

BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

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G. H. Greenwood and G. W. Dougherty — Co-Owners

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A "Finer" Town

Several weeks ago the Carolina Power and Light company, in an effort to stimulate a greater interest and community spirit in the area it serves, offered thousands of dollars in prizes to the towns showing the greatest improvement in several divisions. No town or village was excluded because of size. The largest municipality and the smallest village had the same opportunity.

But strange as it may seem the greatest interest has been shown by the larger towns and not by the smaller cities as one would suppose.

In Black Mountain and Swannanoa, under direction of general chairmen, W. Dean Willis and Mrs. W. A. Porter, respectively, many projects have been begun and some completed.

For instance at Swannanoa the lunchroom improvements have been practically completed and great progress made on the streets, town sign, and club house. Work is going steadily ahead on several other projects.

Two projects have been finished in Black Mountain, the street marking venture sponsored by the Jaycees, and the town sign located at the west entrance of town which was sponsored by the B&PW club. At Ridgecrest the new kitchen and dining room, W. K. Weeks reveals, will be finished by June 1.

As reported elsewhere in the NEWS, through the untiring efforts of committee members, Black Mountain will soon have a city park located on the Montreat road.

The Black Mountain Lions Club and the Chamber of Commerce have taken as their objective the improvement of the Montreat road. The highway department has agreed to widen the street and improve it if property owners will give their consent to certain alterations. That should prove no problem.

We have made an excellent beginning, but this is no time to rest on our laurels. Summer will soon be here and with it the rush which is always present during our busy season. Now while we have an opportunity to improve our town—and get paid for it, too—is the time to dig in and make our community "Carolina's Finest." What further incentive do we need?



Attend Church? — An enterprising Raleigh pastor had something in his bulletin last Sunday under the heading of: "Why I don't Attend the Movies—or the Church?"

The manager of the theater never called on me. I did go a few times but no one spoke to me. Those who go there aren't friendly. Every time I go they ask me for money. Not all folks live up to the high moral standards of the films. I went so much as a child I've decided I've had all the entertainment I need. The performance lasts too long; I can't sit still for an hour and three quarters. I don't care for some of the people I see and meet at the theatre. I don't always agree with what I hear and see. I don't think they have very good music at the theatre. The shows are held in the evenings, and that's the

only time I am able to be at home with the family.

To Chicago — Remember how dull those National Democratic Conventions were in 1936-40-44? The one in 1948 was only a little more exciting.

But steer clear for the one coming up in Chicago in July! There is going to be plenty of fun — and North Carolina is likely to be right in the middle of it. You can look for a full house from this state in Chicago.

Here is what Joe and Stewart Alsop, our favorite Washington political pundits, say in discussing Democratic meeting: ". . . In short, nothing but a Republican nomination of Sen. Robert A. Taft, with a subsequent draft-Stevenson movement among the Democrats, is now likely to reunite the increasingly divided Democratic Party.

"If the Republicans choose Eisenhower, the show the Democrats put on at their convention ought to make the Kilkenny cats feel pretty ashamed of themselves."

Optimism — With the primary only a few days off, a remark made by O. Max Gardner in May of 1927 may prove interesting at this time.

Angus W. McLean was governor. O. Max Gardner had been beaten for governor seven years earlier when Senator Furnifold Simmons quietly but powerfully edged his power over Cameron Morrison.

Gardner said in 1927 that folks who thought he would be the next governor were guilty of "audacious optimism."

Well, he went in with nothing to bother him in 1928 and pretty well controlled politics in North Carolina for the next 20 years.

Not since Gardner, who was Lieutenant Governor in 1916-20, has one of our number two men been elected governor.

Not Registered — For two or three weeks now we have been writing here about each person's participation in government by the simple act of voting.

But you can't vote unless you are registered—and in North Carolina in 1950 there were 711,000 people — or considerably larger than the number which voted — not even registered to vote.

In South Carolina, whose population is much smaller than ours, non-registered voters numbered 601,000.

In Texas there were 3,076,000 non-registered voters in 1950.

To Paris? — We can't get the lowdown on the rumor, but reports persist that Kerr Scott's private secretary, John Marshall, will soon go to Paris as personnel man for Jones Construction company. May be nothing to it, but stranger things have happened around here in the last three, four years. Where there is so much smoke there may be some fire.

The Races — In four sections of the state, there is excitement over congressional races. We will not predict here what the results will be, but keep an eye on events in the second district, where young L. H. Fountain is running hard against veteran John Hosea Kerr, who first went to congress to fill out the unexpired term of Claude Kitchen. He was elected in 1923.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

By George Vitas,

The other week we were up in the northern end of the District on the Tennessee-North Carolina line with Forestry Aide John Stanley. The Forest Service road crew up on the Roan was busily pushing ahead on the road which will eventually link Carvers Gap with the old hotel site. With the Roan Mountain Rhododendron Festival scheduled for June 21, we are hoping that the road will be completed in time for the use of the thousands of visitors who will be expected on the Roan this year.

