

Nathan & Vicki Corbitt

Working Toward Goals They've Set For Themselves

Everyone in the Valley is always happy to hear when one of our boys or girls have done well in their chosen field of endeavor. This time we are doubly happy for the following story is about a young couple who were high school sweethearts, went on to college and married while there and are raising their family while he continues his education. Nathan and Vicki Crofts Corbitt.

Nathan is the son of the Rev. and Mrs. John Corbitt of Ridgecrest and Vicki is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Crofts, former residents of Black Mountain.

The following story appeared recently in the Citizen & Georgian, MaMontezuma, Ga. Where he was formerly Band Director:

**NATHAN CORBITT,
FORMER MONTEZUMA
MUSIC DIRECTOR
ENJOYS COMPOSING**
by Lisa Booth

When Nathan Corbitt came to Montezuma as Macon County Band Director he threw a magic note into the music life of the townspeople.

He began by whipping the Macon County Band into shape. He devised numerous precision drills, added a flutter of flaggirls, rigged a rifle corp and drum majorette, and suddenly the "MCHS Marching Red Machine" was in working order. The band brought the football fans to their feet with its spectacular half-times and precision sound. For three years, Nathan led his high-strutting band through parades, concerts, and football programs, and also took on a part-time position as Minister of Music at the First Baptist Church of Montezuma.

By 1974, Nathan had attained the title of Minister of Youth and Music at the First Baptist Church and began working there fulltime. To the delight of the church, he ignited concert after concert and replenished the spirits of many who enjoyed worship through music. Nathan presented us with inspiring programs such as Celebrate Life, "Music of the Sacred Harp", "The Seven Last Words", and "The Nazarene."

In the summer of 1975, Nathan felt the need to delve further into his study of music. He packed up his wife, Vicki, and their children and headed to Louisville, Kentucky, where he enrolled in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. The responsibilities of a family, classes, studies, and work might have overwhelmed a person of less perseverance. Nathan, however, found he could incorporate his creativity and his studies and produce his own works.

One of Nathan's most outstanding achievements has been the completion of a children's illustrated story and music book.

The book, Nathan says, was developed as a teacher's aid in the instruction of children's Bible Stories. The structure of the book is based on the learning theory of "Look to Understand, Listen to Understand, and Sing to Understand."

Nathan worked on the 60 page volume for about two months "mainly on Saturdays," and handprinted each page. He then hired an artist to illustrate each story and its song. The illustrations consist of twelve beautifully colored water color and ink paintings. Each picture complements its story and song by adding bright visual stimulation.

The book opens with the story of Adam and Eve and is followed by a song entitled "God Made the Earth." The story is completed with a dazzling scene of the animals in the Garden of Eden. In the foreground are the silhouettes

of Adam and Eve. "We decided to use the silhouettes because we wanted to remain objective in our presentation of the First Couple to boys and girls. There is no right or wrong race or color for the couple, so we chose to leave this to the children's imagination."

The books highlights the stories children learn in Sunday School. Other selections include "Noah and the Animals," "The Coat of Many Colors," and "Daniel and the Lions."

After completion of the book, Nathan sent it to Lillena's Publishing Company of Kansas City, Missouri. They agreed to publish it in part, and have assumed rights over six of the songs. They are keeping the text on file for possible future publication in its entirety.

Nathan's most recent endeavor is the composition of an opera entitled "Metamorphosis: the Conversion of Saul." The opera is set in one act and requires eleven actors, an onstage and an off-stage chorus, and an orchestra. The story follows Saul, a man of Tarsus, his persecution of the Christians, his blinding by the Lord, and the subsequent conversion of his soul to Christianity.

Nathan wrote the libretto and is composing all of the music for this opera. Much of the music is based on the Schonberg technique of composition with twelve tones. The opera will be performed publicly in April 1977 and is Nathan's composition thesis.

Nathan performed in a trumpet recital November 18 of this year. The piece, which he composed, is entitled "Hidden Chorale- Real Fugue in Almost Jazz Style."

Aside from his composition and study, Nathan spends time as the Minister of Youth and Music at the First Baptist Church of Jeffersonville, Indiana.

Vicki Corbitt takes her husband's activities in stride. She looks forward to the time when hard work and concentrated efforts will reap benefits and allow them a little time for relaxation. She confides that it isn't easy but she is willing to wait.

Vicki pursues her own interests as an Administrative Assistant in a Government Bonding Institution of Pretrial Services. She enjoys her work. She also stays busy as the mother of two active children, Heather and Zachary. Both the children seem to show a special interest in music.

When asked how they like Louisville, the Corbitts admitted that they prefer a small town atmosphere. They added that they miss the hospitality, peacefulness, and crisp air a small community offers.

The Corbitt's future plans include the reception of a new baby in February, and someday settling in a small town.

Nathan plans to continue his education in music. He explains that his real interests lie in the composition on music dramas and operas.

"...and I would like to get my Doctorate Degree in music," Nathan adds with a glimmer in his eye. "I think that Dr. Nathan Corbitt has a nice ring to it, don't you?"

Our congratulations to Nathan on his accomplishments and we agree Dr. Nathan Corbitt has a nice ring.

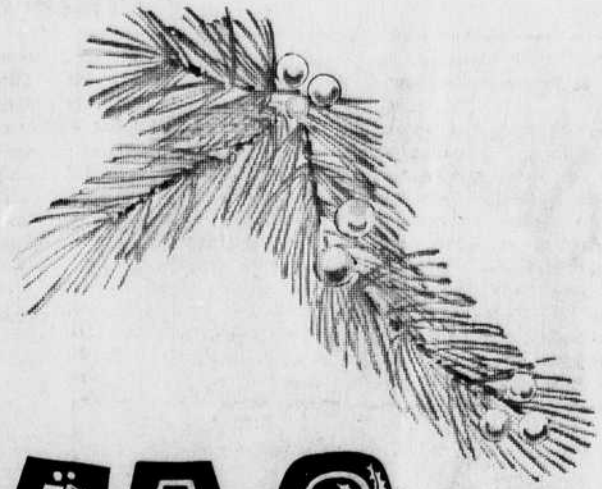
Also Vicki, our hats are off to you. Few would have the stamina and courage to do what you are doing. Just remind Nathan occasionally - "Behind every good man is a better woman."

Best wishes from all the Valley to all of you.



WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY...

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Silent Night Holy Night



Sing His praises joyfully for it is

Christmastime! Reverently, we

reflect upon the wonder

of that first Holy night as

we share the hope of the

season with our many

friends and neighbors. Good

will to all men is in our

hearts, with special

good wishes and warm

gratitude to

our valued patrons.

McMurray's Chevrolet Company Inc.

Black Mountain

John Deere Lawn and Leisure

Black Mountain

Davidson-Burnette Oil Co.

Swannanoa

Black Mountain Exxon Servicenter

Swannanoa Fish & Steak House

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Sammons Communications, Inc.

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The Northwestern Bank

Black Mountain-Swannanoa

Rice's Grocery & Gulf Service

Swannanoa

Buckners Exxon Service

Swannanoa

Williams Bros. Fuel Oil

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Black Mountain Auto Parts

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Western Auto Store

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Black Mountain

Burgess Phillip's 66

Black Mountain

Clevenger Knitting Mills

Black Mountain

Deluxe Dry Cleaners

Swannanoa

Light Ye Candles

Then be ye glad, good people,
This night of all the year,
And light up your candles,
For His star it shineth clear.

- Old English carol

