Mountain Musings

by Gene Byrd

"What is so rare as a day in June?
Then if ever come perfect days ..."

Thing of Beauty:

The beauteous month, June, is near at hand. The last of the "berry" winters has May's reluctant hand in a firm grip; they shall soon exit together.

Ah, beautiful June, springlike and slender; yet, showing signs of opulence that July's suns shall bring.

June.. the month of brides and grooms, graduations, blue skies, growing plants, sudden racing showers, sullen thunderclouds, redolent and varied scents.

June is a month of return. The eager lads and lassies make their happy trek homeward from the halls of learning, our flatland friends trickle back to frequent their summer haunts, and "old fellers" in magic moments become young.

June makes a mountain man a lad again. The outdoors call with siren tones, the cooling waters of many brooks recall the barefoot, wading ecstacy of younger years. The warm sun bakes out some of the "miseries", and flame azalea and purple rhododendron accent a timeless beauty; the beauty that is June's.

The Home Stresch:

We are heading into the home-stretch at school. We are all tired; the road of learning has its share of obstructions, and some of the hills we coast down gleefully are counterbalanced by the mountain on the other side of the dale.

I always approch the end of a school year with mixed emotions; more so this year than ever before. The last week is so final in many respects. The joy of a vacation time, the chance to leave the desk for awhile, the exchange of the pen for a briar scythe, trowel or brush hook have their place, but every sheet in the ledger of life has two sides.

In all its finality, there is the separation. In recent weeks, I have seen my students in a different light. Always before, except for the Seniors, there has been, "next year." I have been busily storing up treasures of remembrance; I"m sure the details of the youthful faces of my students shall long be a part of my joyful recollection.

Suddenly, there is no time left. Every dedicated teacher has a suden realization of many things untaught and a nagging comprehension of things better left undone or unsaid. No time left...late August has sudenly become early June; more sand in the hourglass of days.

Baccalaureate, graduation, reports... Farewell.

The Marshall Plan:

I always observe the Junior Marshalls with more than ordinary interest. Of course, two years ago when Judy was a marshall and with Bobby serving in that capacity this year, I have had the motivation of parental interest. Also, this year, so many of the marshalls are such favorite people of mine that I would have a high degree of interest, anyway.

Not only that, thirty years ago (surely not), I served as a Junior marshall for the graduation activities of Black Mountain High School. I shall always remember my feeling of "scared importance". The baccalaureate sermon was held in the Elementary School Auditorium, but the graduation exercises were held in the Black Mountain High School Gym. We had to move the seats out to the playing floor and take down the east goal; this wasn"t easy. I can remember the humiliation when, according to instructions, I was trying to usher people down to the front only to have the sudden dismal feeling of being alone. I would look back and see my convoy grabbing back seats. I soon resigned myself to handing out programs. On that occasion. I remember a sad farewell speech by our principal, J. O. Wood, who had run afoul of politics and was leaving. In his speech he indicated he was leaving, but he stated his pleasure that a dear friend of his, N. C. Shuford was to be his successor.

Sympathy Department:

I want to express my sympathy to the Con Cordell and C. B. Creasman families on the loss of their beloved ones.

I have just returned from the Tabernacle Cemetery and Mountain View Memorial Park. Since I feel close to the Creasman family through the three fine children that I have been privileged to teach, I wanted to meet them at the graveside with a sympathizing hand. I miscalculated the time and arrived just as the family left, but I saw the beautiful flowers and observed the place of interment near a lovely poplar tree. It was good to see Brother Smith the affable leader of the First Baptist Church in Swannanoa and to meet the Rev. Parham.

On my way back, I noticed that the old cemetery at Tabernacle had been beautifully mowed. We owe a debt of gratitude to the committee that attends to this matter each summer; we also owe them financial support.

The U. S. Mail Came Through:

Mr. Postman, Billy Stephenson, was very kind this week. Really, I should say dear Readers that you were kind.

Thank you Harry Trompter up in Cincinnatti, Ohio for your expressions of regards. Hurry on down and add your tenor voice and photographic talents to the reservoir of talent in this section. I appreciate the picture, and I hope to see you on North Fork ... soon.

Mildred Reel Harris, I was touched by the kind sentiment in your heartwarming poem. I certainly hope the Valley will not forget me ... soon.

Dear Bill and Jo,Jewel and I were so happy to hear your expression of appreciation. We feel "most kindly" toward you both for many reasons and will not find your equals... soon.

Dear former neighbors, We, too, remember the warm fellowship of our "musical interlude" and treasure the evening. Thanks for the kind regards and we shall confer with Mr. Greenwood about your suggestion that we write "Maryland Musings"... soon.

Dear Reader Hubner, your thoughts about continuing the column seems to co-incide with a number of others. You write with depth and compassion. I would be delighted to hear from you again... soon.

Beauty Booty

The sky is very blue; the air
still bears a chill.
I'll hie away to the meadow,
collecting with a will.

Budding multiflora, blooms on
a poplar tree.
Presaging further joys for all
who care to see.

