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15¢



May, Carter, Criscuolo And Joy Relax On Parkway Terrace

Professionals Come To Parkway:

'Crazy Idea' Is Born

"It was a crazy idea," according to Donald May in a press conference in Burnsville on Wednesday, July 6. The statement referred to the plan which brought him, Dixie Carter, and Lou Criscuolo, all from THE EDGE OF NIGHT, to Parkway Playhouse for the current production of MAN OF LA MANCHA.

"We were sitting around Sardi's in New York before Christmas and some crazy Italian suggested that we come to the mountains of North Carolina to do a musical," said May. "Who would have ever thought that I would be playing Don Quixote!"

Donald has been the star of THE EDGE OF NIGHT for ten years until June 17 when his character "Adam Drake" was killed. Following LA MANCHA he proceeds to Hollywood to continue his career in film which began with FOLLOW ME BOYS and includes THE TENDERFOOT and KISSES FOR MY PRESIDENT. His role of "Colt" in the television series COLT 45 is also well remembered.

Playing opposite Donald is Dixie Carter in the role of Aldonza. Miss Carter leaves Burnsville for New York to star in a new fall CBS series called ON OUR OWN. Miss Carter talked about the difficulties of the Aldonza role, explaining how she gets thrown around the stage in an attack scene. "It's really very

dangerous and I have bruises all over from rehearsals." One actor, Lee Kanne, a Muleteer in the scene was also wounded by "Aldonza's" boot. "When she ripped open my shirt to treat my wound, as it calls for in the script, she was surprised to see a real one."

Lou Criscuolo, the director, demands this realism and superior performance from everyone in his cast, the professional acting company, student actors, and "stars" alike. He takes very little credit for the success of the show which is unequalled in Parkway's history according to reviews of the performance. And working with him has been an unequalled experience for the cast.

One actor said, "When he first came, we were terrified. He cast the show in two hours and first rehearsal was the same evening. With no time wasted, we just moved where he said to move. Now it is easy to see why he worked us so hard."

Criscuolo praises the production and says, "People on that stage are doing things they never thought they could do." Criscuolo's qualifications include being a member of the original Broadway production of LA MANCHA and he has played every role in the show except "Aldonza." On tour in Chicago, a flu epidemic hit the cast and Lou even did the belly dancer role.

"Yeah," he says, "I know that show like the palm of my hand and I can foresee moments that each actor will find for his character within the next week."

"The crazy Italian" with the idea of having a Broadway director and national celebrities in Burnsville is Dr. John Joy, Parkway's managing director. In the opening night curtain speech he mentioned his happiness in returning to the stage after seven years with the support of his friends. "And I came into this thinking that 'Sancho' was a small part. Was I ever wrong!" Joy performs the role of Don Quixote's squire who remains loyal to him, even as he battles with windmills and mistakes the kitchen slut, Aldonza, for the beautiful lady of his dreams.

All of the Playhouse company love performing in the 1966 musical which closes Saturday, July 16. First week audiences have raved about the performance, and reviewers have hailed it as a superior performance. "We just hope that everybody will come to see the show," says the publicity director. "It's sad to think that some people just won't make the effort to come and will miss the chance to experience what happens on that stage." And Miss Carter suggests, "Bring your hankies—it is a touching show."

Reservations may be made by calling Parkway's box

office 704-682-6151 or by purchasing them at the door. LA MANCHA performances are at 8:30 p.m. through Saturday, July 16.

CP & L Files For Rate Hike

Carolina Power & Light Company has notified French Broad EMC of their filing with the Federal Power Commission for a 7.49% wholesale rate hike that would take effect July 29.

French Broad EMC is now involved in a rate study to determine what effect such an increase would have on the Cooperative's rates. Even though the cost of materials and supplies required in the day to day operation of the Cooperative continue to increase, the cost of wholesale power continues to be the greatest concern, as the cost of purchased power amounted to 65¢ out of every dollar received during 1976.

