

ALETHEIA

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Calendar Turns From Christmas Gift To Booming Business

by Karl E. Peters

With the very mild weather we've had thus far this year, perhaps the only way to really accurately tell the seasons is with a calendar. The locally produced 'Mountain Meditations' calendar does this through its monthly photographs depicting scenes of the times.

The Mountain Meditations Calendar had a humble beginning and an interesting story to lead it to where it is today. The original thought came about when Dr. Jack Crawford, head of the department of Social Sciences here at Montreat, and his family returned from their trip to Europe and began to search for an appropriate Christmas gift to send back as a sampling of Western North Carolina life. "We decided we couldn't find it, so we'd create it. So we hit on the Mountain Meditation Calendar," said Crawford.

Mr. Andy Andrews of Montreat fit in with his very popular slides of nature scenes of the area. The two pooled their resources figuring that the pictures combined with appropriate scripture verses would make an ideal gift.

The procedure for their design consists of two major sections. The first is deciding upon the right pictures, this done by starting with thirty to forty photos and narrowing it

down to about eighteen after which some other group (for example: last year it was a group of students) narrows it down to the final twelve. The other is deciding on the scripture that will go with it. Dr. Crawford says, "I'll usually bustle myself away in a room with the pictures laid out in front of me and start thinking 'What does this say to me?' 'We try to say 'This is God's creation - take care of it.'"

Over its six years of existence, it's publication has grown from five thousand to twenty thousand copies; from sales exclusively in local gift shops to sales through two hundred and twenty-three individual stores and through seven nationwide distributors.

One thing the two find interesting is the way people identify with it. Some have been known to write Christmas cards as though they

knew them personally. Mr. Andrews said, "People will write to me and say 'How did you know where my grandfather's farm is?'" Although some do pinpoint the location, many are far off in that the pictures are within a hundred mile radius of Montreat.

Crawford sums up the situation neatly by saying, "If it does a lot of good for people and makes just a little money, we think we've done all right."



Anderson Auditorium in the snow. Scenes like this have made the Mountain Meditations Calendar popular. (photo by Andy Andrews)

College Anticipates No Problems From Self-Study

by Karl E. Peters

A big word floating around Montreat Anderson this year has been 're-accreditation'. The word, although large in itself, is also large in meaning for the college.

Montreat-Anderson College, as a member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, must undergo a "self-study" process every ten years for "re-accreditation" by the Association. The "self-study" is an in-depth study of the school as it stands. This includes student life, dorms, academics, the quality of teaching, records of transferred students, appropriation of money, and the library and its use. All of this information is evaluated "in light of the purpose of the college," said Elizabeth Maxwell, an English and French teacher and the head of the self-study program at Montreat, the purpose of the school being "to prepare

students in all areas of life for college transfer and all of this in the basis of Bible-centered Christian living".

Everyone is included in the study in one way or another. The faculty is divided into committees to study the various aspects of the school with one and sometimes more students on each committee. The questionnaires filled out earlier this semester were also part of the self study process.

At the end of the study, all the information will be gathered up and organized into a seventy-five to a hundred page booklet and sent to the Association. A group of representatives from the Association will then make a visit to the campus for a few days to see what progress is being made toward the goals set in the publication. Final decision on the matter will be made in December of 1980, no problems are anticipated.

Bible Clympics

Plans are underway for Montreat-Anderson College to offer its facilities for a regional contest involving knowledge of the Bible. The contest will be open to high school students, ages 15-18, from various Bible clubs, youth groups, and churches. According to contest coordinator John Crawford, who is a History professor at the college, the contestants will participate in a "stair-step" of Bible tests. "The contestants

will arrive on Friday evening and be welcomed to the college, given a brief orientation, and then challenged by a written Bible test," says Dr. Crawford. "Later that evening, during a social hour, winners for the next round will be announced."

