

VBC Selects Lights As First Project!

Lighting the football field has been selected as the first project of the newly formed Valley Booster Club which was organized to promote athletics at the three schools here, Black Mountain and Swannanoa Elementary, and Owen High.

As its first promotion effort the club will sponsor a doubleheader basketball game on Friday evening, Nov. 25, to dedicate the new Owen gymnasium which has been equipped with the latest type roll-away seats. Leaders of the club hope to pack the gym at the dedication with 1500 fans who are interested in helping to establish the best high school athletic plant and program in the area.

At every meeting and before any civic group which they have been asked to tell the story of the VBC, the officers and directors have emphasized that the organization ex-

pects to work for what it gets. "We do not seek nor do we expect any special favor from any individual or organization. We believe that we have something to offer the Swannanoa Valley and that by hard work, honest effort, and a planned program we can gain the support of the citizens of the community in building a football field and establishing an athletic program of which we can all be proud," officials said.

It will take more than the efforts of one or two individuals or of one or two groups to fence the field, install lights, and build the stadium. The cooperation of every citizen interested in sports, the school, or the community will be sought by those who have taken upon themselves this important task.

We can have the best in North Carolina. We should not be satisfied with anything less.



The Editor, The Black Mountain News, Addie Brittain, both charter members of the State Street Methodist church, hold the keys to the new educational building which was opened with proper ceremony on Oct. 31. The two charter members, Mrs. H. B. Kerlee, left, and Mrs. Addie Brittain, right, are in the picture. Church officials in the picture include the Rev. Robert Walters, pastor, Mrs. Gordon Greenwood, president, Woman's Society of Christian Service, J. W. Fitzgerald, district superintendent, Dr. E. K. Brake, Thomas Nesbitt, building committee chairman who presented the building to the trustees, W. B. Pollard, chairman of the official board, N. C. Shuford, J. G. Northcott, R. D. Rogers, William Hickey, Dempsey Whitaker, and H. W. Sanders, chairman of the building funds committee. A record crowd attended Sunday school following the service.

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LETTERS

GREAT COMMUNITY EFFORT
October 26, 1955.

The Editor,
The Black Mountain News,
Black Mountain, N. C.
Dear Mr. Greenwood:

I have just returned from Chicago and Baltimore as the guest of the Shell Oil company and have had a perfectly wonderful trip. In Chicago I received the Carol Lane award made to our club for its traffic safety program. When I accepted the award I was thinking of the many civic groups and the many interested individuals who made it possible for our club to receive this honor. I feel that they, through the Black Mountain Safety Council, deserve a great credit. The Woman's club could not have accomplished anything without the real cooperation of such groups as the P.T.A.'s, the B. & P. W., the Jaycees, the Lions club, the Chamber of Commerce, Town Council, the other women's clubs, our police department, our school principals, our mayor, and our State Highway Patrol. These have united through the Black Mountain Safety Council and through their representatives we have all worked together to make our community a safer and therefore happier place to live.

While in Chicago I told Carol Lane about this fine group and asked if next year we might enter in the national awards. She is to let me know but she believes we can. You see the Carol Lane Awards are given in the interest of women's activities in safety but of course in most cases men share the responsibilities.

How I wish all of these people who participated in our community safety program could have been present at the National Safety Congress. It was inspiring to see twelve thousand people all gathered together from over the nation, in the cause of safety. The speakers were inspiring because of their enthusiasm and their sincerity. They were top people, both men and women, who had accomplished something in the field of safety on state and national levels. But more about this in another story.

With your permission I should like to do a series of sketches about the individuals in our community, members of the Safety Council and others, who have participated and are continuing to do so, in community safety. I believe that the people of our community would enjoy knowing more about them, who they are and what they do. All of them have given of their time and intelligence and enthusiasm motivated by a sincere desire to serve others.

Sincerely,
Clara L. Crawford,
Black Mtn. Woman's Club,
The Black Mtn. Safety Council.

It is widely accepted that looking back before opening the driver's door is a sound procedure after parking parallel but what can be done with the driver who looks back, sees a car 50 feet away coming 25 mph and then opens the door and steps out into the path of the car?

Average production of honey per colony in North Carolina this year is estimated at only 19 pounds seven pounds below last year's average yield, according to the Crop Reporting Service.

Production of flue-cured tobacco for the state, as of October, is estimated at 1,020,775,000 lbs, up 18 1/2 million from the September 1 forecast.

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Swannanoa News

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Garden Club.

Seventeen members of the Swannanoa Garden Club were present at the November meeting which was held at the home of Mrs. J. M. Buckner Thursday afternoon, Nov. 3. Mrs. C. W. Bates was associate hostess.

