

BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

DEVOTED 100% TO OUR COMMUNITY — THE GROWING SWANNAHOA VALLEY

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RUSTIC REMAINS silently endure, as yet another year's snow blankets the fields and hillside. (A David Peele Photo)

More Serious Charges Levied

ABC Store Case Continued

A hearing Monday on the alleged illegal sale of liquor from the Black Mountain ABC store was rescheduled for Feb. 21, but the case was expanded with more serious charges.

Larry Higgins, assistant store manager, and Melvin Spencer Warren, a clerk, had originally been charged with illegal sale of liquor from the store, but they were charged with felonious larceny charges Monday.

Bill Ingram, district 10 supervisor for the ABC enforcement division, said the felony charges were filed as a result of an inventory and audit of the store's stock and financial records.

Ingram said the investigation showed that 70 pint bottles of bourbon, valued at \$225, and \$269 in cash was found to be missing from the store following a raid Dec. 27.

A third defendant, Grover Gene O'Dear, 34, of Rt. 6 Marion, was also arrested at the store on the night of Dec. 27 and charged with illegal transportation and illegal sale of liquor. A hearing on O'Dear's charges was rescheduled for Feb. 21.

Meanwhile, Higgins, 27, of Northfork Rd., and Warren, 30, of 105 W. College St. have been suspended from the ABC store jobs without pay.

Ingram described O'Dear as a "known bootlegger," who has been convicted three times in McDowell County for illegal sale of liquor.

And Ingram said he has evidence in a fourth illegal liquor sale charge against O'Dear that shows liquor seized in this case can be traced to the Black Mountain ABC store.

Ingram said a raid on O'Dear's McDowell County home last October resulted in the confiscation of liquor that can be traced through boxes and code numbers to the Black Mountain ABC store, although no charges have been filed against Higgins or Warren in this case.

He said O'Dear, found guilty of the charges in McDowell County District Court, has appealed the conviction to Superior Court.

Ingram said the arrests of Higgins, Warren and O'Dear in Black Mountain on the night of Dec. 27 were made as a result of an eyewitness ac-

count given to ABC enforcement officers by a Black Mountain detective.

Ingram said the detective observed O'Dear back his car up to the rear of the ABC store and receive several boxes of liquor from the store that night.

Ingram described O'Dear's automobile as a former police car, equipped with a high powered engine and an eight-channel police scanner.

He said the 70 pint bottles seized from the car, which

was also confiscated by ABC officers, consisted of 48 bottles of Evan Williams bourbon and 24 bottles of Old American bourbon.

Ingram said an investigation into alleged illegal activity at the Black Mountain ABC store is continuing. He said he will turn over all of his investigative files to the State Bureau of Investigation for a continuing probe after court action in these cases is completed.

Dozier Joins M-A College Trustee Board



GRAHAM P. DOZIER III

Graham P. Dozier III of Winston-Salem has accepted an invitation to join the Montreat-Anderson College Board of Trustees.

A 1964 graduate of Auburn

University, Dozier finished with a B.S. in Business Administration and worked with IBM for several years before joining Wachovia Bank in 1961. Promotions to key positions through the years brought him to his present position of comptroller for Wachovia Corporation and Wachovia Bank.

Professionally, he is a member of the Accounting Task Force and the American Bankers Association of which he is secretary for the Carolinas chapter.

Dozier has been associated with the First Presbyterian Church of Winston-Salem since 1957. A member of the Board of Deacons from 1970-76, he served as chairman of that board from 1972-74. He is married and has three daughters.

Gudger Offices To Open

U.S. Rep. Lamar Gudger announced that 11th District Congressional offices in Suite 1204 of the Northwestern Bank Building, which have been renovated and expanded, will be formally opened Friday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Gudger will be hosts, along with district staff members, for the festivities beginning at 3:30 pm. The Rev. Orion Hutchinson, pastor of Central United Methodist Church, will participate in the opening ceremonies.

A conference room to house scholarship information of interest to students in the 11th District has been set aside in the office area. University

college, technical and vocational school catalogs, as well as information concerning foundation and government scholarships, will be collected here for the use of individuals seeking financial aid for educational needs.

In addition, the renovated offices include reception space for visitors and work areas for staff members.

No formal invitations will be sent for the occasion. Gudger said all Western North Carolinians, federal employees and neighbors in the Northwestern Bank Building are invited to participate in the opening. Light refreshments will be served.

Austin Burgess "Fireman Of The Year"

Austin Burgess was named "Fireman Of The Year" at the Black Mountain Fire Department Awards Banquet and Ladies Night Monday evening Jan. 31 at the Monte Vista Hotel.

