

	H	L	R
May 16	64	29	.00
May 17	56	42	.00
May 18	62	28	.00
May 19	62	40	.00
May 20	65	44	.82
May 21	70	39	.00
May 22	74	42	.00

The Highlander



MISS LAUD CRAIG
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Air Conditioned by Nature

Spring Tour interesting

By Phyllis Joy

Have you ever fallen in love with a goat -- named Delilah? That's exactly what a good number of the Highlands-Cashiers Garden Club members and guests did on Thursday, May 17th, during the tour of the Carl Sandburg Estate at Flat Rock, N.C.

This estate, with its 3 story, 20 room home, 27 other buildings, and comprising 246.7 acres, was the locale of this year's Spring Tour of the Highlands-Cashiers Garden Club.

Approximately 70 members and guests enjoyed the beautiful day, tour, and delicious luncheon served by the "Village Inn", located on highway 25, near Flat Rock.

The Sandburg estate, purchased in 1969 by the Dept. of Interior, National Park Service, as a National Monument, was made available to the Highlands-Cashiers Garden Club by special arrangement. Until the United States Congress appropriates the money to structurally re-enforce the 135 year old home, and provide ample parking facilities, the estate cannot be opened to the general public.

Three young men, all presently with the National Park Service, conducted various groups about the estate. Mr. James Haynes, in charge, took one group; Mr. Gordon Gay, a newly arrived Curator took another, while Mr. David Sheppard, a student majoring in History at Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin, and involved with the tremendous job of cataloguing the contents of the home, took a third group. All young men were enthusiastic and very well informed about the many facets of life at the Sandburg home and farm.

The home, built as a summer residence in 1838 by a Christopher Menninger of Charleston, S.C., was named "Connemara" after a county in Ireland. The name means "Country Estate". The Sandburgs were the third owners of the estate, purchasing the place in 1945 from a Mr. Smythe.

Throughout the tour one fact became clear; that although the name "Carl Sandburg" is the one the world accalines, his wife was the mainstay of the family. It was she, who, in the first place, selected their North Carolina home, who managed the family finances, and who was the actual manager of this working farm. Besides these various chores she cheerfully "put-up" with eccentric husband who never threw anything away. Can you visualize the moving from Michigan to North Carolina a library of 13,000 books, letters and cards dating back 40 odd years, periodicals of similar vintage, household goods, three daughters, and 300 goats?

The interest in goats began when one of the daughters could not tolerate cow's milk. From this beginning the Sandburgs developed pedigree, prize goats' one of their "Toggenburg" variety, a Swiss originated goat, in 1960, set a world record of milk production which is still unchallenged. Ultimately, the Sandburgs specialized in three breeds of goats; the Swiss Toggenburgs, and Saanens, and the Nubian breed.

It is this last group, the Nubian goat, to which little Delilah belongs. When the estate becomes opened to the general public, do go visit Delilah; you'll love her too!

Library meeting

The Board of Trustees of the Hudson Library will hold its annual spring meeting at the Library on Tuesday, May 29, at 2 p.m.

All Board members are urged to attend as plans for the summer are to be formulated and matters of importance to the Library are to be considered.



THIS OLD PHOTO SHOWS A BIT OF "downtown" Highlands around 1917. Part of the Holt Building housed the post office at that particular time. Postmaster in 1917 was the late Rev. W. T. (Uncle Billy) Potts, grandfather of the present postmaster.

Casting plays isn't easy

By Michael Hall

Last summer after a performance of "Charlie Brown" at the Highlands Playhouse a woman came up to me and said, "Where did you find those actors? They were perfect for their parts!" I thanked her and said I was "just lucky," but that was really a lie. Casting is just about the most difficult part of play production. It can drive a director mad.

It's true that when the right actors are available for the right parts the results are glorious. I'll never forget my first opening night in Highlands five summers ago when veteran character actress Marye Brent stomped onstage as the pistol-packing Widow Appleby in an old-fashioned "meller-drammer." She was Marjorie Main to the core. And the next summer former Ziegfeld Girl and one-time Broadway star Claire Luce accepted an invitation to appear with us as the regal but aging actress in "The Cave Dwellers." To say that she was perfect for the role is no insult -- or undue compliment. It could have been written for her.

