

The Smoky Mountain Times

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Around Town

The outstanding job done by the Swain County Rescue Squad during the recent Fontana drownings is talk of the town and we too must commend the local unit for their tireless and unselfish efforts put forth during the time of need.

The Swain County Athletic Association will have an "on the field" meeting Friday night at 6:30. Directors and officials are urged to attend.

The Lions Club will hold their regular meeting tonight at 7:15 in the dining room of the Swain Hotel.

We don't know if you've noticed the difference around town. But in case you have, we thought we would pass on the lack of young people this weekend is due to the fact the Swain High Seniors class is in Washington, D. C. on their annual "Trip to Washington."

The State Highway Patrol reports only one accident in Swain County this week. While making 8 contacts, one was charged with speeding. Also reported were five other hazardous moving violations and 2 non-hazardous violations. There were no charges of drunk driving and no pedestrian violations. The Department patrolled 1,240 miles in the County from April 7 through 13th.

Softball Meeting Set Friday

The Swain County Athletic Association will try once more to get the '69 softball season off the ground and start in some direction this Friday afternoon at 6:30. All officers, board of directors and team representatives are urged to be present at 6:30.

The meeting will be held on the softball field behind Dent's Cafe, and is open to the public. Team entrance fee must be paid by the first of May with the first game scheduled for the 19th.

A special reminder to all men over 35 and interested in playing on a senior team, please call or drop by and see Rev. Bowden at the First Baptist Church. Two or more senior teams are planned this season.

April 20 thru 26 Set Aside As National Library Week

The National Library Week program is sponsored by the National Book Committee, in cooperation with the American Library Association, to provide effective channels for citizen action in developing lifetime reading habits and library resources. The week of April 20 to April 26 has been set aside as National Library Week.

With reading and library development as its theme, the National Library Week Program enlists the support of community leaders at the local, state and national levels. It dramatizes the importance of the library as a democratic institution providing free access to adequate information for all—a guarantee of the right of free inquiry and expression in America.

Each of the Presidents since the program began has joined their fellow citizens in supporting the National Library Week Program. They have understood its message: that each individual should have free access to adequate information. America has awakened to the fact that an informed community makes for a strong nation.

Citizens of North Carolina can be proud of their 352 Public Libraries. Largely supported by local, county, and city funds, these libraries



Members of the more than a dozen rescue squads out on the Fontana Lake Sunday morning. are shown above as they take a break between trips

Swain County Commissioners Hold Regular Monthly Meeting

The Swain County Board of Commissioners met Monday, April 14th, this being a regular monthly meeting in lieu of the first Monday, as the first Monday was a legal holiday. All members were present.

Mr. Jack Lyday of the Extension Office met with the Board to discuss the forthcoming bond election. Mr. Lyday pointed out the importance of an election as soon as possible so that an application for federal grants could be processed should the election be approved.

Mr. Lyday, speaking in behalf of the Swain County Planning Board, said, "It is of the utmost importance that we hold this election at the earliest possible date. We are only hurting ourselves and our county by not having water and sewer facilities available to prospective industrial firms."

Mr. Lyday went on to say that Mr. Bob Goforth, State Representative for Commerce and Industrial Expansion, is working hand-in-hand with the Swain County Planning Board and has assured the Board of 100 per cent cooperation in locating new industrial plants once the park is made available by the county.

In other action, Mr. Leroy English of the Welfare Department met with the Commissioners and presented the Welfare Department Financial Statement for the month.

The Commissioners

approved a motion to update the Swain County Law Library. The existing library was donated to the County by Superior Court Judge Thad Bryson.

Odell Shuler noted, "The County is fortunate to have such a fine library. It would be a shame to stand by and let it get outdated when it is to our advantage to keep it updated."

A motion was made and approved that a resolution from the Commissioners be sent to the Swain County

Rescue Squad for a job well done in regard to the recent drownings. It was also approved for the County to make a donation to the rescue squad during their current drive to raise money to purchase new equipment.

The resolution made by the Commissioners states: "Be it resolved that this Board and all citizens of this County are deeply indebted to the Swain County Rescue Squad for their outstanding and unselfish endeavors in

recovering the bodies of Douglas Watkins and Reba Debty, drowning victims in Fontana Lake, and that said squad and all others aiding them should be commended."

The motion was passed by unanimous consent of all members.

With no other business on hand, the Commissioners adjourned.

The next regular monthly meeting will be held Monday, May 5th.

Local Attractions Win National Recognition

Bryson City tourist attractions and facilities have won national recognition in the newest edition of the country's best selling tourist guidebook, the 1969 Mobil Travel Guide, now on sale at Mobil stations and bookstores.

