

# THE YANCEY JOURNAL

VOL. 5, NO. 23

BURNSVILLE, N.C. 28714

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 1977

15¢

## Pete Coletta Honored:

# Hundreds Attend Feldspar Open House Celebration

More than 400 people visited the new Feldspar Corporation quality control and research facility at the company headquarters, 530

Altapass Road, Spruce Pine, Sunday, June 5th. A highlight of the day was the awarding of a plaque to Mrs. Gladys Coletta, wife of

Peter C. Coletta, for whom the building was named. Mr. Coletta, deceased, was associated with Feldspar Corporation for forty-six years, and

was Director of Purchasing and Personnel at the time of his death.

The control and research facility of the company is the most sophisticated and advanced in the feldspar and related minerals industry. In the research department, the pilot plant attracted large crowds. Here, it was possible to see in one room the operation of the big feldspar plant across the highway. A step by step operation was viewed from ore evaluation and dressing by the flotation method of separating the different minerals.

One feature of the operation which attracted much interest was the meticulous care given to environmental problems. Advanced technology in the new facility makes environmental protection -- water and air quality--even more accurate than ever before.

Quality control features assure a much more uniform feldspar product, which means better quality. This is a

[Cont'd on page 6]



Mrs. Gladys Coletta Receives Plaque



Photo by C.E. Westveer



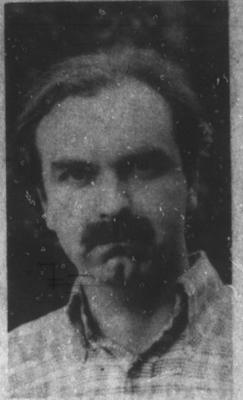
Patrick Hardy



Julie Guemple



Bill Perkins



Philip Shore

# Burnsville Little Theatre Presents 'The Rainmaker'

BY JODY HIGGINS

Burnsville Little Theatre is presenting their spring production this weekend at Parkway Playhouse. "The Rainmaker," a romantic comedy in three acts by N. Richard Nash, offers a delightful evening of entertainment. A superb cast should make this a memorable theatre experience for those attending. This production is being directed by Jim Priesmeyer.

Performances will be Friday and Saturday night at 8 o'clock p.m., with a Sunday afternoon matinee at 2 o'clock p.m. Admission is \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for students. Tickets may be purchased in advance from Little Theatre members, at the Yancey County Country Store, and at Yancey Graphics. Tickets will also be on sale at the door before performances.

"The Rainmaker" was presented on the stage in the 1950's and a later movie version starred Burt Lancaster and Katherine Hepburn. The story is set during a paralyzing drought in the west. The plot revolves around a very plain young woman whose father and two brothers are worried as much about her becoming an old maid as they are about their dying cattle. Suddenly out of nowhere appears a fast talking character who pro-

mises to bring rain for a fee, then turns his magic on Lizzie, the daughter.

In the role of Bill Starbuck, The Rainmaker is Patrick Hardy, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Burnsville and Director of the Blue Ridge Community Mental Health Center in Yancey

County. Rev. Hardy is a delight as the fast-talking con man.

Lizzie, the plain and headstrong daughter, is played skillfully by Julie Becton Guemple. Originally from Spruce Pine, Julie teaches dance there. She received her B.A. in theatre arts from

Rollins College in Florida and has been working professionally in various dinner theatres, summer stock companies, and night clubs both as actress and choreographer ("1776," "Cabaret," "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf," "The Taming Of The Shrew.")

Bill Perkins, who plays the father, is making his return to area theatre after an 11 year absence. Bill has a degree in drama from Catawba College in Salisbury and taught drama at Cane River High School from 1960-65. He is presently teaching at Mountain Heritage High School. In the past he has appeared in "Unto These Hills," spent two years

[Cont'd on page 6]

## Storm Kills Yancey Man

A severe thunderstorm with winds gusting over 50 miles per hour devastated Western North Carolina Monday afternoon and caused fatal injuries to a Yancey County man.

Glen E. McCurry, 68 of the Mine Fork Community, was clearing trees that had blown down in the storm, working along the road leading into the George King farm where he was manager. He was apparently killed instantly when he was struck by a dislodged tree that had been blown into another tree. Several injuries throughout the area also were attributed to the

storm, as were extensive damages to homes and property and widespread power outages in Western North Carolina.

In Yancey County there were reports of huge hailstones "big as golf balls." One local resident, Horace Higgins, reported seeing four trees fall on three cars on Mitchell Branch, crushing them badly. "The Rescue Squad worked until dark to remove the trees from on top the cars," he stated. Other damages, mostly from the high winds, were reported by the Sheriff's Department and the Rescue Squad.

## MTI Chorus Concert Set

The Mayland Tech Chorus, directed by Dr. Lee Beall, will hold its Spring Concert on Sunday, June 12, at 3 p.m. at the First Methodist Church, Spruce Pine.

Among other selections the Chorus will be singing "Frostiana," several of Robert Frost's poems set to music by Randall Thompson.

Admission is free and the public is cordially invited to attend.

# 'Wagons Ho!' Time

When wagon master Charles Letterman calls out "Wagons Ho!" chief scout Otis Honeycutt will be first out on the trail of the Tri-County Regional Wagon Train Association's 6th annual trek through the mountains.

