

Mme. Kraus Comments

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vision gave birth to this festival, which has made great music available to this rural area. Madame Kraus cherishes the festival because all who participate in it in any capacity "are guided by totally idealistic motives. They offer the best in music and everyone, I feel, is capable of recognizing the best, even if he doesn't rationally understand why he is drawn like a magnet to it." In addition, she fervently avows "music is a source of elevation of the soul, a consolation in grief and revitalization of body and soul". Her Mozart piano concert recordings are cherished in countless homes.

Madame Kraus is deeply sensitive to beauty in every aspect of life. She is especially appreciative of the glorious mountain scenery of North Carolina. No matter how great the demands of her career, or how travel-weary she is, the beauty that surrounds her home in Celo restores her. Even her bedroom has glass walls, enabling her to view the encircling mountains. Reaching out the hands whose playing has won her fame and glory, she exclaims "I embrace the world! I love the world!" In turn, the world responds to her with love.

Meeting Set

The Mitchell and Yancey County Presbyterian Men will meet at the Grassy Creek Presbyterian Church on Monday, July 30. Supper by the Ladies of the Church at 7:00 p. m. Business meeting and worship service at 8:00 p. m. All men are welcome to come.

One Child Gets New Chance For Future

By Jerry Blackwelder
Donald was born in a small North Carolina town into a family situation that left much to be desired. He was kept in a crib until age four. He was culturally deprived, brutalized to the extent of having scars on his back from beatings and neglected. At the age of 10, Donald and his brother broke into a school. He was sent to a correction center, then to a mental hospital, and finally to a center for the mentally retarded.

The future for young Donald seemed dark until he met Dr. Jim Tompkins, who was new to North Carolina and an employee of the Durham Child Advocacy Center. (Dr. Tompkins is now executive director of the Governor's Advocacy Council for Children and Youth, an agency of the Department of Human Resources.)

"I was impressed with Donald," Dr. Tompkins says. "He was not mentally retarded, but was there because of court action. I felt he had no business there." Dr. Tompkins, in cooperation with administrators at the institution, enrolled Donald at the Wright School for emotionally disturbed children in Durham.

Dr. Tompkins went one step further and assumed responsibility for Donald on weekends and holidays in November of 1972. He described Donald's first weekend this way: "Donald used his hands to eat. He used utensils backwardly. He didn't know how to wash, take a shower or brush his teeth. He had no concept of matching clothing, and he was a junk collector, compulsive counter, a holdover from his dealings

with tokens at the institution." Donald, at age 13, was at the second grade educational level. The weekend adoption system lasted until May of this year, when Donald left Wright School and Dr. Tompkins to go to a church-supported Children's Home. In seven months, Donald had reached a seventh grade level in arithmetic and a sixth grade level in all other subjects. There were no indications of his former primitive habits.

Jim Tompkins says he had two motivations for taking Donald into his home and life. "First, I liked the kid. He's neat and likeable. And I wanted to give one child one chance in life.

"And I wanted to show, in a professional way, that this type of program can work. Families across North Carolina could be 'springing' kids from institutions like this and providing them with family environments," he said. Dr. Tompkins explains that children are often placed in institutions or correction centers simply because they have nowhere else to go.

"Many are there not because they're mentally retarded, but because they're abandoned, abused, neglected, or placed by court action."

Institutions welcome the idea of parents "springing" children. Superintendents, as well as social workers from the units, are available to work out the most suitable plan for families to adopt the children, either for weekends and holidays, or for longer periods.

"If a small portion of our population would get involved, our institutions would be empty

of children who shouldn't be in these institutions," Dr. Tompkins predicts.

It is obvious that Donald has made his mark on Jim Tompkins, and sold him on the value of such projects.

"Why, if the children's home program works out, that kid could be my boss in ten years," he said.

Free Water Safety Classes

The Mayland Red Cross Chapter, which serves Mitchell, Yancey and Avery Counties, will sponsor free water safety classes for beginners and advanced swimmers at Camp Hemlock on Route 80, in Yancey County, according to Earl C. Van Horn, Chapter Chairman.

He announced that classes will be conducted daily from 5 to 7 p. m. Saturday, July 21,

through Saturday, July 28, by Dwight Butler of Bumsville, a fully-qualified Red Cross Water Safety Instructor.

Registrations for the course should be made by July 20 at Camp Hemlock or with Mrs. Lillian Hollifield, Chapter Secretary, on the lower floor of Trinity Episcopal Church, 414 Hemlock Ave., English Woods, Spruce Pine (Phone 765-2422).

Bookmobile Schedule

The Avery-Mitchell-Yancey Regional Library Bookmobile will be visiting the following persons or residences on the Seven Mile Ridge run in Yancey County on Thursday, August 2, 1973: Nell Hoover, Grace Blalock, Fanny Ray, Gladys Robinson, Cora Byrd, Maxie Burgin, Clara Lee Chrisawn, Westall's Grocery, Evelyn Wilson, Arlene Whitson, Louise Robinson, Adelaide Briggs, Margaret Gouge, Pearl Thomas and Hattie Mae Geouge.

Anyone else who lives close to these people and who wishes to have bookmobile service, please contact Mrs. Barbara Duplock after 4 p. m. on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday at 765-4673.

Wildlife Afield: Cover Should Be Left

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was so devastating. The hills and mountains have been stripped of cover. Every tree that offered any potential as useful lumber has been cut.

When the 1940 rains came, there was nothing on the mountains to hold back the water, and the effects of that flash flood are still evident after more than 30 years.

But this time, two factors helped. For one thing, the rains were not quite as heavy, and also, the mountains have re-forested. Had there been no cover on those hills Memorial Day weekend, flood damage would have been severe.

Perhaps we have learned something about the effects of bad land management. The trend now is—or should be—toward small, selective timber cuts. Even on small cuts, water and soil holding cover should be left.

"In my lifetime up here," one long-time resident told me, "large timber sales and severe flooding have always gone hand in hand."

Hopefully, with better understanding and improved forest management, the potential for another 1916 or 1940 flood will be curtailed. This last flood, as destructive as it was, could easily have been much worse.

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