

BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

DEVOTED 100% TO OUR COMMUNITY — THE GROWING SWANNANOVA VALLEY

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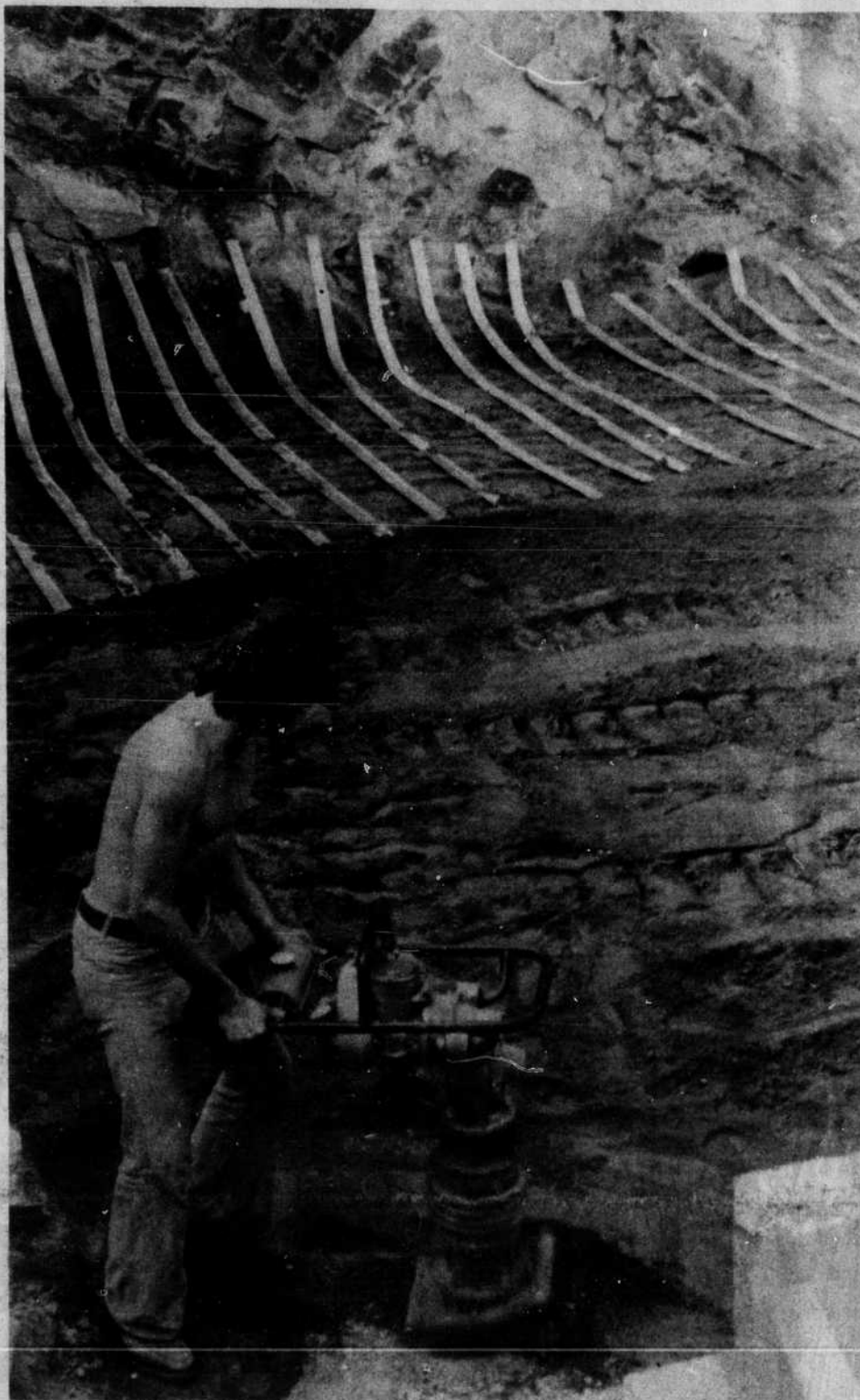
15 CENTS

