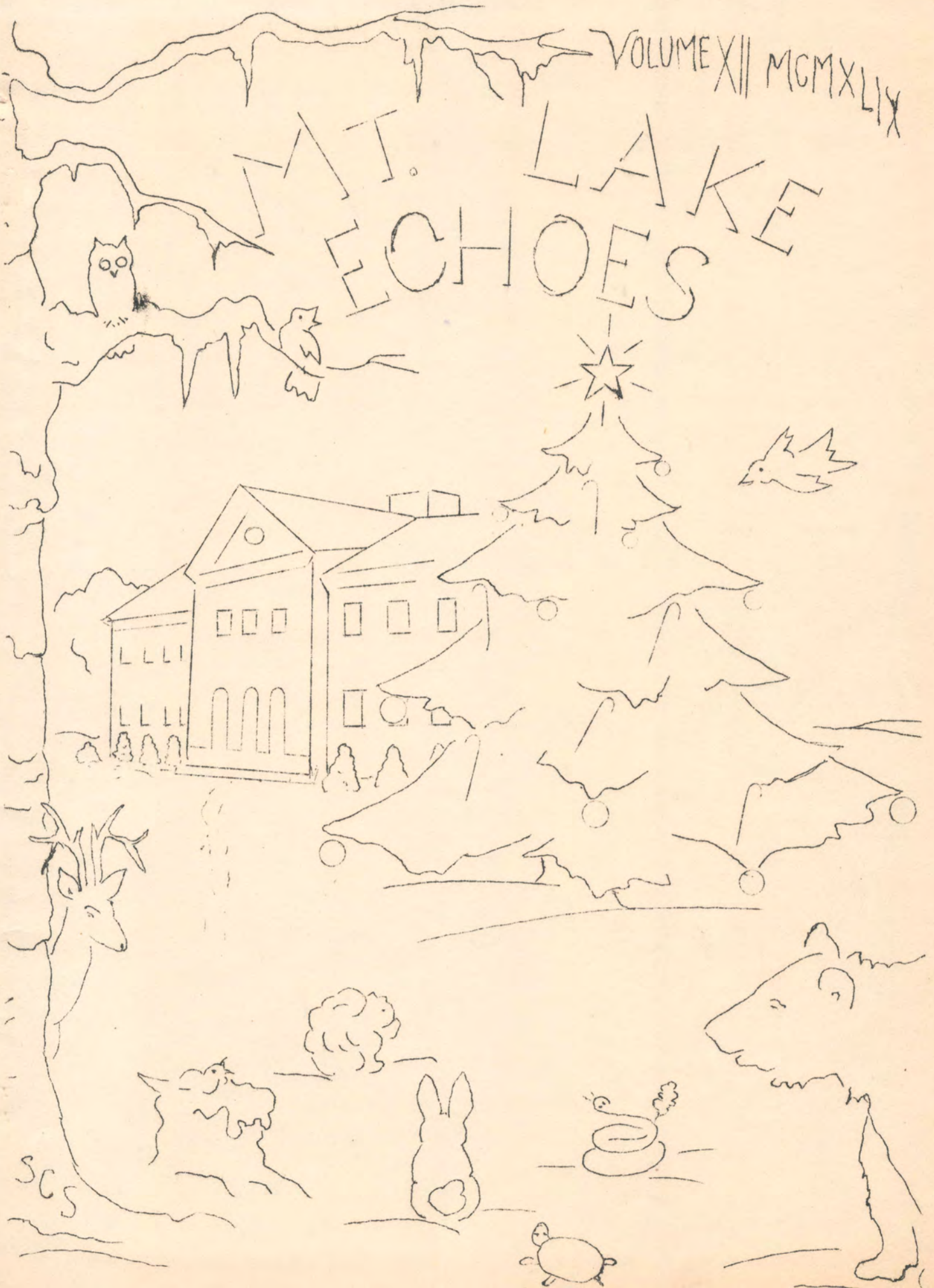


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MT. LAKE ECHOES



THE MOUNTAIN LAKE ECHOES 1949

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As we look ahead to the coming year with expectations, we also look back, mostly with pleasure, at the year just passed. Many who are reading this spent an enjoyable summer at Mountain Lake pursuing the science of biology and related fields. We use the word enjoyable with considerable trepidation. Undoubtedly the time spent in research, studying, field trips and sports was enjoyable, but those at Mountain Lake last summer had the elements to contend with now and then. It was one of the wettest summers on record. In spite of the rain the temperature didn't get below forty or above eighty-four and the humidity didn't quite reach the saturation point. When the sun did choose to come out it was warm and pleasant.

Many of us had never been to Mountain Lake before. After leaving Blacksburg, the nearest town of some size, we faced the high imposing mountains. For those whose lives had been spent in a flat country the first trip up to the Lake was an unusual experience, for a trip up meant, most assuredly, a trip down. Ere long most of us became accustomed to the ride and ceased to worry if we were sure that the driver was not incapacitated in any way.

The Alpine beauty of the hotel, if not invested in fog, was our first sight of civilization after reaching the top. The Lake, calm but cold, was especially beautiful with its curtain of hemlocks and rhododendrons. The road ahead became rough but, at the end, we were welcomed by the rustic beauty of the Station. The cabins, spread out among the trees, and the laboratory, in majestic stone, made us realize that the trip was worth the long and perilous journey.

Editor

GREETINGS!

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OF YOU! MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE JOYFUL AND YOUR REFLECTIONS SATISFYING.

The curriculum next session probably will include courses in Acoelomate Invertebrates, Bacteriology, General Physiology, Hydrobiology, Morphology of the Animal Cell, Plant Ecology, Plant Morphology, and Plant Taxonomy. What will you NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION be??? Make your reservation before March 15.

Director

SCIENTIFIC TALKS

