

Blue Ridge Assembly celebrates centennial

by PATRICK ENFINGER

www.mmpc.net — "Eureka, we have found it," exclaimed Dr. Willis D. Weatherford from the top of a tree on October 6, 1906. With those words, the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly was born in Black Mountain, N.C. (outside of Asheville, N.C.). Earlier that day he and

Dr. A.L. Phillips had rented a horse and buggy from Asheville and drove it to Black Mountain. Weatherford was searching for a place to build a new summer conference center for YMCA and YWCA groups, youth conferences, adult conferences, and professional trainings. When

the trail became too much for the buggy, the two hiked. A few miles up, Weatherford climbed a tree to see what the view would be. Upon reaching the top, he gazed upon the Blue Ridge Mountains and exclaimed to his friend they had found the place.

After several years of planning, fundraising, and construction, Blue Ridge hosted its first group in 1912. Since then,

over a million youth and adults have attended conferences, reunions, and trainings at Blue Ridge. Originally a summer-only operation, limited winter operations were started with the formation of Lee School for Boys in the 1920s. In 1933



THIS CARD SHOWS Lee Hall and is postmarked Blue Ridge Jun 8, 1914. Lee Hall had a summer-only post office in the basement. This card shows a grassy area in the lower right, the area where a swimming pool would later be built. — photo courtesy of Patrick Enfinger

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ADDRESS SIDE OF Lee Hall postcard. — photo courtesy of Patrick Enfinger

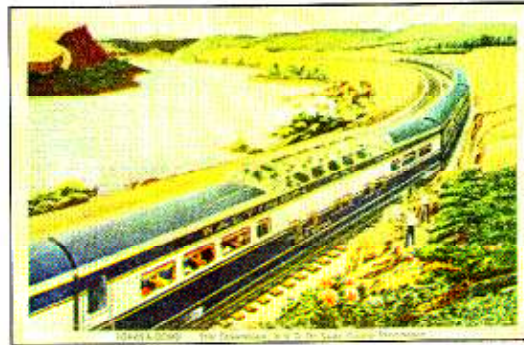
**Susan Says
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What a true travel experience this must have been. But like today, train travel for long distances needed all these services because what takes today a

few hours to fly took days on the train. But, that was when life was simple and the traveler took along a good book, relaxed and arrived mentally and physically refreshed from the journey. There was no way to reach these passengers other than an occasional telegram

delivered at scheduled stops. Now, in the age of constant communication with laptops and cell phones, even if these luxury train cars returned, the old fashion JOY of traveling would not. That is when a vacation was a vacation. And, getting there was half the fun.

However, as postcard collectors we can sit back and let our minds, if not bodies, drift back into the former modes of transportation and enjoy the ride. This is a great group of postcards. Interiors of ocean liners and rail sell for \$15 to \$30.



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Black Mountain College, a new progressive arts college, was founded by a group of teachers and students from Winter Park, Fla. The school used the Blue Ridge site until 1941 when it moved to its own site. In 1970, Blue Ridge became a full-time, year-round operation. In 1999, the movie "28 Days" was filmed at Blue Ridge. Blue Ridge is listed on the Register

of National Historic Places. The largest and oldest building on the property is Robert E. Lee Hall. This three-story wooden structure with tall white columns was designed by Louis E. Jaffade. All the wood for Lee Hall, with the exception of the columns, was harvested from the property. Today, Blue Ridge has over 50 buildings.

Blue Ridge once had its own summer post office in the basement of Lee Hall. "Blue Ridge NC" was how post cards and letters were postmarked,

My earliest card postmarked "Blue Ridge NC" is 1914 and the latest card is 1958. In the early days people could address letters simply to "Blue Ridge NC" and they would get there. Since the closing of the post office in Lee Hall, mail is taken down the mountain to the post office in Black Mountain.

Post cards have recorded the history of Blue Ridge. Post cards show the name changes of Blue Ridge, vacant areas where buildings would later be built, areas that have changed purpose, buildings that no longer exist, and the development of roads.

Post cards even show how fashions have changed over the last century.

When Blue Ridge was established in 1906 it was known as "Blue Ridge Association." In 1933 it changed its name to "Blue Ridge College" and in 1944 it became "Blue Ridge Assembly." My earliest card using "Association" is postmarked 1912 (postmarked Black Mountain, the year of the first conference) and the

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THIS CARD SHOWS the entrance to Blue Ridge. It's hard to believe these old cars could make it up the steep mountain roads, unpaved at the time, leading to Lee Hall. The brick entrance way was taken down a long time ago because larger cars and busses could not fit through the opening. — photo courtesy of Patrick Enfinger



THIS CARD SHOWS one of the earliest groups to use Blue Ridge, a YWCA conference. The women, in their long dresses and hats are on the steps of Lee Hall. One hundred years later, large groups still sit on the steps of Lee Hall for group photos. — photo courtesy of Patrick Enfinger



THIS CARD SHOWS an early view of the lobby of Lee Hall. Notice the men's suits and lady's dresses, all in a time before air-conditioning. The lobby today looks much like the lobby on this post card. The lobby front desk was moved a long time ago, but the rocking chairs are still there. On one side of the lobby hangs a portrait of Robert E. Lee, on the other side hangs one of Abraham Lincoln. — photo courtesy of Patrick Enfinger



