

BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

Published Every Thursday in Black Mountain, N. C.

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Entered as Second Class Matter September 13, 1945, at the Post Office at Black Mountain, North Carolina, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Day Phone 4101

ARE YOU FIGHTING IN KOREA?

Giving blood is giving of your very life! And by giving a little of your blood (which you'll never miss) you, too, can fight Freedom's Cause on the battlefields of Korea.

So of course you want to give blood. But the question is — when? Right now our Armed Forces require 300,000 pints of whole blood a month. American citizens have been donating it at the rate of only 30,000 pints a month. Month after month we go into the red, literally — tapping our precious dwindling reserves.

Unlike the so-called "miracle medicines," blood cannot be synthetically produced. For it there is no substitute. Great industrial plants can pour out a steady stream of guns and ships and tanks and planes. Laboratories can work around the clock, producing medicines and drugs. Reserves of essential weapons can be built. But with all our industrial skill, we cannot manufacture the first, the indispensable life-line for our wounded men - human blood.

General Matthew B. Ridgway, Far Eastern Commander, says, "In modern warfare, the value of blood is comparable to ammunition, fuel, food, and other implements of battle . . . without blood the saving of many lives would be impossible."

Out of every 100 wounded American servicemen who reach the most forward hospitals in Korea, 97 are being saved. Military surgeons credit blood as a major factor in this life-saving record. In World War II, when the value of blood met its first large-scale proving ground, the death rate was almost double. To maintain its present life-saving record, our Armed Forces must have an average of nine pints of blood for every man wounded in action. Five pints will be processed into plasma. Plasma will make it possible for a man to live until he can reach a whole blood supply.

That's why we who fight Freedom's Cause in the security of our homes, our offices, and our factories must donate approximately 300,000 pints of blood each month between now and July 1952. We may have to continue these donations for a long time after. We hope not. But this much we know: the need is urgent; the need is now. The man who falls before an enemy onslaught has the right to expect the blood essential to his healing. And, every able-bodied American on the home front has a moral obligation to give it to him.

The Black Mountain-Swannanoa Red Cross chapter will give you information as to where and when you can make your blood donation. Make your appointment now. And, **keep** your appointment. For remember, there's no percentage in one American giving his blood the **hard** way — when you can save it the **easy** way! — Armed Forces Blood Donor Program.

SIDELIGHTS ON ETCETERA

By The Editor

The sudden cold snap is certainly no weather in which to be going around in open sandals. I had counted on another mild Indian summer such as we here in the mountains have enjoyed for several years and had put off buying winter footgear. I like nice brisk days but not cold feet, so goodbye to comfort.

Which reminds me that no matter what the weather, you can count on hearing somebody speak of it as "unusual" for this section or time of year. The first year

we came down here there was heavy snow in November and it continued, off and on, all through December. I was told that people couldn't remember such an occurrence in 20 years. That was "unusual."

Then one year my apple orchard was frozen out. That also only occurred about every 20 years, I was told. Time must go awfully fast for some folks, as I seem to recall another freeze in this section a couple of years later.

Never could people remember such heavy rains as we had one year, or maybe it was a mild winter, or "unusual" ice, and so on.

All of which, of course, is really apropos of an attitude that has always tickled me. And equally funny, I find myself doing the same thing. Maybe that's one way of telling when you've

arrived at the point where this is home.

Speaking of the elements, it was most inconsiderate of them to put on the performance they did a week ago Tuesday, cause a cancellation of our town-boasting motorcade, and then with utmost impertinence give us a beautiful day when it was too late to do any good. Most "unusual."

What a vain creature man is. The unexpected discovery that a long-forgotten accomplishment is not altogether dead and that maturity, as we delicately call getting old, has not robbed us completely of physical prowess can make us swell with pride. What brought this on? The fact that I shot a couple of baskets from the free-throw line after 20 years of not touching a basketball. Where? In the gymnasium at the Mountain Orphanage. And I have one witness to prove it—a little boy who looked on, bug-eyed, while I tried to find out if the old gal was anywhere near what she used to be. In high heels, too, I'll have you know.

But the "basket" incident assumed its proper proportion the following Thursday when it was brought home to me that the years don't lie. I wouldn't have braved the icy winds in abbreviated costume that night for any amount of money. But the band majorettes ate it up and put on an excellent performance. Which just goes to show you.

Does anybody know of a diet that doesn't take any will power to follow? You'd think the leg-work connected with the newspaper business would do it. Maybe it will.

Oden Walker was saying the other day that Minnie says he has a grasshopper mind. Well, that makes two of us, Oden. These "etcetera" today seem to be hopping, all over the place, but it's rather relaxing to have one place in the paper for mental meandering, hopping or not.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

By George Vitas,

If anyone has any doubt about the sturdiness of the folks who settled these mountains, all he has to do is get back into the woods and watch for signs of previous habitation. We were up on Flat Top Mountain, in Yancey county, the other day checking some proposed experimental deer study plots. Way back in the woods, miles away from the nearest road, along a rough mountain trail, we came to an old home site. All that was left was the old chimney - fireplace. Arthur Whitson, game protector on the Flat Top Deer Restoration area, tells us that the folks who lived in that cabin used to tote their corn all those miles on their backs to the grist mill, wait until the corn was ground, and then turn around and tote the meal back.