First Term: C. H. Pope, "Amphibians and Reptiles of China"; C. A. Bogert, "Reptiles of North America"; G. M. Lawson, "Arthropods as Vectors of Disease"; L. V. Foster, "Evolution of the Microscope".

Second Term: L. R. Cleveland, "Oxygen- a tool in Cytological Investigation"; Arthur W. Burke, "Oxygen Poisoning- A Physiological Problem"; A. M. Winchester, "Gene Mutations"; Perry C. Holt, "The Rhynchobdellidae- an economic and taxonomic report"; J. C. Pearson, "The Blue Crab"; L. R. Cleveland, "Evolution of Sex"; C. F. Byers, "Biology in the College Curriculum"; R. E. Bellamy, "Malaria in Southern Georgia"; C. S. Shoup, "Studies on Metabolic Requirements of Fungi".

IMPROVEMENTS

This summer marked the acquisition of a piano by the Station. Although the organ was serving well for the "sings" on Sunday nights it was thought that they could be livened up a bit with a piano. All the members of the Station contributed to the piano fund and one was purchased for eighty-five dollars.

A drive was also initiated by the members of the Station to get more records for the phonograph. So, if anyone who is reading this will be at the Station next summer, be sure to bring up a few records for our collection.

Since we left the Station this summer the following improvements have been made: A wood and coal shelter was built on the rear of the kitchen of size 10' x 12'. New shingles were put on the rest of the older buildings, and the broken slates on the roof of the laboratory have been replaced.

ALUMNOTES

We have not heard from very many people who were at the Lake this summer but here is a resume of where most are:

Tom Brooks and Max Feinman are at VPI with Al Boole; Mary Jane Shirley, Cornelia Tuten, Dorothy Tabor, Bill Hart, Walter Richards, and Ray Pennington are new additions to the graduate school at the University. Caroline Simons is in Philadelphia studying to be a technician, Fred Mitchell and Walter Whitehurst are at the University of Virginia Medical School, Zona Bennet is in the graduate school at Emory University, Susan Smith is working at the University of Georgia doing archeological drawings, John Porter is teaching at the Miller School outside of Charlottesville, Arthur Burke is starting work at Oak Ridge, Jack Davis is teaching biology at Washington and Lee University, Joe Alvis is preparing to enter Medical School at the University of Tennessee.

