

# BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

DEVOTED 100% TO OUR COMMUNITY — THE GROWING SWANNANOVA VALLEY

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## Park Service, Handicraft Guild

### Folk Art Center Agreement Signed

The National Park Service and the Southern Highland Handicraft Guild signed a cooperative agreement Monday for the construction and operation of a Folk Art Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway near Asheville.

U.S. Rep. Roy A. Taylor said the facility, long in the talking stage, will be constructed and operated with donated funds to be raised by the Guild, which is headquartered in Asheville.

The agreement permits the Guild to use 16 acres adjacent to the Blue Ridge Parkway at Oteen until June 1996. It was signed at the Park way office in Asheville.

Construction of the Folk Art Center is to begin by July 1977 and be completed by July 1979. According to the agreement, title to the completed building is to be turned over to the United States.

Once the center opens, the Guild will "produce, present and arrange for exhibits, demonstrations, productions and activities to interpret the culture of the Southern Highlands." The public will not be charged admission except when the Guild has approval from the Park Service.

Details on how operations will be carried out are incomplete, but Taylor said the agreement specifies that the facility will have an auditorium seating from 200 to 300, an information center, a museum, sales shop and library, a rhododendron garden, craft and exhibit work areas and an administrative work area.

The congressman said buildings will be designed to reflect "environmental harmony and sensitivity" and will be built of native materials. There will be flexibility for growth and open space will be optimized.

Parkway Supt. Joe Brown said consummation of the agreement became possible when Pisgah Inn, Inc., which holds concession rights on the affected portion of the Parkway, waived interest in the Folk Art Center. "This was a gracious gesture on the part of Pisgah Inn, and certainly expedited our agreement with the Southern Highland Handicraft Guild," Brown said.

The site on which the Folk Art Center will be located is at milepost 382 on the Blue Ridge Parkway, which is administered by the National Park Service. This is about five miles east of Asheville, where access also will be provided from U.S. 70 by Riceville Road.

The Guild will be responsible for building maintenance, while NPS will maintain the grounds with the exception of the rhododendron garden. That will be done by the Southeastern Chapter, American Rhododendron Society.

The National Park Service will have final approval of all

programs at the Folk Art Center.

The Blue Ridge Parkway connects Great Smoky Mountains and Shenandoah National Parks and winds its way some 470 miles through the mountains and valleys of North Carolina and Virginia.

Visitation on the scenic motor road has increased almost annually, and in 1975 a record of more than 14-million visitations was set. Almost half of the visitation takes place near the site of the Folk

Art Center.

"We have long needed a centrally located facility with programs to encourage and foster public appreciation, participation and understanding of the folk heritage of the Southern Highlands," said Brown.

"As a result of the agreement with the Southern Highland Handicraft Guild, we believe the Folk Art Center will fill this need admirably," he said.

### Geyser Ceremony Planned

A dedication program to mark the restoration of Andrews Geyser will be held at the 86-year-old landmark on May 16, Old Fort officials have announced.

A day-long celebration is planned as one of the major Bicentennial events in McDowell County. Platform activities will begin about 1 p.m. and feature an address by U.S. Rep. Roy A. Taylor. Other invited officials include Harold H. Hall of Washington, D.C., executive vice president of Southern Railway; W. L. Hofmann, superintendent of the Asheville Division; Steve Little, a Wake Forest law student who will give a history of the geyser; and Chairman Paul Richardson of the McDowell County Commissioners.

Invitations also have gone to Gov. Jim Holshouser and to officials of the State Bicentennial Commission. Several thousand persons in all are expected to attend.

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According to Col. W. R. Swearngan, a member of the program planning committee, Southern Railway is considering a request that it operate a special train from

Asheville to Old Fort for the occasion. Southern ran a number of excursion trains over the route last summer.

The man-made geyser was restored to its water-spouting life last Oct. 10th at its site on Mill Creek Road several miles north of Old Fort.

The geyser was built in 1890 on what was then the grounds of Round Knob Hotel, fed with water by gravity flow from a lake two miles up the mountain.

It was discontinued in 1903 when the hotel burned, then restored in 1910-11 and dedicated to Col. A.B. Andrews for his work in constructing the old Western North Carolina Railroad. It was a favorite sight for passengers on trains going up to Asheville.

As passenger service dwindled on the railroad, however, Southern Railway which owned the geyser let it fall into disrepair. Old Fort Mayor Jack Lytle and mayor pro tem Jack Piercy, a Southern engineer, approached the railway about deeding the geyser site and pipeline to the town, and this was done last year.

