

Playhouse Summer Season Opens Tuesday

The Vagabond Players have chosen to revive their most popular and successful play, "How They Run," by Philip King, for opening their 1964-65 season on Tuesday evening at the Flat Rock Playhouse.

The season will find many familiar faces in the casts of the eleven plays to be presented. The Vagabonds will welcome several newcomers to the Flat Rock stage.

Anita Grannis has returned to stage the Vagabond productions for her twelfth consecutive season. A New Yorker, she had her early training directing for the Flat Rock Repertory Players and Broadway companies. For many years an actress in New York TV and in stock on the eastern seaboard, she came to direct the Macon, Ga., Tampa, Fla., and Nashville, Tenn., community theatres for the past ten years.

The cast includes veteran Rogers who has returned to his seventh season.

Gordon Elliott, returning to his fifth season, has had regular appearances, both as actor and a vocalist, on radio and television programs.

Mary Frances Watson, of Raleigh, is a popular ninth-season Vagabond. She has played three seasons on the Flat Rock Circuit, toured with the Vagabond Touring Theatre, and national companies of "The Sound of Music," "The Sound of Music," "The Sound of Music," and "The Sound of Music."

She holds three awards: "Best Actress" from the Flat Rock Little Theatre.

Neil MacMillan, a veteran of three seasons, came to the Flat Rock after two years with the Flat Rock Little Theatre in Black Mountain. He has done extensive theatre work in Connecticut and Florida.

Helen Bragdon returns for her fourth season with the Vagabonds.

Alan Sader hails from Breckinridge and is a graduate of the University of North Carolina.

A newcomer, Caryn Murphy, has had experience Off-Broadway and in summer stock in New Jersey and California.

Steve Dawson received his training at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London and the Neighborhood Playhouse in New York.

Sam Garner of Wilmington, N. C., rounds out the cast. He also serves as director of the Vagabond Children's Theatre.

Other Vagabond veterans returning for subsequent productions include Ann Driscoll, Dorothy Masterson, Patricia Moore, Pat Orr, James Murphy, W. C. "Mutt" Burton and Edward H. Wilkinson.

"See How They Run" will play nightly through Saturday at 8:30 with matinees on Wednesday and Saturday at 2:30. Flat Rock Playhouse is located three miles south of Hendersonville on highway No. 25.

Singleton Is Well Pleased With Clinic

The Warriors downed the Lakers, 49 to 38, and the Knicks took a close one from the Celtics, 54 to 47, as play continued in the senior division of the Owen High School Basketball clinic at the gym Monday evening.

For the Warriors Ronnie McNary and Joe Brooks paced the winners with 21 and 20 points respectively. For the losing Lakers Lewis had 15 points and Plummer and Co-man 8 each.

Jack Hardin with 25 points was high scorer for the Knicks while Ricky Reed had 14.

Jim Hardin with 16 and Franklin with 13 led the Celtics.

Clinic Director Ralph Singleton has been well pleased with the response and with the great number of boys who have reported for the clinic sessions.

Junior Division

In the junior division Lester Ballard poured in 21 points to lead the Cobras to a close 29 to 27 victory over the Pythons. Byrd scored 12 for the losers.

In other action the Rattlers handed the Copperheads a 42 to 21 defeat as T. Suttles hit 20 points and J. Hill 10. For the Copperheads Lindsey had 16.

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Town Topics

Edith K. Benedict

To The Mountain Tops

Sometimes it is disappointing to plan and think about seeing some particular sight for years, then when the reality does come about it isn't as pictured.

For about two years we have talked about Brown Mountain and its mysterious lights, reading all we could about the phenomenon and trying to weed out the fact from the fiction.

When scientists, about a year ago, studied the lights they found them to be from gases, seeping thru fissures in the rocky cliffs on Brown Mountain, igniting when they came in contact with the oxygen of the air. They even lowered one of their men over the cliff, and contact with the gas was almost too much for him. It has never been determined what sort of gases they are, although it is evident they come from inside the mountain.

Following a suggestion we packed up last Saturday to go within sight of the mountain. The camp site was at Wiseman's View, one of the beautiful overlooks prepared by the Department of Interior and the Park Service, overlooking Linville Gorge and so near to Hawkbill (mountain) and Table Rock (also a mountain) that it seemed as though one could reach a hand across the gorge and touch them.

The view of the river which flows through the gorge makes it appear to be quite rocky, and in truth it is. Fishermen claim it is fine, unexplored territory for trout fishing, and one can see why even the most enthusiastic of fishermen would find the going so rough that it would dampen his enthusiasm. This is wild country and because of the large number of rocks it is snake heaven; a neighbor of ours killed a copperhead with in sight of the camp and had previously killed a rattler and two other copperheads while fishing with his son in the river. But it is beautiful country too, the grasses grow around the rocky surface of the mountain top as they do at our high altitudes and the breezes blow constantly, first one direction, then reversing and blowing back in the opposite direction.

Now to retrace to the first statement—we were not disappointed in the lights—they were even more fantastic than we had imagined. I had supposed that they moved as the gases burst into flame, but instead, they were stationary, gradually fading until they were no more. Their color varied, too, some were yellow and there was one with a green tinge while occasionally one would glow redder than the others. It was most interesting. There must have been from 50-75 persons who drove in, sat and watched for a time, and left with others coming. It was well after midnight before the last ones left and we had the mountain top to ourselves. Some of us slipped back during the night and since the weather was clear, the lights were there all night. At daybreak John and I watched the sun come over Hawkbill and the night's display gradually faded with the darkness.

