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THE BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS
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STRICTLY IN ADVANCE

A THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.—Eccles. 11:1.

GOOD LITERATURE

Good literature is the store house for the accumulated wisdom of all ages. What a rich heritage is ours if we only properly appreciate and use it! We refer to real "Literature" not the everyday "letter"—of which quantities are produced.

Books are our silent but powerful friends; the influence of good books on our lives cannot be estimated, and they are marvelous instructors;—they make known to us our faults without rebuking us; they answer the most childish questions without making us blush for our ignorance; they repeat for us what is difficult without taking note of our dullness; if we approach them with open minds, they destroy our false theories and give us substantial foundation for true ones.

Children delight in marking their growth from time to time, by the use of a measuring stick. We of maturer years, having attained our full physical height, might find it beneficial, occasionally, to test our intellectual growth, using as a measuring stick some masterpiece of Literature; read again some great poem or essay that you read a year or more ago; does it yield up to you more of its truth, more of its beauty? Do you discover new depths of meaning in it? If so your mental status has taken on a few cubits; if not your intellectual food has not been as nourishing as it should be. William Ellery Channing said "We never know a great character until something congenial has grown up within us." So we cannot comprehend any great work until our mental growth has reached the level of the author's mind.

This is an age when the best in literature is within the reach of all. Most of the classics may be had in such inexpensive editions that there is no excuse for any home to be without its shelves of carefully selected volumes; no town is so small but that it should have a Library, where the highest type of magazines and books may be accessible to all who desire them.

PEACE HAS COME

But peace without good will is transient truce. The power of the enemy to resist was broken, and peace followed his surrender. Strangely enough, good surrender, but this surrender is not to military force. It is a surrender of the heart to the Way, the Truth, the Life.

It is a matter of Christmas presents, the gift of the individual himself to the Christ who was born in Bethlehem.

When the Christmas Child had become a man, He declared "I came not to be ministered unto, but to minister." He knew that the self is truly realized in the complete gift of self to others.

The good will of which the Angels sang is of the heart. It springs from Love.

MONTREAT NEWS

Miss Patty Bonner, a student at Warren Wilson College, attended the festivities at Anderson Chapel Saturday night. She is a former pupil of Mrs. Clark Johnson. Mrs. Johnson was very happy Friday to have had a phone call from her elder son who has arrived in the States, having been overseas more than two years. Her younger son is a communications officer in the Navy and is now in Panama.

Miss Jane Macaulay, a student in Erskine College, Due West, S. C., will spend the Christmas holidays here with her mother, Mrs. W. A. Macaulay.

Dr. Margaret Spencer, Misses Margaret Wade, Lulu McClure, Lucile Gardner and Mrs. Helen Armstrong, entertained the faculty and staff of Montreat College with a buffet supper on Thursday and Friday evening, dividing the personnel between the two dates. A delightful repast of creamed ham in timbrels, tomato, aspic with a Christmas garnish, baked potatoes, peas, carrots, hot biscuits, fruit cake a la mode and coffee was served. The buffet was centered by an artistic arrangement of crystal balls and greenery on a mirror, and red and white candles completed the holiday effect. The individual tables held a single red candle in a lovely wreath of hemlock sprays. Following the meal amusing Christmas gifts were exchanged, and an impromptu rhymn hand was organized with the noisemakers therein disclosed. Christmas songs completed another delightful event which has become one of the annual treats of the campus.

Miss Jean Tait left Friday for Chapel Hill to attend the Annual meeting of the North Carolina Dietetic Association. Vice-president of the Association, Miss Tait presided at the business session in the absence of the President, Miss Blanche Tansil of Greensboro. Before returning home Miss Tait will go by Charlotte to visit her sister, Mrs. Charles U. Hill.

Mr. and Mrs. P. G. Sellers, Owego, N. Y., are making an extended stay at Assembly Inn. Mr. Sellers is secretary of the Stakmore Company, makers of fine furniture.

Sgt. George Masterson of Chicago, now a patient at Moore General Hospital, visited his friend, Pfc. David Brown, at Assembly Inn Thursday.

Chaplain John C. Neville, is on leave awaiting reassignment and enjoying his home and being with his family. John Neville, Jr. is at home from Clemson College until after the Christmas holidays.

Dr. and Mrs. Nelson Bell, are having a second honeymoon, so to speak, motoring through Florida, stopping at Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Daytona, and St. Pet.

ersburg. They plan to return Wednesday or Thursday. Rev. and Mrs. Wm. Frank Graham are keeping the home fires burning. Rev. Graham, an evangelist, with the Youth for Christ movement, is recovering from an attack of influenza and will remain at home until after Christmas.

The many friends of Dr. Nettie Grier are rejoicing that she is recovering splendidly from an attack of pneumonia. She is in the College Infirmary under the capable care of her daughter, Miss Lucy Grier.

Two happy young ladies had the same birthday this week and were entertained by their friends with a dinner party at the Inn. The honorees were Maria Jane Perry and Hazel Blythe, and their friends were Ida Lou Gibson, Betty Adkins, Florence Buckner, Katherine Melton, Betty Brinson, Mozell Atkins, Florence Buckner, Katherine Melton, Betty Brinson, Mozell Atkins, Gwen Gielig, Jean Seagrave and Martha McDaniel.

Lt. and Mrs. John Lynch Davis, III, from Charleston, S. C., are spending their honeymoon at Assembly Inn. They will go shortly to Camp Roberts, Calif. Mrs. Davis was formerly Miss Billy Powell, a 1945 graduate of Montreat College.

Miss Genevieve Schoville and sister, Mrs. Wishard, of Indianapolis, Ind., who were in Montreat last winter are now spending a month in Asheville at Sunnyside, 173 Macon Ave., and are at home to their many friends.