This year will mark the 6th Anniversary of the wagon train's trip in our beautiful mountains. Each year since the Association formed as the first organized association for persons interested in wagons, horses, good clean fun and fellowship in the Tri County areas of Madison, Buncombe, and Yancey, the group has enjoyed a beautiful trip.

This year's trip will originate in McDowell County and travel to Yancey via Curtis Creek. The remainder of the trip will be in Yancey on some of the most beautiful

trails in the world. The train will roll into Burnsville on July 4. The last time the wagon train came into Burnsville the crowd of enthusiastic spectators was overwhelming. Folks lined the highway from Winton to Burnsville to welcome the train. This was the biggest crowd of spectators to ever welcome the Tri-County Regional Wagon Train at its destination.

Folks are already shining harnesses, greasing wagon wheels, starching their bonnets and bib overalls for the trip. This year on the last day, July 4, all people on the train will be encouraged to wear old-time costumes. Folks in Burnsville may think their ancestors are "back in town." The folks on the wagon train love horses and this love helps them make it through all kinds of weather which

includes occasional periods of rain which they call "liquid sunshine." At night wagon trainers enjoy sitting around the campfires resting from the day's ride and preparing for the next, while visiting and telling tall tales of the previous year's trip.

Last year's group numbered 22 wagons with 125 riders. Each year the train grows. Anyone who is interested in joining in good clean fun for 4 days of riding the trails on this year's trip will be welcome to come along. The Association expects all riders to follow a set of rules which have been set up in order to make the trip more enjoyable for all.

Visitors are invited to come to the campsites at night to visit friends and see how the people manage to camp, provide good food for the

horses, and make camp.

All interested persons should contact the following people about joining the train: Charles Letterman 682-2784, Otis Honeycutt 682-3742, Dan Wilson 682-6501. If you can't join the train, plan to be in Burnsville on July 4 to welcome the Tri-County Regional Wagon Train.

## Blood Donors Needed Monday

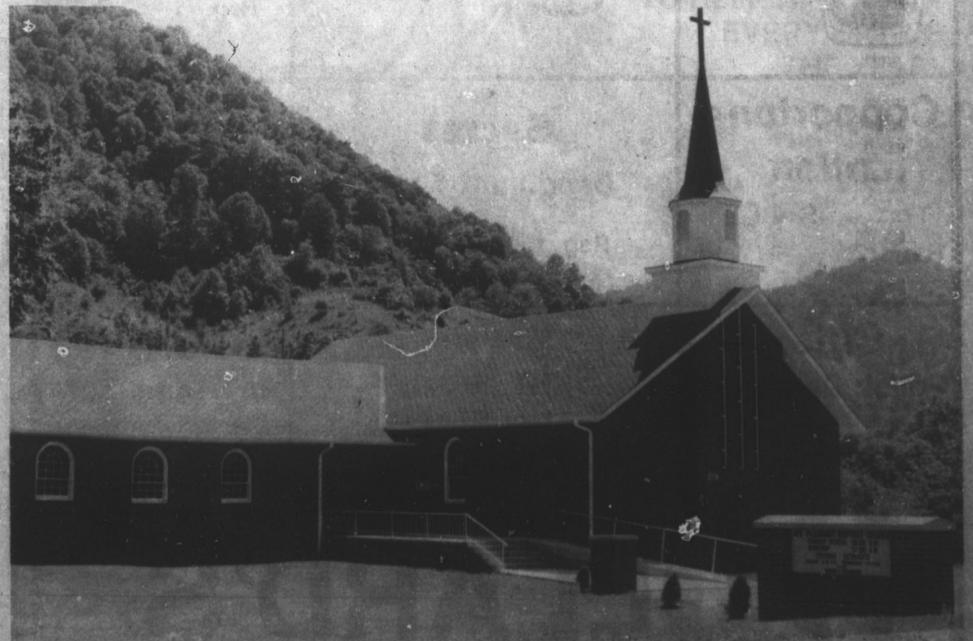
The need for blood donors is a constant one. And the responsibility for fulfilling this need belongs to everyone, young and old, who can qualify as a blood donor. Because of the unpredictability of life, no one can know whether he/she or a member of his/her family might have a desperate need for this life-sustaining fluid.

The Bloodmobile is coming again to Burnsville on Monday, June 13, from 1 to 6 p.m. at the First Baptist Church on the town square. It is sponsored, as always, by the Radio Patrol. Ladies from the Church of God will be canteen hostesses.

Everyone is urged to take on their responsibility by visiting the bloodmobile next Monday. Your blood pressure will be checked free of charge, regardless of whether you are able to donate at this time. If you have never been a donor before, please come by and see how easy it is to give "The gift of life."



Wagon 'Spruced Up' for Yearly Event



## Church Plans Note Burning Ceremony

Sunday, June 12, a note-burning ceremony will be conducted at 2:30 p.m. at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church at Swiss. The \$125,000.00 structure which was completed in July 1975 is now debt-free. A brief memorial service, in memory of

those buried at the Swiss cemeteries, will follow the note-burning ceremony. We invite you to join us for these two special occasions.