The stillness was about us in those early hours. The first sound to start the early morning symphony was a lone cricket, playing his "fiddle-legs"; he was joined a few minutes later by a whip-poor-will which sang a few warm-up notes before his full toned melody filled the air. His call touched off the other birds. From 'way across the gorge we heard a thrush, then others joined in until it was difficult to distinguish one from the other. All this time the red sky was changing to gold and ol' Hawkbill had emerged from a black silhouette into her daylight dress of green trees and gray rocks—and another day was born on the windswept mountain top.

Down With the Old

The old rambling two-story house which has stood many years at the corner of Vance and Black Mountain Ave. (Highway 9) will soon be gone. Notice was given to the owner that the building would be razed if repairs were not made in a given length of time. Evidently the time has lapsed, for the windows are already gone and it appears that the framework will be next.

When Jack Leatherwood went to tell the family living upstairs that they must find

some other place to live, chickens were already roosting in the first floor rooms. This is just another example of non-residents who own property in our town and appear to be negligent about its upkeep. Perhaps they reason that as long as there is any income from its rental it must be in usable condition. How long now before these two old ghosts across the tracks from the NEWS will meet with the same fate?

Fun Acres

The Farm Bureau Federation came up this month with a bit of interesting info., called Federal Fun Acres; here are a few paragraphs:

"We're really in for one big, whooping time, if we all just live long enough."

"Now, you've probably heard the old saying that goes something like this: 'Since two-thirds of the Earth's surface is in water, any idiot knows the Lord means for us to fish two-thirds of the time.'"

"Well, as far as we're concerned, that ought to hold true for the land, too. What makes us so happy is that Uncle Sam has set aside 234 millions of purchased acres just for us to make merry in! And with the national population now at about 191 million folks, this means that every single citizen now has a Federal Fun Acre to himself, with almost 50 million acres left over just for spare."

"At the rate things are going, it won't be too many years before Uncle Sam owns the whole works, from coast to coast. And, since he has set aside about one-third of his present holdings for sport and amusement, it stands to reason that he will keep this ratio constant, and eventually reserve one-third of the entire nation just for frolic!"

"Just think what this means! When it comes to water, we fish two-thirds of the time. And when it comes to land, we play one-third of the time. And that adds up to all of our time!"

"If we only live long enough, we'll all die laughing."

Record Number At Lakey Gap Bible School

Mrs. Shirley Morris and Mrs. Judy Morris were co-directors of one of the finest Bible Schools ever held in the Lakey Gap Presbyterian Church. The school opened with 62 present and increased daily, reaching an attendance of 78. The cooperation and harmony among the teachers and workers as well as the young people and children, was of the finest.

UPPER CEDAR CREEK COMMUNITY

Bessie Elliott Davis

The scattered showers are sure good for our gardens. Thursday, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Walker, Jimmy and I went to Asheville. Friday morning we went back to Black Mountain and down to Marion. This round of contacting office girls and women shows me that we have some pretty nice and clever folks in the Official and business Offices of our country. Sunday we had as visiting minister at Stone Mountain, Rev. Everett Sprinkle of Marion. The message had as text, "The Christian serving the Lord." Nehemiah started rebuilding the walls round Jerusalem. The Devil tried every plan to stop the work. Nehemiah always said, "No."

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OBITUARIES

G. Brandon

Last rites for George W. Brandon, 75, of Padgettown road, Black Mountain, were held Wednesday afternoon, June 17, at Kerlee Heights Baptist Church. The Rev. Thomas Gant and the Rev. George Reynolds officiated. Mr. Brandon died early Tuesday morning in an Asheville hospital after a long illness.

He was a native of Greene County, Tenn., and had lived in Black Mountain for the past 50 years. He was an employe of Grove Stone and Sand Co., where he retired in 1953 after 30 years service.

Active pallbearers were Arvy Simmons, Horace Self, Cline Jordan, Robert Gregory, John P. Jones and Plant Potat. Honorary pallbearers were Dr. James Littlejohn, Dr. T. W. Folsom, J. W. Clark, J. G. Northcott, L. M. Morgan, R. P. Abernathy and Foly Sparks, Sr.

Flowerbearers were women of the church.

Surviving are four daughters, Mrs. C. A. Burnette of Black Mountain, the Misses Beulah and Betty Brandon, both of the home, and Mrs. Nelson W. Monteith of Hyattsville, Md.; three sons, Orville of Fort Worth, Tex., and Hugh and Laurence Brandon, both of Black Mountain; a sister, Mrs. H. A. Self of Del Rio, Tenn.; a half-sister, Mrs. Letta Ingle of Miami, Fla.; a half-brother, Hurley Brandon of Black Mountain; 12 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

H. Johnson

Funeral services for Howard D. Johnson, 50, of 613 Rhododendron Ave., Black Mountain, were held Thursday afternoon, June 18, in the Chapel of Harrison Funeral home. The Rev. Robert Gray, pastor of Black Mountain Presbyterian Church officiated. Burial was in Mountain View Memorial Park.

Mr. Johnson died Monday at his home, after a long illness.

He was a native of Lansing, Mich., and had lived in Black Mountain for the past seven years. He was employed at Beacon Manufacturing Co.

Pallbearers were James Uzzell, Morris Hogan, Jr., John Vaillancourt, Roger Hester, Jack Hudson, Jesse Ross and Bill Pinyan.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Roberta P. Johnson; two sisters, Mrs. E. Burch of Oklahoma City, Okla., and Mrs. J. Tulloch of Buchanan, Mich.; and a brother, Richard, of Sonoma, Calif.

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