

THE BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

"SUPREME IN THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY"

Let's All Help—
Support The
Locker Plant!

Only 10
Shopping Days
Till Xmas

Vol. 2, No. 15.

Thursday, December 12, 1946., Black Mountain, N. C.

5 Cents Per Copy.

Montreat College To Present Yuletide Program

The music department of Montreat College will present the annual evening of Christmas music Saturday at 8 p. m. in Gaither Chapel, at which time the Black Mountain Arts Club will be special guests.

The program, which will open with a lighted candle procession by the Glee club, will include "O Holy Night" by the Glee club with Miss Roslyn Clary, soloist, and "Jesu Bambino" by the Choralettes with Miss Joy Hard, soloist, directed by Mrs. Elma Randall, as well as excerpts from Handel's "Messiah" by the choir, and anthems arranged by Clarence Dickinson, sung by the Inner Choir, directed by Miss Elizabeth Woodhouse.

Following the program Dr. Margaret Spencer will entertain the faculty and visiting members of the Black Mountain Arts Club with a tea at her home.

Hunter Florist Holds Open House Sunday

Growing flowers is an art as well as a job. One visit to the Hunter greenhouse will convince the layman that there is more to growing plants than meets the eye. On an inspection tour a NEWS reporter was told some of the finer points by Penn Hunter, owner and operator, who was busy preparing for open house on Sunday, December 15.

For instance, how many knew that poinsettias lose their leaves if the temperature falls below 55 degrees? Or if they receive too little or too much water? Or that the best way to water them is to submerge the pot in slightly warm water letting the clay pot absorb the moisture?

Mr. Hunter explained this and went into detail about those and other plants which will be on display Sunday.

Some time was spent viewing other flowers, including the orchid plant, which is a parasite growing in peat moss.

Especially lovely are the poinsettias which will be on exhibition Sunday. There are also violets in bloom, shrimp plants, Christmas cherries, primroses, geraniums, begonias, and gardenias.

The public is invited to visit the Hunter Greenhouse Sunday afternoon between the hours of 2 and 4. Flower lovers will find a trip here well worth while. The place is the old Parker House on Blue Ridge road.

AWNING BURNS

Fire of unknown origin destroyed the awning at the Grill Wednesday night.

Coming Events--

- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12
3:15 p. m. P. T. A. meeting at the elementary school.
- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12
J. O. U. A. M. Special Meeting.
- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13
Black Mountain High school Christmas party at the school cafeteria at 7:30 p. m.
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14
Montreat college presents the annual evening of Christmas music at 8:00 p. m. Arts Club members will be their special guests.
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
Open house at Hunter's Greenhouse. Everyone is invited.
- MONDAY, DECEMBER 16
Basketball game. Black Mountain vs. Emma there.
- MONDAY, DECEMBER 16
American Legion Meeting.
- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17
Circle 1 and Circle 2 will meet in the Fellowship room at 7:30 p. m. for a social hour.
- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19
Girl Scouts Christmas program at the Methodist church.
- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20
Basketball game. Black Mountain vs. Swannanoa. Here.
- To list the date of the meeting of your organization, phone 4101.

I'M JOLLY OLD SANTA CLAUS



The enthusiasm with which Santa was received in Black Mountain is evident here in this scene where the Old Man from the land of snow and ice—and toys—is shown as he worked his way through the mob which was on hand to greet him. The little girl in the lower left of the picture is probably wondering whether she has kept all resolutions made last year, while the boys jammed around seem more interested in what Santa has in the box.—Photo by Tom Walters, Ridgecrest.

Dr. Marshburn Accepts Position With V. A.

Dr. James A. Marshburn has sold his business in Black Mountain to Dr. E. K. Brake, and has accepted a position with the Veterans Administration. Located in the regional office at Charlotte he began his new duties Monday. Mrs. Marshburn and son Jamie will continue to live in Black Mountain for the present.

The Red Cross And Community

The chairman explains how Red Cross benefits everyone in the community.

The Red Cross as now organized and functioning in the townships of Swannanoa, Black Mountain, and Broad River, has an executive secretary, Mrs. Bessie Carr, who not only directs the various activities of the chapter but serves as home service worker. Associated with her in a voluntary capacity are the home service members in the various communities. They are as follows: Swannanoa Village, Mrs. W. L. Moretz; Riceville, Mrs. Nedra Creasman; Riceville-Oteen, D. L. Creasman; North Fork, Thad Burnette; Broad River, Emil Kirstein; Montreat, Rev. W. H. Armistead; Ridgecrest, Paul Harris.

