

Madison's Salvation Army Showing Renewed Growth

By DORIS BURRELL

The Salvation Army Missions at Sleepy Valley and Bonnie Hill are located in the Hot Springs area and are within the jurisdiction of the Waynesville Salvation Army Mission in Waynesville.

Lt. Thomas Friddle, 26, was assigned to the two at Hot Springs in January and according to him, "it is the best appointment in the world."

A native of Clarksburg, W. Va., Friddle comes to the beautiful, rugged mountains of Western North

Carolina and its mountain people with a knowledge of their unique culture.

"I was raised in the mountains and feel that I am a mountain thinking person so I feel that is why I have been so readily accepted," said Friddle, a bachelor.

His first assignment was as an assistant Salvation Army officer in Greensboro. This is his first responsibility as the officer in charge. He makes the trip to Waynesville about once each month to report to Major Earl Reagan who is over the Moun-

tain Mission District. All units are coordinated through him.

"These are beautiful people. They are not defiled by the big city. We don't have a drug problem here," said Friddle, who delights in visiting his people in their homes.

There was another mission at Little Creek but it is no longer in use. The people who lived in this out-of-the-way place have now moved and there is no longer a need for the mission.

Major Cecil Brown, who started the Salvation Army here in Western North Carolina, opened the first mission at Max Patch around 1934. She went about her work on horseback. Work was started in Waynesville around 1943 but failed to take hold. It was again opened in 1966 and has been strong ever since.

"Major Brown opened the mission here at Sleepy Valley in the 1940s and had the building built. It has been dedicated to her," said Friddle.

It is located on highways 25 and 70 going toward Newport, Tenn. Sunday services are held at 11 a.m. at Sleepy Valley. Just recently running water and indoor plumbing have been put in the church. The parsonage is located next door to

the church office at 125 Jackson Ave. in Hot Springs. A clothing room is located in the back of the church office. An average attendance at church is between 30 and 40.

Bonnie Hill Mission is located off highways 25 and 70 toward Newport. Take a turn to the left and travel on Upper Shut-in Road to the small building which used to be a one-room school. It is 100 years old and sits high on a hillside. There is a big pot bellied stove for warmth in the winter. There is no indoor plumbing nor running water.

"The folks here like it this way," said Friddle. "They don't want a change. They feel there is something unique in the 100-year-old building."

There was a big homecoming in August, Friddle said. Eighteen to 20 people celebrated the anniversary of the building. Services here are held at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday.

"When we hold a sunrise service up here it is something to behold," said Friddle. "We've watched the sun come up over the backside of the mountain."

Being a bachelor has led the people he serves to take an interest in Friddle's welfare and well-being. "A lot of the people here tithe of

their crops and I've had all kinds of vegetables brought to me this summer," said Friddle. "And, when I go visiting, I'm invited to sit down and eat with the family."

Friddle will be leaving next week for a vacation. Although he considers himself a pretty fair cook, he looks forward to going back to his

home in West Virginia and eating some of his mother's homecooked meals.

"I couldn't have asked for a more beautiful setting in which to minister. The people are just simple folks who have a great love and who are so willing to share what they have," said Friddle.



Salvation Army office in Hot Springs



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When opportunity knocks" is a phrase that both excites and haunts. If we hear it knocking there is excitement over what it will be.

But the poets, philosophers, and experiences haunt us with the "lostness of opportunity." That is, her hair is on her forehead and we must grab opportunity from the front because once passed, she has no hair behind to grasp. And we miss the opportunity offered.

A 10th century proverb haunts even more: "He that will not when he may, When he will shall have nay."

But Francis Bacon takes the "luck" out of opportunity. Said he, "A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds." There's the key! Opportunity does not so much knock on our doors as we must knock on her door.

A wiser Man than all the rest put it this way: "Ask, and it will be given you; Seek and you will find; Knock, and it will be opened to you." (Matthew 7:7)

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Sunday Genesis 12:1-9

Monday Numbers 20:1-13

Tuesday Deuteronomy 4:5-14

Wednesday Joshua 1:1-9

Thursday Joshua 24:1-15

Friday Isaiah 50:4-11

Saturday Matthew 7:21-27

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