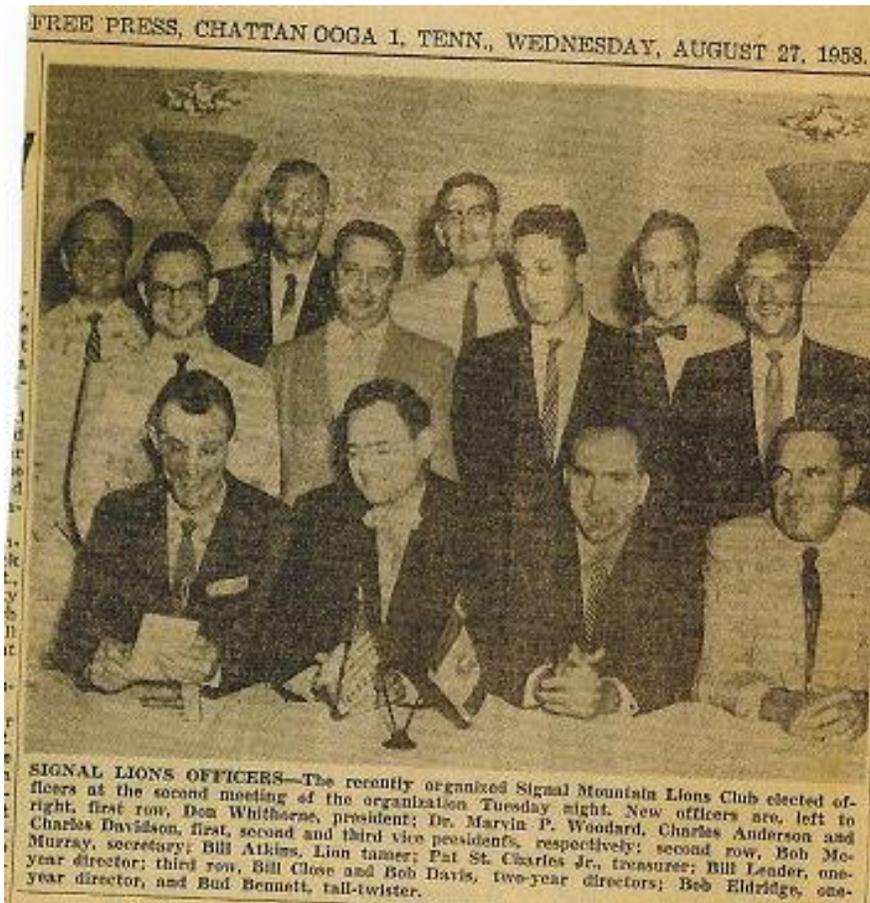


## Lions Club at Work

On Signal Mountain, the 4th of July Parade and Fireworks Celebration is an annual reminder of the closeness of the community, and the High School was built because the community wanted it and was willing to underwrite much of its cost. The sidewalks are almost crowded with walkers, and a sense of peacefulness surrounds us.



In the fall of 1958, a group of 15 men gathered to find the Signal Mountain Lions Club. It became a member of one of the largest service Clubs in the world and have never regretted it. The activities of this club over the ensuing years would enhance this community beyond any other group on the mountain, and its projects today perfectly reflect our motto "We Serve".

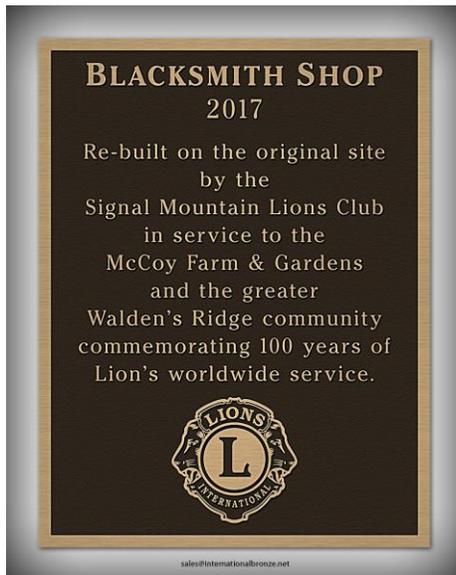
The International Lions Club recently celebrated 100 years of service globally, and in this centennial year, Signal Mountain Lions began another major vision-focused project, the Lions District 12-O Low Vision Rehabilitation Project, focused on providing rehabilitation support for vision-impaired citizens. The Club led the formation of this program in our district and provided leadership as the program expanded throughout the state.



For almost 50 years, SM Lions have provided the mountain with annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Labor Day Bar-B-Q's, where we gather and eat southern cooking at its best. One year, the weather did not cooperate, and the 1800 pounds of "Pork and Beans" were sold primarily at the take-out. That day had a spirit that can only be produced with adversity.



There is a Christmas Train tradition here on the mountain, originally built by a local artisan. Each year children of all ages climbed upon and shared its magic. It had lapsed in disrepair when a group of Lions volunteered to restore it to its original splendor. Sweat equity, lumber and paint worked a miracle. Once again, at Christmas time, it stands at the summit to greet everyone's children, an enduring symbol of the character of the mountain.



In Walden, a new community project is underway with the restoration of the McCoy property. It is a 19<sup>th</sup> century home and grounds are being restored for community use. In addition to providing food preparation services for their annual fund-raising picnics, the SM Lions have volunteered to restore the original Blacksmith Shed.

Another community signature is to operate the football game concession stands, as volunteers, for the SMMHS boosters Clubs. Lions do this so the parents can watch their kids play ball. Each year now for almost a decade, the clarion call, “want Jalapenos with your Nachos?” signals the coming of fall.

Several years ago, Lions decided to expand their focus to include the seasoned citizens of the mountain, and for several years operated a lunch/Bingo for seniors at the Bachman center. We now call the Bingo each Monday at Alexian and can assure you these seniors know their bingo. The club now has nearly 100 members, not counting almost 200+ Leos, and meets twice a month at the Mountain Arts Community Center to hear an interesting program and coordinate our myriad activities. Lions also help maintain this center, and The Bachman Community Center in Walden as further examples of service to the community.

These efforts reflect pride in our community and that we are ever mindful of opportunities to contribute to its further development.

By George Davenport  
November 2020