

Town Board Lists Priorities Applies For HUD

list of priorities. Projects Coordinator Joe Williams pointed out that according to the guidelines laid down by HUD that the improvements were to be made in residential areas in the low and modest income blighted areas. He stated there had been 18 major items suggested some of which were ineligible under the guidelines set forth. He also stated that the listings for the Grant must be ready by February 28 to meet the April 1 deadline. The Board adopted by unanimous vote the following list of priorities in the order which they felt to be most

- I. Water System Upgrading
 - II Street and Side Walk Improvement
 - III Sewers
 - IV New Fire Hall
 - V Demolition of blighted downtown area and general upgrading of it
 - VI Senior Citizens Center
 - VII Recreational Facilities
 - VIII Hiring Of a Professional For Basic Study Needs on a motion by Mr. Begley and seconded by Mrs. Greenwood the Board agreed to seek the maximum grant available \$2,200,000.
- Williams stated the Water Study now in progress is about

50 percent completed. Williams also asked for and the Board approved the matching amount of money needed for a request of \$11,000 to the French Broad Criminology Planning Grant Taken for the LEAA for four walkie-talkies, a mobile communications unit and a voice activated recorder. The Town's share would be five percent on \$550. Martha Ramsey and Michael Gouge from the Federal Flood Control Zone were present and gave the Board the steps needed to qualify for Flood Control Insurance. They were en-

joined, at no cost to the Town to prepare a detailed report of how to receive the best information and aid in our own Flood control areas. Also all the rules and regulations will be clearly outlined. Mayor Stone stated that he and City Manager Lindsey had attended a meeting in Raleigh last week with the State Highway Commission and that unless an enjoyment was started a graded crossing will definitely be installed at Broadway and Lakey Streets rather than the overpass requested. He said a private individual planned this protest and the Town would not have

to become involved in the law suit. The Board went on record as preferring an overpass. Joe Williams announced that advertisements had been placed asking for bids for the construction of the new swimming pool. He asked for a special called meeting to be held for the purpose of opening the bids. The Board concurred and the meeting will be held on February 28 at 4 p.m. in City Hall. Alderman Sobol reported that he had the figures on insurance to cover the Auxiliary Policemen which would cost approximately \$900

but since there was an excellent opportunity it could be covered by workers compensation he recommended waiting for a report. It was so moved. In other business the Board passed on the second readings the Noise Ordinance and the Amendment to Dog Ordinance bringing it up to County Standards. An Ordinance passed not allowing parking along the North side of US 70 from the east leg of the Primary School driveway eastward for a distance of 1500 ft. Department of Transportation notified of passage on three

readings. 1st reading was passed on a motion by Mr. Hickey and seconded by Mr. Begley and on a suspension of the rules the second reading was passed on a motion by Mr. Sobol and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The third and final reading was approved on a motion by Mr. Sobol and seconded by Mr. Begley. The Mayor asked that the minutes show that he, the Board of Aldermen and the Town of Black Mountain offered their deepest sympathy to Mrs. Slagle and to Mrs. Gragg, her mother, in the loss of Mrs. Gragg's son and Mrs. Slagle's brother. The Clerk

was instructed to send a letter of sympathy. On a motion by Mr. Greenwood and seconded by Mr. Sobol the Board agreed to sign Municipal Agreement Project No. W. O. 8 1909402 Federal Project I-40-1 (21) 57, concerning construction of a new bridge on proposed I-40. The Clerk was instructed to get a surveyor in regard to removing the Arch on Sunset Mountain and to relocate Sunset Drive. Mr. Sobol reported on insurance on Auxiliary Policemen. He will report further at the March meeting. No further business the meeting adjourned.

BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

DEVOTED 100% TO OUR COMMUNITY—THE GROWING SWANNANOVA VALLEY

Hometown Newspaper
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★ Ridgecrest ★ Swannanoa

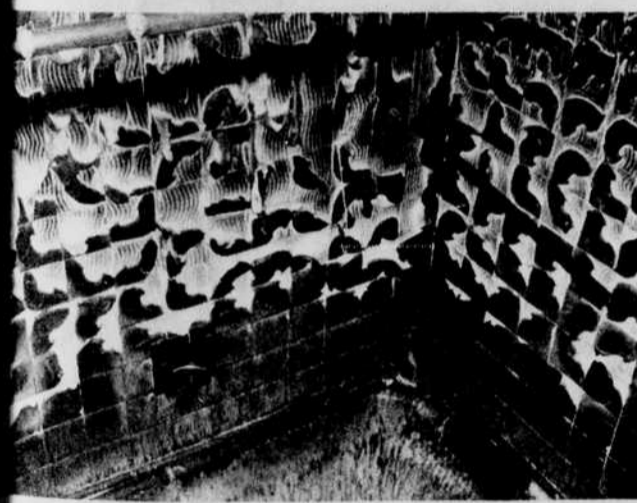
Thursday, February 13, 1975, Volume 30, Number 19 SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT BLACK MOUNTAIN, N.C. 28711 15 CENTS

Doran Home Receives Major Fire Damages

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Doran on North Park Street, Black Mountain was extensively damaged by fire Saturday evening Feb. 8. The firemen say it is the worst damage wise, inside the limits since the Rug & Jug fire several years ago. The Fire Department received the call at 9:23. Engine No. 3 arrived on the scene at 9:25 and Engine No. 1 at 9:26. The house, a seven room dwelling, suffered almost 100 percent fire damage to the living room, hall, kitchen and bath and their furnishings. There was extensive heat, water and smoke damage to the rest of the house. None of the family were at home when the fire broke out. The flames were seen by City Manager Charles Lindsey, a



The exterior of the house was not so severely damaged as was the interior and its contents.



Extreme heat melted tiles from bathroom wall.



The living room of the Doran home was gutted by flames. It also suffered major, smoke and water damages.

Taylor Loses Bid To Keep Lab

Rep. Roy A. Taylor of Black Mountain said Friday the U. S. Department of Agriculture has turned down his request to keep the Agricultural Soil Conservation Service aerial photographic laboratory in Asheville. Taylor said J. Phil Campbell, undersecretary of Agriculture, cited Department of Agriculture reasons for making the move. He quoted a letter from Campbell as saying the departments feels there is "no option but to proceed with the consolidation" of the Asheville facility with a smaller operation near Salt Lake City, Utah. Transfer of the Laboratory to Utah will mean a loss of about 50 jobs in the Asheville area. Rep. Taylor has led a long battle here to either drop or keep the plan. Rep. Taylor said, "Of course, we are disappointed that Mr. Campbell's refusal to consider what I feel is a strong case for keeping the laboratory in Asheville.

"We asked that the transfer be delayed at least until the proposed long-range consolidation of ASCS facilities at Clearfield, Utah, could be clarified. "We were told that the consolidation could not take place before 1977 and that before then Congress would have to appropriate \$3.5 million to renovate a building there. "There still is no assurance that Congress will appropriate the money. "Apparently the Department of Agriculture is determined to ram through the consolidation without regard for the taxpayers or members of Congress or many agricultural officials in the Southeast." Taylor's aides said that Campbell's letter just about closed the door on Taylor's effort to retain the lab for Asheville. Campbell's letter stated that the impact of the move on the Asheville area had been studied carefully by the Department of Agriculture.

CP&L President Says Cost Forced Hike

RALEIGH — Consumers protesting rising electric utility rates either don't understand or accept sharply rising costs for providing power, the president of Carolina Power and Light Co. believes. Shearon Harris said that coal costs rose 300 percent from December 1973 to December 1974, making it necessary for CP&L to add a fuel adjustment charge to its bills. "All electric utilities have been hard-pressed by inflation since the late 1960s," Harris said, "and the fuel crunch which came about a year ago has simply aggravated the situation." The fuel adjustment added to electric bills was allowed to help the company meet the rising cost of coal, according to Harris. He said the adjustment reflects the actual cost of coal and brings in no profit to CP&L. An additional 21 per cent rate increase recently approved by the North Carolina Utilities Commission is also necessary to meet other increased costs, Harris said. According to CP&L figures, the utility company burns 20,000 tons of coal daily and the cost of generating power rose from a half cent per kilowatt hour in late 1973 to a penny and a half in late 1974. Erwin said most of the initial claims came from textile and related industries. The number of unemployed workers continuing a claim series was 5,202 this week as compared to 4,200 last week, Erwin said.