Experience of the last year indicates that every day many people in the community face situations and problems calling for the services of the Red Cross. Fires, serious illness, death, economic emergencies, bring about situations demanding immediate assistance. Under such circumstances, the Red Cross office in the city hall building, Black Mountain, Phone 4161, should be notified at once and if possible, a personal visit made to the office. If unable to contact the office or Mrs. Carr, the local home service member should be consulted so that he or she can give whatever assistance he can and see that Mrs. Carr is notified.

The Red Cross secretary steps in during an emergency but only upon request of some individual and with the consent of the one desiring service. More immediate and satisfactory service can be given at the office, but if a visit to a home is necessary it will be arranged on conditions indicated above.

No matter what the situation may be one needs not hesitate visiting the Red Cross and having a frank discussion with Mrs. Carr. No publicity will be given to the visit, and all matters discussed will be strictly confidential. There are no charges for any services. The entire community supports the Red Cross in a spirit of neighborliness, and many give of their time and services. No one receives any remuneration, other than the executive secretary, who is a full time paid worker.

For G. I.'s and veterans of all wars, and their families, the Red Cross has special responsibilities delegated to it by the United States government. It keeps the Red Cross informed of all changes in regulations and furnishes it

(Continued on page eight)

Masons Hold First Open Meeting Since Before War

A turkey dinner was served to one hundred people at the annual open meeting of the Masonic Lodge No. 663 at the Monte Vista hotel Tuesday night at 7:30 p. m. R. E. Finch served as master of ceremonies and introduced the speaker, Claude Love of Asheville. Mr. Love, who owns and operates the Asheville Law school and is very active in religious and fraternal organizations of that city, explained the fundamentals of masonry. The Rev. W. H. Styles offered the invocation and the Rev. John H. Rhys the benediction. The committee in charge of the dinner were Gordon Crawford, chairman, Clyde Watkins, and Dave Dorrah.

Taking office on December 1 are: C. L. Hamm, worthy master; Frank Hudson, junior warden; Cecil Nanney, senior deacon; William Hinkle, junior deacon; Geo. Smoak and Harley Dodson, stewards; B. F. Burnette, tyler; Leroy Mashburn, treasurer; G. E. Kerlee, secretary; and the Rev. T. E. Walters, chaplain.

Retiring officers are: R. E. Finch, worthy master; C. L. Hamm, senior warden; Clyde Watkins, junior warden; Frank Hudson, senior deacon; C. M. Gilbert, junior deacon; James E. Sylvester and J. W. Russell, stewards; B. F. Burnette, tyler; Leroy Mashburn, treasurer; C. E. Kerlee, secretary; and the Rev. T. E. Walters, chaplain.

This is the first open meeting to be held since before the war.

Seaman Jones Has Sailed World Over

Millard E. Jones, S 2-c of the United States navy, serving aboard the U. S. S. D. H. Fox, D. D. 779, returned to duty Monday, December 9, after spending a 16-day leave visiting his wife and daughter, Gayna Diane, in Black Mountain. He had just returned from a presidential cruise to Valparaiso, Chile, during which time he had lunch with the American ambassador to Chile, and saw the Christ of the Andes, and the Shrine of Cristobal.

The ship which Millard was aboard was only three hours out of port when an earthquake struck Peru, killing more than 700 people.

Since entering the navy more than five years ago, the former Black Mountain resident has served in the Pacific, Mediterranean, Atlantic, Antarctic, and Iceland. Besides visiting Japan, the Philippines, the other islands of the Pacific, Millard was on the ship which in 1943 took the president of Nicaragua on a goodwill tour. He also escorted the late President Roosevelt to the Yalta conference on the U. S. S. Springfield.

Seaman Jones expects to continue with his career in the navy and to go on the Byrd expedition to the South Pole early in 1947.

Legion Auxiliary Make Plans

The American Legion Auxiliary met Monday at 7:30 p. m. with Mrs. H. E. Stinchcomb. It was a call meeting to make plans for their Christmas activities. As is their custom, the group will remember the boys at Oteen and the patients at W. N. C. Sanatorium.

