

BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

DEVOTED 100% TO OUR COMMUNITY — THE GROWING SWANNANOVA VALLEY

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

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Geyser Becomes Attractive Again

Speaking at Sunday's ceremonies marking the restoration of Andrews Geyser, U.S. Rep. Roy A. Taylor paid tribute to the people of Old Fort and McDowell County for their perseverance in resurrecting the historic landmark.

Noting that the first restoration, in 1911, was dedicated to Col. A.B. Andrews for his in building the railroad line up and over the mountains, Taylor said, "Today we pay tribute to the perseverance and efforts of the citizens of Old Fort and McDowell County, who have generously contributed their money and their labor."

In particular, we salute two men — Old Fort Mayor Jack Lytle and Mayor Pro-Tom Jack Piercy — who, through their untiring efforts, have succeeded in once again making Andrews Geyser a symbol of the determination, vitality and beauty of Western North Carolina.

Taylor described the laying of track over the Blue Ridge Mountains as "one of the most spectacular achievements of our railroad system." It was at Round Knob, which was to become the site of the fountain, that the builders faced and overcame their most difficult problem, he said.

Andrews Geyser from five different places on five different sides of the track.

"Many times, I have ridden a train by the geyser, and people would rush to the window to see the geyser. Then someone on the other side of the train would say, 'There's another one.' Then they would see a third or fourth one — they thought."

The congressman noted that six tunnels had to be carved out of the rock within a 2½ mile section. "The completion of the rail link between Old Fort and Ridgecrest was a great engineering achievement — 2 especially when we realize that the only available tools consisted of pick and shovel, black powder, draft animal and manpower."

Describing the geyser as "a community asset of lasting value," Taylor said its restoration was "a real community project of which I know you are most proud."

"There is a need to preserve open spaces, to preserve beautiful quiet spots such as this where people can slow down, away from crowded cities, and be revived, inspired and impelled by the grandeur of nature," he said.

"Next to the preservation of liberty and security, our government's great responsibility is the stewardship of our national resources."

Among the other speakers at Sunday's event was Harold H. Hall, executive vice president of Southern Railway. Hall reviewed the joint history of the railroad and the geyser, describing the building of the railroad line from Old Fort to Asheville and its impact on the area.

The railroad executive also discussed the construction of the old Round Knob Hotel and its geyser, which was built in 1890.

Built as a tourist attraction for travelers on the railroad, the geyser served as an attraction again Sunday. Although passenger trains no longer travel the route except for the Skyland Special on summer and fall weekends, a special eight-car excursion train made the trip Sunday in honor of the opening of the geyser.

Those attending the ceremonies stopped and waved and the passengers on the train crowded to the windows as once again the railroad, the geyser made history together.

Soon after twelve o'clock the program started off with blue grass music, chorus singing and two teams of the Old Fort Cloggers. A change of wind aimed the geyser spray toward the West McDowell Junior High Band as they played but the impromptu "shower" did not dampen the quality of their music.

Montreat Township Board Discusses Problems

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Montreat met in regular session on May 13. The following actions were taken:

The Mayor was asked to request the State Highway Department, in accord with the Town's contract with the State of North Carolina, to put in one day's work, not to exceed \$700 in cost, on patching of streets, particularly Greybeard Trail.

A report that the re-paving of Assembly Drive would cost \$20,000 was received.

The Planning and Zoning Commission was directed to see that the maps used by that group be made available to the Executive Director of the Mountain Retreat Association.

After explanation by the engineer for the Metropolitan Sewerage District of a proposed change in the method of determining the share of each municipality in the cost of a survey under the 201 Facilities Plan, basing the share on work necessary rather than on population, the Board tabled until May 20 action on this proposal.

A study was directed of the desirability of enforcing the requirement of privilege licenses provided for in the Code of General Ordinances.

The Mayor was asked to direct Montreat - Anderson College to discontinue the use of a dump on Oklahoma Terrace and to cover the present pile of debris.

A special meeting for

discussion of a proposed budget for 1976-1977 was set for May 20 at 7:30 in Fellowship Hall.

Visitors were welcomed and recognized. Monroe Ashley, Executive Director of Mountain Retreat Association, introduced the new Administrative Director, John Lewis. Ashley also informed the group that since the suggested repairs to the dam would require at least 120

days' work, Lake Susan will remain unfilled this summer. The Association is considering what might be done both to improve the appearance of the empty lake and to make it useful.