CANTATA WILL BE GIVEN SUNDAY

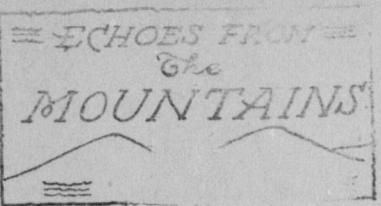
For the second consecutive year the choirs from Black Mountain and Swannanoa combine to sing Alexander Matthews Cantata, The Story of Christmas Sunday afternoon at 5:00 p.m. at the Methodist Church in Black Mountain.

The program will be under the direction of Lt. Robert Guy who will be assisted by Mrs. Alvin McDugle at the piano. Mrs. Robert Guy and Mr. Harry Gasperson, violinist and Mrs. Heber F. Peacock celloist. Soloist will be Mrs. Roy Alexander, soprano; Mr. E. N. Howell, basso, both of Swannanoa; Mrs. Geo. Stone, contralto, and Mr. Edward Dupuy, tenor.

The general public is invited. Members of the choir are as follows:

- Soprano—Miss Alice Burnette, Miss Lockey Burgin, Miss Betty Brown, Miss Jane Callison, Mrs. F. S. Cunningham, Mrs. Ruth S. Cunningham, Mrs. Worth Cook, Miss Edith Drake, Mrs. Helen P. Grasty, Mrs. D. C. Hamby, Jr., Miss Muriel Higgenbotham, Mrs. R. T. Hill, Mrs. W. S. Holcombe, Mrs. Douglas Jones, Miss Betty Kearney, Miss Elsie Kerlee, Mrs. H. J. McSlay, Miss Louise Mease, Mrs. Carl Moore, Miss Myrtle Phillips, Miss Ethel Mae Rice, Miss Nedra Stephens, Mrs. B. W. Rowland, Miss Iris Willis.
- Alto—Mrs. D. R. Freeman, Mrs. A. C. Garland, Mrs. E. V. Gouge, Mrs. E. N. Howell, Miss Anne Plyler, Mrs. H. F. Peacock, Mrs. Edith C. Ray, Miss Nora Summey, Mrs. W. E. Vernon, Miss Dorothy Williams.
- Tenor—Lt. Donald T. Currie, R. T. Hill, F. S. Cunningham, Dr. A. L. Hooker, Dwane McDougale, Irvin Willis, Edward Dupuy.
- Bass—Thad Burnette, Robert Freeman, Rev. H. Grady Hardin, Otty Leaman, A. W. McDougale, W. E. McDougale, F. H. Richardson, Rev. Walter Stiles.
- Soloists, Soprano—Mrs. Roy Alexander, Swannanoa.
- Contralto—Mrs. George Stone.
- Tenor—Mr. Edward Dupuy.
- Baritone—Mr. E. N. Howell, Swannanoa.
- Accompanist—Mrs. A. W. McDougale.

Director—Lt. Robert J. Guy. The choir will rehearse at Moore General on Monday night December 17, in preparation for the presentation of the Cantata to the patients of the hospital. There will be approximately 20 from Moore General along with the 50 from Black Mountain. This program will take the place of the regular program broadcasted over WWNC, Asheville. Lt. Currie will sing with the choir at Black Mountain and Moore General.



Rev. Grady Hardin

The celebration of the birthday of Jesus is different from all other birthday celebrations in many respects. For one thing, this birthday is the most universally celebrated. This is because the birth of Jesus brings more universal hope and joy to a world that is often hopeless and sad. It is truly a birthday of tremendous significance to all who have felt the impact of Christianity.

But there is another difference in this birthday celebration that makes it unique. In this season we think of the Christ as a baby. Songs are sung about the baby—Jesus and the Christ Child. At the usual birthday anniversary emphasis is put on the age of the person, not the childhood of the person. Childhood becomes significant only in terms of what is done with one's adulthood. Certainly we should not stop "our" emphasis on the birth and childhood of Jesus simply because it constitutes one of the most beautiful features of the story of Jesus. The nativity is of no importance at all without the years of adult ministry and teaching that followed. Cradles and manglers do not hold world leaders except as we are able to look back to see the beginnings of men.

In this sacred Christmas season think and sing of the babe in Bethlehem, but don't stop there. Look into the barn and see the Christ Child, but look beyond to see that Child as a man who has made the supreme expression of God to the world. In a very real and beautiful way God entered human life in a baby. But he was not long to remain a babe. The babe becomes a center of our adoration only because the resulting man gives us an eternal way of life that leads us to the reality of abundant living in God!

Sgt. Williams At Home

S-Sgt. Jack Williams has just returned from Japan and is spending his furlough with his son, Jack Williams, Jr. and friends of Black Mountain, also his daughter of Pensacola, N. C. Sgt. Williams was in both the European Theater of War and the Pacific Theater of War. After going through the Belgium Campaign the Battle of the Rhine and Central Germany he was sent to the Pacific and helped liberate the Philippines. Sgt. Williams is the son of Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Williams of Forest City, N. C.



Overnight Guest

A BEN AMES WILLIAMS MYSTERY THRILLER

Read it IN THIS PAPER

ST. MARGARET MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH.

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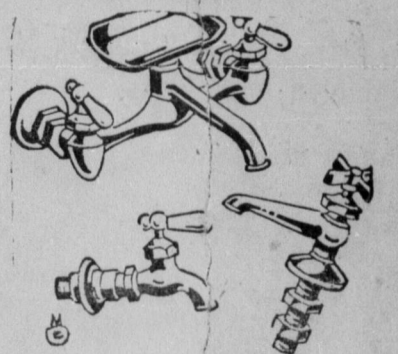
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