

Improvement Seen At Valle Crucis School

Here at Valle Crucis we noticed some improvements which have taken place during our absence this summer. To begin with, there are new cement walkways everywhere. Then our floors have had a face-lifting. They have been sanded and waxed until they fairly shine. We don't even consider taking our muddy shoes into our rooms. We leave the mud outside.

Our shrubbery has obviously had a good going-over, and the lawn all around looks like a green carpet. There is new paint around all the windows in the rock building, and the doors have had a good coat, too.

Ten-year-old Don just couldn't wait to be asked for his answer to teacher's question on the board. With paper in hand he dashed up to her desk, fairly beaming, eager to prove that he knew.

Teacher read: Columbus took a trip, Magellan took a trip, John Cabot took a trip, Marco Polo took a trip.

Well, over four thousand of us took a trip a couple weeks ago back to our schools where we are learning all about lots of interesting things and wonderful people who had ideas.

There is a practice teacher in Mr. Ernie's room—Mr. Duncan. He is taking an active interest in our ball playing, which pleases us.

Our lunchroom workers are Mrs. Lee Ward and Mrs. Coy Love, who have provided us with good meals for several years. For lunch last week when we had about fifty missionary society ladies for company, our menu was meat loaf, rice, peas, slaw, blackberry pie, rolls, and milk.

Each day's lunch is a well-balanced meal. It looks as if over two hundred fifty of us belong to the Clean-Plate Club.

Many of the parents of our pupils pay us a visit often. They are complimentary of our school and the work that it is trying to do. We welcome our school patrons any time.

Students Help Organize Patrol
Betty Ruth Moore and Baxter Byrd, members of the Valle Crucis Safety Patrol, recently visited the Watauga Consolidated School to assist in forming a safety patrol at that school.

Betty Ruth explained the importance of patrolmen assisting students in crossing streets and the correct procedure to be carried out. Baxter told of the need for patrolmen on the school grounds before and after school. Baxter also explained the organization of the patrol at Valle Crucis.

Library Club Elects Officers
The Library Club met Thursday afternoon and elected the following officers: President, Betty Jo Hicks; vice president, Geneva Ward; secretary, Evelyn Edmisten; and treasurer, Betty Ann Church.

Library helpers for the year are Betty Jo Hicks, Linda Farthing and Geneva Ward, 8th grade; Evelyn Edmisten and Shirley Isaacs, 7th grade; Patsy Fox and Earlene Michael, 6th grade; Betty Church and Sandra Hodges, 5th grade; Carolyn Davis and Mildred Byrd, 4th grade; Lois Ann Greene, Linda Brown, Barbara Ann Pressnell and Joan Rupard, 3rd grade; Mike Church, Marie Moore and Patricia Welch, 2nd grade.

Mrs. Bingham's First Grade
We have 36 in our room this year. We think we are off for a good start, because all are reading a little, and some have already read three books.

Our attendance has been unusually good for the rainy weather, and everyone seems to be happy and enjoying school.

Most of us are eating in the lunch room and we certainly are enjoying our good lunches. Several parents have visited our room, and we want to welcome them at any time.

Mrs. Hubert, a retired first grade teacher from Florida, now living in Newland, recently visited our room. She told us a story, and taught us a new song. We welcome her back anytime.

Mrs. Church's Fifth Grade
One of our cowboys thinks we should have put "They Went That-A-Way" on our bulletin board. We are working on a travel display, showing the routes the early explorers took. Each of us has a special task to do. When we have finished, we can see just which way they went and what they found.

Some of our mothers have visited us recently. They are Mrs. Marl Aldridge, Mrs. Ray Coffey, Mrs. Howard Harrill, Mrs. Basil Shores, Mrs. Buck Matheson, Mrs. Ralph Baird, Mrs. Grady Ward, and Mrs. E. A. Johnson. We welcome our visitors.

Mrs. Mast's Sixth Grade
The sixth grade had an old-fashioned ice cream party last Friday. We had three freezers full of ice cream but we could have eaten six—there are 44 of us! The boys who ran errands and shipped up the ice were Charlie Shores, Glen Shores, Charles Church, Frankie Aldridge, Jerry Harrell, Hubert Townsend, and Douglas Yerber. The hard-working girls who washed all the dishes were Sue Smith, Pansy Hicks, Alice Hicks, and Earlene Michael.

NEW INQUIRIES
During the adjournment of Congress, there will be a new series of investigations. Big business is slated for a going over by congressional committees. High prices are in for close scrutiny; farm policies are to be examined; tariffs studied and government spending will be looked into.

STATEMENT

Employers Mutual Liability Insurance Company of Wisconsin. Condition December 31, 1956, as shown by statement filed:

Assets	
Bonds	\$144,056,211.55
Stocks	28,807,702.64
Real Estate	2,693,000.00
Cash and bank deposits	9,485,779.03
Agents' balances or uncollected premiums, net	7,720,378.77
Reinsurance recoverable on loss payments	509,890.00
Interest, dividends and real estate income due and accrued	1,025,608.44
All other assets as detailed in statement	315,896.63
Total admitted Assets	\$194,610,437.06
Liabilities, Surplus and Other Funds	
Losses unpaid	\$ 98,410,397.00
Loss adjustment expenses unpaid	7,954,000.00
Other expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees)	920,000.00
Taxes, licenses and fees (excluding Federal income taxes) Underwriting	2,887,388.00
Federal income taxes	720,000.00
Unearned premiums	27,740,952.00
Dividends declared and unpaid: Policyholders	6,801,551.00
Funds held by company under reinsurance treaties	472.00
Unearned premiums on reinsurance in unauthorized companies	\$ 36,973.00
Reinsurance on paid losses \$7,506.00 and on unpaid losses \$153,859.00 due from unauthorized companies	\$ 161,165.00
Total	\$ 198,138.00
Less funds held or retained by company for account of such unauthorized companies	\$ 198,138.00
All other Liabilities, as detailed in statement	4,075,087.00
Total liabilities	\$150,707,983.00
Special surplus funds	\$14,827,425.00
Guaranty Fund	1,700,000.00
Unassigned funds (surplus)	27,375,027.08
Surplus as regards policyholders	43,902,452.08
Total	\$194,610,437.06