But ideal casting doesn't always happen. Actors can play havoc with directors' lives. They have a habit of walking out on them, forcing last-minute replacements. Or they may be marvelous in their parts, but they can't learn the lines. Then there are actors who want to work, but require too much money, or too much attention, or too much say-so in areas that are none of their business.

In our case, there are lots of good actors who want to work in Highlands but they're

afraid of a paint brush, or they don't like morning rehearsals, or they're allergic to dust. Those actors we can do without.

This season we've scheduled "I Am A Camera," John van Druten's beautiful play version of Christopher Isherwood's "Berlin Stories" and the basis for the popular current film success, "Cabaret." I found a wonderful cast for it in New York, returned home with full confidence, and immediately received a telegram from my young character man who said he "regretted that he had to back out." I was beside myself.

How do you replace a tall, good-looking actor who has the necessary German accent for the role and blends perfectly with the rest of the cast -- who is available to come to Highlands at the precise time you need him for little more than pin money, is sufficiently versatile to play a British butler and a far-out movie director in two other plays, and who doesn't balk when you tell him you don't have a backstage bathroom.

What do you do? What I did was to send an S.O.S. to all drama schools in the Southeast, post ads in "Backstage" and other trade papers in New York, and write everyone I knew who in turn might know someone. Now I have twenty-odd photos, resumes and audition tapes from potential replacements, but it's difficult to make decisions when you can't interview the candidates in person.

In days gone by when we were the Highlands Community Theatre there were many people who volunteered their acting talents in their

spare time. Rehearsals periods were longer. Fewer performances were scheduled. But now the town and our theatre membership have grown so much that we must keep one show in performance while another is in rehearsal. Actors are needed on a full-time basis. Busy residents and summer vacationers are understandably reluctant to commit themselves to rehearsals that begin at 10 a.m. and end at 11 p.m.

Don't misunderstand -- we need all the volunteers we can find! But we must also stick to a rigid rehearsal schedule in order to get the curtain open for thirty-two performances during a seventy-day period.

As a result, casting four plays (including two musicals) has demanded many hours and many miles. This year I saw 512 actors deliver one-minute monologues during a two-day period at the Southeastern Theatre Conference in Pensacola. Unimpressed by what I saw, (or merely mind-boggled, I'm not sure which,) I flew to New York, rented a rehearsal hall near Times Square, and auditioned fifty New York actors.

Yes, I found some exciting talent.

To complete the company I interviewed more actors in Orlando, Atlanta, Fort Lauderdale and Tampa. As a result I've gotten most of the people we need, but there are still one or two "holes." The problem is that all of us want David Merrick productions on bread and shoestring budgets.

Good news, however, is that singer-dancer Randy Huggill has postponed his New York pavement-pounding to spend a second summer as actor-choreographer in Highlands,

and Woody Woodall is available to do our musicals with us in between appearances at the Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem and a national tour as a member of Agnes DeMille's dance troupe. Brenau College drama professor Jim Propp turned in leading roles in several summer stock companies to play supporting roles in Highlands because he said he liked us better. And actress Barbara Bradshaw chose Highlands over a four-month dinner theatre tour because, as she says, "I prefer mountains to money."

Lots of other good actors are scheduled to come to Highlands, too. Fortunately there is something about our town that appeals to them and they overlook our crowded dressing room and our lack of backstage bathrooms.

Hopefully we will solve some of these needs in the near future. A bigger membership and more contributions is the answer to our building problems. Money keeps living theatre alive.

But casting will always be difficult. Its headaches are forgotten, however, when an actor fulfills his promise and delivers a believable character. When a Randy Huggill turns his baseball cap sideways and becomes Charlie Brown, or a Woody Woodall flops his hair and arfs like Snoopy, it's worth the sleepless nights, the interminable phone calls and sitting through all 512 of those awful monologues.

