

Date	High	Low	Prec.
Dec. 18	63	28	
Dec. 19	59	28	
Dec. 20	52	34	T
Dec. 21	42	35	.10
Dec. 22	47	32	T

REFLECTIONS

By Jack Greenwood

Kenneth Fortune received his Black Mountain News less than a month after his mother subscribed for it here. Kenneth is serving with the army security agency in Korea.

According to information received from Worth Burgess on Saturday morning (when this is being written) he and his party of hunters have killed two bears in the eastern part of the state. On other hunts this fall Mr. Bruhn has always managed to escape but this time he has not been so fortunate.

What bright young lady around Black Mountain still has a red face over something that happened some time ago?

At the meeting of her club she heard several "good" stories. At least she thought they were good enough to remember, so wrote them down to retell to hubby. The following evening she was presiding at the meeting of another club, reached in her purse and pulled out her speech - but it wasn't her speech. It was the notes she had made of the juicy stories the night before. She had almost told a couple of them before she realized her mistake.

If you don't read "Western Star", official newspaper of the Western North Carolina Sanatorium, you're missing something. Published every two months, the Star has enough wise cracks and human interest stories to satisfy even the most critical city editor.

As an example of the wit found there in the current issue just published Edna Guyton is credited with saying that she didn't vote for Eisenhower because when the last Republican was President "you couldn't even get on the chaingang."

There are many more classics just as good to be found in the well edited eight page paper which they publish.

The Masonic banquet at picturesque Assembly Inn at Montreat Friday night was something to be remembered. There were some funny incidents, such as some one "welcoming" Dr. J. Rupert McGregor, assembly president, to Montreat.

But the more than 100 Masons and their guests who attended will not soon forget the review of Masonry by George Pennell. Many called it one of the best annual meetings and the mood of the crowd seems to indicate that the feeling was widespread.

The hospitality of the Montreat folks, the excellent turkey dinner, and the spirit of the season all combined to make this one of the most enjoyable meetings ever.

George Pennell, past master of the Mt. Hermon Lodge in Asheville, told the story of Masonry so that it could be understood by everyone. There was not a sound from the crowd during his entire talk and most seemed sorry when he wrapped up his part of the program with the story of the circus canvasser who was killed as the show closed one night. The following afternoon every act outdid itself to carry on for the man who was not around to see the show.

Relating an incident that happened during the War Between the States, Mr. Pennell told of how the Asheville Lodge, at that time the old one in Western North Carolina, sent a committee to find out how many Masons were among the Yankee prisoners held in the Buncombe county jail. Upon hearing the report of the committee the Lodge members appropriated all the money in the treasury but six dollars and individual members hauled in hams, bread, and clothing for the prisoners.

Sgt. J. A. Anderson is now serving with the air force in Korea. A note received this week said he would like to hear from his friends here at home.

Sgt. Anderson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Anderson of Black Mountain. His address is: Sgt. J. A. Anderson, A. F. 14262615, 403 Supply Squadron, A.P.O. 75, c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.

Kittens can pick the strangest places to hide—at least Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hauth think so. One day last week they lost their cats. They could hear them crying but couldn't seem to locate their hiding place.

The following morning Bob got up early and built a fire in the cook stove. He noticed that the flame was slow in catching and used a fan to help it along. Suddenly, the fire went boom, smoke and flame went up the chimney and the Hauths heard a wild scrambling as something tumbled down the chimney into the soot box.

They cautiously opened the lid and found two shiny noses and four bewildered eyes staring out at them.

Yes, Bob had found the cats. They had been hiding in the chimney all the time, having, it is supposed, climbed up the side of the house and crawled down where it was warm.

What Black Mountain woman made up what she had intended to be a fruit cake last week and put it in the oven to bake. As she was resting and licking

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BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