Plan to attend the Cooperative's Annual Meeting at Marshall Elementary School on Saturday, July 16, 1977 to learn more details on the rate study. Charles R. Tolley, Coop Manager, plans to cover this in more detail in his report to the members at the Annual Meeting.

Gudger: 'Little Likelihood Of Park Recommendation'

Congressman Lamar Gudger last Saturday, July 9, reassured Yancey Countians that he sees little likelihood that a Mt. Mitchell National Park will be recommended by the Study Committee which was formed to investigate the matter. Gudger spoke at a Town Meeting held at the Courthouse in Burnsville.

The Congressman made the statement, "I personally do not support and have never recommended a Mt. Mitchell National Park and some will recall that I was the only candidate for Congress last September who then expressed reservations about or opposition to the 1976 Study Act. Nonetheless, however, I see no reason now to suspend a study which was authorized and funded before I came to Congress and which may produce information of considerable value, particularly to the owners of real property in the affected area and of course to the National Park Service and the North Carolina State Park Service. I do see a substantial need, however, to complete the study at an early date."

"Accordingly, I am immediately writing the members of the Study Committee to urge that the study be expedited as required by the bill which I have introduced today, which reduces the study period to 18 months, and to give the Committee the results of the questionnaire survey which I have just received from computer services."

In a news release issued recently Gudger said he reached the following conclusions based on his own investigations and the results of the questionnaire survey he sent to all people in the affected area:

- 1) the people of the affected area by a vote of three to one generally oppose the location of a national park to include the present Mt. Mitchell State Park;
- 2) they generally credit the state of North Carolina with effective management of the present state park;
- 3) they prefer to continue private use and development of property not presently in government ownership without the commercial impact of a national park;
- 4) they depend substantially upon wood products from national forest land and do not want to lose this industry; and
- 5) they will resist strenuously any effort to forcibly acquire private property or change the present usage of federal property in the area.

"I want to reassure the residents of the affected area," Gudger said, "that the 1976 Study Act does not permit the federal government to take any private property whatever and the amendment which I have introduced makes this doubly clear by stating: 'nothing herein contained shall be construed or interpreted as authorizing the acquisition by condemnation or otherwise of private property.'"

Gudger's statement in the news release added that the bill expressly provides that nothing in the 1976 Study Act shall be interpreted as 'suggesting any change in the present use and management of any national forest lands nor interfering with, or authorizing interference with, any valid existing contracts for the cutting and removal of timber, nor interfering with the use by the public of national forest lands for hunting, fishing, or the taking and removing of renewable resources under permit heretofore or hereafter issued.'

"I believe that the bill which I have introduced will serve a useful purpose—first in bringing the park study to an early conclusion; second, in assuring that there will be no change in land use in the study area pending the filing of the study report on April 15, 1978; and third, in

reassuring the people in the study area that the study will not take long to complete and that it should not affect them in the use and enjoyment of their lands and holdings," said Gudger.

Reverend Joseph Ward, Finance Chairman, said "We are appealing to the public to respond in its usual generous spirit. Representatives will be stationed at both shopping centers to explain the program and suggest ways in which every citizen can help in keeping frail elderly persons in their own homes where they are happiest."

There will be a homecoming at the Banks Creek Union Church Sunday, July 17. Sunday School at 10 o'clock, Preaching Service at 11 o'clock, Dinner at 1 o'clock, Special Singing at 2 o'clock. Rev. Harry Culbertson is pastor. Everyone is invited.

Burnsville High School class of 1957 will hold a class reunion Saturday, July 16. The family reunion is set for 2 o'clock p.m. with a buffet supper at 7:30 p.m. Both events will be at the Community Building in Burnsville.

