

# BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

DEVOTED 100% TO OUR COMMUNITY—THE GROWING SWANNANOVA VALLEY

Hometown Newspaper  
If You Live In  
★ Black Mountain ★ Montreat  
★ Ridgecrest ★ Swannanoa

Thursday, February 6, 1975, Volume 30, Number 18

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT BLACK MOUNTAIN, N.C. 28711

15 CENTS



**POLICE CAR TOTALED IN ACCIDENT** — Black Mountain Police Officer Ronnie Solesbee received only minor injuries in a one car accident early Monday morning which totaled the Chevrolet police car. Solesbee, enroute to answer an emergency call at 6:40 a.m. was headed West through town when he hit a patch of ice at the corner of Church and State Street, causing him to lose control of the car which struck a power pole. Investigating officers stated it was miraculous that Solesbee did not receive very serious injuries as the entire front end of the car was caved in. His head broke the windshield and the steering column on the inside was bent almost double. Solesbee required eight stitches for facial lacerations and received massive bruises. He was treated and released at Memorial Mission Hospital. He was reported in a satisfactory condition, at home, Tuesday morning. Black Mountain Police Officer James Wiseman, assisted by the Buncombe County Sheriff's Dept. investigated the accident.

## Outrage Over Power Bills Overwhelms UNC Panel

A member of the North Carolina Utilities Commission says the agency has received thousands of letters from consumers complaining about high electric power bills resulting from the fuel escalator clause.

"Nothing the commission has ever done has generated so much outpouring of criticism and dismay," Hugh Wells said in a telephone interview Sunday.

The commission has ordered a temporary roll back on the fuel clause by 25 percent. The roll back will remain in effect for a maximum of 60 days. The commission will decide whether to eliminate the clause, modify it or leave it as it is now.

Carolina Power & Light Co. and Duke Power Co. were given authority more than a year ago to use the automatic fuel escalator clause to increase rates resulting from the cost of fuel to generate electricity.

Shearon Harris, president of CP&L, and Carl Horn Jr., president of Duke Power, have indicated service will be reduced if they are not allowed to pass on to customers the full amount of fuel costs.

Harris said Sunday, "We have to figure what to cut in other operating expense which means that some phase of our service will have to be reduced."

He said CP&L has "no active plans to pursue an appeal" to the courts on the commission decision. He added, "Tomorrow we may have. I just don't know."

Horn said, "We won't leave our customers out in the cold and dark, but the sacrifice will have to be borne equitably between our stockholders and consumers."

Harris has said the roll back will cost CP&L \$3 million every month the 25 per cent reduction continues. Horn said it would cost Duke Power \$4 million a month.

Harris said his company "has no optional plans or backup game plan to deal with such a situation" created by the commission decision.

Wells said he had received hundreds of letters from persons complaining about the increased power bills. Some of the bills, he said, are running as high as \$300 a month.

Wells added that when the commission gave Duke and CP&L authority to use the fuel clause, he believed it should be "an interim device because I felt then and feel now that our statute does not make it clear that the commission has the authority to use such a clause in a permanent rate-making approach."

According to the commission staff, the average CP&L customer uses 950 kilowatt hours per month and his bill runs \$32.12. Of that, \$9.98 is due to the fuel clause.

For Duke customers, the same electricity costs \$27.10, with the fuel clause accounting for 44.6% of the total.

The 25 percent roll back means a reduction of about \$2.49 per month for the average CP&L customer and \$1.15 for the average Duke customer.

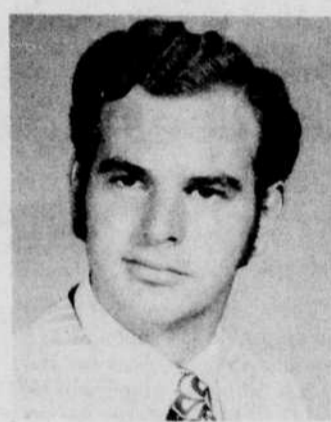


**FREDDIE ROBINSON, left** accepts the "Fireman Of The Year" Award from **Woody Patton**, representative of the Black Mountain Rotary Club which presents the Award Annually at the Fireman's Award and Ladies Night Banquet.

## Bill Hamby Named Supt. Of Fiscal Affairs For Buncombe County Schools

William Carter (Bill) Hamby of Swannanoa has been named Superintendent of Fiscal Affairs for the Buncombe County Board of Education. He will join the school system on Feb. 17.

Hamby, 25, a native of Black Mountain, has been associated with an accounting firm in Asheville. He is a 1967 graduate of Charles D. Owen High School and an honor graduate of Mars Hill College where he won the Wall Street Award given by his depart-



**W. C. HAMBY**

ment for "spirit of cooperation, seriousness of purpose, scholarship and character." He received a B.S. degree in accounting.

Hamby is married to the former Miss Nancy Harris of Black Mountain who is a teacher in the Black Mountain Primary School. He is a deacon in the First Baptist Church and very active in the work of the church.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Hamby, Jr. of Black Mountain.

## North Fork Co-op Sponsoring Square Dance

The North Fork Co-op will reveal another of its many faces on Friday, February 14, when it presents a Valentines Day community square dance and supper. All members, friends, and interested people are invited to attend the affair, which will be held at the Government Community Center (Swannanoa Clubhouse). The dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m., and dancing will commence an hour later.

Vernon Johnson, who will do the calling, has promised that "All are guaranteed to have a good time." A variety of dances are planned, including square dances, polkas, reels, and schottisches. Co-op members have indicated that over 70 will attend. There will be a slight admission charge to cover the cost of the facilities.

