

Bethel School News

More than 200 people gathered to watch the sophomore class perform in their play Saturday evening. The comedy was well received by the audience, and the many favorable comments made by those who were present made the cast and the director feel that their efforts were not in vain.

The seventh grade boys and girls played the seventh grade teams from Boone Friday afternoon, in a basketball game in the Bethel gymnasium. While the boys lost to Boone by a 19 to 14 score, the girls won easily over Boone, scoring 17 points to 3 for the visitors.

On Friday night the high school basketball team played a double-header with Cove Creek. By fighting hard, the Bethel girls defeated Cove Creek 17 to 10. The boys, who were not so fortunate, lost to the Cove Creek team by the score of 24 to 16.

Everyone is looking forward to Christmas at Bethel. Various programs are being planned by different school groups. Everything is being done to make the occasion a happy one.

Critics Comment Work Local Author

Recent reviews of the books by David P. Allison, Litt.D., local author, have this to say:

"Greater Love Hath No Man"—"Interesting from the first word and lay in it some of the most interesting characters that could be found in the Virginia mountains. You will like it superbly."—Baptist Standard.

"A splendid story, breathing wholesome atmosphere, it's chaste, it's instructive, it's edifying."—The Calvin Forum.

"The Testing Time"—"An authentic description of conditions in Virginia, preceding, during and just after the Civil War. The characters are true to life with a romance that make these pages colorful and exciting reading."—Watchman-Examiner.

"Filled with good description, rapid moving action, noble characters who live and move, centered around Virginia plantation life in Civil War days. A book that gets hold of your interest and holds it to the end!"—Standard Review.

"And Thou Philip"—"A fine note is sounded throughout the book. If you care for wholesome excitement and romance, don't fail to read this splendid book."—Presbyterian Review.

"Written in a clear style, and teaching a high moral lesson. Thrilling from beginning to end. To start reading it means to finish it before laying it down."—Watchman-Examiner.

"Welded Links"—"A fine outdoor story of the big timber country in which men of differing concepts clash. It ends as you would have it."—American Book Review.

Dr. Horace Freeman of Baltimore, one of America's greatest literary critics, says: "Dr. Allison is one of our greatest historians, authentic as to detail and in his text avoiding tiresome repetition which brands him as a past master of the English language. His books are instructive."

Walker's Jewelry store has put in a full line of Mr. Allison's books for the Christmas trade.

"The Fifth Generation." Mr. Allison's book written with a Boone locale will be published during the coming year, as will "Life's Crucible," another western North Carolina story, and also "The Tempering Fires," a colonial novel, will be published in January.

Mr. Allison is now working on a Civil War story, "The Reckoning," and hopes to have it finished for publication early in the coming year.

Christmas Invitation

By Katherine Edelman

JACK TRESLAR hunched his broad shoulders deeper into the big chair, turning a new page of his book. He was reading a Christmas story, trying hard to become absorbed in the tale.

A sharp ring from the telephone brought him to his feet. Who could be calling him on Christmas eve?

A strange voice responded to his "hello." "I hate to bother you on Christmas eve, Mr. Treslar. But I'm ringing up to ask if it would be possible for you to come and spend Christmas with me. My name is Bevan Willers. I live out at Richmond. I have a big home, and—"

"But—but I don't even know you, Mr. Willers. There must be some mistake."

"I want you!" the low voice was emphatic. "Will you come or not?" Jack repressed a quick exclamation. "I—I had thought of spending Christmas—" he began.

"Wouldn't it be possible to change your plans? I have a feeling they could be side-tracked easily."

Jack thought of the lonely Christmas he had been anticipating. Af-



He ascended the steps leading to the massive door.

er all, there might be something to this unusual invitation.

"You are right about my plans," he admitted. "They are rather in the air. But—but going to spend Christmas with an utter stranger took me back for a moment."

"That's why I thought you might come." There was a note of disappointment in Bevan Willers' voice. "I probably got the wrong man, however."

Jack thought again of the lonely Christmas before him. And before he could debate the question, he heard a voice inside of him answering, calling through the wire to Richmond. "You got the right man, Mr. Willers. I'm coming."

An hour later, bathed and dressed, Jack Treslar was speeding along the frosted highway to Richmond. Following the detailed instructions that had been given him, Jack found the long winding drive leading from the roadway. What a secluded, ghostly place, he thought, as he drove under the snow-sprinkled trees.

BEVAN WILLERS was waiting. In the dim light from the chandelier, his tall bent figure seemed grotesque. "I have let the servants away for the evening," he said, his bony hand motioning toward the end of the shadowed hall.

Jack Treslar felt a twinge of fear as he followed. Here he was—alone in the house with this strange old man. Anything could happen. There wasn't another residence within blocks. Then, his adventurous spirit reasserted itself, and he looked smilingly across the table at Bevan Willers. "Well, what's it all about?"

A dead silence was the only answer. Gray eyes under heavy bristling brows stared at him intently. Jack stared back unflinchingly.

Then a hearty laugh rang through the library. With amazement Jack saw the old man straighten up in his chair. Years seemed to fall off his shoulders. The twisted, grotesque appearance vanished as if by magic. He spoke quietly.

"I'm not crazy," he began; "I'm just a lonely old fellow, ticketed as a sort of recluse. The true facts are that I've been trying for years to write. Yesterday I got word that a story of mine had been accepted."

"But I still don't understand your strange invitation, and—" Jack interrupted.

"I'm coming to that," Bevan Willers continued. "The hero of my book is a daring, adventurous fellow. A man willing to answer a strange call that came in the night. I got intrigued with the fellow, and began thinking. Wondering if there was any young fellow who would act as he had done. So I rang the first hotel that came to mind and described my hero. Young, unmarried, interesting sort of chap. Pretended his name had slipped my mind for the moment. They connected me with your room. You know the rest."

Jack stretched out his long arm across the desk, and gripped the old man's hand. "Now that I'm here, Mr. Willers, do you still believe you have got the right man." There was wistful entreaty in his dark eyes.

"I don't just think—I'm absolutely positive."

At Christmas Time

Let those of us who do not own their own homes resolve that next Christmas we will enjoy the holiday festivities with our families beside our own firesides, applying the rent money to the creation of an estate of our own! Through the plan of the Building and Loan it is easy to own your own home . . . by the payment of small sums of money each month . . . just like rent . . . home ownership is within the realm of possibility for the family of even the most modest income.

A new series of the Watauga Building and Loan is to open January 1. Call in and let us explain to you how, you may join the ranks of happy home-owners, or if you own your home now, how, by small monthly payments, you may create a fund for the education of your children or against the emergencies brought by the proverbial "rainy day."

Next week we will mail out checks for several thousands of dollars to holders of prepaid stock in our association and to them, as well as to our installment shareholders, and friends everywhere, we wish a very Merry Christmas and hope that the building and loan may help many to enjoy a happier and more prosperous New Year than ever before.

Watauga Building & Loan Association

W. H. Gragg, Secretary

Boone, North Carolina

WE HAVE A DISPLAY OF

CHRISTMAS DECORATING GREETINGS

in office of Shell Service Station, next window from Shell Cafe. Salesman will be on hand all day Saturday and next week to book orders.

Appalachian Evergreen Co. Boone, N. C.