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Earth wall on US 70 a first in NC

by Dan Ward and Phyllis Genetti
The retaining wall being built and three others scheduled for construction on U.S. 70 near Old Fort will be the first of their kind in North Carolina, according to Stan Hyatt, assistant engineer for the project.
The process, known as reinforced earth construction and patented by the Reinforced Earth Co., has been used extensively in Western states with a good deal of success. Hyatt said. The process was first developed in France.
A retaining wall of interlocking cement slabs is assembled for the outside edge of the wall. The workers on U.S. 70 have the first three layers of slabs assembled at this time.
A series of 42 foot, thin steel strips are attached to the slabs, and are layered

alternately with 7½ inches of compacted sand, according to Chief Inspector for the project Herman (Hoss) Lafavers. Almost 100 layers of strips and sand will be necessary to build the wall to the level of the existing roadbed, he said.
The pressure of the sand on the steel strips holds the slab wall in and prevents landslides.
Reinforced Earth claims that their process costs up to 50 per cent less than other methods of making retaining walls, and is as solid as conventional methods.
Lafavers said that all four walls scheduled for the Old Fort area have a contractor deadline of October 1. Hyatt said traffic will be reduced to three lanes at each site as construction begins there, with the two downhill lanes remaining open to prevent accidents from runaway trucks.



A WORKER packs sand down over one of the first layers of steel strips used in the reinforced earth wall being built on US 70 near Old Fort. The strips are attached to the cement wall in the foreground. (Dan Ward)

School vote May 3

by Dan Ward
Buncombe County residents will be asked to vote May 3 on a referendum to supplement funds for public schools in the county.
The question put before voters is whether the schools be allowed to collect up to 20 cents per \$100 valuation on real and personal property. Advisory councils at Black Mountain Grammar School, Black Mountain Primary School, Carver Optional School and Swannanoa School have all come out strongly in favor of the referendum.
The money, if the referendum passes, would be used to "supplement and equalize educational advantages and standards in county schools. The money will not be used for interscholastic athletics, employee raises, or the purchase of land, buildings or motor vehicles.
John Carroll, a member of the Buncombe County Board

of Education, said that most of the money collected would be used to hire additional teachers and teaching assistants.
"We need more attention per student—especially in the primary grades," Carroll said. He said the amount of money allocated to schools and what the money is used for would vary from school to school, based on the needs and enrollment of the school.
Carroll predicted that the first year's assessment, if the referendum passes, will be about 15 cents per \$100.
Polling places are as follows:
Black Mountain
Precinct One—Owen High School; Precinct Two—Black Mountain Primary School; Precinct Three—Club House; Precinct Four—Montreat Inn lobby.
Swannanoa
Precinct One—Swannanoa Vol Fire Dept.; Precinct Two—Swannanoa School.

Meet the staff Phyllis Genetti -- not just typist



by Dan Ward
Editor's Note: The following article is part of a series on staff members here at the Black Mountain News. We will try to show the different steps to producing a newspaper, as well as give you an idea of how dedicated and energetic a person must be to help turn out a good newspaper.
"Don't tell everyone I'm the typist," Phyllis Genetti said, grimacing at the prospect of making her duties at the News public knowledge. "I get so many complaints about misspelled words as it is."
Actually, Phyllis does an exceptionally good job of typesetting — our problem at the News is proofreading the hundred feet or so of copy in a short period.
Our typesetting machines print their results on computer tape, which is fed through another computer, which reproduces typed copy photographically. There is no such thing as erasing and retyping a mistake. Mistakes must be cut out or pasted over with other copy minutes after Phyllis types them. Then the columns of copy are waxed on

the back and "pasted up" on layout sheets — a pieced together image of the finished news page.
Phyllis is more than typesetter at the News. She is the commandant for a brigade of newsboys. They love her and joke with her, but they know they have to hop when Phyllis tells them.
One of her most important roles at the News is as an information bank. She is intrigued with people and seems to know everybody and their unique characteristics. Many times Phyllis has been liaison or inspiration for interviews printed by the News.
She is a unique lady in herself. She has held a variety of jobs, from occasional television commercial actress and set designer to carpenter to telephone receptionist to boutique owner. In the past, she has worked for Singer-Kearfoot, Beacon Manufacturing and Valley Realty.
Originally from Asheville, Phyllis left this area for "nine or ten" years and lived in Virginia Beach. She returned to Black Mountain because "it's the best place to raise my children," Tod and Lara.

Swannanoa fire dept.