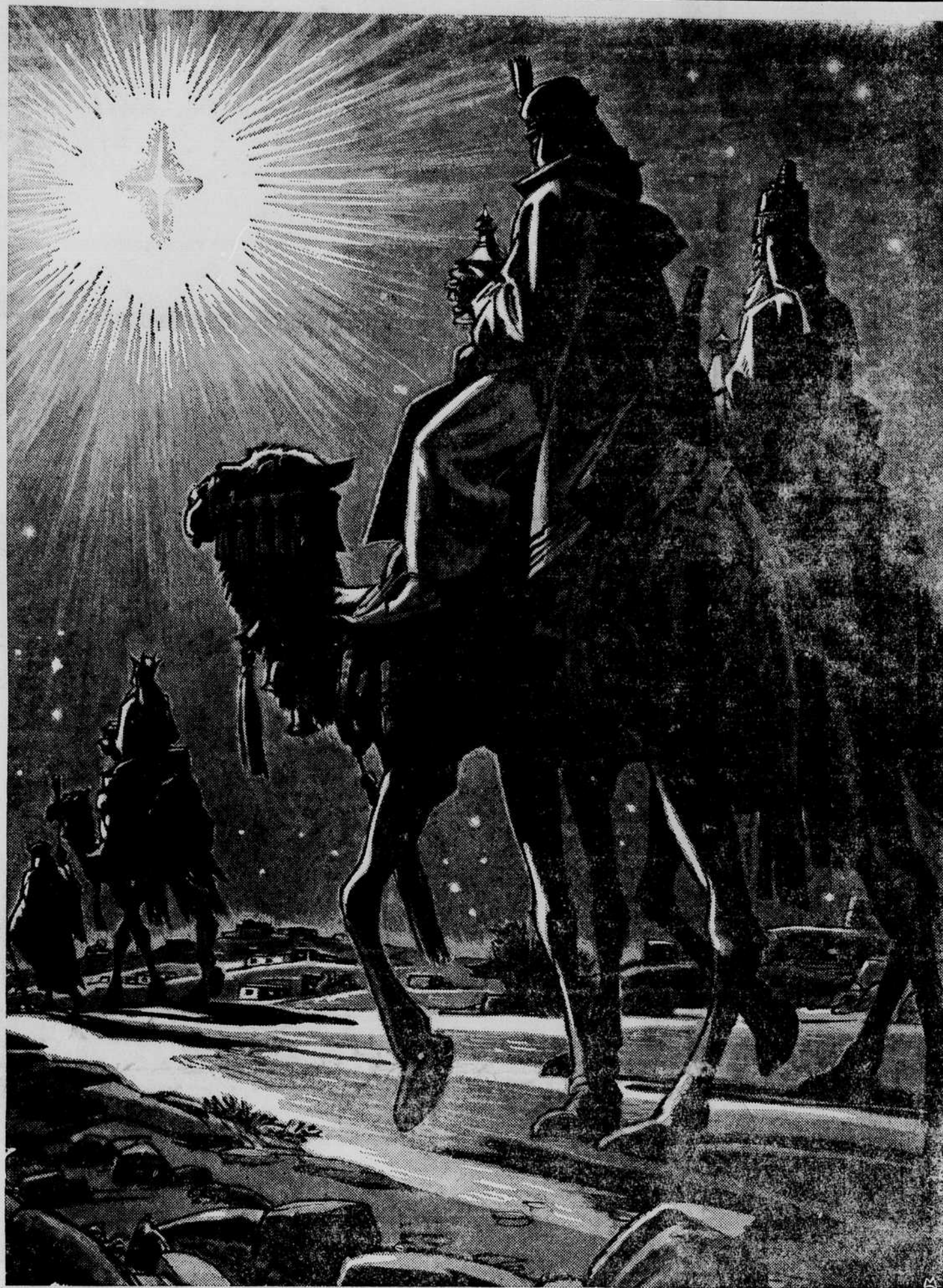
Black Mountain — Swannanoa — Ridgecrest — Montreat — Blue Ridge — Broad River — Oteen

VOL. 8, NO. 17

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1952, BLACK MOUNTAIN, N. C.

8 PAGES TODAY

5c PER COPY



Christmas

Two Thousand Years Ago

MORE than two thousand years ago, three Wise Men followed the Star of Bethlehem to a manger . . . the humble birthplace of Him who was to bring a new spirit into the World . . . the spirit of "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men." Today, as in all the years between, that spirit lives on in the hearts and minds of all mankind . . . calling us to lift our hearts anew with the courage and hope of His message.

We join the community in saying Merry Christmas! Our prayer and hope is that this will be the greatest holiday season ever for each of you.

For your more than generous support of our efforts, for your kindness and understanding, and for your encouragement which has meant so much to us all, we say thank you.

