

THE BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

Devoted To
The Uplifting
of Our Community

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Black Mountain Water System Improved

Congregation Enjoys Recording of Christmas Cantata Sunday

Combined Choirs of The Community Churches Are Planning To Form Organization For Regular Group Singing During The Coming Year

The congregation of the Baptist Church enjoyed the recording of Christmas cantata, "The Story of Christmas," by the combined choirs of Black Mountain and Swannanoa churches, under the direction of Lt. Robert Guy, at the 5:00 o'clock Vesper Service Sunday. The recording was made by station WWNC when the cantata was given at the General Hospital, December 20. There were 65 voices in the chorus. Members of the chorus were invited to come to the Baptist Church at 6:30 and hear the recording again played especially for them and their guests. Refreshments were served by the Baptist Church choir in the Sun School auditorium and then the choir invited all to come in the afternoon auditorium to hear the recording, which was greatly enjoyed by all present.



Lion Leadership

A short time ago I heard a man say that problem children nearly always have problem parents. After thinking this over I agreed with him, and continuing my thoughts, I reached the conclusion that problem towns nearly always have problem leaders. A town that presents a poor physical appearance, that fails to look after its young people, that lacks a civic pride, is a town with indifferent leadership. It is nearly always a town without a Lions Club. This is true because a Lions club, while improving a town through its activities, at the same time is developing future civic leaders of the highest type. The quiet men of ability, given an opportunity to work and help others in a Lions club, emerge as leaders. They, along with the natural leaders of the club, learn "to recognize community needs, to discover means of meeting those needs, and to effect a remedy."

Educated along these lines, these men in time become the leaders of their community. "A problem town nearly always has problem leaders." Give a town leaders, trained in Lionism, and it will not be a problem town.

MUSIC AT BLACK MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

Music at Black Mountain is not only a part of the curriculum but an essential element of community life. Students and teachers of every interest take part in the instrumental and vocal groups enjoying the experience and discipline that comes from functioning consciously as part of a whole. Their performances are a weekly occurrence. Music is studied as a language with its own innate logic and architecture. Designs in melody, harmony, counterpoint and rhythmic are practiced as elements of musical architecture and in their mutual interdependence. The history of music is conceived as an integral part of the culture of a period. The early music studied is sung and played before it is analyzed. A good music library facilitates the practical and theoretical work. Black Mountain believes that in a shaken world of ideas, music as a world of inner order can help toward developing that community for which we all toil.

The Grange

The Grange is unique among the institutions which seek the benefit of the open country. It is a farmer's organization—a social, educational and economic force, plus a neighborly and community building agency. It places emphasis on moral and spiritual idealism. It is a fraternity with a beautiful ritual. It builds, it helps, it defends, rural life. It is truly the farmer's best friend.

Jr. O. U. A. M.

The Jr. O. U. A. M. will hold an open meeting Tuesday, January 21 at 7:30 o'clock p.m. A varied type of program is planned. Invitation is extended to the public to attend this meeting.

New Water Sterilization Equipment Will Give Black Mountain High Grade Pure Water System

With the installation of new water sterilization equipment Black Mountain has made notable progress toward completion of a water works improvement program which is designed to give the town a water supply comparable in quality and purity to any in Western North Carolina. Too often in public affairs, elected officials hesitate to take action on any problem unless impelled by an aroused public. Yet, efficient town administration demands that certain contingencies be foreseen and provided for before they reach the attention of the public, since by that time they may create problems affecting the health and welfare of a whole community. In no phase of city activity is this more required than in water supply.

The present town administration has done a fine job in initiating and expediting the water works improvements now nearing completion, but ironically the very efficiency with which the problems are solved prevents general public knowledge of the work done. It is the purpose of this article to tell something of the difficulties encountered and surmounted in bringing the water system to its present improved condition.

The first indication of substandard conditions arose from bacteriological tests of distribution system samples. These samples contained a high percentage of bacteria, revealing that the water was of questionable purity for public consumption. This fact brought to the attention of town officials results in a re-examination of the entire water system. It was to participate in the examination that the writer was called in to make an investigation of the poor quality of the water and to report on other phases of the water system which might require attention. One of the principal requests, being to investigate the cause of abnormal drop of the storage reservoir level during periods of normal rainfall. The writer was asked to do this work in spite of the fact that he could devote only his spare time to it, because of his previous knowledge of the Black Mountain water system and his experience in the similar, though larger, system of Asheville.

The water available from mountain streams from uninhabited watersheds is chemically and bacteriologically the purest in the world. As a consequence, the sterilization provided by the average mountain town is the poorest in the world. It is difficult to convince the average citizen of the necessity of purifying a water supply with a recognized high degree of purity, but that it is necessary, any town with the experience of Black Mountain can readily testify.