Out of all the cities and towns in the U. S., only 4,208 were considered to have enough tourist appeal for inclusion in the guide.

Local tourist attractions cited by the Mobil guide include Nantahala National Forest, and Fontana Dam.

In addition to giving information on where to go,

the books list over 23,000 places to eat and sleep with each one rated on a one to five star basis. One star indicates "good, better than average." Five means "one of the best in the country." Only 35 establishments have five star status in the new edition. Check marks indicate places considered to be outstanding values.

All ratings are reevaluated each year. Ratings are based on reports from a corps of trained inspectors, local and regional consultants and an analysis of the over 100,000 pieces of reader mail received by the editors.

discounts of up to 50 percent at a number of popular tourist attractions.

The guide is published in seven 300-page regional editions and is now in its eleventh year of publication. It averages about a million copies sold each year.

Pre-School Registration Set At Alarka

Registration for students who will be six year of age by October 15, 1969, in the Alarka School District will be April 25 between the hours of 8:30 and 11:30. Each child must be accompanied by a parent. Immunization and birth certificates are required for school records.

Registration for other school districts will be announced at a later date.

Swain Places Second In Beautification Program

Swain High School has been cited by Governor Bob Scott for their beautification program in conjunction with the Governor's "Keep America Beautiful" Contest.

The second place award was presented by Governor Scott during a luncheon meeting in the Sir Walter Raleigh Hotel in Raleigh.

West Hendersonville High School in Henderson County took top honors for their anti-litter campaign.

Leslie Boney, Jr. gave the Governor a brief summary of what the project consisted of. Boney said, "Swain High School's beautification program included the planting of 900 pine seedlings on the school grounds, a roadside pick-up program, the beautification of the school parking facilities, and a county-wide anti-litter campaign."

Miss Roseanna Taylor accepted the second place award for Swain High.

Members of the Swain High delegation on hand for the presentation were Mrs. Phyllis Claxton, 5th period Civics Class teacher and sponsor for the local clean-up campaign, Janet Brooks, Sonja Cline, Mike Burnette and Miss Taylor.

Mrs. Claxton told the TIMES that, "The beautification project will continue here in Swain County and the continued cooperation of everyone will be greatly appreciated."

Jackson Jaycee's Sponsor Dance

The Jackson County Jaycee's will sponsor a dance Saturday night April 26th in the Sylva National Guard Armory. Dance time 8 until midnight.

Second Body Recovered; Six Day Dragging Operation Ends

One of the biggest dragging operations ever held in Swain County ended Sunday morning about 11:25 when rescue workers pulled the body of Reba Debty from the icy waters of Lake Fontana.

The discovery ended a 6-day search by the Swain County Rescue Squad and visiting rescue units from as far away as Buncombe County.

The girls body was found lying on the bottom of Lake Fontana in approximately 50 feet of water some 40 yards from the south bank of the Tuckasee River.

The 13 year old girl and a 22 year old companion drowned Monday evening about 9 a.m. when a 12 foot boat in which they were riding with four other youths capsized.

The body of 22 year old Douglas Watkins was recovered Wednesday afternoon about 12:30. Watkins was found some 30 feet from the south bank in approximately 30 feet of water.

Dragging operations began almost immediately Monday evening after four companions of the drowned victims were rescued from the cold water some two hours after the small boat capsized.

When efforts to recover the bodies proved fruitless Tuesday, a plea for help went out to neighboring rescue units.

Visiting units, some 10 to 12 strong, searched Wednesday and rotated Thursday and Friday. An all out search, with help from 14 units, was launched Saturday morning with visiting units as far as Buncombe and Haywood County as well as our next door neighbors Andrews, Nantahala and Cherokee Town coming in to assist the work, but never stopping, local unit.