Azaleas on the hillside set the
woods afire.
Purple rhododendrons clad in
rich attire.

Fill my eyes with beauty,
raptly I behold
Far more priceless treasure
than any pirate gold.

MONTREAT

Miss Julia Stokes

The Circles of the Montreat Presbyterian Church will hold the last meeting of the season on Tuesday, June 6. The afternoon Circles will meet at 3 p.m.

Circle 1, Mrs. L. Nelson Bell chairman will meet with Mrs. John Haw in Davista on Virginia Road.

Circle 2, Mrs. W. J. Gammon, chairman will meet with Mrs. Harold Coburn in Camp Merri-Mac.

Circle 3, Mrs. George Stockton, chairman will meet with Miss Elizabeth Woodhouse on Kentucky Road.

The Business Woman's Circle will meet at 7:45 p.m. in the home of Miss Elizabeth Hoyt on Kentucky Road. Miss Elizabeth Cole is Circle chairman, Miss Annie Webb is cohostess.

The Baccalaureate Service was held in Gaither Chapel on Sunday morning at 10:45. The college marched into the Chapel singing the Processional "The Children of the King" by Mrs. Crosby Adams. Dr. C. Grier Davis had the invocation and Lord's Prayer and the Responsive reading. Dr. A. F. Fogartie had the pastoral prayer. Dr. James Wayte Fulton of the Shannadore Presbyterian Church, Miami, preached the sermon "The Meaning of Christ to Me".

The college chorus lead by Allan Guy sang "I Will Lift Up My Eyes" as offertory anthem. Many of the chorus are in the graduation class and will be leaving for other places next year.

The college students lead by the faculty had the recessional "Brightly Gleams Our Banner".

There were many visitors here for the week end. The families of the graduates were here for the week end.

At 7:45 p.m. there was a Communion Service for the college held in Gaither Chapel on Sunday night.

Clair F. Hardenstine, organist. The invocation and Lord's prayer by Dr. Arthur F. Fogartie.

Dr. C. Grier Davis had Communion Meditations and Dr. Fogartie had the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. There was special music by the college students.

The commencement service was held on Monday morning at 10 a.m. in Gaither Chapel. Dr. Joseph B. Clower. Jr. brought a fine message. Twenty-eight graduates received diplomas from dean-Stockton and Dr. Davis.

The Montreat Garden Club will have the annual picnic on Friday, June 9, at 5 p.m. in the Gateside Park. Miss Elizabeth Hoyt is president and Mrs. A. F. Fogartie is vice-president. A short meeting will be held before supper so come promptly. This is the time for the annual dues; come prepared. All members and their friends are asked to come with a picnic supper. All interested in beautifying Montreat are invited, new members are welcore. A brief program will follow the supper lead by Rev. Solomon.

It is always interesting to get word from any former Montreater. A letter was received from Mrs. Keith Townsend about their plans for the future. Keith will be graduating from the Denver University College of Engineering on Friday, June 9, with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. He has accepted a position as an Electronics Engineer with the National Security Agency at Ft. George Meade, Maryland. He is to report for work about July 10. They will spend a few days with Keith's family in Davenport, Iowa, before going to Washington. They will rent for a few months before deciding where to buy and hope to see some Montreat friends who will be in that part of the country. They wish to be remembered to their friends and former neighbors. The small daughter, Beth is completing a year of kindergarten and will be entering the first grade of school in or near Washington, D. C. We hope they come to Montreat for a visit sometimes in the near future.

Rev. and Mrs. J. C. Grier are in their cottage on Virginia Road after spending the winter in their home in Rock Hill.

Mrs. Ira Holt and daughter, Miss Jane Holt of Catawba College, Salisbury, spent the week end in their cottage on North Carolina Terrace. They were accompanied to Montreat by Mrs. William Ross who is spending the winter in High Point, N. C. She was in her cottage on Alabama Terrace. They were entertained at meals by friends during their stay in Montreat.

Lt. and Mrs. Charles Thomas and small son of Valdosta, Ga. spent the week end with their parents, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Spence, Montreat and Dr. and Mrs. C. D. Thomas of Black Mountain.

● RENT IT - CLASSIFIEDS!

SWANNANOA W.S.C.S. INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS

At the last regular meeting of the Swannanoa Methodist Woman's Society of Christian Service the following officers were installed by the pastor, the Rev. Ben F. Stamey, to serve for the coming year: president, Mrs. Hayes Connor; vice president, Mrs. C. L. Gwaltney; treasurer, Mrs. J. W. Gibson; local treasurer, Mrs. Ted Smith; recording secretary, Mrs. J. V. Brigman; secretary of promotion, Mrs. John Slaughter; secretary of missionary education and service, Mrs. Ben Stamey; secretary of Christian social relations of youth work, Mrs. Ernest Holbert; secretary of student work, Miss Laura Shuford; secretary of youth work, Mrs. E. G. Roberts; secretary of children's work, Mrs. Jim Powlas; secretary of spiritual life, Mrs. Nell Wilkins; secretary of literature and publications, Mrs. Herbert Coman; chairman of local church activities, Mrs. Annie Holbert; committee on membership chairman, Mrs. Haywood Farr; nomination committee, Mrs. Haywood Farr, Mrs. E. G. Roberts, and Mrs. Herbert Coman.