Arrangements for food are being handled by Mrs. Roger Stuck of Swannanoa. She requests that members and guests contribute a dish of some sort (meat, vegetable, salad, desert, baked good) that would serve six. It is hoped that recipes will feature a tasty blend of the co-op's offerings of produce, cheese, fish, dry goods, local eggs, and honey.

By purchasing through the North Fork Co-op, members save 20-30 percent on the selection of food offered. The non-profit organization tries to supply the highest quality food, and offers many items not found elsewhere in the area. Quality local produce is used whenever possible.

Members are able to cut costs by contributing their time and skills to eliminate levels of the buying chain. By pooling efforts and buying in bulk, the co-op is able to sell food at wholesale cost plus ten percent. Each member household is required to contribute at least three hours per month to help with the tasks of buying and distributing the food. There are no salaried members.

Mrs. Dorothy McGraw and Mrs. Johnnie C. Nanney of the Black Mountain Public Library provide information center and accept the order forms each week. Orders must be submitted by noon on Saturday for delivery the following Wednesday. Distribution is handled at the basement of the community building at the Swannanoa Valley Medical Center, between 4-6:30 p.m.

There are currently over 150 member households participating in the co-op. Membership is still open to all area residents. Applications, information, and order sheets are available at the library, or can be obtained by writing to Box 535, Black Mountain.

## Robert Goodson Appointed Soil Conservation Supervisor

The sand pit on U.S. 70 near the bottom of the Old Fort Mountain grade had another "customer" Monday - its third in less than a week's time.

Trooper R.J. Kiser of Marion said a tractor-trailer loaded with 38,000 pounds of boxed meat, from Iowa, was guided into the pit when brakes overheated coming down the mountain. Neither of the drivers aboard was injured and only minor damage was reported to the vehicle, which went 63 feet into the pit and required two wreckers to pull it loose.

Two vehicles made use of the sand pit last Thursday afternoon, about two hours apart, with the drivers also escaping injury.

State Soil and Water Conservation Committee Director notified Owen High School Teacher Robert H. Goodson last week that he had been duly appointed to a term on the Buncombe Soil and Water District Board of Supervisors. This was done on the recommendation of the elected members of the Board at its January meeting.

Goodson was sworn into office in informal ceremonies by Deputy Clerk of Court Percy Carter along Asheville Realtor Charles E. Silver another appointee.

In that capacity, they join Blanche Young, Margaret Lockwood, and Ged Roberson, Jr. to comprise the five-member local Soil & Water Conservation efforts for the next four years.

The three elected members of the Board won their seats from a field of five other candidates in a non-partisan election held in conjunction with the General Election in November.

A graduate of Berea College, with a degree in Agriculture, he has taught in McDowell and Buncombe Co. Schools for the past 19 years.

Married to the former Joan Drake, Goodson has two sons. He serves as Chairman of the Owen High District Advisory Council, and is past chairman of the Glenwood Fire Department Board of Directors. He lives on North Fork Road near Black Mountain, where he serves as Chairman of the Administrative Board of Tabernacle Methodist Church.

Active in civic affairs, Goodson is a former Lieutenant Governor of the WNC Ruritan Club.

Buncombe County is fortunate to secure the services of two such competent members to round out the Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Each brings important training and talent to the job, and should make a valuable contribution to orderly development of the county, with reasonable care for the environmental concerns.

## 4,822 Man Hours

## Avondale Mills Sets Two Year No Lost Time Safety Record

Avondale Mills of Black Mountain received an award Friday, Jan. 30, from American Mutual Insurance Co. for two years without a loss time accident in the mill. This represented 54,822 man hours for the company's 133 employees. The award was presented by C. T. Denton, American Mutual representative.



**AVONDALE MILLS RECEIVES SAFETY AWARD** — These officials were present for the Award's presentation: left to right - G. W. Morris, Executive Vice President; The Rev. Robert Bunch, who gave the invocation; C. T. Denton, American Mutual Insurance; John Durden, Plant Manager; Craig, Pres. Knitting Dire.; Donald Comer, Jr., Pres. of Avondale Mills; John Quenelle, V.P. and Manny Goldstein, V.P.



## Beacon Pledge

**BEACON PLEDGE** — The first \$5,000 installment of Beacon Manufacturing Co.'s \$15,000 pledge toward a new Fine Arts Center at Warren Wilson College was presented by Joseph E. Graham, Beacon's vice president of finance and administration, to Reuben A. Holden, Warren Wilson's president. Participating in the presentation ceremony were, (left to right): Herbert Coman, director of employe relations for Beacon; Graham, John Bierwirth, chairman of the board of National Distillers and Chemical Corp. (Beacon's parent company), Holden and Charles S. Jones, vice president of management at Beacon. The presentation was made during a recent visit of top officials of National Distillers including Bierwirth and D. C. Bell, president and chief executive officer, who were here for a management meeting. Beacon has recently made equipment changes which will enable the firm to enlarge its production range and Bell expressed satisfaction with operation of the company and confidence in its future. Bierwirth is a former trustee and treasurer of the James G. K. McClure Educational and Development Fund and for many years has shown interest in the WNC area. Beacon's gift, Holden said, will help launch a campaign among local industries and individuals to raise \$300,000 to match a \$1 million gift from the Thomas J. Watson family for the construction of a new Community Fine Arts Center.

**NOTICE**

**Town Board Meeting**

**Monday Night February 10**

**7:30 P.M.**

**City Hall**

**YOU ARE INVITED!!!**

**Show an interest in your town and how it's run**