Pembroke graduate

Mary Penelope Garner graduated summa cum laude with a B.S. in Music Education Sunday, May 13, from Pembroke State University.

Mrs. Garner is married to Clarence Rodney Garner of Red Springs, N.C. She is the daughter of Isabelle McDonald Rogers (wife of Ed Rogers of Highlands) and the late Marshall Bryan McDonald of Red Springs.

Mrs. Garner is also the recipient of one of two outstanding music student awards presented at Pembroke. The music student awards are based on (1) outstanding musicianship, (2) contribution to the Music Department, and (3) academic scholarship.

While at Pembroke Mrs. Garner was a member of the P.S.U. concert band and concert choir, and a member of the University Singers. She is a member of the Music Educator's National Conference.

During her junior year she was awarded the Fred Bohrer Music Award, an honor scholarship for students excelling in music achievements. She plans to teach public school music next year.

Graduation exercises May 30; Baccalaureate Sermon Sunday

Graduation exercises Wednesday night, May 30, preceded by the Baccalaureate Sermon Sunday night, May 27, mark the final high school activities for 24 seniors and 6 juniors who are graduating this year in Highlands. The 6 junior graduates have taken extra subjects and maintained an 85 average to meet requirements for graduation.

In the senior class, Miss Sandra Vinson is valedictorian; Frank Watts is saluator-

ian. Sandra is the daughter of Katherine Vinson and the late Hoyt Vinson; Frank is the son of Frank and Ruby Watts.

The Baccalaureate Sermon will be held in the school gym-auditorium at 8 p.m. Sunday. The Rev. Conrad Washam, pastor of the Highlands United Methodist Church will have the sermon, assisted in the service by the Revs. Fred Hovey, Ray Barfield and Harvey Stewart. The high school chorus, under the direction of

Mrs. Stoney Hinkle will sing "America Our Heritage." Mrs. Robert DuPree will be pianist.

Marshals who will serve at both events are Don Keener, chief, James Cleaveland, Mark McDowell, Brenda Houston and Lisa Hunter. Marshals are chosen from the junior class for outstanding scholastic achievement over two and one-half years. Mascots for the graduating class are Susie deVillie and Jeff

Talley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph deVillie and son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Talley.

Other senior graduates, in addition to the valedictorian and saluatorian are Neil Ammons, Sandra Crane, Deborah Dryman, Jerry Green, Robert Houston, Ervin Keener, Martha Lewis, Leroy McCall, Roberta McCall, Jane McKinney, Linda McKinney, Charles Nasser, Wayne Potts, James Potts, Richard Rhodes, Frankie Speed, Dianne Taylor, Michael Thompson, Jerry Tilson, Cecil Vinson, Ronnie Waller, and Gay Wilson.

The six junior graduates are Elaine Burrell, Robert Crowe, Janice Wilson DeRose, Patsy Talley Moss, Rose Moss and Terry Iritt.

Graduation exercises will be held at 8 p.m. Wednesday the 30th at the school. Presentation of honor and academic awards will also be made at this time to high school students.

Are outstanding students

Stoney G. Hinkle principal of Highlands High School announced today the selection of the school's students who have been chosen as members of The Society of Outstanding American High School Students, one of the nation's leading high school honoraries

The students are: Sandra Kay Vinson, Deborah Joan Dryman, Dianne Allison

Taylor, Don Allen Keener, and Brenda Alice Houston.

With the assistance of high school principals and counselors from across the nation, The Society of Outstanding American High School Students strives to further the pursuit of academic achievement and civic responsibility on the part of American youth.

The Society accepts for

membership only young men and women who have distinguished themselves as their school's highest achievers.

Members of The Society are now competing for over \$640,000.00 in renewable college scholarships.

These scholarships consist of unrestricted cash awards to colleges of the students' choice and renewable annual scholarships to selected colleges and universities across the nation. The Society of Outstanding American High School Students Awards Program is one of the largest of its kind in the country.

Society members are also recognized in an annually published volume entitled THE SOCIETY OF OUTSTANDING AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, which is distributed nationally to colleges, universities, corporations and libraries.