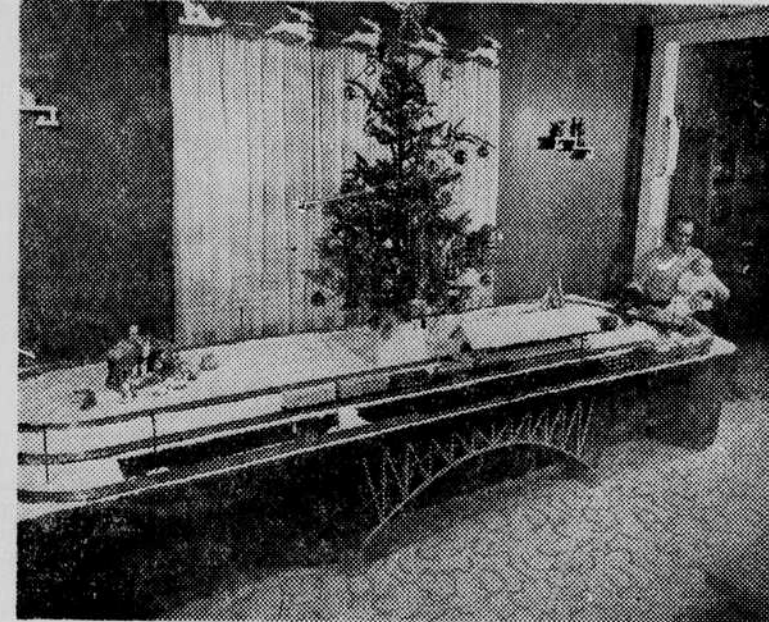
This is our seventh Christmas in your community—our community. You have made it our greatest. We appreciate it.

BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

"Buncombe County's Outstanding Weekly"

Town Dons Best Preparing For Opening Of Gay Holiday

Public Invited To View Christmas Scene



Shown here with his son Skipper looking over his Christmas layout, is William Hummer of Lakey street. The layout is composed of a 4-track railway, complete with freight station, four unit diesel engine, and 15 loaded freight cars. The track has four switches and three uncoupling ramps. There are 554 miniature crossties, cut to size and stained. Surrounding the entire track is a complete telegraph system with wire, and poles. Mr. Hummer used approximately 250 feet of wire and 144 poles. It required 350 feet of electrical wiring to set up the layout. The Christmas tree is in the center, lake on one side and the manger scene on the other. The builder has been working on the layout since Nov. 15. Mr. and Mrs. Hummer and son "Skipper" invite the children of the community to bring their parents to see this unusual Christmas scene. (Photo By Ellington Studios)

Decorations Made By Hand Attract Much Attention

Black Mountain has put on its best dress and everything is in readiness for the coming holiday season.

Thanks to the Chamber of Commerce, the Jaycees, American Home and Civic club and other organizations and individuals the town is now wearing what many call the prettiest in the country.

And judging from the comments of visitors and home folks alike this is not an idle statement.

Although the Chamber of Commerce and merchants furnished most of the money necessary to buy and put up the decorations, most of the credit for the work and good accomplished should go, leaders say, to Walter Burgess and those individuals who have given so unselfishly of their time to make Black Mountain the only town in the United States with hand-shaped decorations. And if you don't believe that's a job making even one of the attractive decorations which were used here by the hundreds.

But Walter Burgess refused to accept the credit, he passed it on to those who were generous enough and willing to have a hand in this worthy project.

He had many who helped. Among them were Worth Cook, Ernie Wilkerson, two men furnished by Tyson Furniture company, Charles Brookshire and Jack McElheny, Mrs. Walter Burgess, Dorothy Burgess, Linda McGraw, W. D. Stepp, a man furnished by the Valley Realty and Insurance company, the town of Black Mountain, and a group whose names were not learned.

All of these were of great help but the two who deserve the most credit, in the chairman's estimation, were Mr. and Mrs. Eric Renner of Black Mountain college.

"These two people made a survey of the town, ordered the materials, designed the decorations, and then spent hours and days fashioning them by hand. Many times they worked right through the night as they found the time when they were to be on display growing shorter and shorter. These two certainly deserve the thanks of the community for their untiring efforts. They stuck with the job until it was completed," Mr. Burgess explained.

The festive air that has prevailed here this week will reach its climax Wednesday night when most of the local stores will close for a brief Christmas vacation. Many will be closed both Thursday and Friday and others will open only in the case of emergency.