Local Ambulance Personnel Unaffected By Status Change

The Black Mountain Station of the Buncombe County Ambulance Service will probably not be affected by the change over from using some part time employees to almost all full time employees, M. Jerry VeHaun said in a statement to the Black Mountain News Friday afternoon. "We have three full time employees at the Black Mountain Station Bob Wheelon, Austin Burgess and James Goodman," he said. "Sterling Poe, Gary Bartlett and Bill Jones have helped us a part time basis when the other men are off. We will continue to use them, perhaps with fewer hours, in the future in the same capacity or some on a full time basis." VeHaun, county public service coordinator, said many of the new full time ambulance attendants will be drawn from a training course which begins Monday at Asheville - Buncombe Technical Institute. VeHaun said 15 people were selected from the ranks of the local unemployed to attend the 300-hour 10-week training course at A-B Tech. Successful graduates of the course, which is part of the county's federally-funded manpower training program, will be certified Emergency Medical Technicians, according to VeHaun, who said he hopes to have the entire ambulance staff certified by July. Presently, the staff includes 16 full time employees and 43 part-time employees. Under the new structure, there will be about 35 working full time on three shifts with an ad-

ditional 10 or 12 certified EMTs filling in on a part-time basis, VeHaun said. County officials see the restructuring of the ambulance service staff as a means to better coordinate the service and reduce costs, such as overtime pay.



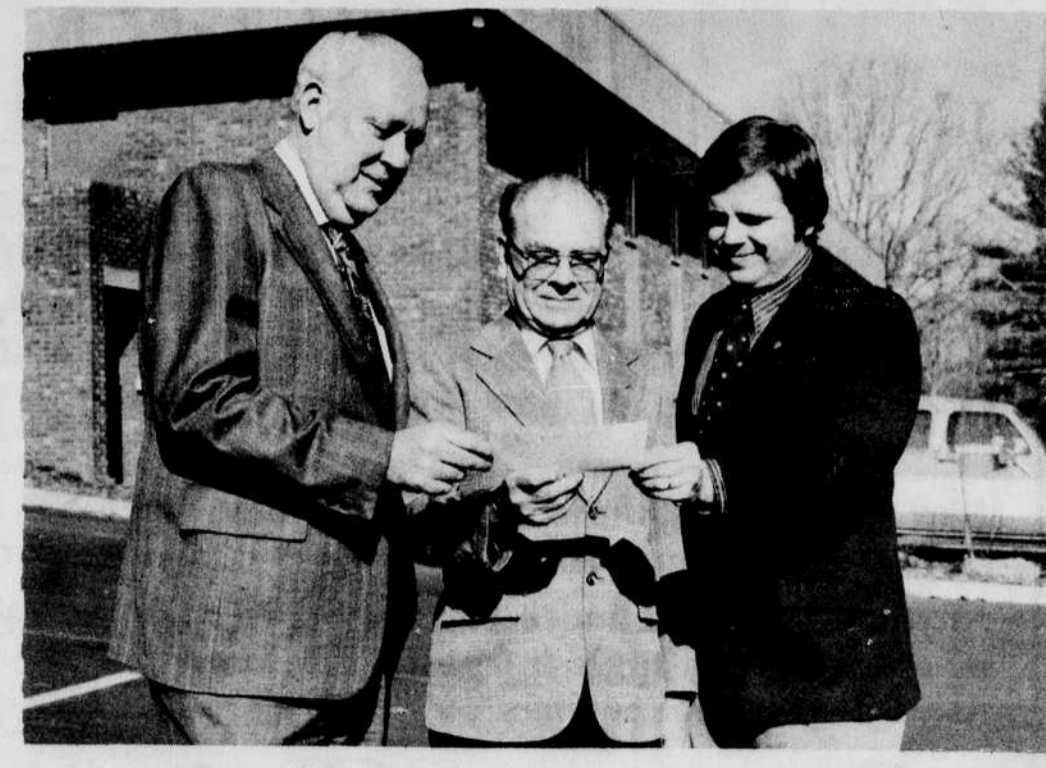
REMEMBER 1960 - THE YEAR IT SNOWED UP TO THE WINDOWS? This picture of the Grandfather Mountain entrance building showing snow up to the windows was made with a Brownie box camera by Joe Lee Hartley in March 1960. The accumulation and sustained cold that year set records that no year since has come close to topping.