Several representatives have gone to Oteen to help wrap Christmas gifts which have been donated by different organizations in Western North Carolina.

The Auxiliary also voted to sponsor the girls' basketball team which is being organized. Girls interested should get in touch with Betty Brown or Katherine Rudisell.

BLACK MOUNTAIN ARTS CLUB

The Black Mountain Arts club wishes to express thanks to the community, to "Reeds Tells All," "Caroline Asche," The Asheville Citizen-Times, The Black Mountain News, The Black Mountain Hardware Co., and the committee in charge for helping to give cheer to the "shut-ins" at the W. N. C. Sanatorium.

The sale of their handicraft, doubled the amount made before. Can you not imagine the joy this has brought to those in one of the loneliest places in the world around Christmas time—a hospital ward! So many are far from home, even far from any acquaintances, and with no money even for cards. The hospital staff makes every effort to dispel the gloom and to brighten the holidays but we, too, have our part, our share that we would not turn over to others, and so deprive ourselves great joy and blessing. "Lift the stone and thou shalt find one, cleave the wood, and there am I."

J. W. Propst Digs Way Toward State Record

Forty-six years ago a family of ten, on the advice of their doctor, left Hickory and came to Buncombe county for their health. Victims of typhoid fever, the group had been told to seek a higher altitude in order to conquer the disease.

Today the eldest member of the family is well and strong and holds the record for the number of graves dug for Black Mountain township, has a strong claim on county honors, and would no doubt stand high in the state.

He is J. W. (Walter) Propst, 63, who, besides his work as custodian of the library at the city hall, finds time to look after numerous homes around town, rake leaves, wax floors, take care of furnaces, and look after and help Mrs. Ann Goodson run her farm. "I promised Mr. Goodson before he died that I'd stay on and help with the place," he explains, "and I intend to help her as long as she needs me."

Shortly after coming here in 1900 Mr. Propst put up a store on Cane Creek in the Fairview section and operated it until he sold it two years later to come to Black Mountain where he bought property, which he still owns, on Cragmont road.

His first job after coming to Black Mountain was that of taking care of the city roads with his team. In those days a team and two men were paid 3.00 per day. While working for the city, Mr. Propst graded out the building site for the building where the bank now stands. At this time T. K. Brown, father of Sheriff Lawrence Brown, was mayor.

Leaving the city job, Mr. Propst established another store and continued in this business for 14 years. He quit this business because of his health.

"I've dug graves around here for more than 40 years," he said, "and during that time I've buried many of my best friends. At present I'm working for Ray Harrison, but in my time I've dug graves all over this end of the county. A long time ago it was easy to get men to dig graves, but then the plants came along and those who used to help went to work there and didn't have time. But the men I've worked for have been nice fellows and I've just stuck with them."

Grave digging has changed a lot since the former Hickory resident began years ago. It's a lot easier now. One reason is that tents are used to shelter the digger from the rain and another is that now undertakers usually give more time.

Among those whom Mr. Propst has helped or for whom he has dug the graves are W. R. Goodson and W. M. Stepp, for whom he worked for many years, and Robert I. Stepp, Civil War veteran, whom he buried 36 years ago.

Mr. Propst has dug between 4,000 and 5,000 graves since he first began 40 years ago.

—The students of Mrs. W. H. McMurray have drawn beautiful Christmas scenes and have them displayed in the hall outside Mrs. McMurray's room at school.

Walter Dougherty Will Be Member Of Admiral Byrd's Polar Expedition; To Sail Aboard Philippine Sea

E. S. Jackson On Scene Of Atlanta Hotel Disaster

E. S. Jackson, who was in Atlanta to attend the executive committee meeting of the Blue Ridge assembly, visited the scene of the disastrous Atlanta hotel fire between 6:40 and 7:15 on Saturday morning. Mr. Jackson heard the fire engines during the night but did not get up to investigate. He learned of the fire from the elevator boy Saturday morning.

"There was a big crowd around, and they were still pouring water on the building when I came by at 6:40," Mr. Jackson said. "While there were still some people standing in windows, I didn't see the firemen bring any one down. I did see them place a ladder across the alley at the rear of the hotel and I heard later that they brought some guests out that way."