Woody Patton presented the trophy and a check for \$25 on behalf of the Rotary Club. Burgess was chosen on his record from December to December, based on most hours training, best attendance record, response to most fire calls and extra duty.

Fire Chief Mack Kirkpatrick served as master of ceremonies. He welcomed the group and introduced the guests present. He recognized retired firemen and their wives, Mr. and Mrs. Worth Burgess, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Williams, Mr. and Mrs. R.W. Cook and Mr. and Mrs. John Rice.

Kirkpatrick also paid tribute to a number of men who were in a sense the founders of the Fire Department in 1919. These included R.T. Greene, J.T. Cook, Doss Kerlee, Leroy Mashburn, Cecil Nannay and James Dougherty.

Congratulations were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Reed who were celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary.

Kirkpatrick said 1976 was a

good year but that the overall record was not as good as 1975. He stated the Department answered 209 calls, 113 within the city limits and 96 outside with a total exposure of \$802,920, there was a loss of \$122,995 for a loss percentage rate of 1.6. There were two injuries from fire but no deaths in 1976. The 36 Volunteer Firemen put in a total of 1,985 hours in training, 3,079 hours in actual fire fighting and 1,238 in extra duties such as delivering food, fuel oil and water during extremely severe weather for a total of 6,302 volunteer manhours.

The firemen laid a total of 18,850 ft. of hose on the ground during these duties. All of this later had to be washed, cleaned and dried, (no small task in sub freezing temperatures). An average of 17 volunteers and two paid employees responded to each call.

Kirkpatrick said members of the Department have delivered 3,000 gallons of fuel oil, thousands of gallons of water and great amounts of food to those who were stranded, whose water pipes were frozen or homes to which oil trucks could not go because of impassable road conditions. This is what it's all about, he stated, neighbors helping

neighbors.

Service pins were presented. Those receiving five year awards were: Bud Hall, Frankie Williams, Joe Williams, Pete Post, Bert Stone and Ronald Patton. Ten year pins went to Chief Kirkpatrick, Asst. Chief Sterling Poe, Freddie Clark, Bill Jones, Ernest Conner and Harry Oakes.

Eight new volunteer members were introduced. They are Frank Plemmons, Randy Halford, Robbie Yates, Tom Turner, Gary Sorrells, Bill Preston, Weldon Pressley and Rick Patton.

Lt. Steve King, assisted by Sterling Poe presented a number of doorprizes.

The officers for 1977 are President, Fred Robinson; Vice-president, Bill Jones; Secretary, Ronald Patton; Treasurer, Frank Williams and Directors Kenneth Glenn and Pete Post.

Jon Creighton, Town Manager, Alderman A.F. Tyson and Betty and Alderman Tom Sobol and Beverly were present as town representatives.

Woody Patton stated in the presentation of the award that the motto of the Rotary Club is Service Above Self and that no where is that motto put into practice than by the Fire Department members.



AUSTIN BURGESS, center, was presented the Fireman of the Year Award Monday night. Chief Mack Kirkpatrick, left beams his approval as Woody Patton presented the trophy on behalf of the Rotary Club.

Reward Offered For Oil Thieves

Thieves have been striking with continuity the Swannanoa Valley Medical Thrift Shop on State Street.

During the last two months between seven and eight hundred dollars worth of fuel oil has been taken from the oil tank at the back of the store.

The culprits broke the lock on the tank and drained it the first time. Ten days ago the Thrift Shop had 300 gallons of oil placed back in the tank, plus a new lock, this too has disappeared.

Ernest DeWick stated Tuesday the Shop is offering a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the culprits. Call 669-8003 to relay any information you may have. It will be treated with complete confidence.

CP&L Increase Reduced

The "approved fuel charge" on Feb. bills for Carolina Power & Light Co.'s North Carolina retail customers will be \$1.39 per thousand kilowatt hours, instead of \$4.78 as the company had requested.

Under a new formula for calculating the monthly fuel charge approved last week by the N.C. Utilities Commission, the Feb. fuel charge will be based on CP&L's average fuel cost for a three-month period of September, October, and November, said James Davis Jr., CP&L's manager of rates and service practices.

Davis said according to the previous formula, under which CP&L had filed for the \$4.78 charge, the Feb. fuel charge would have been based on November fuel costs alone.

This cost was much higher than the three month average fuel cost because CP&L's nuclear plants were out of service for refueling and maintenance during November.

The fuel charge in future months also will be based on the average of a three-month period, rather than on fuel cost in a single previous month.

CP&L's January fuel charge is 34 cents per thousand kilowatt-hours, so the Feb. charge represents an increase of \$1.05 per thousand.

Davis added that most customers are requiring more electricity this month because of the extreme cold weather, and "we are continuing to advise our customers to conserve energy wherever possible."

