

A Thought Before Christmas Parties

ELLEN VIOLETT
by Kurt Lassen

A college girl, deep into alcohol, wrote a wartime love story, as she puts it, "in a drunken haze." It was published to a national magazine and she thought she was on her way. She wasn't. She was fortunate enough to know she was in deep trouble, that her life was unmanageable because of her drinking. And she was fortunate enough, or wise enough, to seek help.

Ellen Violet has had a highly successful career as a writer for television and has her first novel, "Double Take," out in the marketplace through a prestigious publisher.

She might well have ended up on the Bowery, or whatever drunk row there was in any city, but she knew she was in trouble with her drinking and sought help.

"I think one of the most rewarding things, at least for me, was being with a group of young people a while ago who had drinking problems. I was transported back to my college days and I could tell them what I was and how I felt in those days," Ellen told us.

"You see, in those days there weren't that many teenage alcoholics and I know how I felt. I went to a group therapy meeting and luckily there was one young man there I could relate to. I got off the liquor and went to work on my life and it worked."

Today the teenage alcoholic has somewhere to go. There's Ala-Teen and, for those who face alcoholism in the family, there is Al-Anon, and for every teenager in almost any town, village or city there is Alcoholics Anonymous, which will steer them in the direction which can answer their need.

"I went on to Time Magazine and then to Theatre Arts Magazine as a critic and reporter, Ellen told us. "Then I got my first break in television and wrote many scripts for all kinds and I was the first woman to write a script for "The Defenders."

Ellen frankly admits that had she continued on her route of drinking hard and steadily she knows she

would be nowhere today... no magazine articles, no television and movie scripts and no novel. Perhaps "no life."

Her novel, "Double Take," deals excitingly with a girl who is murdered. "If it is a girl, there is always the implication there that she was doing something wrong. Did you ever see a headline that read 'Blonde Man Murdered?'"

Talking to Ellen, one is impressed that two things occupy her attention deeply: alcoholism and the rights of

women to equal treatment in the fabric of our lifestyle.

"I'm working on a television movie on the life of Bill Wilson, the founder of Alcoholics Anonymous," she told us. "He was such a brilliant man and I'm hoping it goes from the writing to the screen."

"There are times when I think that now that I'm older I could easily take a drink and perhaps it wouldn't bother me now. Then, I look back and I remember my days as a teenager alcoholic and I pass up that

drink."

Teenage alcoholism has become a major problem, as everyone knows, Ellen told us. "Today there is more help available than when I was young, and being involved with it helps me remember and, hopefully, helps young people recognize that there is a great, wonderful life out there outside the alcoholic haze I knew when I was young."

Women's Dormitories Decorated for Christmas

by Georganna Rice

Christmas was in the air this weekend when MaHall and McGregor had open dorms. Each hall selected an individual theme and decorated their hall to compete for the 'most originally decorated hall'.

In MaHall, second floor did more studying than decorating, but the atmosphere made up for where the decorations were lacking. Third floor was a Christmas scene done in Charlie Brown style. Had you visited fourth, no doubt you would have caught a glimpse of one of Santa's elves (Tricia Watson and Denise Crumm) and put on a few extra pounds while browsing through their various shops. Fifth floor was musically inclined with several Christmas songs being played while they awaited patiently the arrival of Santa on the roof.

In McGregor Dormitory the halls were of different assortments, anywhere from a giftwrapped door to the manger scene were on display. The hall which stood out was first floor. There the theme was "an old-fashioned Christmas." The atmosphere seemed to have had its proper effect on the judges too, for they won first place for their dormitory. MaHall fourth floor won for their dorm.



Photo by Carl Hannlon

Cars began to line up for the tough competition present at the Second Annual Montreat-Anderson College Auto Rally

2nd Annual MAC Car Rally Held

by Rane Helms

On Friday, November 18, some eager motorists were revving up their car's engines anxiously awaiting the start of the Third Annual Montreat Anderson College Friendly Auto Rally. At 3:00 p.m. sharp the rally began under the direction of the Recreation Skills one class members: Judey Anderson, Kaye Beasley, Nancy Cherry, Tim Edwards, David Ford, Pat Howard, Robert Hunt, Rick Haney, Bob Lake, Don McKenzie, Mandy Peele, and Diane Wadsworth. Fifteen cars left the starting line equipped with maps and instruction sheets at one minute intervals. Their assignment... to find the shortest route to each of six check points and correctly identify the site with the checkpoint on the map. These checkpoints were located over a thirty-three mile area of Buncombe County with a few examples of sites being a pink mailbox No. 866, a washed out bridge, a rotted treestump, Private Road - Do Not Enter sign and many others. As one may see, the occupants of the cars did not have an easy job. Each car leaving the starting line was occupied by at least two persons, one having to be from the Montreat community, the driver and his trustworthy navigator. Other passengers were welcomed also. After the drivers had left, Matt Brooks provided comedy as to keep the excitement to a minimum.

As the rally wore down to its closing hour the cars began to return to the start-finish line located in between the Library and McGregor Dorm. When all cars had returned, even the ones that had gotten lost, the winning car of Eugene Davidson, driver and Danny Mangum, navigator, was declared. Prizes were awarded to all participants which included dinner, car washes and other various prizes furnished by citizens of Montreat and Black Mountain.



Robert Hunt checks the blood pressure of Nancy Cherry at the Health Fair. November 19