

Chet Atkins to give benefit performance here

By The News Staff

The world's most famous guitar player will be performing in concert at the City of Morganton Municipal Auditorium to benefit the Burke Collegiate Scholarship Program.

Music legend Chet Atkins will perform at CoMMA on Saturday, Feb. 3, 1996, at 7:15 p.m. for the Western Piedmont Foundation Inc.'s ninth annual benefit concert.

The annual concert is sponsored by The News Herald, The Original Emporium and WMNC AM/FM Cable.

"We are delighted to have secured a performer of Atkins' caliber for the Foundation's annual scholarship benefit," said Foundation Director Matilda Kistler.

"Chet Atkins has been a pioneer in the music field and is one of the most in-demand performers today," Kistler continued. "His versatile, continually growing and changing style make him without a doubt the most influential guitarist of the 20th century."

Atkins has been playing professionally since the age of 17 when he first played behind Archie Campbell. He has recorded more than 75 original releases, including 12 duet efforts and 10 appearances on symphony albums. His albums have sold more than 36 million copies around the world.

As one of the most in-demand guitar players in history, Atkins' studio session credits include his recordings with Hank Williams, the Everly Brothers and Elvis Presley's first recording sessions.

No artist has been more honored by the Country Music Association than Chet Atkins. He has received nine County Music Association awards in various categories.

Atkins has also received 12 Grammy Awards and he was the youngest person ever inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

In past years, the Foundation's annual benefit concert has featured such great artists as the Preservation Hall Jazz Band of New Orleans, Doc Watson, the Glenn Miller Orchestra and the

late author and humorist Lewis Grizzard.

Proceeds from this concert will benefit the highly acclaimed Burke Collegiate Scholarship Program.

This program was developed in 1988 by the Foundation to provide at-risk elementary school children with a support program and a full college scholarship to Western Piedmont Community College.

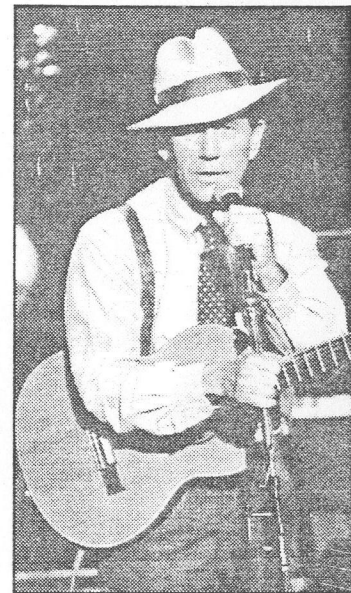
The program currently supports and encourages more than 120 students in grades six through 12, as well as its first class of high school graduates, who enrolled at WPCC this fall.

"Tickets are available now for the concert and they would make great Christmas gifts," said Kistler.

Presidential tickets, which include a pre-concert reception and exclusive seating, are \$100 each (\$80 of which is tax deductible).

General seating tickets are \$20 each.

For ticket information, call 438-SHOW or 438-6013.



Chet Atkins