The reasons for this are quite apparent with an understanding of the processes involved in collection and distribution of water. Water in an open stream is subjected to two processes which operate simultaneously and continuously, a constant contamination from contact with the air and ground, and a constant purification from oxidation filtration over sand beds, sedimentation in pools and exposure to sun light.

These two processes maintain a varying equilibrium in the composition of the water but all natural waters invariably contain some impurities. When natural waters are collected and introduced into a pipe system the purification process is stopped and the contamination process only reduced. In a system of the size of Black Mountain approximately two billion gallons flow through the pipes in a ten-year-period, a comparatively short time in the

life of a water system. The movement of this water through the system is very slow, allowing microscopic growths and other impurities from unsterilized or improperly sterilized water to deposit and often to grow in the system. In this manner an accumulation of contamination is built up which will pollute the water passing through the system no matter how pure the water at the source of supply.

In spite of the high chemical purity of soft mountain water, it possesses one troublesome characteristic in a distribution system. Soft surface waters are slightly acidic in nature in contrast to the highly alkaline hard waters in other regions. Here again, the enormous amount of water coming in contact with the pipe surface renders the slight acidity of serious import because of the resulting corrosion and the promotion of the growth of an inorganic bacteria known as crenothrix, the slime growths of which cannot be removed by ordinary main flushing, a procedure of some value in reducing other impurities.

Corrosion and crenothrix not only materially impair the carrying capacity of the mains, but also create unpleasant tastes and odor in the water.

A preliminary survey indicated that inadequate and spasmodic sterilization combined with an accumulated system contamination was the under lying cause of poor bacteriological samples in the Black Mountain system, and serious reduction in the carry capacity of the pipe net work. Since this was within the province of the State Board of Health, the Board of Alderman requested the State to send an engineer to report on the conditions as found and to recommend necessary improvements. The state confirmed the findings of the preliminary survey and recommended installation of completely modern sterilization equipment. This recommendation has been carried out in the present improvement.

New equipment consists of a Wallace & Tiernan, automatic, visible vacuum, solution-feed chlorinator and a recording flow meter which gives a 24-hour record of the water demand. Operation of the chlorinator is accomplished hydraulically using water from the Holman system recently acquired by the city. Hydraulic operation eliminates the annual cost of electric operation; the savings resulting from the use of the Holman system over alternative hydraulic installation amounting



Bill Hill Says: Tuther day a soldier went in to the examiners office for a job, after they went down the list of available occupations, the soldier says: "I can't do any of em." Well then I can't place you, the examiner said, and the soldier says "well I'm a ringtailed baboon." Well why didn't you say so. I've got two jobs open on the OPA.

to the cost of the entire improvement.

Simultaneously, with the problem of sterilization the abnormal drop in storage reservoir level was investigated. Measurement of run-off and flow tests on the main supply line revealed that with a run-off of 200,000 gallons per day that the demand on the system sometimes exceeded 500,000 gallons per day. While the per capita usage was high enough to indicate considerable distribution system leakage, the margin of safety was dangerously low and it was felt desirable to purchase the Holman property, doubling the available run-off and completing the last step in the acquisition of the water-shed.

A leakage survey was conducted and a number of large leaks located and repaired, further increasing the water available to the town.

The only way to insure equitable allocation of the cost of operating and maintaining a water system is to completely meter the system and to base all bills on actual meter readings. Methods of reading, billing, and collecting in use were not systematic and a more accurate and rigid system was believed desirable. The result has been gratifying, the additional revenues accruing to the department being sufficient to cover the cost of all the improvements mentioned in addition to purchasing the Holman property within the allotted time.

Additional treatment is contemplated to eliminate corrosion difficulties.

Through the efforts of the present Board of Aldermen, the water supply has been doubled, adequate sterilization provided, purchase of the watershed completed and distribution mains cleaned and carrying capacity restored, reduced all without interruption of service and with only minor unpleasantness of taste and odor. Only those with a first-hand knowledge of the difficulties encountered can have a real appreciation of these accomplishments.

This program was initiated by Mr. W. T. Green, just prior to his induction into the Army. His duties were assumed by Mr. Geo. Wren, present city clerk, whose efforts have insured the success of the program.

NEWS CUTS YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION RATE

The regular rate of \$2.50 per year for the News, has been cut to \$2.00.

If the subscription is for only six months the rate will be \$1.25. Let us enter your name on our list now, and we will mail The News to you each week. We are printing 2,000 copies this week, so that it will go to more people on the Rural Routes.

Be sure to subscribe NOW.

College Newspaper To Be Published By The News

The Dialecte, a newspaper made up by the students of Montreat College, will soon be published by the Black Mountain News.

A Correction

There was an error in the rank of John Harley Martin. He was a Corporal instead of a Private First Class, as the paper stated last week. Martin is now discharged and is at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac C. Martin in Black Mountain.

