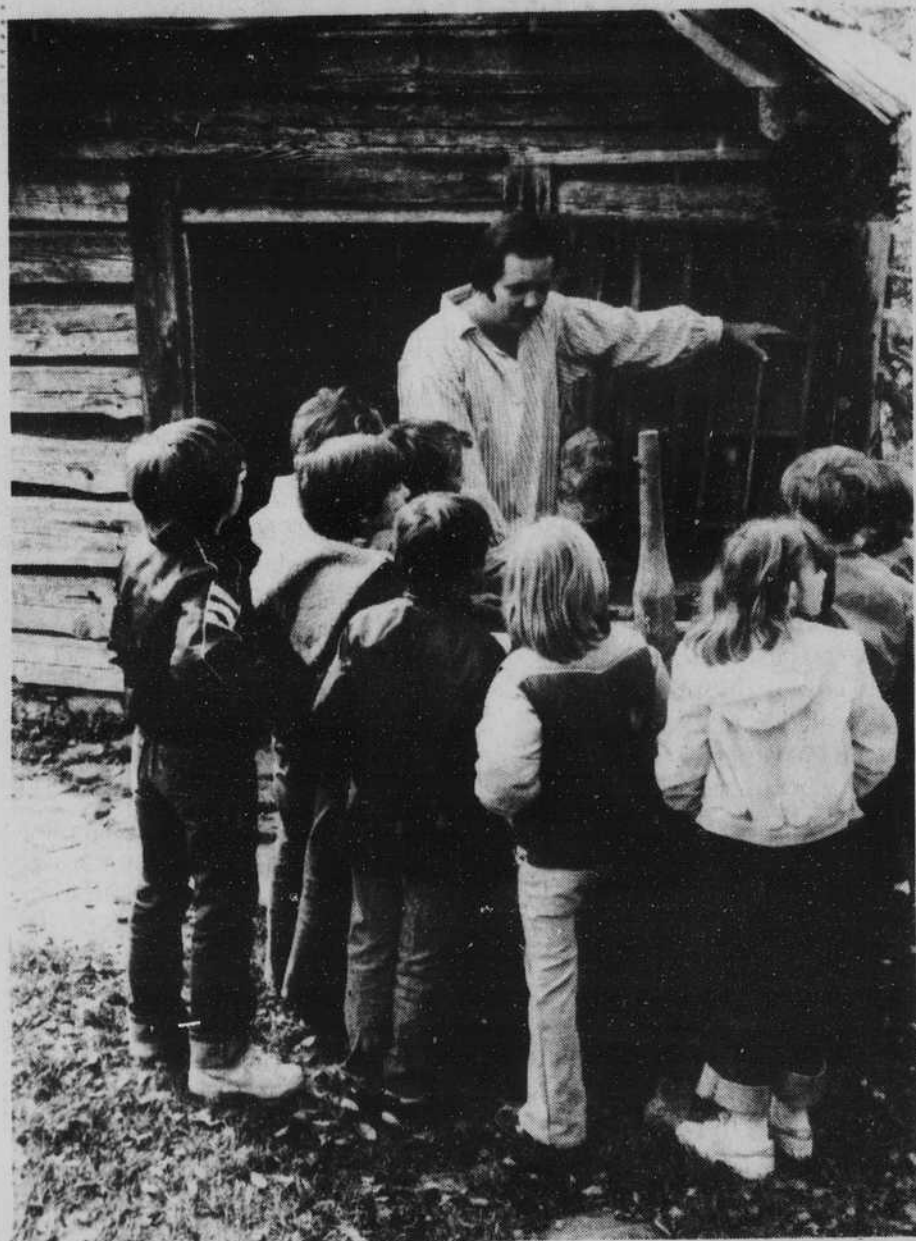


The Vance Birthplace.



Students learn the art of using a draw knife to make rounds of wood from Bobby Wyatt.

Primary students study pioneer life first hand

by Bert Livingston

One hundred thirty-seven students of Black Mountain Primary and Carver schools crossed the mountain to attend Pioneer Living Workshops offered three days last week at the Vance Birthplace near Weaverville.

Revived and strengthened interest by schools in pioneer history and folkways of the mountain areas is responsible for such workshops, explained Sudie Wheeler, director of the Vance farmstead and museum. Actually experiencing and observing the things pioneers of 1795 to 1840 did in everyday living to "keep their heads above water" gives the children a greater awareness and appreciation of their heritage from the past, say their teachers who accompanied them on the trips.

Differences in utensils, tools and clothing of the period that are used by members of the Vance staff giving instruction are a source of wonderment and comment for the children. But there's nothing puzzling about why their favorite activity is open-hearth cooking in which they help Caroline Justice make "yummy" cornbread and vegetable soup. The principle difference between pioneer and modern recipes for the soup is that in earlier days it contained no tomatoes. At that time tomatoes were

considered poisonous and were called "love apples." For many of the children cast-iron cookware used in the demonstrations is being seen for the first time.

Antique tools and their use were shown by Bobby Wyatt. Students were allowed to try their hand at use of a draw knife, used to turn out rounded pieces of wood before use of lathes came into popular practice. How cloth of pioneer homespun was woven on looms sometimes 200 years old was demonstrated by Bonnie Bradley. The loom at the Vance place came originally from the Watauga area and was used for many years at UNC-Chapel Hill. Bought by Miss Pearl Weaver about 1920, it was used in her home until contributed to the Vance collection in 1961.

Each child made hand-dipped candles as directed by Caroline Rice. This method was used instead of molds because few if any Western Carolina pioneers brought such "luxuries" as candle molds with them on the journey where transportation limited belongings only to the most essential needs. Mrs. Rice emphasized that the cool of mountain mornings last week provided ideal conditions for dipping candles made from beeswax and animal fats.



Misty Wilson and Jeffrey Brigman use wooden and pottery utensils to help Caroline Justice mix cornbread that was baked in a cast-iron Dutch oven.



Ryan Ellis and Cindy Williams make hand-dipped beeswax candles as taught by Caroline Rice.



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Scouts selling calendars

Girl Scouts and Brownies of the Black Mountain-Swannanoa area still have a few wall calendars and pocket calendar planners for sale for \$1.00

each. For each calendar sold, the scout troop may keep 55 cents.

Oct. 16th has been designated World Food Day. Girl Scouts and Brownies will observe the day with special activities to remind all of the problem that 500 million people in the world today are hungry.

Black MOUNTAIN NEWS
 Serving the Swannanoa Valley

Valley Happenings

Walk for fitness

A walk for fitness for older adults will be held at 1 p.m. Monday, Oct. 19 at the Lakeview Senior Citizen's Center. All senior citizens are invited to participate.

Band Boosters

The Owen Band Boosters will meet Monday, Oct. 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Owen High band room. Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month.

Hypertension testing

The American Red Cross will test for hypertension at Lakeview Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15. There is no charge for the test.

Fall sale

A fall sale will be held Saturday, Oct. 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Executive Plaza. New, used and baked goods will be for sale. Proceeds will benefit the First Church of God.

Miller FUNERAL HOME
 Black Mountain, NC

Dear friends,
 Perhaps the most devastating tragedy is the death of a child. A parent, Harriet Sarnoff Schiff, who suffered this anguish, has written a book which can give consolation to other bereaved parents. The name of the book is *The Bereaved Parent*, published by G.K. Hall & Co. of Boston, Ma.

Respectfully,
Bob Miller

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