The restoration itself was the result of widespread fundraising about the county and the volunteer efforts of many individuals and groups. Their success will be celebrated May 16.

### CP&L May Bills To Be Down!

Carolina Power & Light Co. had some good news for its retail customers in North Carolina last week.

Their electrical bills will be \$2.08 less per thousand kilowatt hours in May than they will in April if the Utilities Commission authorizes a reduction under

the fuel adjustment clause.

The fuel adjustment reflects monthly variations in the company's actual cost of fuel. The primary reason for the reduction is the company's increased percentage of generation from nuclear fuel, which is cheaper than coal.

### Art League Plans Second Different Art Forms Show

The Swannanoa Valley Art League will begin its second year exhibit of art forms other than paintings this month.

The purpose of the exhibit is to encourage members and friends who are not members who, though not painters, are artists in other fields to show their work, and to stimulate public interest in the general field of art.

The art exhibit begins with a tea on Sunday afternoon in the Black Mountain Public

Library Education Room, April 25, from 3 to 5 o'clock.

Those desiring to exhibit are asked to bring entries to the Library on Friday April 23 from 10 to 12 a.m. and 2 to 5 p.m. The entry fee is \$2. All work must be original - no kits or molds, please.

Entries must be picked up on Monday May 3 from 10 to 12 a.m.

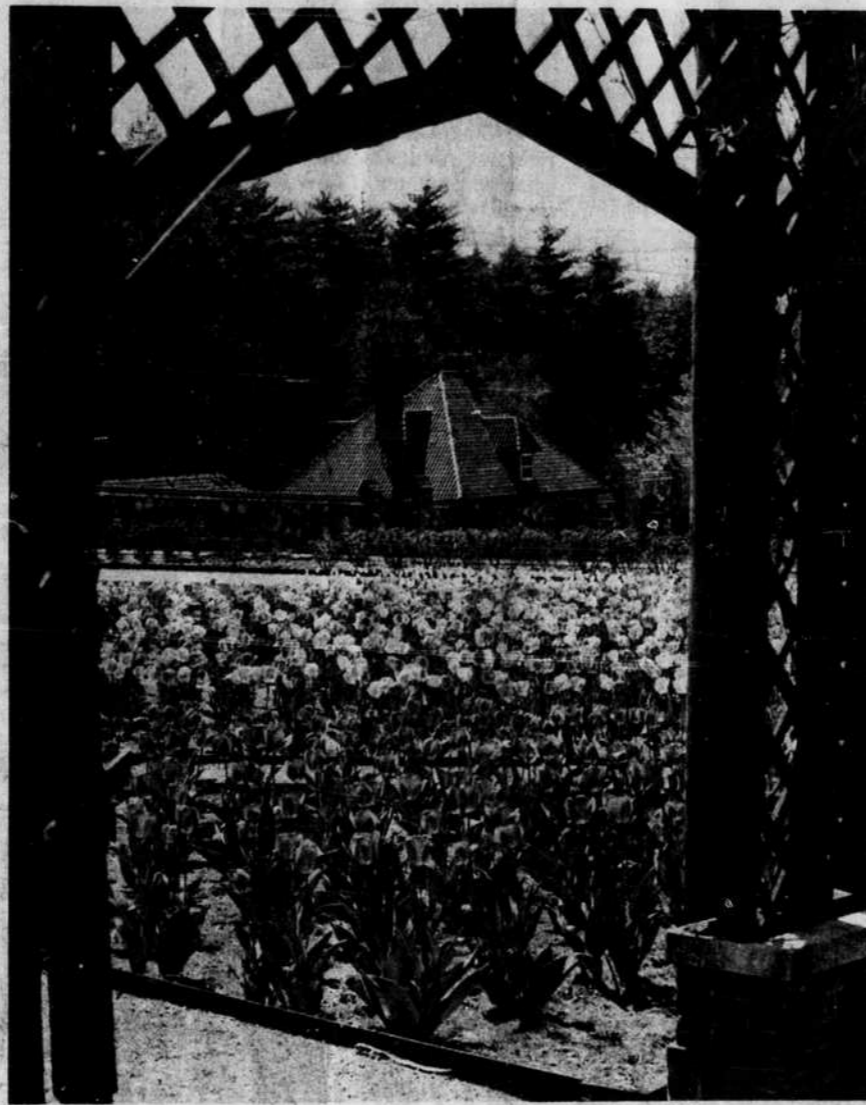
The following art medias will be used in the exhibit. Sculpture - stone; metal, jewelry, etc.; clay, pottery

etc.; plastic, resin casting etc.; sand-casting.