L. J. BARRETT SELLS INTEREST IN NEWS

L. J. Barrett, associate editor of The News has sold his inter-



L. J. BARRETT

est to J. C. Cornelius and John W. Ealy.

Mr. Barrett left Sunday morning for Indianapolis, Indiana, his former home, where he intends to buy a farm and do truck farming.

We are going to miss you Loren, and wish you the best of success in all your undertakings.

JIM AND FENT.

Facts About Black Mountain You Ought To Know

Did you know that Black Mountain has one of the best equipped communities for recreation of any small town in North Carolina? We have a fine club house, excellent lake, modern swimming pool, magnificent golf course, small play lots, and thousands of people.

Did you know that there is practically no planned recreation in this entire community? By this we don't mean games for children only, but a planned program of recreation that will include swimming, boating, hikes, parties, folk games, hobby classes, crafts, golfing, music—and a thousand other things.

Did you know we have spent thousands of dollars for equipment and practically nothing for direction?

Did you know that a place without a program is a poor investment and a total loss?

Did you know that real recreation is as necessary as work? Did you know this is as true for adults as for children?

Did you know that the Town Council established a Recreation Commission for the purpose of using what we have to best advantage?

Did you know that with a small investment in money and time we can have a directed program of recreation that will meet these needs?

New City Ordinance Requires Bldg. Permits

A city ordinance recently made requires building permits for all new construction, remodeling or repairs, within the incorporate limits of the City of Black Mountain.

Plans, specifications, and estimated cost of work must accompany application for permits.

You can obtain your permits from G. W. Wren, city clerk. This must be done before starting any construction or repair work.

\$15.00 Reward

The Alred Mercantile Co. will pay \$15.00 as first prize for the best "slogan" for their store and \$10.00 for second best.

Base your slogans upon the advertisement you will find on page eight.

Mail your slogans in to the store. All slogans become the property of the Alred Mercantile Co. Winners will be announced later.

New Building For Mars Hill

Dormitory For Girls and Faculty Apartments Are Included

The board of trustees of Mars Hill College, which met in a called session Saturday, approved plans for the immediate erection of certain needed buildings on the campus and for making other improvements at the college.

To meet the urgent need for more housing facilities at the college the board authorized the erection of a dormitory for women, an apartment house for faculty members, and some small cottages.

They also authorized the conversion of the present dining room and kitchen into a cafeteria and the enlargement of the sewage disposal plant. Henry L. Gaines, of Asheville, architect for the college, met with the board of trustees and later with the administrative officers of the college to make plans to begin the erection of the buildings as soon as possible.

Nineteen members of the board were present for the meeting. These were: Mrs. E. N. Carr, Hickory; W. T. Duckworth, Asheville; Mrs. Ruth Stroupp, Shelby; E. F. Watson, Burnsville; John A. Glazener, Brevard; John G. Carrier, Gastonia; Robert O. Huffman, Morganton; Mrs. C. M. Palmer, Albemarle; Roy J. Wood, Mars Hill; A. W. Whitehurst, Marshall; the Rev. J. B. Gorman, Biltmore; the Rev. J. R. Owen, Asheville; Dr. Bruce Sams, Mars Hill; Dr. L. M. Caldwell, Newton; Frank Jarvis, Spindale; the Rev. Oscar R. Mangum, Lenoir; George H. Jones, High Point; Myron W. Gordon, Marion; Mrs. L. P. Frans, Hickory.

Meeting with members of the board were: Dr. Hoyt Blackwell, president of the college; Dean R. M. Lee; Mrs. R. L. Moore, burgess; B. M. Canup, assistant bursar; H. Tilson, superintendent of buildings and grounds; Mr. Gaines, John McBee, Spruce Pine, attorney and banker; and Mrs. Owen, R. Mangum, Lenoir.

At the close of the business session, which was held in the science building, members of the group were guests of the home economics department at luncheon with Mrs. J. V. Howell as hostess.

Major General Kirk To Visit Moore Hospital

All is in readiness at Moore General Hospital for the visit Thursday of Major General Norman T. Kirk, surgeon-general of the United States Army.

Following a general inspection of all phases of medical and surgical services rendered at the hospital, General Kirk will be guest of honor at a party in the 4-H Club on the post, Thursday evening.

General Kirk is paying his first visit to Moore General Hospital since he became surgeon-general on June 1, 1943. He had previously been commanding general of Percy Jones General Hospital, Battle Creek, Mich.

General Kirk is regarded as one of the nation's top orthopedic surgeons and has performed operations on former Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson and Lieut. General Brehon Somervell, recently retired commanding general of the Army Service Forces.

During the second World War he visited every one of the fighting fronts, making most of his trips by plane. He is also the author of numerous articles in medical journals and books.

Friends of Mrs. Robert Quinn will regret to know that her mother passed away on the sixth of January.