Jobless Benefits Hit Record

RALEIGH — About 200,000 persons were out of work and drawing unemployment compensation in mid-January with payments in the month hitting \$ 31.3 million, the Employment Security Commission reported Thursday. Last month's payments amounted to the most ever paid in a single month and more than was paid in all of 1973, the ESC said. Unemployed Tar Heels drew \$28 million in benefits in 1973 and about \$61 million in 1974. The insured unemployment rate was at a record level of 11 per cent in January with as many as 200,000 workers getting benefits, the ESC said. Initial claims for benefits averaged 35,600 each week in January. A year earlier, only 1.9 per cent - 32,000 - of the insured workforce was unemployed and drawing benefits, the agency said. The week ending Jan. 24 was slightly better than mid-January, the ESC said. Some 183,700 persons drew unemployment compensation that week with a jobless rate of 10.6 per cent. Textiles showing the largest increase in unemployment in the week with total unemployment 55,445 workers - 22.2 per cent of the textile labor force. Hosiery had the largest overall unemployment rate with 24.8 per cent. Other high unemployment areas in that week were furniture 23.3 per cent, construction 15.8 per cent, apparel 20.4 per cent and lumber and wood 16.8 per cent. The state's unemployment insurance trust fund amounted to \$560.2 million at the end of December, the ESC reported, adding that tax collections and interest credits will be ample to provide benefits to jobless workers this year in spite of record payment levels. The agency said North Carolina fund amounts to 7.2 per cent of the total payroll of persons covered by the unemployment insurance programs.

Bill In General Assembly For Renovation At WNC Hospital

RALEIGH — A bill seeking \$2.5 million in appropriations for renovations at Western North Carolina Hospital at Black Mountain has been filed in the N. C. General Assembly by Rep. Claude DeBruhl of Candler. The bill calls for appropriation of funds to the Department of Human Resources for the fiscal year beginning in July 1975. DeBruhl said most of the facilities at the hospital were built in the later 1930s, with additions made in the early 1950s. While the basic structure is sound, he said, renovations are needed to comply with current hospital standards and requirements for patient safety. Changes needed include replacement of the electrical distribution system, installation of a ventilation and air conditioning system and replacement of plumbing, DeBruhl said the alterations and improvements requested would provide 233 modern hospital beds for patients with respiratory diseases and 75 beds for alcoholic patients, he said.



THE NORTHWESTERN BANK has contributed \$2,000 for the second consecutive year to the Swannanoa Valley Medical Center. Lee Clapp, right, assistant vice-president and manager of the Black Mountain office and Paul Richardson, left, executive vice-president of the Black Mountain, Old Fort and Marion offices, presented the check to Ernest S. DeWick, president of the Medical Center, which is located on Old U. S. 70, between Black Mountain and Swannanoa. Both Clapp and Richardson represented the company in the presentation ceremony. The Northwestern Bank is the fifth largest bank in North Carolina with assets in excess of one billion. The company has shown an interest in the Medical Center since the plans for the much needed facility were presented in 1968.

Jobless Rate 9.2 Percent In County

The unemployment rate in Buncombe and Madison counties climbed this week to 9.2 per cent of the work force covered by unemployment insurance, according to the manager of the North Carolina Employment Security Commission office in Asheville. Manager Charles N. Erwin said Friday that 1,436 persons filed claims for the first time this week. The number was nearly double the 779 persons who filed initial claims the week before.