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THURSDAY, JULY 7, 1977

15¢

Town Meeting Slated

Rep. Gudger To Report On Status Of Nat'l Park

Congressman Lamar Gudger Wednesday introduced a bill to amend the provisions of the National Park Act of 1976 which calls for a study of a proposed Mt. Mitchell Park. The bill will shorten the time for the study from three years to 18 months. It will also require the filing of a report by April 15, 1978.

"I do not personally support and have never recommended a Mt. Mitchell National Park," Congressman Gudger said. "Some will recall

that I was the only candidate for Congress last September who then expressed reservations or opposition. However, I see no reason to suspend a study which was authorized and funded before I arrived here and which may produce information of considerable value, particularly to the real property owners in the affected area, and of course, to the National Park Service, the Forest Service and the North Carolina State Park Service." The Congressman said his bill will assure that the

present use of National Forest lands and private property will not be disturbed and that the Secretary of the Interior and others participating in the study will not have the authority to carry out the recommendations of the study.

Gudger said he is calling for a Town Meeting Saturday, July 9, in Burnsville, to discuss the action taken this week.

"During the work period in April," the Congressman said, "I met with some 800

residents of the area affected by the study at a town meeting in Burnsville. Following this meeting I agreed to submit a questionnaire-survey to the residents of the four counties involved (Mitchell, Yancey, North Buncombe and North McDowell). Results of the survey were received this week from computer services. The results substantially confirm that the people of the affected area are generally opposed to the establishment of a national park.

"These people seek assurance that present uses of National Forest land will not change during the course of the study or thereafter," Gudger continued. "It is obvious that they want this matter resolved as soon as possible so as to prevent the study itself from retarding the development and use of private property in the area. The bill which I have introduced will accomplish these results."

Congressman Gudger said the bill expressly provides that nothing in the 1976 study act shall be interpreted as suggesting a change in the present use and management of any national forest lands, nor logging, fishing, hunting, or removal of renewable resources under appropriate permit.

"I have discussed this matter with Senator Robert Morgan," Gudger said, "and I understand that he plans to support this legislation when it reaches the Senate. I have also attempted to communicate with Senator Jesse Helms to see if he agrees with me that the study and report should be accelerated and the matter be brought to an early conclusion."

Annual French Broad EMC Meeting Set For July 16

French Broad Electric Membership Corporation will hold its annual meeting of the members on Saturday, July 16, 1977 at the Marshall Elementary School Gymnasium in Marshall, N.C. Registration will begin at 10:00 a.m. and continue until 2:00 p.m. with the business meeting getting under way at 2:00 p.m.

There will be reports to the members, election of four directors and prize drawings. The grand prize will be \$200 credit on electric bill plus many small appliance prizes such as toasters, irons, coffee makers, frypans, mixers, etc. The prize drawings will be for members only and you must be present to win.

SHOWS FEATURED
Also at 10:00 a.m. a Craft Show will open in the old agriculture classroom under the school gym. There will be craft displays and demonstrations from over the entire

service area including a special Christmas craft display by the Laurel Mountain Craft from Burnsville. You will see rug hooking, spinning, quilting, ceramics, bark baskets, and many many more.

You will not want to miss the Variety Show which will begin in the Gym at 12:30 p.m. and run for an hour and a half prior to the business session. Quinton Ramsey will serve as Master of Ceremonies, and there will be music by the Gott and Lewis Offspring String Band as well as the Appalachian Folk from Madison County, Campers in the Forest from Yancey County, and square dancing by the Carolina Ridge Runners and Carolina Moonshiners from Erwin High School in Buncombe County.

Plan to come and spend the day. Marshall Eastern Star Chapter will have food

for sale in the school lunch room.

BRING REGISTRATION
Members are urged to bring the registration card that will be mailed to them with the Annual Report. If you plan to vote proxies, you can speed up the registration process on Annual Meeting day by Pre-registering these proxies at either office in Marshall, Burnsville or Bakersville, Monday through Friday, July 5 through 15.

Concerned citizens report that more money is needed in the fund for maintaining the Marietta Atkins Public Cemetery for the purchase of lawnmowers and other general expenses of the cemetery upkeep. Dolphus Parker and Leroy McCracken, trustees, announce that Holcombe Brothers Funeral Home is now authorized to receive contributions for this purpose.

What Hearing?

BY CAROLYN YUZIUK

Some local citizens are still indignant over the School Board's Open Hearing meeting conducted last Wednesday night, June 29, at which the Board members refused to answer questions or make a policy statement—or a statement of any sort—regarding the replacement of Cara Cox as principal of Mountain Heritage High School and the replacement of Kenny Sparks as principal of East Yancey Middle School. The meeting was called only hours earlier, but more than 100 people hastened to the courthouse to let the School Board know what they thought of the switching of principals in the school system and to argue against the change.

Any argument, however, was extremely one-sided as the School Board refused to enter into discussion on the matter. Board members accused "someone" (unspecified) of "jumping the gun" and stated that no final decisions had been made by the Board in any case. The concerned citizens called that statement "ridiculous" since Mrs. Cox and Mr. Sparks had both been notified during the week by a representative of the Board that they were being moved to other positions in the school system.

The citizens went home frustrated after the 3-hour meeting to await the outcome of an Executive Session called by the Board of Education for the next night; and everyone breathed a sigh of relief when on Friday, July 1, they found that Mrs. Cox and Mr. Sparks were keeping their present positions.

