

# 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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## Buncombe Halts Swine Flu Shots Program

Local and state health officials seemed to have agreed that whatever the effect on the public health of the suspension of the swine flu vaccination campaign, the prognosis for the campaign itself is poor. Buncombe County and North Carolina joined the rest of the nation Thursday, Dec. 16, in halting the swine flu program pending an investigation of the incidence of a paralyzing disease known as Guillain-Barre syndrome following swine flu vaccination. There have been 94 cases of the syndrome nationwide, and in more than half of the cases the person had recently had the vaccination. The paralysis struck a 42 year old Raleigh woman two weeks ago about two weeks after she had the shot.

"There is no cause for alarm," Tenny said. "It is a rare condition. We haven't had any and don't expect any, but we are going along with the suspension just in case." In the case reported in Raleigh, MacCormack said the woman, who was not identified, is "gradually improving." The officials said that since the campaign began in October, approximately 626,000 persons have been vaccinated statewide (as of Nov. 30), approximately 34,000 in Buncombe County. The state health department will now begin collecting data to determine if there has been any increase in the normal rate of the incidence of the syndrome among persons who have received the swine flu shot. Many are taking a cautious

attitude toward the suspension and no sign of fear or panic among those who have received the vaccination. A number of persons were interviewed with responses varying from "wait and see" to "I didn't want the shot anyway." One recent recipient of the vaccination was Chariman R. Curtis Ratcliff of the Board of County Commissioners, who had his picture taken getting the shot Monday in an attempt to give favorable publicity to the immunization program. He said he felt fine and would do it again and would leave the investigation and the campaign to the experts. I might add your editor had her shot in November, suffered absolutely no adverse effects, and like Mr. Ratcliff would do it again.

Dr. James Tenny, Buncombe County health director, said that in his judgment, the available evidence is not sufficient to warrant stopping the campaign. An investigation of possible connections will take two to four weeks and probably find none, he said, but may kill the immunization program.

## Winter Off To Snowy Start

"I would speculate it will be very difficult to resume the program after this on top of the past difficulties," Tenny said. Dr. J.N. MacCormack, head of the communicable disease division of the state health department, voiced a similar concern. "If I had to make a bet, I would say the vaccine will be absorbed," MacCormack said, but "there have been so many problems with this program already. The public response has not been all that good. This may be the straw that broke the camel's back."

Winter arrived a day earlier than scheduled with snow flurries and high winds Monday that made driving conditions dangerous and caused some power failures in the Western North Carolina mountains. National Weather Service said the outlook was for one to two inches of snow to accumulate in the Asheville-Hendersonville area, up to three inches in the northwestern mountains, and one to two inches in the southwestern mountains. Approximately an inch to an inch and a half of snow was reported in the Swannanoa Valley area Tuesday morning. A traveler's advisory was in effect, with reports of some weather related traffic accidents Monday night. Buncombe County School Superintendent Fred Martin announced Monday night that schools would not operate Tuesday. By 3:30 pm Monday, the Blue Ridge Parkway had closed two links of the scenic

route; approximately 65 miles between Mount Pisgah and Cherokee, and 30 miles from Craggy Gardens northward to the N.C. 80 junction. Winter will make its official debut at 12:36 pm Tuesday, when the high temperatures will be in the low 30s. NWS said it will be fair and cold Tuesday night with lows in the teens and fair Wednesday with highs in the mid to upper 30s. The probability of precipitation was 40 percent Tuesday and near zero Tuesday night. We have received reports of lows from 8 degrees to 0 in the Valley. The extended outlook is for some cloudiness Thursday, fair skies Friday and Saturday, with lows mostly in the 20s and highs in the 40s except for warming to the 50s on Christmas Day. CP&L reported small, scattered power failures, but no major outages Monday evening. There had been no reports of serious accidents at press time.



(Photo By Beverly Genetti)

**THIS BEAUTIFUL CHRISMON TREE** is adding beauty and reverence to the sanctuary and worship services of the Swannanoa Presbyterian. Each of its beautiful, hand made bejeweled ornaments of white and gold holds a special significance. Some of these are crosses, shepherds staffs, fish, stars, lambs and many other variations of the names and signs of Christianity down through the ages. It is decreed that each ornament must be made by hand. The ornaments on this tree were made under the direction of Mrs. Sallie Alexander by the women of the church.

## ASCS Panel Announced

New members of the Buncombe County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service committee held their first meeting Monday. They were elected in a

county-wide mail election held recently. The new area committee members are: Black Mountain: O.H. Goodson, Lee C. Hutchins,

Rev. Gorman Burgin, Jackey R. Wheeler and Harry Morris; Broad River: Richard Morgan, William L. Garrison, C.M. Fortune, Lawrence Ballard and B.Y. Fortune; Swannanoa: Albert Richardson, C. Latt McMahon, Roy A. Armstrong, Baxton Bryant and Paul Patton.