Arrangements will be made for contestants to stay in the dormitories, if they so desire. The second round will be held the following morning after breakfast. The finalists

'Twas the Night Before Finals

(cont. on pg. 4)

*'Twas the night before finals
And all through the dorm,
Not a creature was stirring
From midnight 'til morn.*

*The freshmen were nestled
All snug in their beds,
While visions of test questions
Danced in their heads.*

*The sophomores slept soundly,
They were calm and collected;
Their experience had taught them,
What could be expected.*

*And I in my nightcap
Was reading all I could find
On "How to be a Head Resident
Without Losing One's Mind."*

*Now in the stillness of the night
There arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed
To see what was the matter.*

*I raced down the hall
And followed the sound,
Of high-pitched voices
'Til the right room I found.*

*And coming up close
I could hear from within,
A voice of frustration,
Despair and chagrin.*

*"I'm going to flunk, I just know it,"
Cried the voice from inside;
"You can pass, just keep trying,"
Came an encouraging replay.*

*I opened the door
And to my surprise,
Half of my dorm
Was huddled inside!*

(cont. on pg. 2)

Black Mountain's Apron Lady

by Joy Ogle

Most only know her as "The Apron Lady". She's Claudia McGraw, a sprightly 87 year old woman who has made aprons since 1932. These aprons have reached nearly every part of the world and have been bought by such celebrities as Greta Garbo, Amy Vanderbilt, and Lyndon Johnson's daughter, Luci. And to think it all started in a coffee shop at her own home in Black Mountain.

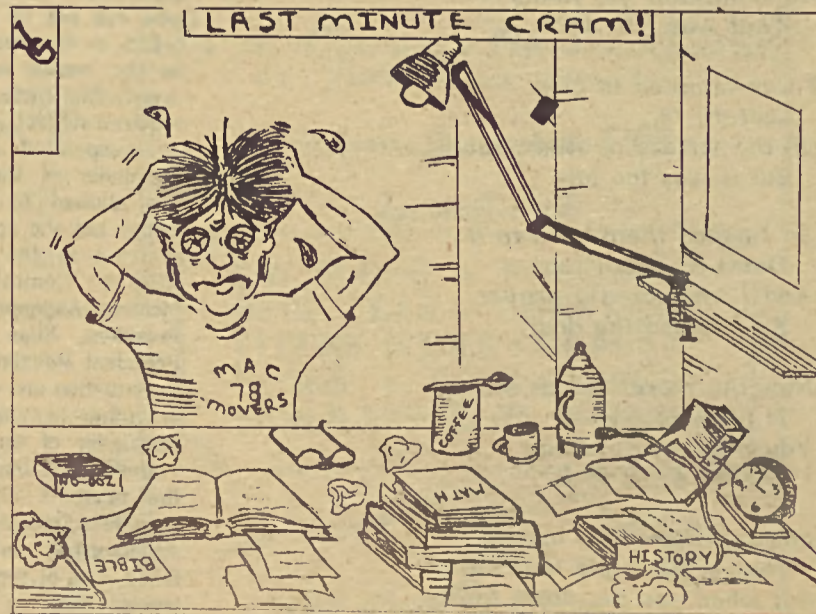
Mrs. McGraw began making aprons for herself and felt it a shame to hide them away under the counter. A brilliant idea came into her mind to hang them up all over the little shop. The idea worked and the aprons sold. And so began Claudia McGraw's thriving apron business.

Mrs. McGraw sent a few of her "masterpieces" to some of the most exclusive boutiques and the results were the same as in her coffee shop back home. At one time, a dozen ladies were working for Mrs. McGraw trying to meet the demands of so many people.

But she doesn't take orders by mail anymore and doesn't try to keep up with such demands. But she still has a booming business. "I can't keep enough aprons made," laughs Mrs. McGraw; "They come in and buy 10 to 15 aprons at a time: Doctors, lawyers, all sorts of people." She makes all her own aprons now and sells them from her home on U.S. 70.

Mrs. McGraw makes every kind of apron imaginable. There are short ones, old fashioned bibbed ones, smock aprons, and even aprons for men. All are designed by Mrs. McGraw herself. With Christmas coming, she's as busy as ever, but welcomes any and all who come in to buy or just to look.

Mrs. McGraw has made thousands since that day back in '32 and will average over 100 a month. She always wears one herself while cooking and believes that a pretty apron affects the cooking. "I won't wear an apron I don't like, and I won't cook without one."



(Cartoon by Vic Gournas)