

# Marilyn Phillips Has Contributed Toward Making the Hotel A Community Center By Her Graciousness And Artistic Ability

By Edith K. Benedict

Bill and Marilyn Phillips are people the community has taken for granted for a long time. The availability of the hotel to all who wish to take advantage of the hospitality, is also assumed.

The operation of a hotel with the scope of our local one, is a task which the two young people undertook in 1954 and have accomplished since. The management of the hotel is under Bill's guidance; the office, reservations and correspondence are Marilyn's territory.

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## MONTREAL

Miss Julia Stokes

There will be a joint supper and meeting of the Women of the Montreal Presbyterian church and the Men of Montreal held in Assembly Inn on Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m. The women gather for a short business meeting at 5 p.m. in the green room. The president, Miss Virginia Buchanan will preside over the women and the men will meet in the parlor for their business meeting and election of new officers. The men will join with the women for the Joy Gift program in the green room before the supper.

The supper will be held in the dining room at 6:30 p.m. there Miss Buchanan will preside. The guest speaker will be the Rev. Robert Gray of Black Mountain who will tell the Christmas story. There will be special music and Miss Elizabeth Hoyt will give the history for the year. Make reservation at the Inn for the supper.

There will be a reception given on Saturday afternoon at 3:30 December 9, to honor the Rev. and Mrs. Stanley Bennett and their two small sons. The Bennetts will arrive in Montreal from their mission work in Brazil on Friday. They will spend a few days with Miss Elizabeth Wilson in "White Haven." All friends of the Bennetts are invited to come to the reception which will be held in the green room.

operating a hotel is a career, but in this instance it is one I didn't choose. Most women select what they intend to pursue as a career and work toward it, as I did my therapy work. I don't mean that I am not happy with the work, I love it because I love people."

Knowing how artistic she is and the variety of things she is capable of doing, we spoke of hobbies. "I don't have any," she said, "everything I make here is to fill some need. Instead of buying decorations for our tree at Christmas time, I make them because we want it like a home tree for our children and guests. If we need a picture for some particular place, I paint one, rather than buy it."

"But you do enjoy doing these things," I prompted. "Oh yes, but I mean that I don't just sit down and paint for fun, or make decorations for fun, I do them because they are a necessity, they aren't hobbies."

Many people have marveled at Marilyn's artistic accomplishments, although she denies she is artistic, no one who has seen the beautiful decorations at the Christmas season would agree with that statement. Her creations are exquisite and imaginative. She may not be actively engaging in occupational therapy as a profession, but the carry-over is a benefit to the community.

The Monte Vista has become a community center. Civic clubs hold their weekly or monthly meetings there, social groups of all sorts meet there for bridge, style shows, club meetings, and parties. If Black Mountain had a community building it couldn't be used more. Over the years since the couple have been operating the hotel everyone has commented at one time or another of Marilyn's graciousness, of her cheerful willingness to do whatever is necessary for her guests' enjoyment and of her capabilities, especially in her unusual decorations and her unique touch in the serving of something simple in lifting it out of the ordinary class into the supreme. For example, I remember apple juice being served in the lobby prior to an annual banquet one year, but the final touch was the lovely little clumps of apple blossoms in the punch bowl... who would have thought of that but Marilyn?

As a mutual friend commented: "We have had occasion to visit in several of the hotels in small towns around here recently and there isn't one of them that has either the good food or the pleasant atmosphere we have here. I feel sometimes as if we don't appreciate Marilyn and Bill as we should."

Perhaps it isn't that we don't appreciate them; it is more likely that we just don't say so as often as we should. So... Marilyn, for being a charming and gracious hostess to all members of the community, and Bill, for being a capable and understanding manager, we all express gratitude and appreciation for your talents which have provided so many happy hours to so many of us.

Of course, when you are age 72 (that is, starting with the month you reach 72) you can get a social security check for every month no matter how much you earn.

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That's one of the things we believe you'd enjoy about being an Episcopalian—the feeling that you're part of things. In the primitive church, in fact, clear back in Old Testament times, the main part of the religious service was praise and worship of God and earnest prayer for his aid and forgiveness.

The sermon—or instruction part of the service was secondary. In many churches today, however, the service is centered around the sermon. The congregation sits back to listen or to be spectators, rather than being actual participants in the service.

In the Episcopal Church, we join together in the worship and praise of God. You are invited to join us—today—in the active worship of God at the Episcopal Church near you.

## SOCIAL SECURITY NEWS

If you have enough work credits under social security, when you reach retirement age (65 if you are a man, 62 if you are a woman) you will be able to apply for and get social security benefits for months that you keep within the "annual earnings" or "monthly work and earnings" limitations under the Social Security Law.

If you do not earn (in wages and/or self-employment income) over \$1200 in a year, you can receive all your social security checks for that year.

And—starting in 1961—if you earn over \$1200 in a year, \$1 of benefits will be withheld for each \$2 that you earn from \$1200 up to \$1500. But if \$1500, you will lose \$1 of benefit for every \$1 that you earn over the \$1500.

However, no matter how much you earn or how much you work, your social security check will not be withheld for any month in which you neither earn over \$100 in wages nor are active in self-employment ("rendering substantial services").

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