

Mountain Musings

by Gene Byrd

Undecided To Go

Most families have some little incidents that occur over the years enshrined in their memories. The Muser's family is no exception. When Bobby was just a little fellow, his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Hallman, were visiting in our home. They invited Bobby to go home with them for a visit. The prospects of packing a suitcase, leaving parents behind and going to Sanford with such wonderful people as his grandparents were most alluring to our young son. He had a wonderful time selecting the things

he would take, and Jewel's face grew longer and longer as she contemplated the ease with which the apron strings were being amputated. Night came; the next day was to be the Big Day. Bobby was sent to bed early so that he might get plenty of sleep before taking the trip. Away from the excitement of "getting ready," the enormity of his undertaking dawned upon him. Muffled sobbing was heard and Bobby greeted his mother with a heartfelt wail beyond his years pronounced, "Mama, I've undecided to go."

Undoubtedly, the trip would have been valuable, his grandparents would have treated him royally, he would have gained a degree of maturity but emotionally he was unprepared to go happily. We didn't insist and in due time, he was able to visit in joy and confidence.

It has become a tradition in our family when we don't want to do something to say half whimsically, half seriously, "I'm undecided to go."

Looks Like You're Stuck: Last week, I told you I was faced with a dilemma. It was this. My family just plainly didn't care for the situation

in Maryland. This is certainly no disparagement of that lovely state; it is tribute to the deep love the Valley has created in the hearts of my family. My Georgia born wife was the most vocal of all. As she tabulated the advantages of "home" and how disinclined she was to leave, even for a year, my resolution began to also waver. The children's expressions of similar feelings were the last straw.

The Muser is a very vulnerable person; all sentimentalists are deeply vulnerable. In the main, I strive to make people happy. Also, I'm practical enough to know that unless my loved ones are happy, that I'm not happy.

The problem resolved itself. It was personal advancement versus the feelings of my family and also my own deep love of the Valley and its people.

There was only one course of action. I have submitted my resignation to the Harford County Board of Education. That door has been closed, that expedition has gone on the rocks.

Now What? For every door that closes, one opens. In this case it opened near at hand.

It now appears that I shall be teaching in Old Fort this coming year. It is not too far from "down the mountain," and I can maintain my local contacts.

Apologies are in order to those who thought I was leaving and were glad of it and to those who loved me and expressed their affection and respect. Certainly the experiences of the past few months have given me opportunity to see the implication of True Friendship, and I know better where I stand than ever before.

I know there will be many compensations. I want to be on hand to see the Owen girls win the Buncombe County basketball championship. I shall be an interested observer of Tom Roberson's "down the mountain" tour of all Buncombe County schools accredited by the Southern Association. As a voter and taxpayer, I shall be keenly interested in many things and perhaps a little more vocal than in the past concerning civic affairs.

I want to attend the reunions and Homecoming affairs as has been my custom. I want to be "on hand" when my old friends need me, and I cherish every opportunity to see any of the young folks that I have ever taught.

I want to see the leaves turn in the fall and joy to October's "bright blue weather." I want to climb the Wallace Mountain with Jackie and enjoy her childish prattle heavily underladen with worthwhile wisdom. I want to go "far-up" on North Fork and stand where my forebears stood.

In fact I want far more than I have space to list. So, for now, I hush.

In The Mail: A most appreciated letter from a lovely lady who once asked me not to use her name in the column; this wish I respect. I am most grateful, ma'am, for someone who respects members "the little boy with dreams."

It was good to hear from the Sage of North Fork, Bascombe Burnett. I am glad you liked the poem "The Trail," and the places you mentioned Elizabeth Rock, the Patton House, etc., were of utmost interest.

A letter from Mrs. T. J. Britten of Lakewood, Fla., brought me real joy. As I read her poignant words re-

What to Do in Black Mountain

Jaycee meets 1st Thursday for business, 7:30 p.m.; 3rd Thursday for dinner at Monte Vista, 7 p.m.

Black Mountain-Swannanoa Rotary club meeting, Monte Vista hotel, Mondays, 12:15 p.m.