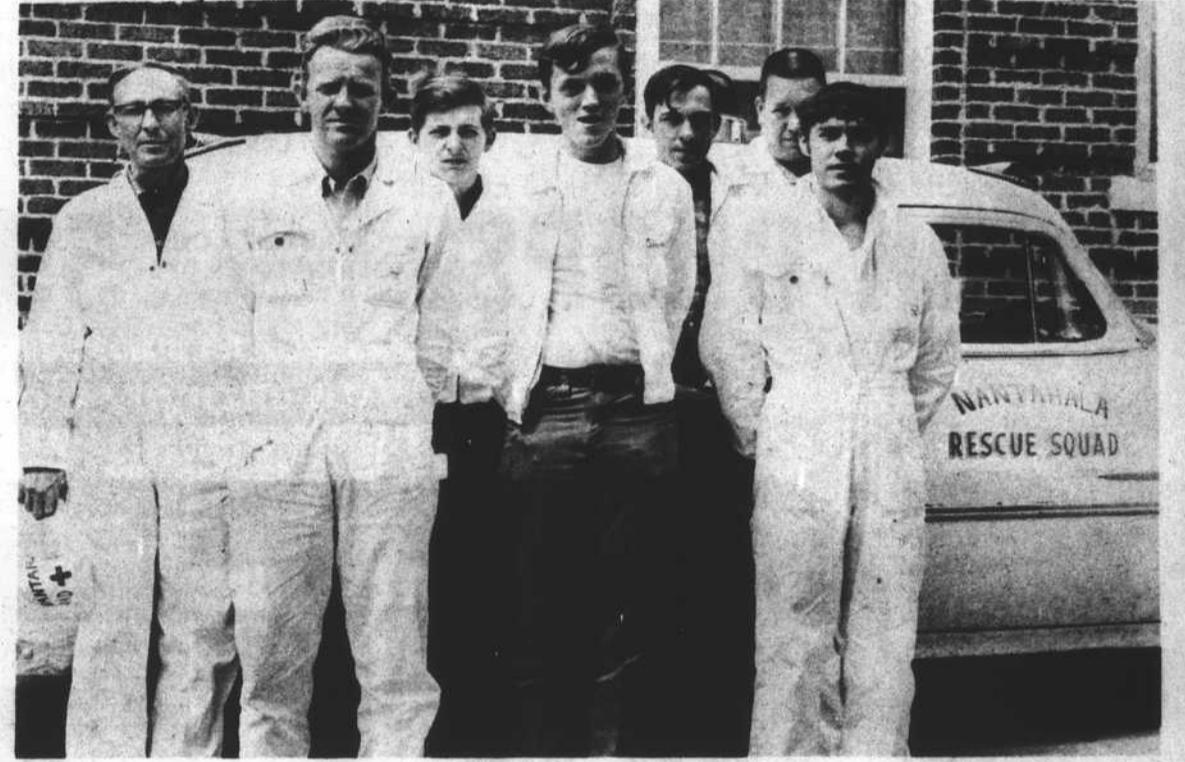
According to our count, at least 38 rescue boats were in the water at the time the second body was pulled from the water Sunday morning. Hoyt Owensby, a member of the Nantahala Rescue Squad, recovered the body.

Everyone we have talked to, including Sheriff Vincent Gasaway, Swain County Board of Commissioners, and the City Fathers have had nothing but

high praise for the manner in which the Swain County Rescue Unit "handled this emergency."

While the rescue unit was

giving its time and effort, local citizens and merchants were on hand with all necessary items needed to support the dragging operations.



Nantahala Rescue workers are pictured above. Hoyt Owensby, second from left, recovered the body of Reba Debty from the Fontana Lake Sunday morning.

Volunteer Workers Named For County Cancer Drive

The Swain County Cancer Drive started here April 1st. Nearly three weeks have passed and the drive is moving much slower than anticipated by volunteer workers.

According to Chairman Mrs. Claire Verner, only three donations have been received thus far. Heritage Quilting Corp. has contributed \$183.83, Annie T. Hoyle \$2.00, and Frank Otte \$25.00. Mrs. Verner feels that it would speed things up if the people of Swain County "knew who they could make their donations to."

Mrs. Verner states that "if the residents of the county would please have their donations ready when one of the volunteer workers calls on them, it would be a considerable help in a cause that means so much to our county and our health. Please let one call do. Don't make the workers make a second visit."

Volunteer workers for the '69 crusade and the areas are: Individual clubs: Whittier Community Club, Silvermine Community Club, Governor's Island Community Club and the five community clubs of

Cherokee.

Individual workers are: East Main Street, Jeanette Welch, West Main Street, Maggie Warren; North Everett Street, Blanche Anders and Susie Simonds; Swain County Hospital, Jean Wilson; East Highway, Jean Varner; Deep Creek, Rev. Jack Hyde; Toot Hollow, Clara Mae Watson and G. A. Girls; and Kirklands Creek and Shepherds Creek, Glenn Thomas and Boy Scouts.

Airport Hill, Ann Jensen; Magnavox, Elmer Miller; Fairlane, Bill Wilson; Sealtest, James Coggins; Pepsi Cola, Lucille Brintnall; Arlington, Mrs. Wallace Calhoun; Alarka, Lyndon Conley and Boy Scouts; Lauda, Edna Winkle; Hospital Hill, Louise Cammaratto; Bryson Avenue and Bryson Walk, Dot Lyday and 4-H; and Spring Street, Mrs. Foster Lane.

JobCorp Mrs. Roger DeHart; Bryson Branch, Glenn McKinney and Ernestine Coleman; Highway West, Ruby Burrell; Baptist Church Street, Frances Bates; and Black Hill, Mrs. C. A. Casada, and School House Hill, Mrs. Vincent Thomas.