Photography  
Marquetry  
Basket-weaving, etc.  
Lapidary Work.

Mosaic - Tesserae, China Painting, Glass - Stained, Painting on Glass, Seeds and Nails.

Creative Use Of - Yarn - Crewel, Needlepoint, etc.; string, wire, leather - belts, purses, etc.; paper - quilling, etc.



TULIPS in the formal gardens at the Biltmore House are beginning to bloom and will peak in May. There are 24,000 bulbs in the formal gardens and 75,000 to 80,000 other spring bulbs planted throughout the estate. Shrubs, trees and other spring flowers are also beginning their spring color parade.

### Allisons Express Sincere Thanks

Ray and Carol Allison extend their sincerest thanks to all the wonderful people who have been so generous in their aid to them. Even before the article in last week's Black Mountain News people had come to their assistance with clothes, household needs and money, many of these from people they didn't know, as well as from old and true friends.

"We have tried to thank each one individually," Carol said, "but we were afraid we might miss someone so we want to say 'Thank You' publicly. You'll never know how wonderfully blessed we feel to have such great, wonderful friends."

Yes, the Valley, as always, rallies to care for its own.

### BMCBS Davis New President

Ransom Davis was elected President of the Black Mountain Committee for Better Sports, Tuesday evening March 30, at a special called meeting. He replaces James L. Owens who resigned his post due to a heavy work schedule which prohibited his attending many of the meetings. He will continue serving on the Board of Directors and will assist in any way possible.

Jack Irwin is vice-president, Mrs. Mary Ann Conner, secretary and Mrs. Chris Perry treasurer.

The next regular meeting date is May 3 at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.

### Mid-Day Community Development Services

Mid-day Devotional Services are planned for Holy Week by the Black Mountain - Swannanoa Ministerial Association. Beginning at 11:30 each day, Monday through Friday, the services are to last only 30 minutes. Each Service is to be held at the Black Mountain United Methodist Church, but the devotional messages will be delivered by various pastors, as follows:

Monday - Fred Gordon  
Tuesday - Edgar Ferrell  
Wednesday - Richard Shelor  
Thursday - Father Pius F. Keating  
Friday - Neal Wyndham.

People of the entire community, regardless of religious affiliation, are invited to each of these services.

### Jobless Rate Dips Slightly

The nation's unemployment rate edged down to 7.5 percent of the work force in March, marking the fifth straight monthly decline and the longest sustained drop in 14 years, the government said today.

Although the decline was slight - down from 7.6 percent in February - Labor Department analysts said the steady improvement since October reflected continuing economic recovery from the recession.

Blacks and women benefited most from the March decline in unemployment, which was down by about 100,000 to a total of 7 million last month.

Total employment continued climbing in March, rising by another 375,000 to an all-time high of 86.7 million, the government said. Since reaching a recession - low last March, the number of Americans with jobs has risen by 2.6 million, with adult

women accounting for more than half of the over-the-year increase.

Unemployment declined gradually from the recession peak of 8.9 per cent last May and hovered about 8.6 percent before beginning a rapid decline last October. But even with the improvement the jobless rate at 7.5 per cent remains far above its normal post World War II level.

### Singer - Kearfott

### Discharged Employee Sues For Damages

A former employe of the Kearfott division of the Singer Co., on U.S. 70 near Black Mountain, is asking \$300,000 damages from the firm and four men in a Buncombe Superior Court suit.

Elmer B. Owenby alleges he was arrested last Aug. 1 after Kearfott personnel manager James P. Lincoln made a complaint to Sheriff T. H. Morrissey concerning a break-in which had occurred two weeks earlier.

He names, as defendants Lincoln and Morrissey as well as Kearfott security guard James Sprouse, who reported the break-in, and Deputy Sheriff Perry O. Williams.

When tried on Dec. 17 in Buncombe Superior Court, he

### Severed Cable Interrupts Phone Service

Telephone service between Asheville and the Black Mountain - Swannanoa areas was disrupted for about two hours Friday afternoon, April 2 when a major trunk line was cut in a construction accident, telephone company officials said.

Mrs. Nelle R. Laetsch, public relations manager for Southern Bell here, said a telephone cable was cut around 1:45 p.m. by a bulldozer working near U.S. 70 East across from the Roadway Inn.

She said service was fully restored by around 2:45 p.m. During the outage, Mrs. Laetsch said customers phoning to and from the Black Mountain - Swannanoa area received a busy signal.