There is every indication that this year's bloom of purple Rhododendron on the Roan will be exceptionally fine. We checked the prevalence of bloom-buds on the plants and found them to be considerably more plentiful than they were last year. With the governors of both North Carolina and Tennessee heading a long list of dignitaries who will attend the festival, it looks as if it should be one of the best ever. But just in case you should miss the festival and are still interested in seeing one of the most outstanding displays of purple rhododendron in the United States, be sure to visit the Roan some time between the middle of June and the first week in July.

Each year, during the Christmas tree season, we hear a lot of pro and con discussion about how long the Frasier Balsam fir trees which grow on the Roan can hold their needles after they are cut. Last week we checked last year's Christmas tree cuttings and were amazed at what we found. The needles on the

Smokey Says:



To make a better America—to give a future for future Americans—Don't burn up a great natural resource by YOUR carelessness!

Fountain's lawmaking experience was gained in the state senate. He is around 38 years of age.

An interesting thing about young Fountain is the fact that he has been to Sunday school 36 years without missing a Sunday. This type of candidate is hard to beat, but Fountain has still competition in John Kerr.

In the seventh district, Fayetteville Mayor J. O. Talley is working diligently to unseat Ertel Carlyle. Talley is only 31, is very liberal. His wife should be of some assistance to him. She is the daughter of the late R. O. Self, at one time the Corporations Commission expert and a man who knew his politics. Talley is only 31, and Carlyle has only been in congress a short time, making a good steady record there, but as Fats Waller used to say, "One never know, do one?"

In the ninth, one of Kerr Scott's former highway commissioners, Mark Goforth of Lenoir, is running against Hugh Alexander and Graham Carlton for the seat being vacated by Robert L. Dough-ton.

In the twelfth, another of the governor's former highway commissioners, Dale Thrash of Asheville, is competing with Frank Parker and George Shuford for the position held by Monroe Redden.

It is extremely difficult to de-

limbs of trees that were cut and lying on the ground since November 1951, were still green. We tugged on some of the needles and found that they clung firmly to the limbs. We knew that Frasier Fir, when stored in a cool place would hold its needles for a long time. But we had no idea that the needles would still be on the trees, green and fresh-looking, five months after the trees were cut!

You can't gamble on fire, even on Roan Mountain. A coal black area of two acres marks the spot at the old hotel site where a fire which started in the dry bald grass, did its damage a couple of weeks ago. Only the fact that the boardering spruce and fir had shaded the ground so that it was damp kept the fire from tearing

POET'S CORNER

Conducted by Anne K. Sharp, Creative Writing Club

A POET'S EYES (To Rosemary)

Thou cast a poet's eyes, for they are deep
With knowledge far beyond thy tender years,
And dreamy with a million quivering dreams;
Yet sad, as if thy heart held unshed tears.

I feel wherever thy sweet glance is cast
Beauty is born . . . for knowing thee I know
Thou see'st all with such a pure delight
That evil flees and goodness seems to grow.

Would I to dare to fathom thy blue depths
O lovely eyes!
Such wondrous dreams, such rich thought there

I would find:
And I would be content to dwell forever in thy light
Leaving the world behind.

Reprint COLUMNS, Louisville, N. C.
—Carol Bessent Hayman

Mrs. Hayman is an active member of the Asheville Branch of the National League of American Penwomen. She served this year as program chairman for the Creative Writing Club, Black Mountain Arts Club, and is now the president. Her latest poems are being published by the poetry magazines, THE COUNTRY POET and SCIMITAR AND SONG in Spring issues. Interested persons are invited to look for her poem "This Day" which appeared in THE CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE, March 20, 1952.

feat a congressman in the South. Fountain and Talley knew this when they started. Odds are against them. Reports are that the gubernatorial campaign is having little influence for or against these two rambunctious youngsters.

In the ninth and twelfth districts, you are likely to see the groups winning out for governor taking leading roles in the second primary—if and when.

through the evergreens that cover the mountain top. Cause of the fire is still under investigation. We would like to urge anyone visiting the Roan to be especially careful of fire.

Our timber business continues to be good. One of the largest timber sales made on this District in several years was made last week. In a sealed bid sale, O. K. Masters, timberman from Burnsville, purchased more than four million feet of timber which our men had marked for sale on Locust Creek. Every tree sold is marked with a yellow paint spot. An ample reserve stand has been left, to regenerate the openings that will be created and sufficient in volume to permit another commercial cut in the same area.

Our country is UNLIMITED

A few are saying the frontier is gone, that there is no place where a pioneer can strike out on his own. They are the kind who wouldn't have taken the Oregon Trail because they didn't have the imagination to see where it would lead to, or the guts to get there. The rest of us know there are — and always will be — trails to be hacked through the unknown by pioneers of the land and of the mind — and Americans who would rather make a new trail than take an old highway.

Listen! Read! Look!
Talk! Argue! Think!
Then VOTE