A most interesting display was shown by the guest speaker Stewart Miller. He spoke on ways to "Garden Under Glass," explaining various ways of forced blooming, providing artificial sunlight for the plants and many other interesting facts pertinent to house gardening.

Following the program a refreshment course was served by the hostesses.

Home Demonstration
The Home Demonstration club met Monday afternoon at the Community Club House in Grove-mont. Seventeen members attended.

Mrs. Mamie Sue Evans, home demonstration agent, displayed various Christmas decorations and gave directions for making them. Various members had made candles and were shown how to decorate them. It proved to be a most interesting program.

Mrs. C. S. Porter, Mrs. J. B. Nichols, and Mrs. A. B. Whitt, hostesses, served a salad course to the group.

Methodist Annual Supper.
The annual Thanksgiving supper will be held Thursday evening at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall of the Swannanoa Methodist church. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

Quarterly Conference.
Nov. 16 is the date set for the first quarterly conference of the Methodist church. The meeting, which will be held at the church, will be presided over by the Rev. J. H. Fitzgerald, district superintendent.

Youth Attend Rally.
Eight young people of the Youth Fellowship group of the Swannanoa Presbyterian church attended a rally at Oak Forest Presbyterian church, Sunday afternoon. Their pastor, Rev. G. B. Talbot, and James Davidson, adult advisor, accompanied them.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service met Tuesday evening, Nov. 1, at the Methodist parsonage. Mrs. C. W. Bates, president, presided. Mrs. W. B. Hensley, secretary, reported on a family she knows which should be a challenge to anybody to overcome untold difficulties, and an inspiration to everybody to do more work for the church. With the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons approaching, this story was especially fitting. During the business session plans were made for the November and December activities of the society.

Mrs. Betty Holbert gave an interesting discussion of the November topic for study, "Women and the Church—Through the Centuries."

Mrs. C. C. Allen, Mrs. Lynn Gill, and Miss Betty Tipton, hostesses served apple pie, ice cream, and coffee to the following members: Mrs. J. V. Brigman, Mrs. Mildred Scott, Mrs. Ted Smith, Mrs. Louise Warlick, Mrs. C. W. Bates, Mrs. Elmer DeBruhl, Mrs. Betty Holbert, Mrs. Whitt Gibson, Mrs. Elmer Griffin, Mrs. G. H. Farr, Mrs. Nellie Wilkins, Mrs. Pearl Jarrett, Mrs. W. G. Harrison, Mrs. Alfred Asley, and Miss Laura Shuford, and to a guest, Mrs. Kate Shuford Seaward, who lives at Long Island, N. Y.

Emma Baker Circle.
The Emma Baker circle met Monday evening at the home of Mrs. Jasper Ensley with seven members and one visitor present.

Black Mountain NEWS

One of Buncombe County's foremost weekly newspapers published every Thursday at Black Mountain, N. C., in the heart of the prosperous Swannanoa Valley, great religious and resort center and growing industrial area.

Gordon H. Greenwood
Editor and Publisher

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The meeting was opened with prayer by Mrs. W. C. Shope followed by the hymn "The Great Physician."

The business session followed after which a program was presented with Mrs. J. P. Bennett in charge. Topic of the program was "Medical Missions in Mexico." Those taking part in the program in addition to Mrs. Bennett were Mrs. Ila Eller, Mrs. Waco Carrol, Mrs. Joe Reector, Mrs. Ensley and Mrs. Shope.

Mrs. Brooks gave the devotional, prayer was by Mrs. Vincent Gray.

The meeting was dismissed in prayer by Mrs. Vida Brooks.

Refreshments were served by the hostesses and enjoyed by everyone.

School Menu.
Monday, Nov. 14—Barbecue in buns, buttered potatoes, cabbage and carrot slaw, blackberry pie.
Tuesday, Nov. 15—Meat loaf, rice, buttered green peas, oranges.
Wednesday, Nov. 16—Roast pork, mashed potatoes, collard greens and biscuits, applesauce.

Thursday, Nov. 17—Macaroni and cheese, buttered green beans, slaw with pimentos, chocolate pudding with whipped cream.
Friday, Nov. 18—Soup beans, French fried potatoes, rutabagas, corn bread, cookies.

Bread, butter and milk are served in addition each day.

Personals
Mr. and Mrs. John Parker and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Roberts and son recently returned from a four day vacation to Washington, D. C.
Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Whitt drove to Hendersonville Sunday to visit Mr. Whitt's niece, Miss Margaret Whitt, who is taking nurses training at Mountain hospital.

