

Blowing Rock Methodist Church, Long Closed, Operates Uniquely

By DIF H. E. SPENCE

Near the highway leading to Lenoir, a little church nestles half-hidden by trees and rhododendron bushes. It is built of native timber and stone and covered with chestnut bark. It is more than a half-century old now and was at one time attached to the Boone Circuit of the Methodist Church, whose pastors served it regularly. The congregation dwindled to such an extent that it was no longer feasible to hold regular services in the building. For many years the church was closed.

Slightly more than ten years ago, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Smith of Blowing Rock, conceived of the idea of reopening the church, for summer services only, in order that cottagers and tourists who wished to worship in a Methodist church might have the privilege of so doing. They proposed to the District Superintendent, the Reverend J. W. Hoyle, Jr., that if he would secure an outstanding minister, capable of attracting and holding a congregation, they would furnish living quarters for the minister and his wife and underwrite a reasonable honorarium for him. On the occasion of the reopening of the church, Mr. Hoyle told the congregation that he wrote to his old friend and former teacher at Duke University, Dr. H. E.

Spence, and asked that he recommend a man who could do the desired work. According to Mr. Hoyle, Dr. Spence recommended himself and was secured. At any rate, he came and is now serving his tenth term in the capacity of summer pastor.

Others saw the feasibility of the proposed project and came to the aid of the Smiths. The honorarium was raised and the work made such progress that the group was enabled to furnish living quarters for the minister with little difficulty. The congregation grew gradually until today the services are well attended. There is perhaps no more intelligent or capable congregation of its size in the South, being made up as it is of educators, professional men, outstanding business men and others from the leading communities of the Southeast.

Under the leadership of the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr. L. M. Rash of Lenoir, some very definite improvements have been made within the sanctuary. All of the furniture has been refinished. A new altar rail has been installed. The floor has been carpeted with a beautiful red carpet. A magnificent dossal of divinity red velvet drapes the wall behind the pulpit. There are few more attractive sanctuaries in the state.

There are many unique features about this church which may be of interest.

To begin with, there is no local membership. Nearly every person in regular attendance is a member of some other congregation during the winter and is merely an affiliated member here during the summer. The church is controlled by a board of governors selected from outstanding persons from outstanding churches in the southeast.

The services are also unique. There is no choir and rarely any special music. Familiar hymns are sung, collects and calls to worship engaged in, responsive readings and prayers used, all of which are heartily entered into by the congregation.

The services never last more than an hour. There are no long announcements, exhortations to giving, or appeals made for any purpose. The church is supported entirely by voluntary contributions. There has been no mention of money from the pulpit in these ten years. There are no financial campaigns, drives or assessments. There are no church fairs, raffles, card parties or other activities for the purpose of raising funds. The collection plates are passed without comment.

An unusual feature of this church is the installation of two gas heaters which insure a dry and comfortable church in the most inclement weather.

The church is open for worship each Sunday morning at eleven o'clock throughout the summer. The season closes with the Sunday immediately preceding Labor Day. People of all denominations are welcome to these services.

Millers Creek Holds Lead In Baseball Standings

By winning two games over the week end Millers Creek increased its lead in the Tri-County Baseball League. Mabel, Mt. Pleasant, Boone and Lenoir are running close behind, however, and could move up to the first spot at any time. The league is being closely fought with many good games each week.

Results

Sat., June 15—Lenoir 10, West Jefferson 3, Mt. Pleasant 7, Foscoe 6; Lansing 2, Bamboo 1; Millers Creek 2, Boone 1; Mabel, open date.

Sun., June 16—Mabel 5, Foscoe 4; Millers Creek 4, Lansing 2; Mt. Pleasant 7, West Jefferson 5; Bamboo 7, Lenoir 3; Boone, open date.

Standings

Teams	W	L
Millers Creek	6	1
Mabel	5	2
Mt. Pleasant	5	2
Boone	3	2
Lenoir	5	3
Bamboo	3	4
Lansing	2	4
W. Jefferson	1	5
Foscoe	0	7

Schedule

Sat., June 22—Mabel at Lenoir (2:30 p. m.), West Jefferson at Millers Creek, Lansing at Mt. Pleasant, Boone at Foscoe, Bamboo, open date.

Sun., June 23—Millers Creek at Foscoe, Lenoir at Mt. Pleasant, West Jefferson at Boone, Bamboo at Mabel, Lansing, open date.

NEWS ABOUT OUR Servicemen

ENTERS HOSPITAL CORPSMAN SCHOOL AT GREAT LAKES

Robert M. Reid, U. S. N., son of Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Reid of Jacksonville, Florida, and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Lige Reid of Blowing Rock has returned to Great Lakes, Ill. for 16 weeks school as hospital corpsman after spending his boot leave with his parents and friends in Jacksonville. He would like to hear from his relatives and friends in Watauga county. Following is his address:

Robert M. Reid 518-09-65 SA
U. S. N. H. S. S. Class 10-57
GREAT LAKES, ILL.