Many churches have conducted special programs of sermons and song while St. James' Episcopal will have a midnight service starting at 11:30 Wednesday night (tonight as the paper is being published a day ahead of schedule because of the Christmas holidays).

Schools here and at Swannanoa are closed and will not reopen until after New Year's.

Hard To Move



When Clarence Davis went on a hunting trip recently to Curtis Creek, he brought back the evidence, Mr. Davis is shown here in the living room of his home with the deer and the gun with which he brought home the "bacon." Shooting the deer didn't prove such a hard task as getting it out of the woods. A dead 120-pound deer is hard to move without help, Mr. Davis found.

SHRINERS ELECT

David Harrison of Harrison Furniture company, Swannanoa, was elected president of the Shrine club and Dr. James H. Love re-elected director at the election held last week.

Dr. Love is the only officer of the club living outside the city limits of Asheville.

Town Officials Praise Work Of Carl W. Smith

The town board and mayor passed a resolution of sympathy relative to the death of veteran Police Chief Carl Smith at the last regular meeting.

A member of the police force here for more than 15 years, Mr. Smith was widely known for his work in caring for the school children during the morning and afternoon rush periods and for his efficiency as a law enforcement officer.

The resolution follows: RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY BY THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF BLACK MOUNTAIN RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF CHIEF OF POLICE CARL SMITH.

At the regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Black Mountain, held in the Town Hall on Tuesday, December 8th, 1952, at 7:30 P. M., the following resolution was duly and regularly presented and unanimously passed:

"THAT WHEREAS on the morning of December 2nd, 1952 the people of Black Mountain were shocked to learn of the sudden death of our Chief of Police, Carl Smith, who has served so efficiently as one of our law enforcement officers for a great many years; and

"WHEREAS Chief Smith was a—

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Clarence Wilson Buys Interest In Furniture Store

Clarence J. Wilson, employed by Tyson Furniture company here for the past five years, will leave Jan. 1 for Spruce Pine where he will become associated with Norton Furniture company as manager and co-owner.

The Spruce Pine store was established more than a year ago by Clyde Norton, owner of Norton Furniture company at Old Fort.

Native of Swannanoa, Mr. Wilson was graduated from high school there prior to leaving for more than four years service with the marine corps in the Pacific during World War II.

He has been active in church and civic affairs. He has served as general superintendent of the Sunday school at the First Baptist church here, and has been a member of the American Legion and the Swannanoa Men's club.

"I appreciate the support which the people of the community have given me during my association here with Tyson Furniture company, and hope that all my friends will continue to patronize this fine organization," Mr. Wilson said. "We are sorry to leave Black Mountain and wish for all our friends here all the best."

Mr. Wilson will assume his new duties on Friday, Jan. 2. Clyde Norton of Old Fort, co-owner of the Spruce Pine firm, is a well known business and civic leader of McDowell county.



Charles Curtis

Charles Curtis Is At Air Force Base In Germany

3C Charles Curtis is now serving as a medical technician in the flight surgeon's office at Rhine Meuse Air Force Base, Frankfurt, Germany.

Prior to entering the service he attended Black Mountain High school. He took his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base and advanced medical training at the University School of Aviation Medicine, Gunter Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala. He has recently completed a 30-day furlough at home.

Before he reported to Camp Kilmer, N. J., for overseas duty, he visited his brothers, Clyde, at Camp Atterbury, Ind.; Leonard, at Terre Haute, Ind.; James, in Baltimore, Md., and a sister, Melba, of Philadelphia.

He would like to receive mail from all his friends. His address is: A3C Alvin C. Curtis, A. F. 14460606, 317th Medical Group, A.P.O. 13, c/o Postmaster, New York, N. Y.

L. V. Parton Home Destroyed By Fire Monday Morning

Fire of undetermined origin completely destroyed the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. V. Parton early Monday morning. The house was located on the Padgett road and was formerly occupied by Ernest Wilson who died about a year ago.

The fire was discovered at approximately 6:30 a.m. Monday by Mr. Parton when he opened the door to the kitchen. The flames had gained such headway that Mr. and Mrs. Parton were unable to save anything except what they were wearing at the time. Mrs. Parton left the house barefooted.

Damage is estimated at close to \$2000. Of this \$1500 is for the house and \$500 personal. It is partly covered by insurance.

Employed at Morgan Manufacturing company, Mr. Parton had just recently bought the house and moved in.

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