Local People Contribute To Rescue Operation

Swain County residents joined hand-in-hand with the local rescue squad in doing an outstanding job during the recent drowning incident.

Local officials had high praise for the many citizens that joined in relentlessly giving of their time and finances during this time of need.

Material needed in the dragging operation.

A total of \$299.90 in cash was collected. After expenditures a balance of \$138.63 was turned over to the Rescue Squad to be used for the purchase of new equipment.

Individuals and merchants making cash donations were, Tom Gibbs \$5.00, H. H. Smith \$1.00, Janice White \$1.00, Sherry Jenkins \$1.00, James Calhoun \$5.00, Robbie Robinson \$1.00, Fay McLean \$2.00, Mid Town Service Station \$5.00, O'Neal Muse \$5.00, John Dyre \$1.00, Harold Orr \$1.00, Lillian's Flower Shop \$5.00, Riverside Barbershop \$5.00, Your Home Store \$2.00, and Kelly Bennett \$10.00.

We have been asked to give a special thanks to the individual women and to the Woman's Auxiliary and the Eastern Star women for their donation of time and food to feeding the large numbers of rescue workers during their 6-day search.

Local merchants joining the contribution list were the Bryson City Ice Plant (all ice used during the operation), and the Pepsi Cola, Coca Cola, Nehi Bottling and Sealtest Milk Companies for their contributions of drinks and milk.

Also, the A & P, the P & J Market, Winchester's, Brendle's and Sandlin's Grocery for grocery items. Thanks go to Sneed's and Dent's Cafe for their contributions and to all the many churches and individual families that participated in providing the necessities of an effective rescue operation.

Bank employees \$7.25, George Owens \$5.00, V.N. Gasaway \$5.00, Sam Bowers \$5.00, M. C. Close Hardware \$5.00, Johnny Schuler \$5.00, Macon Furniture Mart \$5.00, Dr. Woody \$1.00, Harold Jenkins \$5.00, Otis Sittin \$5.00, John Breedlove \$5.00, Carl DeHart \$10.00, John DeHart \$10.00, J. D. Rochester \$5.00, Cain's Auto \$5.00, R. D. Sutton \$10.00, Cloer Uphostery Shop \$2.00, Clines Esso \$3.00, Glenn Jenkins \$2.00, and C. R. Crawford \$1.00.

Head Start Registration

Registration for Head Start will be held April 21st through 25th every day from 9:00 a. m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Red Cross Office in the Bryson City Courthouse. Any parent wishing his child to attend Head Start this summer should register this week.

If your child is not registered, he will not be able to attend. He must be six years old before October 15th to attend. The child does not have to be present to register. This registration is for Head Start only, not Pre-School.

Robert Kirkland \$1.00, Swain Motors \$5.00, Vance Wiggins \$1.00, Robert Randall \$5.00, Sam Decker \$1.00, Cable Gulf \$5.00, Smoky Mountain Tire Shop \$5.00, Parkway Barber Shop \$1.00, Dan Wood \$5.00, Dick Enley \$2.00, Smith's Grocery \$5.00, Linda Lowe \$1.00, Mitchell Grocery \$5.00, Suzie Simonds \$2.00, Maude Stalcup \$2.00, Willa Amburn \$1.00, Bill Bumgarner \$5.00, Fara Lee Rickman \$2, Swain Drug Store \$5.00, and Rite-Way Cleaners \$5.00.

Carolina Building Supply \$25.00, John Cope \$5.00, Eunice Beauty Shop \$5.00, Western Auto Store \$3.00, Jack D. Schuler \$1.00, Marshall Smith \$2.00, Sossamon Furniture \$5.00, L. C. Crisp \$5.00, Perbee Bennett \$3.00, Paul Douthit \$2.00, Stevenson 66 \$5.00, Bes-Berger \$4.00, Belk's \$5.00, Swain Electric \$5.00, Z.V. Howes \$1.00, and Sneed's Restaurant \$8.65.

Spring Seeding Sign-Up Closes

Tuesday, April 15 marked the final date farmers could request and receive ACP cost-sharing assistance for materials to be used in doing spring seeding.

April 15 was also the final date for placing applications for the home garden practice. The garden practice is for low-income farmers who are largely dependent on the farm for their livelihood.

According to Clemmie C. Lovin, ASCS Office Manager, other practices are available as long as funds are. Such other practices include lime for grasses and legumes, lime and fertilizer for improvement of pastures; hay, the drainage practices, timberstand improvement and spraying pastures with chemicals.

Miss Lovin urges all farmers to report use of materials to the ASCS office just as soon as practices are completed.