## Governor Hunt Invites Citizens To Inauguration



GOV. ELECT. HUNT

Governor-elect Jim Hunt this week extended a personal invitation to the citizens of Buncombe County to attend the North Carolina Inauguration in Raleigh on Saturday, January 8. "January 8 is inauguration day for your governor, your lieutenant governor and your Council of State," the governor-elect said, "and it will also be a people's day." The governor-elect said that the inaugural events were being held this time on Saturday so that school children and working people can attend. The activities will begin around 11:30 am when Governor James Holshouser and Mrs. Holshouser receive final military honors at the Executive Mansion on Blount Street.

At about 11:34 am, the inaugural party will walk from the Executive Mansion to the site of the swearing-in ceremony at Bicentennial Plaza. The new plaza is located between the Capitol and the State Legislative Building. During the noon ceremony oaths of office will be administered to Governor-elect Hunt, Lieutenant Governor-elect James C. Green and members of the Council of State. A two-hour parade will follow at 1 pm, and people may watch the colorful event on Wilmington and Salisbury Streets between Jones and Martin Streets. The parade will begin north of the Legislative Building on Wilmington Street, head south on Wilmington Street, then turn on Martin Street to Salisbury Street, where it will run north again. The final event of the day is a public reception at the Executive Mansion where the public will be greeted by the new governor, lieutenant



LT. GOV. ELECT. GREEN

governor and members of the Council of State. "I want all of the people in Buncombe County to understand that no special invitation or tickets are needed for any of these events," Governor-elect Hunt said. "Saturday, January 8, is a day for the people of this state," he added, "and I want the people to be a part of the inauguration. Please come to Raleigh and be a part of your inauguration."

## Tax Bills Due By Dec. 31

No matter when you got your tax bill, it still must be paid by Dec. 31 to avoid a penalty. Most residents of Buncombe County got their bills late this year. Tax bills for residents of Asheville were mailed out in late September, about when they are normally, but those for property owners outside the city limits were not mailed out until late November. State law requires that tax bills be "made available" for payment by Sept. 1 each year, according to Tax Supervisor Edward McElrath, but there is no requirement that they be mailed. He said when asked about the mailing of the county bills that anyone who had wished to pay his bill after Sept. 1 could have come to his office and had one made out. However, one taxpayer who called The Times after that report first appeared said he had gone to the tax collector's office and tried to do just that some time before the mailing and was told he would have to wait until the bills were mailed. McElrath attributed the delay to an inadequate staff in his department, saying he has asked the Board of County Commissioners for additional personnel, without success. A two per cent interest penalty is assessed on tax bills not paid by Dec. 31 for the first month and a penalty for three quarters of a per cent for each month after that the bill is unpaid. Listing for property taxes for 1977 will begin Jan. 3 with the deadline for listing without penalty on Jan. 31.

## Swannanoa Manslaughter Charge Dropped

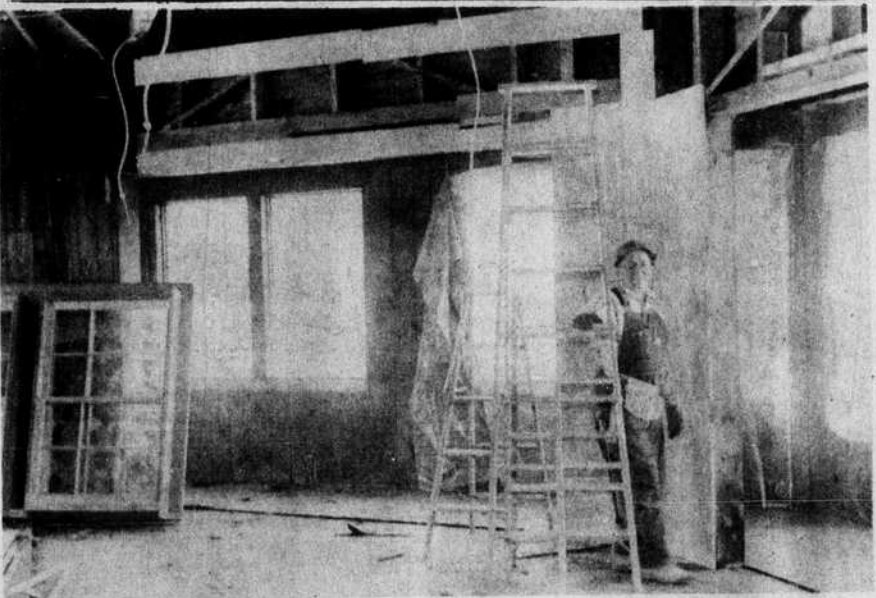
A Swannanoa man had a manslaughter charge against him dismissed by District Court Judge William Styles, after a hearing. Wilson McDonald Pittman, 51, of 108 Central Ave., Swannanoa, was charged after the death of his nephew

on Dec. 5 from a pistol wound. Rickie Murphy, 19, of Myrtle Beach was pronounced dead on arrival at a hospital. Judge Styles confiscated the weapon after finding it illegally obtained and ordered it destroyed.