Black Mountain Lions club, Monte Vista. second and fourth Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Black Mountain-Swannanoa Kiwanis club, each Thursday noon, Monte Vista hotel.

"Tween-Age" square dance group meets every Tuesday night at 8 at the Youth Center, just off Cragmont Road. Everyone of adult age invited for the fun.

The following events, sponsored by the Get Acquainted club, to which all interested persons are invited *Every Wednesday afternoon at the Monte Vista at 1, duplicate bridge. Every Thursday night, 7:30, Monte Vista hotel, duplicate bridge; instruction by Max Woodcock.

Other purely social activities listing in this column may call the Black Mountain News. Save this schedule for easy reference.



ENGINEERING ADVICE on how to add an entrance baffle to his new fallout shelter is obtained by Carl L. Underhill (left), of Raleigh, from Archie W. Green, Jr., engineer for the North Carolina Civil Defense agency. Underhill discovered that a baffle was needed to block dangerous levels of radiation which, after nuclear attack, could penetrate a normal door of this \$1,000 shelter. Green was hired early in 1961 under a Federal program to pay half the costs of new civil defense employees. (OCDM Photo)

North Fork News

by Mary Hauth
Box 294

Mr. and Mrs. Malonie Jones and children Sandy, Ricky and Jeffrey of Madison Heights,

calling my brother Harry and her own childhood memories and recollections. I felt the tears start to my eyes. Dear lady, you caused old memories to come alive and walk once more. I thank you for it.

Without Portfolio: Yesterday, Sunday, was the first Sunday in a long time that I did not have the responsibility and privilege of being the minister of a church. My first impulse was that I would not attend Lakewood Baptist church until our new pastor, the Rev. Leroy Thomas, got "situated." I didn't want the "new" pastor to feel in the least awkward because the "old" pastor was in the audience. Also, there are so many wonderful churches in the Valley I want to visit, and so many places where God that I wish to hear speak.

On the other hand, our congregation is quite small at Lakewood, and I wanted to support the new pastor with my presence.

So we gathered-up our company and went to Lakewood church. I'm glad I went. Brother Thomas brought a fine message on the text "Fear Not Little Flock"; I found it inspiring.

Outer Space (Get it!) The space in the column is gone, and I'll need room to tell about the "big-doin's" at Little Jack Cordell's. A certain fellow columnist had better prepare to suffer next week. (I can hear too many voices saying, "Huh, we suffer every week.")

Little Things A letter in the mail; chance meetings on the street. The joy of recollection—when old friends meet. Moments of shared quiet, a bit of solitude. Evoke a sense of reverence and calm beatitude.

The murmur of a little brook; alders by the stream. Implement the pleasures of boyhood's happy dream. Sitting in a white oak tree, a robin sweetly sings. Adding to the total of great "little things."

Mich., are spending two weeks with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jones. Those who had a family picnic at Lake James. Others present were Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Jones, Mrs. Jimmy Raines and children, Mike and Timothy, Mrs. Evelyn Phelps and children, Charlie and Oscar, Mr. Carlsen Jones and Oscar Jones Jr.,

Lee Morris spent Sunday with his daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Alexander and sons Roy and Troy on lower Grassy Branch road.

Mrs. Addie Shope and daughter Nancy, visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Cordell Sunday.

S/2/C Roy Burnette aboard the U.S.S. Newport News, sailed from Norfolk, Va., Tuesday for an eight months' cruise in the Mediterranean.

One of the prized possessions of Mr. and Mrs. Craig Burnette is the secretary out of the oak room of the Zebulon Vance home, Goochmont. This secretary is trimmed with brass bands of a hob nail effect design.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Cordell gave a barbecue picnic for their family and friends Sunday afternoon. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Carl Patton, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Willett, Phyllis and Kay, Tony Marie and Cindy Edwards, the Rev. and Mrs. Eugene Byrd, and Jackie, Judy Byrd and her husband, and Mrs. Daphne Taylor and family.