Pizza Hut Restaurants Take Energy Action

In an attempt to help ease the North Carolina energy crisis, 62 Pizza Hut restaurants in 36 communities across the state are voluntarily restricting their hours of operation. This action went into effect Jan. 30.

The announcement, which followed a telegram informing Gov. Jim Hunt of the action, was made by representatives

of both Pizza Hut, Inc. (operators of 22 company owned units) and CWG Enterprises, Inc., the Pizza Hut system's largest franchisee organization and operators of 40 North Carolina units.

In the telegram to the governor, Pizza Hut representatives explained the new operating hours. They are 11:30 am to 2:30 pm and 4:30 pm to 11 pm Sunday through Thursday and from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm and 4:30 pm to midnight Friday and Saturday.

These new business times represent a reduction of some 26 percent (24%) from normal operating hours. These restricted hours will be in effect for at least seven days or until a dramatic decrease in the severity of the energy crisis is experienced.

Pizza Hut spokesmen said they hoped this voluntary restriction of opening hours would encourage other

business establishments to take their own positive course of action to help ease the crisis.

"This is an opportunity for North Carolina's representatives of the free enterprise system to play a leading role in lessening the energy burden being experienced throughout the state," officials of both Pizza Hut, Inc. and CWG said. "We are, of course, most hopeful this action will have a dramatic positive influence in easing the energy problems facing all of us, but most particularly the schools, hospitals, nursing homes and homes for the aged."

"We feel our action can contribute substantially to energy conservation, service the basic eat away from home needs of customers during peak food consumption periods and serve as a catalyst for other businesses to take their own positive action."

Hunt Coming To WNC

Governor Jim Hunt's first in-state trip since his inauguration will be to the western area of the state. The Governor has twice been to Washington, D.C., for the Presidential Inauguration and to testify before the Federal Power Commission.

The Governor will speak at 7 pm Friday, Feb. 4, to the Hendersonville Chamber of Commerce at the Hendersonville Country Club.

The following morning will make an announcement pertaining to western North Carolina. That announcement will be made at the Interchange Building in Asheville.

Details of the announcement will be forthcoming at a later date.

Alcoholic Center Is Accredited

A Western North Carolina psychiatric hospital and an alcoholic rehabilitation center were notified recently that they have been accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals (JCAH).

Broughton Hospital in Morganton was accredited for two years and the Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center for the western region in Black Mountain received a one year accreditation.

JCAH is a national accreditation body that surveys hospitals on a regular basis.



THE BEAUTY OF RIME FROST: Looking south from Montreat, this winter scene overlooking Black Mountain shows rime frost in the distance as the mountain range nears Swannanoa. The photo by E.A. An-

Meditations Calendar published by Andrews and Dr. John R. Crawford of Montreat. The photograph is used as the cover photo for the January edition of Carolina Country.

T. K. Brown, Scion Of Prominent Local Family, Dies

Tom Kimbrell Brown of North Fork Road, Black Mountain, active in the Democratic Party of Buncombe County for many years, died Sunday, Jan. 30, at his home of an apparent heart attack. He was 73.

A native of Buncombe County, he was owner and operator of T.K. Brown Construction Company before his retirement and a farmer. He was the son of the late Rev. T.K. Brown and Mary Davis Brown. His father was the first mayor of Black Mountain.

Mr. Brown was a member of Black Mountain Masonic Lodge No. 663 A.F. & A.M. a 32nd Degree Mason and a Shriner. He was a member of Black Mountain First Baptist Church.

He served for 15 years as a deputy sheriff in the administration of his late brother, Sheriff Laurence E. Brown. He was chief deputy during his last five years. One of the highlights of his career as a deputy sheriff was when he was credited with solving the murder case in the middle

1930s in which a 19 year old New York University coed, was found shot and stabbed to death in a hotel room.

Mr. Brown was a delegate to the Democratic national convention in Los Angeles in 1960. He was the only supporter from Western North Carolina for the late John F. Kennedy in his bid for the presidential nomination. He also served as chairman of Black Mountain Precinct No. 3 for several years. He was a former chairman of Black Mountain Precinct No. 1.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Alma Thornton Brown; a son, Tommy Brown of Black Mountain and two grandsons.

Services were held at 2 pm Tuesday in the chapel of Miller Funeral Home. The Rev. Edgar Ferrell officiated. Burial was in Mountain View Memorial Park with Masonic graveside rites. The Lodge opened at 1 pm Tuesday. Masons were pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were Wade Shook, Bob Black, Orice Goodson, Judge W.K. McLean, Bruce Elmore, Roy Lunsford, Roy Adams, and Oscar Jones.