### Victim Watches Thief Take Rings

Two diamond rings, one worth \$400 and the other \$125, were reported stolen from the truck of Charles Lewis Medford of Swannanoa while Medford visited a patient at Memorial Mission Hospital last Thursday, Asheville police said.

Medford said he saw, from the fifth floor of the hospital, someone enter his truck then drive away in another car.

### GOP Precinct Meetings

Republican organizational precinct meetings for Buncombe County will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday April 17 at regular precinct meeting places.

These meetings will be held to organize and elect delegates to the GOP County Presidential Year Convention.

was acquitted, Owenby

alleges. Owenby stated Lincoln telephoned to his home on Aug. 9 to terminate his employment of more than 17 years, he alleges. He said he earned three meritorious service awards, and was a group leader at the plant.

He estimates he has lost \$3.50 an hour, with overtime, insurance, retirement, seniority and other fringe

benefits. He has obtained only temporary casual employment since, he alleges, and suffers humiliation and chagrin, and damage to his credit and reputation.

Expenses of defense in the suit included counsel, such evidence as photographs, transportation to find witnesses, and to hearings, tests, and the trial. He asks \$150,000 actual and \$150,000 punitive damages.

### Traffic Accident On Increase

Drivers in North Carolina are not being as careful as they were last year, Edward L. Powell, Commissioner of Motor Vehicles claims.

Personal injuries and traffic accidents, are increasing over the 1975 rate. Statistics released in the February Highway Accident Perspective.

There were 95 persons killed in North Carolina accidents during February, 1976, compared to 94 traffic deaths during the same month of 1975 for an increase of 1.1 percent.

Through February of this year, 195 persons have died in traffic accidents compared to 193 persons killed during the same period last year for an increase of 1 percent. Injuries for the year have increased 17.5 percent, and traffic accidents have increased 12.8 percent.

"The spring and summer months are times of extensive travel, and motorists must increase their awareness of the great need for highway safety," he concluded.

### Norma Zimmer In Concert At Montreat

In a rare public appearance, Miss Norma Zimmer will present a concert of popular and sacred song Sat., April 24 in Anderson Auditorium on the Montreat - Anderson College campus. A star attraction on "The Lawrence Welk Show," she will perform here to round out two days of important events for the college.

The M-AC Board of Trustees meets Friday morning to adopt the 1976-77 budget and consider other business while the Board of Visitors arrives for its Saturday morning meeting. On Friday night, both boards are scheduled to dine with faculty and administration before being entertained by the college theater group, The Greybeard Players.

The public also is invited to the theater production of "The Bad Seed," A classic drama, the play appears here with excellent reviews preceding it, and Director C.C. Kinnison remarks that he has an exceptional cast for the play.

Saturday night begins a special evening for those who have given financial support to the college during the past year. A reception hosted by President and Mrs. Silas M. Vaughn and Trustee and Mrs.

Jim Morgan, precedes and buffet dinner. Present at the reception will be Mrs. Ruth Graham and Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Barrows. Miss Zimmer's concert follows.

Often referred to as "The First Lady of Sacred Song," Miss Zimmer is a recording artist on the Word label. She has appeared as soloist in the Hollywood Bowl and sung as top soprano with many famous groups, such as The Johnny Mann Singers, Voices of Walter Schuman, Ken Darby Singers and The Norman Luboff Chorus.

Her talent and charm on "The Lawrence Welk Show" have combined to make her a 12-year favorite with Mr. Welk and his audiences. "Without a doubt, Norma is one of the most gracious, charming ladies on television," he remarked.

In addition to her busy television and recording schedule she does a limited number of sacred concerts each year. She has been singing with the Billy Graham Crusades for several years and is a delight to crusade audiences.

Her performance has been scheduled for 8 p.m. Public tickets are \$4 for adults and \$2 for students.



### OHS To Celebrate Bicentennial

Owen High School will celebrate the Bicentennial on Tuesday, April 13th, with a field day that afternoon for the students, and a program for the entire community on Tuesday evening. The students will compete in old-fashioned games and dress as

historical figures. The evening program will include local talent from Owen, and surprise talent from the community. Everyone is welcome, and it's free, so bring the entire family! The program starts at 7:30 p.m.

### TOWN BOARD MEETING MONDAY NIGHT

The Town Board Meeting will be Monday evening April 12 at City Hall at 7:30 p.m. One item on the agenda will be discussion of the Budget for 1976-77 and possibly the First Reading.

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WITH A CHECKUP AND A CHECK  
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