112, Asheville, N.C. 28803.

**NORTH CAROLINA HOUSE**  
41st District: (McDowell and Yancey) Glenn A. Morris (McDowell) 808 Flemming Avenue, Marion, N.C. 28752.

**CONGRESS**  
U.S. Senator Jesse A. Helms Jr., Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.  
U.S. Senator Robert B. Morgan, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.  
U.S. Representative Lamar Gudger, Room 428, Cannon Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

United States Senator Jesse Helms is sending representatives of Yancey County to see what the situation is in regard to the proposed National Park study. Hamilton Horn, who is Helms' Administrative Assistant, is a former site senator and was very active in the New River deal; and Keith Weatherly, one of Helms' Special Assistants, who runs the Hickory, N.C. office, are

coming Thursday morning, May 19, to tour the proposed park site with a forestry agent to see what's involved.

On Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock p.m. these men will be at the Yancey County Courthouse to meet with interested people in this area and get their opinions about the park study. They will talk with anyone who has an interest in the matter, and if enough people are present to warrant it, they plan to be at the Courthouse again on Friday, May 20, for additional interviews.

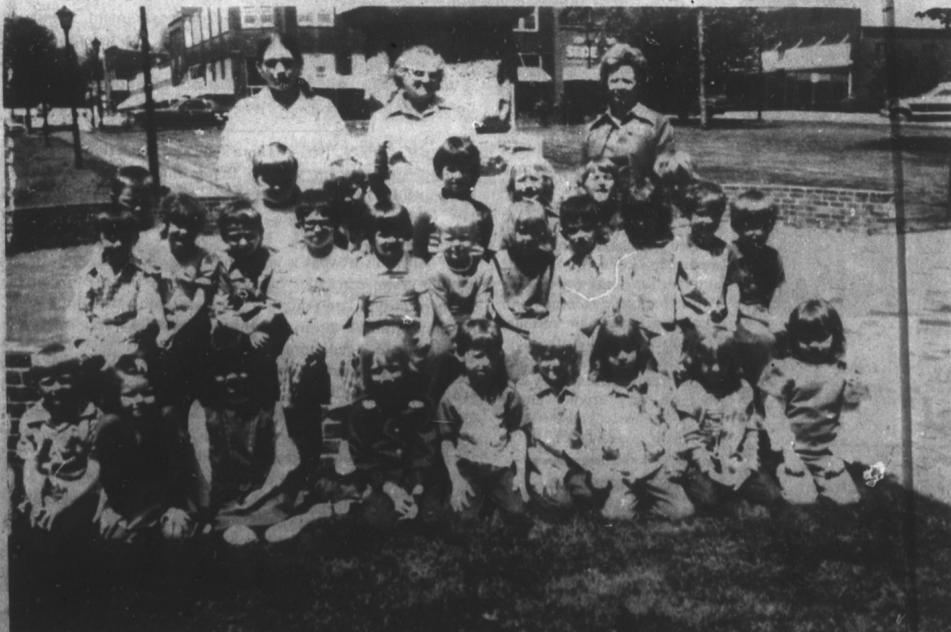
According to a spokesman from Senator Helms' office, the senator wants to know how the people of this area feel about a National Park, and will use this information in formulating his own ideas.

## Monthly Legion Meeting Set

The Earl Horton Post of the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary will have their monthly meeting and covered dish supper at the Burnsville Community Building Tuesday, May 24, at 7:00 p.m.

Newcomers will be especially welcome at this Poppy Day meeting. For further information call Mrs. Genie McQuare, 682-3701.

At the meeting there will be a presentation of awards to representatives of Henredon Furniture and to International Minerals for their exemplary service in employing veterans. These awards are made by the North Carolina Chapter of The American Legion.



## Kindergarten Outing

The Bald Creek Kindergarten enjoyed an outing last Wednesday, May 11, when their principal, Mr. Ronnie Proffitt, drove them to town for the day. The kindergarten visited the Yancey County Public Library, The Yancey Journal, the Post

Office, and--best of all, of course--The Ice Cream Dipper for a scoop of their favorite! Approximately 35 students enjoy the day, accompanied by teacher, Billie Marie Ray, and other aides, Atlas Edwards and Phyllis Tomberlin.