The meeting was adjourned until the special meeting announced for May 20. The next regular meeting will be held on June 10 at 7:30 in Fellowship Hall.

Commencement Exercises Slated For Owen High School

Commencement Exercises of the Charles D. Owen High School will be held in the B.W. Spilman Auditorium at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

The Baccalaureate Service will be held Sunday May 23, at 8:00 p.m. The Baccalaureate Address will be given by Frank Shelby Thielman and David Charles Wilson. They will be introduced by Robert K. Norton.

The Owen Senior Ensemble will present the Anthem "The New 23rd Psalm" by Ralph Carmichael. The Prelude, Processional and Recessional will be presented by Miss Anita Karen McCracken, Pianist and Miss Janice Lednum Price, Organist.

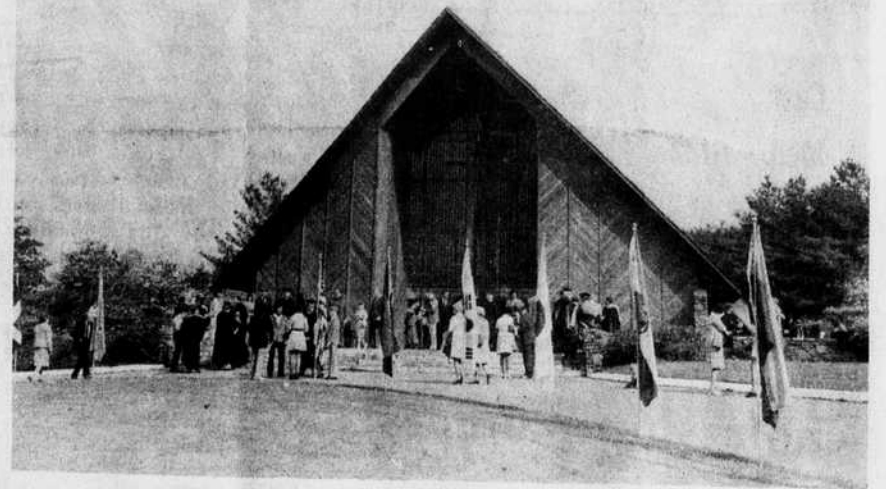
Graduation Exercises will be held Wednesday May 26 at 8:00 p.m. The invocation will be given by Frank Thielman. Miss Chrisann Ohler will give

the Valedictory Address. The Graduation Address will be given by Lewis Anthony Wright. They will be introduced by Rebecca Leigh Bridges.

Miss Brenda Diane Harwood will recognize the Honor Students. The Scholarship Winners will be recognized by Tony Wright. The Beta Club members will be recognized by Miss Donna Pate. A tribute to Parents and friends will be given by Ivan Byron Bailey.

Charles A. Lytle, principal and Olen Sisk, Asst. principal will present diplomas to the graduates.

An Anthem "The Way We Were" by Hamilisch will be presented by the Owen Senior Ensemble.



AFTER COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES at Warren Wilson, students and faculty members relax with family and friends as they receive congratulations.

Warren Wilson Graduates 53

Fifty-three seniors received bachelor of arts degrees in commencement exercises Friday at Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa.

President Reuben A. Holden addressed the graduating class and Rev. Frederick G. Ohler, chaplain of the college, presented the invocation and benediction.

Taylor Lists Revenues Sources

U.S. Rep. Roy A. Taylor today published in the Congressional Record the sources and amounts of income he and Mrs. Taylor received during calendar year 1975, in addition to his salary as a Member of Congress, and the amounts of federal and state income tax they paid for 1975.

The 11th District Congressman detailed the additional income as \$2,459.56 from a family-owned dairy farm in Leicester Township of Buncombe County, N.C.; \$2,465.47 from dividends from a variety of stocks and bonds held by him and his wife; \$392.21 from interest on purchase money real estate notes, savings deposits, Swannanoa, N.C. Baptist Church bonds, etc.; and \$2,302.26 from North Carolina State and Local Employees' Retirement System (based on N.C. State and local service performed before going to Congress).

The Congressman's report showed that he and Mrs. Taylor paid \$10,538.22 in federal income tax and \$1,944.77 in state income tax for calendar year 1975.