Other signs that are often found around abandoned homesteads in the woods are rusted plow shares, discarded shoes, hand-hewed implement handles, pieces of china and children's toys. In most cases the story is pretty much the same: Many years ago someone went back into the woods, found a likely spot to settle on, cleared the timber, planted a few apple trees and raised crops until the top soil washed off the steep slopes that were being farmed. The sub-soil and rocks that remained were too poor to grow the food needed to support a family. There was nothing left to do but to move. Then the forest closed in once again.

Due to the inclement weather, work on the U. S. Forest Service road between Carvers Gap and the Old Hotel site on Roan Mountain has been discontinued until next spring.

Several decades ago, it was the Klondike gold strike that drew men out of the comforts of American cities to Alaska. When the richest strikes begin to fizzle out, then the salmon canning industry of Alaska forged ahead to bring in even more cash than gold mining. And now, it looks like Alaska's great coastal forests of spruce and hemlock are ready to contribute their share to the development and prosperity of the territory. There are two national forests in Alaska, the

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Sports Rumor — In this City of Raleigh, which regards itself as the sports capital of the South, there are often as many sports rumors as political ditto.

There is talk here now that State Coach Beattie Feathers will be given his release at the end of this year, with—hold on to your chair—D. C. (Peahead) Walker, now assistant coach at Yale, replacing him. Laugh if you will, but at least one out-of-state sports scribe came up with it last week and passed it along as serious conversation.

While we are on sports, might as well put this down: Look for Duke to have one of the nation's best football teams next season. Those frosh are good and getting better every game.

Checkup — State Treasurer Brandon Hodges was in Duke hospital a few days ago for a thorough checkup. At the time, folks didn't know where he had gone, gathered that a big political conference was being held in some smoke-filled room. Politicians, it was reported, had all agreed that Hodges would definitely be a candidate for governor. Well, we still doubt if Hodges will run—although he did get a clean bill of health at Duke.

Salary Fuss — A lot of school principals throughout the state—and a goodly scattering of other school folk — are raising Merry Ned at the rule followed by the state in granting salary increases for teachers, principals, and superintendents. Bear with us for a moment and you will readily see why:

The most experienced teachers received \$39 per month. These are the A-11 teachers. The A-10 (or those with as much as 10 years experience — realized an increase of \$37 per month, A-9, \$35, etc., on down the list until an A teacher with no experience received the least increase. RULE — The same rule was followed with superintendents . . . in this way. The superintendent with 10,000 pupils in his unit received an increase of \$600 per year, or \$50 per month, while those with 1100 pupils got \$30 per month. In short, the bigger the basic salary, the more the raise — with superintendents and with teachers. LESS! — But now let's move to the principals who have had as much as five years experience. The principal with 10 teachers under him got an increase of \$35 per month. Those with 15 teachers, \$23-per month; 20 teachers, \$15; 25 teachers, \$11; 40 teachers, \$2; 50 teachers, \$2 less than the year before! The principal with the smallest school is receiving the largest increase while the principal with the largest school received less than last year.

It is easy to see that the state

acted in reverse order when it got to the principals. You haven't heard the last of this matter. On superintendents and teachers, the most got the most, while with principals the most got the least. Consistency thou art a jewel!

Hot Spot — The lawyers are in a hot spot for next spring's primary. There are two Superior Court judges running to replace Scott-appointed Irtimus Valentine of Nashville on the State Supreme court.

Judge R. Hunt Parker of Roanoke Rapids has formally announced, and so has Judge F. Donald Phillips of Rockingham in Richmond county. Oscar Efrid of Winston-Salem will also make the race. He ran against Justice E. B. Denny in 1950 and got labor and the Negro population. This is support which Justice Valentine would normally expect, but probably will lose to Efrid.

Representation—All this comes about as a result of the death of Chief Justice Stacy. Justice Devin was appointed to this vacancy, leaving Devin's seat open. Stacy was originally from the eastern judicial division. Justice Devin is from Granville county. Justice Johnson is from Sampson. Justice Barnhill is from Rocky Mount. All from the east.

Justice Winborne of McDowell, Justice Ervin of Burke, and Denny from Gaston, are from the western division. Justice Valentine from Nash is from the eastern division. Thus there are three eastern division justices and three western division justices—and an eastern division chief justice.

To preserve this balance, it would appear that Justice Valentine or Judge Parker should be elected.

Parker — Hunt Parker is probably the most diligent student of the law and of history in the state. He is a careful thinker. It is a fact that he has been preparing himself for the State Supreme Court for 30 years. In him, we think Justice Valentine has a formidable opponent.

Nobody thought six months ago that the 1952 political excitement would hinge around the august and dignified State Supreme Court, but it certainly begins to look as if this will be the case.

Training Program — Would you like to have a merchants association in your community? The N. C. Merchants Association, with offices in 812 Raleigh Building here, has completed plans for a training program for personnel of such organizations. Briefly, if your merchants want to form an organization to protect them against bad credit risks, to help them with collections, and to assist them in warding off fly-by-

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"JOE BEAVER"

By Ed Nofziger



Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture

"Now there's a smart owner that knows this is real 'fall' weather!"