SERVING IN JAPAN

Army First Class Sgt. James H. Bradshaw, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bradshaw of Boone, is now serving with the USAA MC in Japan.

His wife, the former Miss Eva Hollfelder, is on visit to Japan.

GRAGG RETURNS FROM PACIFIC TRAINING EXERCISE

SAN FRANCISCO — Fred S. Gragg, sonarman seaman, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Gragg of Boone, N. C., aboard the destroyer USS Prichett, visited San Francisco, Calif., June 13-17, following a major Pacific Fleet training exercise with the U. S. First Fleet off the California coast.

Some 18,000 men and 40 ships were involved in the exercise. On arrival in San Francisco Bay, Vice Admiral Robert L. Dennison, Commander of the First Fleet, conducted a review from his flagship, the cruiser USS Rochester, as the ships paraded in column under the famed Golden Gate Bridge.

The ships were scheduled to return to their home ports in Long Beach and San Diego following the visit.

U. S. FORCES, JAPAN—Sgt. Joseph D. Younce, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rubert Wineberger, live in Sugar Grove, N. C., is a member of the 32nd Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion in Japan.

Sergeant Younce, a motor specialist in the battalion's Battery C, entered the Army in February 1955 and received basic training at Fort Knox, Ky. He arrived in Japan in October 1955.

The sergeant attended Cove Creek High School.

Marines Seek N. C. Recruits

Raleigh, N. C., June 17—"Last Call" for young men who want to join the Marines with friends and neighbors and leave with the Carolina Leatherneck Company on June 29th was issued today by Major M. V. Harlan, Jr., Marine recruiting director for the Carolinas.

Although company ranks are nearly full, Major Harlan said there were still vacancies for good men who want to serve their country as Marines. New volunteers should see their local Marine recruiter before June 24th.

The all Carolina Marine company will parade down the main street in Raleigh to the state capitol on June 26th, and take the Marine's enlistment oath from Major General John C. Munn, Commanding General of the 2nd Marine Air Wing, Cherry Point, N. C.

A four motorcycle escort, mounted by ex-Marines who are now members of the Raleigh Police Department, will lead the parade starting at 12 noon.

"Mr. North Carolina", Secretary of State Thad Eure, will act as official host to the Leatherneck Company, top civilian and military officials, and many beautiful young ladies who have been invited to attend the ceremony.

Immediately following the ceremony, drill instructors who are natives of North and South Carolina, will take the new recruits to Parris Island for their training.

Ice cream is both a treat and a wholesome food.

The majority of the farms in North Carolina need livestock. Check your laws regularly for diseases and insects.

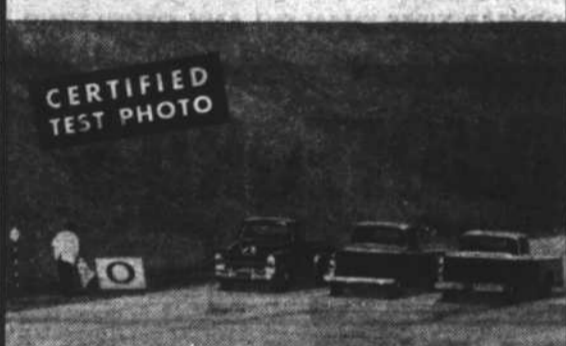


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 - 1956 FORD CUSTOMLINE V8**
4 door, gray, heater and white side walls.
 - 1956 FORD CUSTOMLINE V8**
2 door, gray and ivory, white side walls, heater, clean.
 - 1955 FORD CUSTOMLINE V8**
4 door, two tone gray, radio, heater, white side walls.
 - 1955 PLYMOUTH SAVOY**
4 door, two tone green, Powerflite, radio, heater, white side walls, one owner car, extra clean.
 - 1955 CHEVROLET 210**
2 door, two tone green, radio, heater.
 - 1955 CHEVROLET 210**
2 door, radio, heater.
 - 1954 CHEVROLET**
2 door, two tone green, radio, heater, white side walls, Belair, 28,000 miles.
 - 1954 PLYMOUTH BELVEDERE**
4 door, yellow and white, Hydrive, radio, heater, clean.
 - 1954 FORD CUSTOMLINE V8**
2 door, light blue, heater, white side walls.
 - 1953 CHEVROLET**
4 door, green and ivory, heater, white side walls, clean.
 - 1953 PLYMOUTH**
4 door, light green, Hydrive, radio, heater.
 - 1953 PLYMOUTH**
4 door, light green, radio, heater, clean.
 - 1953 CHEVROLET BELAIR**
2 door, blue and ivory, radio, heater, clean, white side walls.
 - 1953 FORD CUSTOM**
4 door, 2 tone gray, radio, heater, white side walls.
 - 1951 PLYMOUTH**
4 door, black, good tires.
 - 1950 CHEVROLET**
4 door, black, heater.
 - 1950 PLYMOUTH COUPE**
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 - 1949 CHEVROLET**
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