In making his report, Congressman Taylor told his colleagues that he had adopted a policy of going beyond the requirements of the law in making financial disclosure, having previously published in the Congressional Record the sources and amounts of additional income through 1974 for each year he has been in Congress and the amounts of federal and state income tax he and his wife paid for calendar years 1969 through 1974.

Four More Hats Tossed Into Political Ring

Asheville businessman Narvel J. "Jim" Crawford announced Wednesday, May 12, he will seek the Democratic nomination for a seat in the Western North Carolina delegation to the state House of Representatives.

Also, Wednesday, Superior Court Judge Bruce B. Briggs of Mars Hill announced his intention to seek the nomination as Republican candidate for the 11th District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, from which veteran Democrat Roy A. Taylor is retiring.

In announcing his candidacy for the state seat, Crawford, who is chairman of Democratic Precinct 3, said, "My political philosophy is simple and straightforward. My position on any issue will be determined by what is best for our area."

"I will work for increased economy and efficiency in government, more and better jobs, tighter controls on spending and taxation, increased support for education, stronger law enforcement and speedier administration of justice, improvement in our penal system and increased consumer protection," he said.

Crawford, a Buncombe County native, has served as a member of the state Democratic Executive Committee and as 11th District representative on a 15-member committee currently drafting the party's platform for consideration at the state convention in June.

The 46-year-old parking lot owner earned a political science degree and was in Phi Beta Kappa society at Duke University. After military service with the U.S. Army Counterintelligence Corps in Europe, he entered the publishing field, working as an editor for W.W. Norton, Random House and Odyssey Press publishing houses.

Other hats tossed into the political ring Wednesday besides Crawford's and

Briggs' are those of Thomas F. Eller, challenging incumbent Democrat William E. Digges as Buncombe County register of deeds, and J.W. Morgan, a South French Broad Junior High School science teacher, who became the second candidate for the at-large seat on the expanded Buncombe County Board of Education.

Digges filed for re-election Tuesday, saying he would campaign on his record in office, which includes microfilming county records. He has been register of deeds since 1963.

Briggs, 38, a former Asheville attorney, state senator and assistant U.S. attorney, resigned his 24th Judicial District judgeship effective Wednesday. He was appointed to the bench in February, 1975, by Gov. James E. Holshouser Jr.

"One of the main reasons I'm seeking this office is my firm belief that we need to put the government of Washington back in the hands of the people," he said in a news conference at the Sheraton Motor Inn.

"For too long, the laws and regulations coming out of the federal government in Washington have grown and grown until they interfere too much in the lives and affairs of average citizens and small business people," said Briggs, 38, who was a district court judge prior to the superior court appointment.

Eller, 34, is a legal assistant with the firm of McGuire, Wood, Erwin and Crowe. He cited his frequent dealings with the register of deeds office as a major factor in his qualification for the position he is seeking.

He is completing requirements for a bachelor's degree at Western Carolina University, where he is studying business, business law and real estate.

He was president of the Buncombe County Young Democrats in 1973 and 1974. The incumbent, Digges, was

appointed register of deeds in 1963 to fill the unexpired term of his father, George A. Digges, who held the post since 1918. The younger Digges has won re-election three times, only once with opposition. A potential issue in the campaign is the complaint of his absenteeism.

Morgan, 44, taught chemistry, physics and general science 13 years at Reynolds High School before taking the job at South French Broad.

He said he believes more vocational courses in the schools is the key to getting more industry in the county.

If elected to the school board the nonpartisan November election, he said, he will also try to secure participation by students, citizens and businesses in developing a broader school curriculum.

There are many needs in the health care and child care areas, he asserted.

Buncombe County Commissioner Roy M. Trantham officially entered the race for the chairmanship of the Board of County Commissioners Wednesday by paying his filing fee at the Board of Elections.

Trantham, a Democrat, faces an Aug. 17 primary against incumbent chairman R. Curtis Ratcliff, a Republican, and Clerk of Court J. Ray Eilingsburg.