Because of their accomplishments, these students are most deserving of recognition by the school, the community, and the nation. As leaders of American youth they represent the most important segment of our society.

Appears in play

Tyson David Stephenson, sophomore speech and theater arts major, appeared as T.V. in Rosalyn Drexler's SOFTLY, AND CONSIDER THE NEARNESS, one of three one-act plays presented May 16-17 at Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, N.C.

Mr. Stephenson is a member of the University Players and has played one year of football for Western.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul V. Stephenson, Rt. 2, Highlands.

Tip Toe tonight!

From all accounts, a top feature of entertainment is scheduled tonight (Thursday) at Highlands School when some 88 youngsters take part in a performance that savors of old fashioned vaudeville. "Tip Toe Through The Tulips," a dance number with five boys and five girls is just one of the presentations to be seen.

Hours and hours have gone into the making of costumes, carrying out a red, white and blue theme. There will be slapstick comedy, other dance numbers, and plenty of popular songs from bygone days. There will even be trumpet

players to add a special bit of jazzy rhythm to the scene.

The piano has been delivered to the school, and will be dedicated. Money raised previously has gone toward payment, and the proceeds from tonight's entertainment will be used for the same purpose. Admission is \$1 for adults, 75¢ for children.

Everyone is urged to come out for this entertainment for the pure enjoyment it will afford, and also to help a good cause and lend encouragement to the young performers. "Curtain time" is 8 o'clock.

Wins award

A special award was presented Monday, May 21, to Tommy James, Jr., who works at Highlands Shell Service in Highlands, N.C.

The award, a plaque bearing two rare silver dollars (one Eisenhower Dollar and one Liberty Head Dollar), two Kennedy Half-Dollars and a specially minted commemorative coin set in an automotive engine design, was presented for exceptional customer service by a representative of The Gates Rubber Company.

The Denver-based rubber company sponsors this nationwide contest (now in its 41st year) to reward service station personnel who provide exceptional customer service. A fleet of "Gates Mystery Cars" regularly travels across the country stopping at service stations. Each "Mystery Car" has a purposefully installed, worn fan belt. Award Plaques are presented to station personnel who notice the defective belt and offer to replace it.



TOMMY JAMES displays his plaque of rare coins awarded for "exceptional customer service" by Gates Rubber Company. See story.

New shop opening

The Ice Cream Shop, operated by David and Lou Anne Bleakley and daughters, Pam Pat and Karen, will open Friday, May 25, in Highlands.

The shop, offering complete fountain service, is located next to Phelps House in what was formerly the L. W. Rice residence.

The Bleakleys are adopted Highlanders from St. Petersburg, Fla., and own a home off Hickory Gap Road in the Turtle Pond area.

They plan a "gay 90's" or perhaps a "roaring 20's" ice cream parlor atmosphere, with musical background matching the period.

In addition to regular ice cream, sodas, and shakes, such specials as "The Cliff Side," "The Highlander" and "Scotch on the Rocks" (butterscotch, that is) offer mouthwatering possibilities to the customer.

Post office to be closed

The Highlands Post Office will be closed in observance of Memorial Day, Monday, May 28th.

There will be no window service or delivery of mail by rural and star route carriers. Special Delivery Service will be provided within the one-mile delivery area.

There will be one receipt of mail scheduled to arrive from the Asheville Sectional Center at 8:20 a.m. Mail will be dispatched to Asheville at 3:45 p.m. Mail for this dispatch should be deposited in the letter drop or collection box at least one-half hour prior to the time of departure.

Incoming mail will be distributed to the box sections by approximately 11:00 a.m.



THE ABOVE PICTURE SHOWS STUDENTS (left to right) Allan James, David Keener, Lisa Tucker, Greg McCall, and Karen Opsahl working on ceramic items in the Ceramics and Clay Products Class taught by Mrs. Robert Shambaugh and Mrs. John Tate of the Occupational Education Project at Highlands School.



JAMES OWENS, student at Highlands School, works on the figure of an old man in the woodcarving class of the Occupational Educational Project.