

Ayers Receives BA Degree

Danny Woodson Ayers, son of Willard L. Ayers of Rt. 3, Burnsville, received a BA in history at Mars Hill College Commencement Exercises Friday night, August 11.

Dr. Fred B. Bentley assisted Dr. John M. Hough Jr., summer school director, in awarding 29 bachelor of arts degrees, 14 bachelor of science degrees and six bachelor of music degrees at this August Commencement.

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Robert Geouge Birthday Celebrated

Robert DeLon Geouge celebrated his 4th birthday on Monday, August 14. A party was held at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Geouge. Several friends attended the party and he received several nice gifts.

THE YANCEY JOURNAL
Burnsville, N.C.

Ed Yuziuk—Publisher
Carolyn Yuziuk—Editor
Pat Briggs—Manager
Jody Higgins—Assoc. Editor
Published every Thursday by

Twin Cities Publishing Co.
2nd Class Postage Paid at
Burnsville, N.C. 28714

Subscription rates:
\$3/yr. in county
\$5/yr. out of county

Thursday, August 17, 1972
Number 20

Ranger Column

By John McLain

This summer we were very fortunate to have 20 fine young men helping us to complete several much needed conservation projects. These boys, ranging in age from 14 through 17, were selected and paid by the local WAMY office through the Neighborhood Youth Corps Program. Their help proved to be quite a boost to our regular work force.

Some of the more noteworthy projects completed this summer were a visitor information center on Roan Mountain, a ten man trail shelter near Camp Alice on Mount Mitchell, completion of 1 1/2 miles of new trail on Mt. Mitchell, construction of 1/2 mile of access road from Black Mountain Campground to Briar Bottom and brushing and erosion work on 22 miles of hiking trails. The boys also helped in forest road maintenance and recreation area cleanup work.

The new visitor information building on Roan Mountain replaced a small booth that has been used the past several years and was inadequate for public needs. The new facility is designed to blend with the surrounding environment and has ample space to serve the public information needs. With the boys help a considerable savings was made in construction cost.

If you have ever hiked the trail from Black Mountain Campground to Mt. Mitchell you probably recall the very bad condition of the last mile of the trail. This is a project the Forest Service has wanted to do for several years but due to lack of funds we were unable to do the work. With the help of the NYC boys we completely reconstructed this section of the trail and it is now open to hikers.

With the growing number of hikers and people seeking an outdoor experience the Forest Service has been striving to increase certain types of facilities in the more remote areas of the National Forest. This past year we opened a 15 mile horseback riding trail. The trail begins on Maple Camp Ridge and terminates on the South Toe River after descending the Buncombe Horse Range Ridge. The horse trail intersects the Mt. Mitchell Trail on Commissary Ridge about two miles from the summit of Mt. Mitchell. In order to enhance and encourage outdoor experience by more people we planned and were able to construct a 10 man trail shelter, complete with wire bunks and fire place at the intersection of this trail system. Also available at the site will be toilet facilities and a horse corral.

We were able to complete these projects along with other necessary jobs by having the help of the NYC program. We would like to thank the local Neighborhood Youth Corp staff and the boys for the fine job they have done this summer.



Neighborhood Youth Corp Workers And Leaders Boost Ranger Force

Social Services Worker Reports

(Cont'd from page 1)

often due to lack of courses that interest the child. Also, youngsters get behind in elementary school because of poor attendance, then they meet with frustration and embarrassment at their inability to succeed in school.

"Most of these youngsters are talented in other areas that aren't offered to them," Mike believes. "So there is a definite need for vocational and special education." Judge Braswell feels the same way. Many juveniles would benefit from this type of training who are not interested in, therefore aren't benefiting from regular school curriculum.

"The high schools presently have vocational programs, but they are not large enough to handle the need."

Although Mike feels that these two preventive measures are important, they cannot compensate for the fact that most delinquency is caused by problems at home.

"Conflict or marital problems in the home can cause juveniles to act out their frustrations. This is why we give counseling services to both the family and the juvenile."