Special Dollar Day Set

Parkway Auditions For Shows

Parkway Playhouse will be holding auditions for the last two shows of the season on Monday, July 18, 1977 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Actors and actor-singers are needed for TEN LITTLE INDIANS and the musical HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING. People who audition should be free to rehearse from 1:30 to 5:30 in the afternoons and from 7:30 to 11:00 in the evenings. Young adult and character male roles need to be filled. There are no parts for children, but anyone interested in working backstage for these shows should also come to the audition.



Hunk of the Week Yancey County Country Store
Hi - 95°
Lo - 58°

Homecoming

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Class Reunion

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Chamber Plans 21st Crafts Fair

Preparations are underway for the 21st annual Mt. Mitchell Crafts Fair to be held August 5th and 6th on the square in Burnsville. Applications for entry are flooding in from all over the East Coast. This event which was begun by the Parkway Playhouse in 1956 and taken up by the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce in 1966, has grown from a quiet afternoon with a handful of local craftsmen lounging on the village green, to a gala two-day event with over a hundred craftsmen and several thousand visitors.

A wide range of crafts and lifestyles will be represented at the Mt. Mitchell Fair. Many of the local women work all winter to prepare—hand-stitching quilts, whose patterns are handed down for generations, following time-honored recipes for jams, jellies and other culinary delicacies of mountain living. Beautiful handmade furniture and woodwork will be displayed by craftsmen who have learned the secrets of walnut, maple, and mahogany. Num-

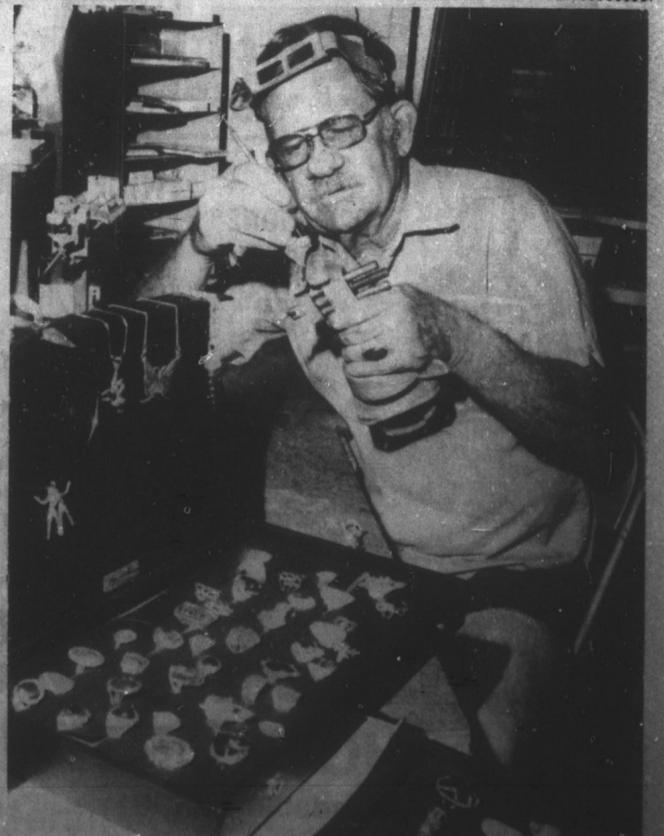
erous potters and weavers, who have spent literally thousands of hours over their wheels and looms, will demonstrate and display their talents. Some of the other crafts represented will be macrame, jewelry, basket-making, sand painting, dulcimer making, stained glass, silk screening, candle making, forging, and glass blowing.

In addition to the craftsmen and their wares, visitors will enjoy varied forms of entertainment such as folk singing, square dancing, horseshoe pitching, and of course, the traditional chicken barbecue, which has over the years become a major attraction in itself.

Fair directors plan to make some improvements in the booths and attempt to work out some of the traffic problems by providing centralized parking areas and free bus service to and from the square. They also plan to cut off the entire square to traffic to insure the safety of their guests.



Ceil Whitebrook, Local Craftsperson



S.S. Patrick Will Return To Fair