For the most part all the rest of the Mountain Lakers are back at their old jobs.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Sports

This year marked an important step in sports at Mountain Lake. The tennis court, long a dream, became an actuality. Led by Dr. Reynolds the court was raked and rolled into shape and the first game was played on July 30.

Volleyball was especially popular in the evenings. Sparked by the squealing spectators many exciting games were played. Perhaps the greatest improvement in playing was shown by Miss Over-Flo Hester whose graceful playing excited the interest of various male spectators.

Croquet, as ever, was the sport of the month. Many wicked shots were made, tempers lost and scores evened on the gently sloping court. The drones and children became very expert at the game and often threatened to expell the "adults" from their court.

Although often hidden in a pool of water, the horseshoe pits were the center of activity after lunch. Many games were sweated out over the steaming pits and quite often the clang of shoe against post was not heard for some minutes.

Pingpong and badminton had sporadic followers. The most important recreation after lunch being a little extra sack time.

Those more hearty individuals whose winter sport it is to bathe in the snow found the swimming pool a delightful place in the afternoon. The only requirement was that the first man or lady in had to break the ice for the others.

For those who became weary during the day listening to lectures and looking through microscopes, bridge was a very popular game. The men had it out with the ladies almost every evening on the porch of Chapman. The games were presided over by Inez Shirley who dealt a mean hand.

Not considered a sport by those who go, but considered as a sport by those who stay, are field trips. Many trips worthy of note were made. Besides those taken locally by various members of the station for pleasure to such places as Castle Rock, Bald Knob, Bear Cliff, the Cascades, etc. the classes, mainly the Animal Ecology class and Palentology class made several extended trips. The Ecology class collaborated with the Bryophytes class in a trip to White Top. The Palentology class made several trips into West Virginia and to Clifton Forge, Virginia.

SOCIAL NOTES

During the season the station had the privilege of being the host to a great number of guests, some of whom were: Dean and Mrs. James S. Wilson, Dr. and Mrs. S. W. Britton, Dr. and Mrs. Clay G. Huff, Miss M. W. Jepps, Dr. Paul R. Burch, Colonel Robert P. Carroll, Colonel R. Stribling Marshall, Dr. James A. Fowler, Dr. Boyd Harshbarger and Dr. Max Ellis.

Square dancing, although properly considered under sports or physical exercise, was very popular with all of the station personnel. Age was no barrier to participation. The dances were under the capable direction of Chester Mann who called the figures. He was ably assisted by the phonograph, Paul White and Tom Brooks. The dances were held almost every Saturday night either at the station or at the hotel. The station entertained guests from the hotel several Saturday nights who mistook biologists for mountaineers and cautiously looked for demijons, with cider of course. Round dances were given between square dances for those who were still able to stand up. After the dances a small party was usually given on the porch of Schweinetz for the couples who had attended.

On Sunday nights the customary "sing" was held. Much credit should be given to Dr. Hobbs who puffed along with the organ with much patience during the first four weeks. The songs were lively and spirited and sung with gusto and determination. Among the favorites was "The American Farm Bureau Spirit." During the remainder of the session the "sings" were livened up considerably by a piano which was purchased by members of the station.

Movies were shown on several Saturday nights by Ernest Alderman. Although no popcorn was sold, coke bottles were in evidence. The new coca cola vending machine was kept busy.

The annual open house was held by the station for hotel guests and people of the surrounding community. It was well attended even though it was a rather rainy day. Refreshments were served and demonstrations of materials studied were given by the various classes and investigators. The director presented a talk concerning the work of the station and the buests were given a conducted tour around the station.

Mrs. Ivey F. Lewis entertained all the children of the station under six years of age. Refreshments were served.

De Schweinetz Cottate entertained at a buffet supper in honor of Jack Davis who was to be married several days later. Those not present were entertained also before the party ended.

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