Mr. Jackson was staying at the Atlanta Y. M. C. A. and was on his way to the meeting at the Atlanta-Biltmore hotel when he passed the scene of the fire.

Beacon Employees Reject Union By Large Majority

By a vote of 1,547 to 204, employees of Beacon Manufacturing company, Swannanoa, decided yesterday, in an election conducted under auspices of the National Labor Relations board, against having the United Textile Workers of America, an affiliate of the American Federation of labor, as bargaining agent.

There were 1,751 acceptable votes cast in the election which closed at 6:00 p. m. and the results were announced some two hours later. The election was called by the NLRB upon petition of officials of the U. T. W. and upon agreement of the company.

88th Division Vet Home For Visit

Corporal William Livesay, who has just completed 13 months overseas in Italy with the 88th division, has been visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. K. Livesay, of Black Mountain. He expects to receive his discharge January 2.

Following basic training at Fort McClellan, Ala., Corporal Livesay was sent to Fort Meade, Maryland, to await overseas service. He sailed from Boston in October, 1945 and landed at Naples, Italy. He was stationed in Northern Italy with the 88th until his return to the States in October.

Look Who's Here!

Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Church of Black Mountain announce the birth of a 6 pound 8 ounce daughter, Wednesday in St. Joseph's hospital in Asheville.

Mr. Church, who with his father operates the C. and C. Shoe shop at Swannanoa, returned last year from overseas service with the Army in England, France, and Germany. They reside in Black Mountain.

Mr. and Mrs. Marley Caplan of Old Fort are parents of a daughter, Linda Jo, born November 30 at Marion General hospital.

A daughter was born Monday in Biltmore hospital to Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Holt of Oteen.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Horace Blankenship Tuesday, December 10, at St. Joseph's hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Walton are parents of a son, born Saturday at St. Joseph's hospital in Asheville.

Walter Dougherty, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Dougherty of Vance Ave., is expected home about Dec. 5 for a few days, prior to sailing for a much colder region.

The Philippine Sea, a 27,000 ton carrier, to which Walter is assigned, is to have a prominent part in Adm. Richard E. Byrd's polar expedition. This ship was completed and commissioned in May of this year, has recently returned from a cruise to Cuba, and is now docked in Boston harbor. It will carry over half the 4,000 explorers, and five large airplanes, leaving Norfolk, Va., early in January and joining the other members of the party who have already gone, in Little America.

An early issue of Life magazine will carry pictures and more information on the Philippine Sea and its mission.

Bobby Ritchie Scores All Points As Team Loses

The 9th grade boys caught the 8th graders slightly off form and walloped them, 30 to three. All the losers' points were scored by Bobby Ritchie who hit once from the field and once from the free throw circle.

The 8th grade team was composed of Bobby Ritchie, Roy Henderson, Harold Bailey, Ed Reese, Samuel Morris, captain, and Walker Munday.

The 9th graders were Garland Bryson, Jimmy Milbee, Clingman Capps, manager, Edward Polson, Bill Reynolds, captain, Clifton Moffitt, Lawrence Bartlett, Harold Stepp, Edwin Smith, Charles Thomas, and Frank Melton.

Southern R. R. Restores Trains

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 8—The Southern Railway System announced today that it is restoring to service, on December 9 and 10, the 34 trains temporarily discontinued on November 25 in compliance with the now-cancelled ODT Order 68 requiring a 25 per cent reduction in coal-burning passenger train mileage.

Grange To Hear Harry B. Caldwell

On Monday, December 16, at 7:30 p. m. at the high school lunch room the Grange will hold an open meeting. In addition to hearing Mrs. Harry B. Caldwell, State Grange Master, those attending will hear Harry B. Caldwell, Executive secretary of the Good Health association. All persons interested in this important matter are urged to attend.

Choir Organized At Ridgecrest

Robert Guy is the leader of the choir which was organized at the Ridgecrest Baptist church. The first meeting was December 1. Those present were Doyle Turner, Alice Turner, Carson Brittain, the Rev. and Mrs. Tom Walters, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Guy, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Pate, Tom Walters, Orta Holfield, Kathleen Denny, Evelyn Jones, and Paul Mabe.

LEGION CHANGES MEETING NIGHT

The American Legion meeting will be held Monday evening, December 16, instead of on the regular date, December 23, because of the holidays.

Say You Saw It In The NEWS