## Gudger Plans Trip

Congressman-elect Lamar Gudger has announced plans for a "district to D.C." bus trip enabling residents of the 11th District to participate in the festivities surrounding the congressional swearing-in ceremonies on Jan. 4th. The Washington bound bus will depart from the Westgate Shopping Center in Asheville on Sunday, Jan. 2, arriving in the Capital late that evening. Participants in the trip will have the option of touring a number of attractions in the Capital including the Smithsonian Institution, the National Archives, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as well as the National Gallery. Currently, the National Gallery has the famed "King Tut" exhibit on display.

A reception will be held at the Capitol Hill Quality Inn on Monday evening. It will be the main event of the swearing-in festivities. On Tuesday afternoon, Congressman and Mrs. Gudger will have a reception for their guests in the House Agriculture Committee room located in the Longworth House Office Building. This reception will follow the swearing-in ceremonies. The bus will return to Asheville late Tuesday afternoon. The cost of the trip has been kept to a minimum so that those interested can participate. Information about the trip may be obtained by contacting Sue Peake in Roy Taylor's office in the North Western Bank Building, Asheville.



(Photos By Beverly Genetti)

**RENOVATION OF THE CLUB HOUSE** on Tomahawk Lake is progressing at a fast pace at the hands of Neal Bartlett and his crew. New rafters and beams are in place in the burned out ceiling and the floor has been repaired. Robert McMahan is replacing the electrical wiring and everyone is working hard to meet a deadline to have the Club House ready for a dance scheduled for New Year's Eve.

## Decoration Or Desecration ?

Somewhere in Black Mountain, or in the Valley or perhaps even farther afield two families have a beautiful spruce Christmas tree decorating or desecrating their homes? Beautiful yes, but how can you truly enjoy them for they are stolen property? The property of all

the people of the Township of Black Mountain. Sometime during the hours of late last Wednesday evening or early Thursday some one helped themselves to two of the beautiful spruces gracing the golf course. Ross Taylor stated Friday

"I have some beautiful white pines I would gladly have given them, had they asked but these spruces were gifts to the Club." Yes, hey're beautiful but how can you celebrate the birth of Christ with his? We can't see how.

## Jaycees Getting 'The Bird'

An Asheville City Hall secretary raised her head from her first cup of coffee on Tuesday morning Dec 7. A puzzled look crossed her face, "I could swear I hear a rooster," she muttered. She did. And so did most of the other occupants of the eight story municipal building on City-County Plaza before the newest "member" of the Asheville Jaycees was whisked away to other quarters. The Black Mountain chapter of the Jaycees acquired the unusually large white rooster recently for a plan to promote more visitation between Jaycee chapters. A club acquires the rooster when another Jaycee chapter shows up at one of its meetings with at least 20 per cent of the visiting club's membership. The visitors then give the other chapter the bird. That chapter can then get rid of the rooster by taking at least 20 per cent of its members to a meeting of some other Jaycee chapter that has not yet gotten the bird. The Black Mountain Jaycees turned out in force Monday night, Dec. 6 for a

meeting of the Asheville Jaycees in the Downtown Motor Inn. They left the rooster, named Rojo, behind. Not knowing what else to do with the bird at that late hour, the Jaycees took Rojo to the Jaycee offices in City Hall for the night. This morning the sun came up. And Rojo did what all roosters do. He crowed. And crowed. Until the Jaycees rushed him out to the office of Asheville Jaycee president Mike Moser at Moser Inc., on Elk Mountain Road. Rojo, that is Spanish for red, kept the plumbing company chief company until Thursday of last week when the Weaverville chapter of the Jaycees met. And Moser moved heaven and earth to have a good turnout of Asheville Jaycees on hand. The long-range goal of the promotion is to have the rooster at the state Jaycee convention in May as a visitor to all of the chapters in the western district. In the meantime, if anyone harms one feather on Rojo's head, it will cost that chapter \$50. Which should keep Rojo out of any skillets and living

the good life until May. At last report the Weaverville Club had "The Bird" and were massing their forces to move him elsewhere as soon as possible.



(Photo By Regenia Byrd)

**Introducing Top Black Mountain - Swannanoa Jaycee Rooster El Rojo.** He's visiting around all other Jaycee Clubs in the area. El Rojo is a very valuable bird and will not, were sure, grace anyone's table at Christmas. He's shown here with his capturers Don Buchanan and Steve King.