THIS CARD SHOWS the swimming pool and tents next to Lee Hall. Post cards showing tents are rare. Tents have not been used for decades. A mountain stream feeds the very cold pool. The pool is no longer in this location and is now a play area with a small stream. Bathing suit fashions of the day included tops and long trunks for males. — photo courtesy of Patrick Enfinger

MAIL AUCTION

Adele Kempf

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 Phone Bids Not Accepted E-MAIL Welcome: delk10@juno.com
 AUCTION NO. 6/06 CLOSING DATE: Sept. 8, 2006

Barr's Rules & Grading Apply

LOT NO.	DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED VALUE
1.	Liberty Bell & Independence Hall, Tuck Series 109, G	\$6.00
2.	Ragged Continentals - same series as above, G	\$6.00
3.*	Fourth of July - same series as above, G	\$6.00
4.	First Fourth of July - same series as above, G	\$6.00
5.	6 PFB 5587 Dutch children - tile bkgd., G	\$12.00
6.	MO Sullivan Rt. 66 Snell's Restaurant, 3 views on card	\$4.00
7.	NM Santa Rose Rt. 66 Adobe Inn - 3 views on cards	\$4.00
8.	Cincinnati Riverfront stadium, G	\$3.00
9.*	3 Baseball's Great - Connie Mack, Ed. Walsh, & Jack Chierbro, bl&wh - non postcard back	\$5.00
10.	FL Miami Beach Hotel Flamingo golf game w/border, VG	\$5.00
11.	15 Colorful Whiskey Decanters, chrome, G	\$8.00
12.	TN Rock City, 10 cards - chrome, VG	\$3.00
13.	5 Postcards cancelled St. Louis, Mo., South B'way RPO 08 & 09, G	\$5.00
14.*	A & B Elvis - vote for stamp of your choice, G	\$3.00
15.	14 Mainzer "Little Folks", prt. Western Germany, VG	\$6.00
16.*	12 cards, Story of Three Little Pigs, chrome, VG	\$12.00
17.	2 cards of couples - embroidered cards signed Gumier, G	\$5.00
18.*	12 cards, pub. Coral Lee Hostage Series H-1-H12, G	\$10.00

19.*	3 signed Taylor Tots in swim wear, G	\$10.00
20.	5 Birds by Morris Katz, G	\$5.00
21.	20 cards of children, signed "Bonnie", pub. Mainzer, prt. Belgium, VG	\$5.00
22.	6 comics signed Elmer, G	\$5.00
23.	Gnome blowing horn - unable to read signature, G	\$5.00

Lots 24 to 38 - Christmas in July

24.	3 Tuck Angels, 2 series 102, 1 series 106, G	\$6.00
25.	PFB 9103 3 angels - 1 w/songbook, 2 w/deer, G	\$6.00
26.	2 Rebus cards, Whitney pub., G	\$6.00
27.*	Little boy dressed w/Christmas Greens, cpy, Winsch, VG	\$8.00
28.	2 Christmas scenes - silk cards, G	\$5.00
29.	5 Greetings w/children, 2 Tuck Series 531, 3 Winsch bcks., G-VG	\$5.00
30.	2 cards w/booklets, 1 cpy, Winsch, G	\$5.00
31.*	3 Angels w/deer - full lgt. Angels pub EAS, G	\$6.00
32.	2 Children in snow storm - same series, pub. Tuck, G	\$8.00
33.	Christmas Greeting w/attached die cut booklet, VG	\$4.00
34.	Santa w/bag, E.L. Series 114, G	\$8.00
35.	Santa carrying a tree, E.L. 114, G	\$8.00
36.*	Santa w/angel in sleigh, E.L. Series 114, G	\$8.00
37.	Santa carrying bags, G	\$5.00
38.*	Santa talking to boy, signed Clapsaddle, G	\$15.00



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latest, 1941. No post cards use "Blue Ridge College," instead "Association" continued to be used or simply "Blue Ridge NC" was used. My first postmarked card using the word "Assembly" is 1948.

My collection of post cards from Blue Ridge started several years ago. While at an antique fair, I stumbled across an unmarked real photo post card. I recognized it as Blue Ridge. From there I started attending post card shows, watching on-line auction sites, and actively collecting Blue Ridge cards. I now have over 300 cards in

my collection. I first went to Blue Ridge in middle school, spending a week every summer at Blue Ridge attending Blue Ridge Leaders School. I attended Leaders School through high school. In my college years, I joined the Assembly's summer staff for four years. I have since returned to Blue Ridge over the years for several conferences.

As Blue Ridge celebrates its centennial, it is fun to put the pieces of its history together through post cards. Many people have walked past the columns of Lee Hall since it first opened. Many of their memories have been preserved on old post cards. May the next century include even more post cards.



THIS CARD SHOWS an aerial view of Blue Ridge. The big building is Lee Hall. The building directly behind Lee Hall is the old Dining Hall. The old Dining Hall was torn down in the 1980s and is now a parking lot. Also shown are other buildings, all of which are still standing today. The pool, in the lower right, was later replaced with a modern pool. — photo courtesy of Patrick Enfinger