Business in North Carolina During 1956

Line of Business	Net Premiums	Net Losses Incurred
Group accident and health	\$148,492.78	\$126,737.75
Workmen's compensation	615,103.71	229,974.18
Liability other than auto (B.I.)	45,905.09	47,523.30
Auto liability (B.I.)	61,585.94	99,415.28
Auto liability (P.D.)	44,756.42	23,339.75
Auto phys. damage	20,513.83	8,290.60
Liability other than auto (P.D.)	12,596.31	8,790.29
Fidelity	16,467.76	33,584.41
Glass	427.52	47.30
Burglary and theft	4,194.16	10,216.51
Total	\$970,633.52	\$587,928.56

President W. H. Burhop, Secretary C. H. Brimmer, Treasurer H. M. Bower; Home Office 407 Grant Street, Wausau, Wisconsin. Attorney for service: Chas. F. Gold, Commissioner of Insurance, Raleigh, N. C.

Letters To Editor

Liked Editorials, Support Of Democrat

Thank you for your editorial comment which appeared in the Watauga Democrat for September 12. I always enjoy your editorials. I liked especially what you had to say about the college, its faculty and students, and the fine relationships which prevail.

Those of us here at the college concur with your wholeheartedly in your estimate of Mr. Winkler and Dr. Hagsman and of their selection as members of our board of trustees.

I thought so much of all of these editorials, including the one about keeping our state clean, that I sent them to the Governor. He has indicated his appreciation of them.

This gives me another opportunity to thank you on behalf of all of us at Appalachian for your fine support of the college.

Cordially,
W. H. FLEMMONS

Derrick Praises Democrat Publicity

Now that a comparatively successful season is behind us, I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to you and the staff of the Democrat for the excellent cooperation extended to Horn in the West this recently-ended campaign. I could not have hoped for or expected any keener interest on the part of any news medium than was devoted to our work through the columns of your

paper and I'm sure I speak for the entire Board of Directors and other officials of the Southern Appalachian Historical Association in this expression of gratitude.

Though attendance could have been better with improved road conditions, we still feel fortunate and believe that the precedent we set—that of showing an increase over the previous year—is indicative of bigger things to come. The cooperation of you and the Democrat played a big part in this and most of us are confident that with your continued help Horn in the West can stay on the up-swing.

Thank you again for the fine spirit you exemplified this past summer.

Cordially,
E. LEO DERRICK,
Public Relations Director

Offers Defense Of Stoneman's Raiders

Stoneman's Raid you mentioned in your fine publication recently found a warm spot in my heart. As you many know part of Gen. Stoneman's men under Lieut. Bahany threw up breastworks at the top of Deep Gap where the Blue Ridge scenic parkway highway is now being graded. The famous trenches and breastworks will be gone forever from view to never return again for I am told these remnants of the trenches are all torn up and that an underpass will be made where they once existed. I remember as a boy of about ten years of being there, and that the

trenches were more than twelve feet deep at many places. I was there many times later and the trenches were filling up with dirt from the mountain-side above them.

I was told by "Uncle Elbert" Greene who at the time the "damyankees" encamped here was a boy of 17 years. I asked him if this part of Stoneman's army were disorderly and did they rob the country-side for provender and food. To my surprise he told me, "These men were very nice to him when he visited the camp, and that he sold a soldier a squirrel he had caught for a pet. He also said that these men did not rob, but paid for things they needed in camp." Margaret Bradley (who later) married Mr. W. P. Welch of High Point, N. C. told me, "As a girl of tender age and who lived here at that time about a half-mile from where the soldiers encamped that she sat on the doorsteps of her home and saw the soldiers marching double file and with the same step. She said she watched from ten o'clock in the morning until about four o'clock p. m. before all the men had passed. She saw the marching men only a few feet away from her own door-step. By this account told by two eye witnesses it seems that all the men did not ride horses. It seems to me that there were foot soldiers as well as calvarymen. This does not show they raided everywhere they went. It seems that if they were treated nicely by the natives that they in turn did them no harm. "War is war" but after all if treated nicely it seems these men did the same in return. No one here to this day holds any grudge against Gen. Stoneman or his men for all fared

good at their hands while they were encamped at Deep Gap.
W. A. WATSON,
Deep Gap, N. C.

COST-OF-LIVING

Prices paid by consumers for goods and services have increased for eleven consecutive months to a record high. Using 1947-49 as a base period, prices stood at 118.0 on January 1st, 1957, as compared with an estimated 120.8 on August 1st, a rise of 2.4 per cent.

Red Cross Home Nursing To Begin

The Red Cross Home Nursing Instructor's Course will begin on Monday, September 30th at 8:30 a. m. in the basement of the Presbyterian Church on Howard Street in Boone.

Future instructors, who have not turned in their applications are requested to bring them with them. Please try to be prompt and

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