Chamber Plans Outing For Valley

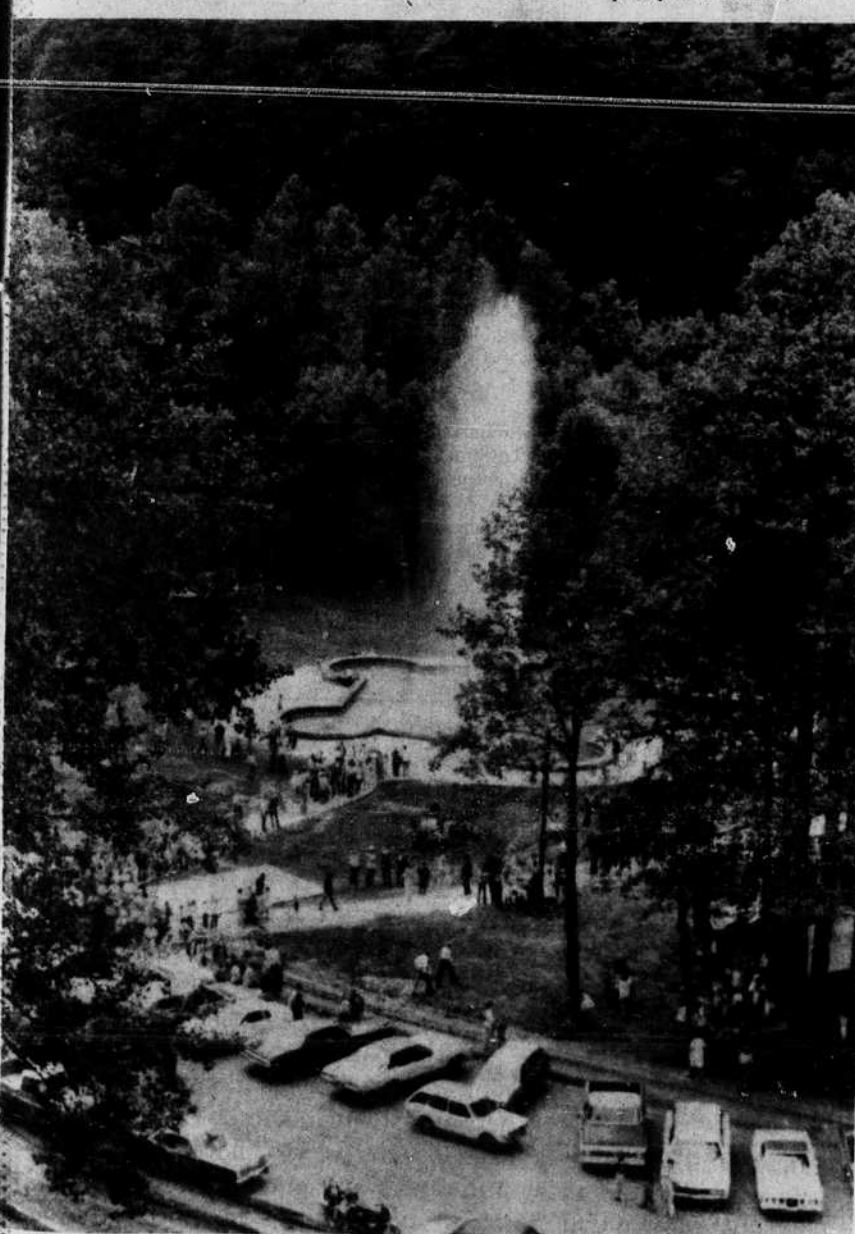
Your Chamber of Commerce has planned a day of activities for everyone in the Valley on Monday, May 31, at Owen High School football field.

Games, contests, band concert, tug-of-war events, prizes and more.

Extent of the planned fireworks display will depend on the outcome of the truckers' strike - at this writing.

The day's events will conclude with a salute to all of our war dead.

Chet Prentice, chairman of the events, promises an unforgettable experience for everyone of all ages, "and it's free."



View Of Geyser From Excursion Train

Grocery Store Robbed

Propst Grocery on Craigmont Road in Black Mountain was robbed Wednesday morning, May 12, by an armed man, Black Mountain police reported.

Propst was preparing to close the store for a few minutes. Propst had just taken the money from the cash register, the patrolman said, when the intruder struck him on the side of the head with his sawed-off shotgun, forced him into the basement, bound him, took his car keys, cut the

telephone line and left. In addition to the cash, the robber took Propst's late model station wagon, Fineberg said. Propst car was later recovered at Oteen.

Propst was treated for ear lacerations at Memorial Mission Hospital.

Patrolman Myron Fineberg said the robber entered at 7:20 a.m. as the owner, David