The Riddle reunion was at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Odus Chandler, Marshall, Sunday. Those present from Black Mountain were Mrs. Julia Riddle, Mr. and Mrs. Pinkney Riddle, Mr. and Mrs. Winston Riddle and children, Alan, Robbie and Susan, Millard Riddle, Mr. and Mrs. Hanley Martin, Gail, Janice and Brenda, Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Morris, Mrs. Lee Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Jeeter Riddle, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hauth.

Mr. and Mrs. Bart Burnett spent the week-end at Lake James.

This week our scripture board verse is from John 16: 27 "For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me."

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Pritchell Postscripts

By JIM COX

Christmas activities for the summer came to an end Wednesday evening of last week with the annual staff Christmas banquet.

Everything went off splendidly, too, from the program—directed by Casey Vinzant, to the turkey dinner—prepared by John Varnado and the Morrison's Food Service staff.

There were several entertaining numbers on the program, including a trio composed of Kate Hoyt, Sue Ennis, and Billie Williams; solos by Mike Davenport and Ann Anshus; a duet by Chuck Irbly and Margaret Scott; a Christmas reading by Gwen Farar; and three selections by the 16-piece staff choir.

Conference Capsule The annual ladies' week at Ridgecrest is set to open today (Thursday). Yes, it's Woman's Missionary Union Conference time again.

Mrs. R. L. Mathis, of Waco, Tex., president of the organization, will be leading the week more or less by herself this summer. Miss Alma Hunt, executive secretary, is on leave of absence from the headquarters office in Birmingham, Ala., now due to doctor's orders, and will not be able to come.

The various department leaders within the total WMU organization will assist Mrs. Mathis, including Miss Margaret Bruce, Woman's Missionary Society; Miss Doris DeVaul, Young Woman's Auxiliary; Miss Betty Brewer, Girls' Auxiliary; and Miss Abbie Louise Green, Sunbeam Band.

They will have WMU methods conferences in the mornings preceding a Bible study each evening, and a mission service each evening.

This 'n That Good news from the Sunday School Board meeting! The unanimous decision of the 54-member Board at its recent session at Ridgecrest was to elect David K. Alexander secretary of the Student Department.

He's been editor of publications and materials in the Student Department since 1955, and before that directed Baptist student work on the campuses of the University of New Mexico, Texas A and M, Peabody and Belmont colleges, and Vanderbilt University.

I have been privileged to know him personally since going to the Sunday School Board two years ago, and just think he is "tops."

Staffers have been on two excursions to "Unto These Hills" at Cherokee this summer, though it wasn't the same group going twice. Several are in hopes of arranging a similar tour to "Horn in the West."

My personal word of thanks to John Miller, drama director at Ridgecrest, for the wonderful job he's doing in attempting production of "Waiting for Godot" Aug. 16. It's an extremely difficult play even for professionals, but with the determination to venture out in something that will have real meaning and value to the staff, John and his troupe are forging ahead valiantly.

In the opinion of many of the old staffers, John has done wonders for our drama department this summer as a result of extensive training, hard work, and the willingness to do something a little bit difficult. And in his humble attempts to serve Christ with the talents he has been given he has accomplished

much. I am thankful to have known and worked with him and for the service he has rendered the staff.

Last Straw Sightseeing? Sure we're for it but sometimes there's a limit! Take for example the lady who came in the other Thursday and inquired at the information desk, "Where do they sell tickets around here for the tour through the train tunnel?" That tour's a new one on us.

Black Mountain Bridge Winners The Black Mountain Duplicate Bridge club met Thursday night, Aug. 3 at the Monte Vista hotel. Eleven tables were in play and Max Woodcock directed. The winners were:

North-South—1st, Mrs. Helton Perley and Lowry Covin; 2nd, Mrs. S. S. Cooley and Don Wright; 3rd, Wm. Costner and W. C. Field; 4th, Mrs. Harrie D. Anenhower and Louise Miller.

East-West—1st, Mrs. O. H. Norton and Mrs. Grace Eaton; 2nd, Mrs. R. T. Greene and N. C. Shuford; 3rd, Don Livingston and Charles Ross; 4th, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Ketterer.

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