Miss Bessie Bradley is recovering very nicely from a major operation she underwent last week at St. Joseph's hospital.
Mr. and Mrs. Ross Baker and daughter, Georgia Ann of Charlotte, visited Mrs. Ross' parents, Rev. and Mrs. Stamey over the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Bennett spent a most enjoyable day in Swannanoa visiting in Rutherford county. They attended morning services in the Mt. Creek church and lunched with Mr. Bennett's niece, Mrs. Dixie Henson in the afternoon.
Mr. and Mrs. Glen McCall and daughter, Mrs. Ed Smith, visited Sunday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Hensley.

Mrs. T. C. McPeters is improving slowly from a bad case of jaundice.
Mr. and Mrs. Charles English, and Mr. and Mrs. Burgess Hensley drove up the parkway Sunday afternoon. The ice clinging to the rocks and the cold penetrating wind surely made us realize how near winter is.

—Last Monday we started work on some baskets and then had our patrol meetings. After our patrol meetings, we dismissed.

This Monday we also began with our baskets. After working on the baskets for awhile, those who chose to work on the Cook's Badge went in one room, and those who chose to work on the Adventurer's Badge went in another. The cooks planned our menu for a cookout we plan to have. The Adventurers discussed the safety precautions in building fires, three games that we can play while on the cookout, and "good manners" in the out-of-doors.

After our patrol meetings, we dismissed.
—Ann Beddingfield, reporter.

TROOP 89
We met at the First Baptist church on Nov. 7. After our patrol meetings we discussed the results of the cookout we had Saturday. After working on our baskets, we dismissed.

We are glad to have Eleanor Sexton and Nana Beha as new members to our troop.
Next Monday we will have our first meeting in the elementary building.
Ann Beddingfield, reporter.

O'NEALS HAVE TWINS
Mr. and Mrs. G. C. O'Neal Jr., of Chattanooga, Tenn., announce the birth of twin daughters on Nov. 5. Mrs. O'Neal is the former Miss Louise Carver of Black Mountain.

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Life In The Mountains

By Artus Moser

(Mr. Moser, who is regarded as an authority on the folklore and history of Western North Carolina, will give further information regarding Michaux and other early explorers in this region in future articles.)

On Highway 70 as you enter Black Mountain you see a marker which reads: "Andre Michaux (pronounced Micho)—French botanist, pioneer in studying flora of Western North Carolina, visited Black Mountain in August, 1794." That was while George Washington was president; and Black Mountain, if there were any dwellings here then, was known as Gray Eagle. This name was given to the village as it grew, by the first adventurous pioneers who braved the wilderness and the Indians to settle in this desirable location in the valley.

But Michaux, the man who discovered the mystery flower of the Carolina mountains, was one of the very first to find this region so desirable. As a matter of fact, he made a number of trips into this region in search of the wonders to be found here. He kept a diary, published in London in 1805, which still makes exceedingly interesting reading. I shall quote from it later.

In 1785 the Government of France sent him to the United States to collect samples of the vast and strange variety of plants

and flowers to be found in this country. Soon after reaching New York, on November 13, and acting under the direction of his sponsor, he established a nursery in Bergen County, New Jersey, for the cultivation of American trees and shrubs, and from there he planned to ship them to France to be replanted at Rambouillet. At first, he began the botanical exploration of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. It was not long until he was sending shipments of unusual trees and shrubs from his garden to France.

In 1787 he founded another nursery of like character near Charleston, S. C. There he resumed his botanical researches, and began to extend them far and wide. He collected information from the Cherokee Indians and the "long" hunters about strange and unusual plants to be found in the vicinity of Western North Carolina, although this part of the country was not near as well known as at present.

There was the legend of the great curing powers of many of these herbs. The men and women who lived in the foothills and in the deep mountain valleys would tell how a good dose of cherry bark bitters and whiskey in the spring of the year always improved the blood and gave new resilience to life. It was said to be good for the system in general. Yellowroot also was made into another tonic "guaranteed to pick anybody up who wasn't much" and put them on their feet again. There was she-balsam along with

cut the ribbon at the opening exercises. Church officials in the picture include the Rev. Robert Walters, pastor, Mrs. Gordon Greenwood, president, Woman's Society of Christian Service, J. W. Fitzgerald, district superintendent, Dr. E. K. Brake, Thomas Nesbitt, building committee chairman who presented the building to the trustees, W. B. Pollard, chairman of the official board, N. C. Shuford, J. G. Northcott, R. D. Rogers, William Hickey, Dempsey Whitaker, and H. W. Sanders, chairman of the building funds committee. A record crowd attended Sunday school following the service.

—Photo by Gragg

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