Mike feels that his greatest need is to get across to young people that juvenile services is a place they can come to for help when there is no place else to turn. He feels that the stigma associated with a "prob-

ation officer" frightens juveniles away who would otherwise seek help.

"If they have a problem at home, or with school, or with alcohol or drugs, we can definitely help. We have workers within our own Department trained to handle these types of problems, and we can also refer them to psychological, psychiatric and other counseling agencies."

"I want juveniles to understand that we are not interested in punishing, but in helping."

(Next weeks a continuation of this article will deal with efforts being made by the community to prevent delinquency and with Judge Braswell's plan to get the community involved in juvenile work.)

MAY Tech Business Courses To Begin

This first evening credit class to be offered by Mayland Technical Institute will start the fall quarter, September 5, if enough students register for it. The program, a Bookkeeping certificate course, will be offered two evenings each week from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

The course is designed for those students who will be pursuing their first course in bookkeeping or who may wish to expand their knowledge in the operation of a business firm. It

should provide the student with the skills required for initial employment as a bookkeeper in a small business, or a record clerk in a large business. The course could also provide the foundation needed for advanced study, since most of the course credit is transferable to degree programs in the institution.

Courses to be offered in sequence are: Bookkeeping Math, Basic Bookkeeping, Advanced Bookkeeping, Small Business Management, and Office Machines.

The tuition cost of the courses will be \$2.50 per credit hour, or from \$7.50 to \$12.50 per

quarter; the total tuition cost will be \$32.00. Students are expected to buy textbooks.

Persons interested in this course should contact Mayland Technical Institute at once. Phone 765-7351.

Team Captains For Campaign

Ray Howell of Spruce Pine and Mack B. Ray of Burnsville, Co-Chairmen of the Public Gifts Division of the Blue Ridge Hospitals Development Fund announced the enlistment of Team Captains who will recruit campaign volunteers throughout the Tri-County area.

Campaign Captains enlisted so far are: Mrs. Lois Williams, Mr. Allen McMurray, Mr. M.W. Blanton, Mr. Ralph Murdock, Mr. Guy Snyder, Mr. W.B. Randolph, Mr. Richard Dobbin, Mr. Bill Queen, Mr. Phillip Frye, Rev. Russell Burson, Mrs. Glenn Blevins, Mrs. Ruby Swann, Mrs. Hugh Wiseman, Mr. Douglas Phillips, Mr. Dennis McAllister, Mr. John M. Martin, Mrs. E. L. Dillingham, Mrs. Lena Harris, Mrs. Louise Holcombe, Mrs. Charles Gillespie Jr., Mrs. Ellen B. Ray and Mrs. Phyllis Bailey.



Bill Queen

Red Cross Sponsors Camp

The first Red Cross Aquatics Camp in North Carolina was held recently in Avery County and was sponsored by the Mayland Chapter of the American Red Cross and Holston Presbytery Camp.

This ten-day camp was held at Banner Elk, N.C., July 18-27 and was attended by nearly 100 persons from the surrounding communities. Of this group most of the students were of the ages 7-17; however, there was an adult Beginning Swimming Class from 7-8 p.m. each night. Directed by Water Safety Instructor John C. Wilson, the activities took place at Holston Presbytery Camp which donated the services of its summer staff as well as its facilities to make the experience possible.

Red Cross swimming courses, canoeing, life saving, and a Basic First Aid course were

taught each day. Campers arrived at 8:30 each day and stayed until 5:00 p.m. During the day there were two instruction periods for each group as well as recreation, crafts, hikes, folk dancing, provided by the Camp's staff. Dutch games and cricket taught by European Counselors were considered a special treat.

The Rev. Barrett Gilmer of Banner Elk, N.C., Administrator of the Camp, stated: "We were delighted with the success of the Aquatics Camp, and we were happy to provide our services at less-than-cost for this first year of operation. I feel that such an opportunity for teaching water safety meets a real need in our community."

Mr. Wilson was assisted by two other Water Safety Instructors, Mr. Ned Crouch and Mr. David Goodin of Johnson City, Tennessee.

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