For those who believe that forceful protest by local citizens over the matter aided the School Board in reversing their decision (which they maintained was not a decision in the first place), we have it on good authority that the protest was not what forced the reinstatement, but the fact that Mrs. Cox may have had legal grounds for a lawsuit in the matter.

Nevertheless, last Wednesday's "hearing"—which may have accomplished nothing in the matter for which it was called—showed that a growing number of people in Yancey County are not only vitally interested in education in this area but are ready and able to speak forcibly on matters they feel are important. This is a praiseworthy comment on the progress of education in Yancey County.

Several Injured In July Accidents

A two-car accident on Friday, July 1 at 7:25 p.m. on US19 two miles east of Mars Hill involved two Yancey County people.

Jack Grindstaff, 23, of

Route 2, Burnsville was driving a 1972 Ford west on US 19 at a high rate of speed. Zona Hughes, 18, of Route 3, Burnsville was driving a 1973 Chevrolet east on US 19. Grindstaff lost control on a rain-slick highway and went into the eastbound lane, colliding with the Hughes vehicle head-on.

One passenger in the Hughes vehicle, Michael Woody, 20, of Route 1, Burnsville and both drivers were taken to Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville. Damage was estimated at \$1600 to the Ford and \$2000 to the Chevrolet. Trooper J.P. Robinson investigated.

An accident on Friday, July 1 at 8:50 p.m. occurred on Jacks Creek Road 3 miles out of Burnsville. Joseph Austin, 16, of Route 3, Burnsville was driving a 1969 Chevrolet north on Jacks Creek Road. He entered a curve and lost control of the vehicle which came to rest against a tree after sliding off the road. There was one passenger and no injuries. Damage was estimated at \$700. Trooper C.D. Thomas investigated.

A one-car accident on Sunday, July 3, at 10:15 p.m. occurred on NC 197 three miles out of Burnsville.

Charles Brown, 16, of Route 1, Burnsville was driving a 1973 Chevrolet north on NC 197 and dropped off the paved portion of the highway. The car swerved sharply to the left, crossed over NC 197 and overturned down an embankment into the river. Three passengers, Marguitta McDougal, 15; Dwight Buchanan, 17; Randy Fox, 17, and Brown were taken to Yancey Hospital.

Damage was estimated at \$1400. Trooper C.D. Thomas investigated.

Real Estate Course Set

Due to changes in the North Carolina Real Estate Licensing Law persons wishing to become licensed brokers or salespersons must first complete a 30 hour approved course in Real Estate. This course is required before anyone can take the licensing examination.

Mayland Technical Institute is once again offering "Principles of Real Estate" this summer every Wednesday night from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. and will last until September 14.

This course has something for everyone, whether or not you want to be a broker or salesperson or just learn more about your own real estate. Principles of Real Estate is taught by Barry Weaver, a licensed North Carolina Real Estate broker. There is still time to register for this course by coming to Room 238 at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 13. For more information call 765-7351.

Notice

If you are totally unemployed, or recently separated from service, or are disabled, you may be eligible to be employed under newly created Public Service Employment jobs. Please contact the Employment Security Commission office in Burnsville Tuesday through Thursday in person to determine your eligibility.



Photo by Joe Moody

Donald May, Dr. John Joy

Dr. John Joy Is 'Sancho'

"Everybody in the world should know Dr. John Joy," according to Teresa Keller who interviewed him at Parkway Playhouse. "His idealism, sensitivity, and passionate love for the theatre truly inspires everyone he contacts." Many people know him from the title role of "Pinocchio" for which he received an Emmy nomination in 1967.

Because of Joy, Parkway Playhouse will glow with a special warmth during the run of "Man of La Mancha" through July 16. The musical is built around the characters Don Quixote and his Squire, Sancho. Quixote, who sings "The Impossible Dream," and Sancho are characters in a charade before a group of Spanish prisoners at the time of the Spanish Inquisition. Within their play, they interact with "Aldonza", a cook at an Inn, and other characters from all walks of life.

The play was chosen as best musical of 1966 and Parkway's production will feature Donald May, ten year star of "The Edge of Night"; Lou Criscuolo, Danny from "The Edge of Night" who appeared in the original Broadway production of "La Mancha" and Dixie Carter who will appear in her own series called "On Your Own" to be seen in the fall on CBS.

These professional television celebrities are in Burnsville because of a commitment to professional theatre that they share with John Joy.

Chamber Concerts Presented

The first concert by the Celo Chamber Players, presented by Music in the Mountains, will feature joyous music of celebration to usher in a new summer festival. The Burnsville series will be held at the Presbyterian Church at 3:30 each Sunday from July 10 to August 7 with the final concert at the Spruce Pine Methodist Church on August 14.

The festival will open, as it has each year, with a harpsichord solo by Burnsville's own Eve Lynne Reeve, who will play Boatwright's Suite for Harpsichord. Miss Reeve, who is one of the founders of Music in the Mountains, has appeared with ensembles throughout the United States.

The other works on the program were selected by music director Frank Ell because of their spirit of celebration which he felt was appropriate for the opening concert. They are Beethoven's Trio for Clarinet, Cello and Piano and Mendelssohn's [Cont'd on page 4]



Photo by Brian Westveer

Wagon Train Rolls Into Town On July 4

See Wagon Train Photos Page 5.....