high school career. Out of the group, we were happy to learn that Miss Claudia Lytle, and Miss Lillian Lytle received awards, for being top honor students. You know I can't help but to brag just a little after seeing the program and awards these girls had achieved. Misses Claudia, Lillian and Jessie Mae Lytle received awards for commendable service in the Senior-Y-teens, the band, and cheer leaders. They also received honorable mention as good workers in the New Home Workers of America Org. and here comes the really wonderful news, not only was Claudia a member of the National Honor Society of the Crown and Scepter Chapter, but the "one student" who earned the 12 hundred dollar scholarshop to A&T College in Greensboro, quite a record these girls have made and we're mighty proud of them. Others graduating from Stephens Lee from this area are, Miss Patsey Daugherty, Miss Sylvia Stepp, Fredie Lytle and George Hamilton.

Mrs. Hines, and Mrs. Grace Greenlee were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. James Inabineth on Sunday.

The friendship club met at the home of Mrs. Wayman Stepp Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

Mrs. Carrie Kennedy, Miss Geraldine Kennedy and Mrs. Flossie Fennedy visited Sunday with Mrs. James Inabineth.

I wish all of you could have been in our Bible class Monday night at the Mills Chapel church.

Did't we have a good time folks and aren't we grateful to the Lord for having sent us such a wonderful teacher?

Monday night terminated the study of the 4 Gospels, and I feel that we really know the Lord better after the study of his wonderful Ministry.

After the class Monday night one of the members called me saying that she thanked the Lord daily for Mrs. DuPuy.. She went on to say that she and her husband had become stronger Christians and how much they enjoyed the Word of God through her. We are thankful to Mrs. DuPuy for the precious and continuous help given us. Several of our dear white friends were guests in our class Monday night past. They were Dr. and Mrs. T. J. Crofts, Mrs. Aleshire, Mrs. Davis, Mr. and Miss Betty Brandon.

We enjoyed these friends, their talks and the solo by Dr. and Mrs. Crofts, and we're hoping they will come again soon.

Last Friday Mr. and Mrs. James Kennedy and Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Brown enjoyed a day of fishing and out door eating at Lake Adger down in Polk County. Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Brown accompanied Mr. and Mrs. James Kennedy to Atlanta Ga., Monday to bring back the Kennedys daughter, Mildred of Clark College.

NEWS from the CRAGMONT COMMUNITY

—By Lib Harper—

Phone NO 9-3028

James Burris, James Kennedy, and James Burris, Jr., spent Sunday in Anderson, S. C. with Mr. Burrises relatives.

Mrs. Mayrene Burnette, of N. J. is spending several weeks here with her mother Mrs. Delia Warren.

Mr. and Mrs. Millard Whiteside of Asheville spent Sunday with their sister Mrs. Ada Moorehead.

Mr. and Mrs. George Hamilton spent Sunday afternoon with the Walter Simmins.

Mrs. Lewis Daugherty visited Sunday in Swannanoa with her aunt, Mrs. Underwood, and other relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Jones visited Sunday with their bro. Mr. Waylan Logan who is ill at the St. Luke's hospital in Tryon N. C.

We are happy to have Mrs. Bessie Forney back in church services after several weeks illness.

The Black Mountain little league sluggers defeated the Old Fort Jr. Ball team 20-1 Saturday afternoon at the Cragmont Ball field. Anthony Stafford was the winning pitcher. Coaches Marvin Hamilton and Archie Pertiler seem to be guiding these young boys along nicely, and who knows; we may some day have a major leaguer from our own Black Mountain Sluggers.

Miss Valarie Hamilton, was honored with a birthday party at her home Sunday afternoon. Thirty little friends were present to enjoy the occasion. Mrs. Pansey Hooper and Mrs. Julia Long, assisted Valarie's mother with the games, and serving of the refreshments.

Little Joey Pertiler was the "spelling champ" of the second graders at Carver school. Joey is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Pertiler of Western N. C. Sanatorium.

If some one should ask me my favorite month of the year; without hesitation, I'm sure I'd say May. May with all its colorful flowers, beautiful sunny weather, Mother's day, and lovely graduation time. Parents from all around glitter with happiness and excitement as the days draw near for their sons and daughters to graduate from the various schools. One dear lady said to me, each time I see a group of students in cap and gowns, I say to myself, "More Useful Citizens of Tomorrow." I agree, don't you?

C. U. James, Principal of the Carver School presented certificates to 17 students last Friday night in the school auditorium. Mrs. Frantz Wilson, Sec. of the MCA of Asheville was guest speaker.

During the "Honor and Awards" class night at Stephens Lee High school special recognition was given to 14 seniors who had maintained excellent scholastic records during their

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