The Swannanoa Fire Department made two runs last week.
On Thursday, April 24, four men and one engine were called to a brush fire on Bee Tree Rd.
On Friday, April 22, 15 men and one engine put out a brush fire on Old US 70 near Swannanoa School.
Black Mtn. Fire Dept.
The Black Mountain Fire Department made only one call last week. Two trucks and 18 men responded to a fog house fire April 19 at Drexel Plant No. 10. About \$3000 damage was reported.
Buncombe County Ambulance
The ambulance service made 18 routine runs, four emergencies and two in which they were not needed.

Greenwood to seek OK for vote, back taxes bill

by Dan Ward
State Rep. Gordon Greenwood will seek approval from the House Speaker, Lt. Governor and chairmen of both rules committees in Raleigh to introduce a bill, well after the local issues deadline, to legitimize past votes of two town board members who were found to have lived outside the Black Mountain town limits. The bill would also validate back taxes charged to persons whose property was improperly annexed and is now in the process of being annexed to the town of Black Mountain.
Greenwood told the News recently that he objected to reports given the News that an earlier version of the bill, which would eliminate petitions and public hearing to annex property to the town, was intended to cover up past improper procedures by the town board.

Greenwood said he obtained the legal opinion of the Attorney General and the League of Municipalities before asking the town for a listing of its meets and bounds, needed for the bill.
"I'm not at all interested or concerned with the bill," he said. "I had no intention of introducing it without the full support of the board. The board and City Manager Jon Creighton asked me to in-

troduce the bill, and I looked into it."
Creighton said earlier that he first heard of the proposal to annex the Spring Hill area legislatively when Ald. Tom Sobol informed him that Rep. Greenwood wanted the meets and bounds of the town.
All board members, except Sobol, when contacted by the News, said they did not know that legislative annexation was being considered until March 30 or after, well after footwork on the bill began in Raleigh.
Mayor Margaret Slagle and Ald. Ruth Brandon said they

first heard of the bill March 30 at Mayor's Day in Raleigh from Rep. Robert Swain, who was assisting Greenwood with the bill.
Ald. A. F. Tyson and Don Hoefling said they first learned of the bill in the April 21 edition of the News. Ald. John Mundy could not be contacted by press time.
Sobol, when contacted by the News last Monday, said he did not remember whether he proposed legislative annexation to Greenwood, or Greenwood proposed it to him, or when. He acknowledged passing the

meets and bounds request on to Creighton.
Sobol had said last week that he had always favored the petition and public hearing method of annexation for Spring Hill. He told the News recently that he felt some people, whom he did not specify, were "Making a mountain out of a molehill."
Mayor Slagle said she supports Greenwood's effort to legitimize past votes and taxes assessed by the board. No board members have voiced an opposition to the bill Greenwood is currently trying to place before the legislature.

Board may be deadlocked by residency requirement

by Dan Ward
Black Mountain Town Attorney William Eubanks said April 26 that he will investigate whether John Mundy will be able to vote on the Town Board until past votes by Ald. Tom Sobol and Don Hoefling are found legal.
Without Mundy's vote, the board would not be able to obtain a quorum—said

therefore could not transact any business.
Sobol's and Hoefling's votes were included in Mundy's appointment to the board, making the alderman's appointment one of many questioned transactions that may have to be legitimized by state legislation.
Rep. Gordon Greenwood, who is trying to originate legislation to legitimize past votes of Sobol and Hoefling,

said that those two aldermen may still have to conform to a 30-day precinct residency requirement after their property is annexed before they may begin voting again and their past votes become valid. If that is the case, the town board will not be able to transact business before June.
Eubanks said he intends to consult the League of Municipalities to find out if Mundy can vote before then.

Cherry St. seeks improvements

by Betty Tyson
At the May meeting of the Town Improvement Committee Thursday night, a delegation of shop owners from Cherry St. asked for help in beautifying the street and making it a more attractive place to browse and shop. The group asked that the town remove the dead bushes from the walkways and replace them with sourwood trees. They also want the State St.

entrance to Cherry St. beautified. Harriet Styles suggested that Cherry St. be made into a one way street with traffic flowing south from State St. to Sutton Ave. and that all parking be angle parking on the east side of the street only. After much discussion, the group decided to request the Cherry St. improvements in a petition which they will bring to Town Council meeting May 9.

Nothing will be replanted until the interstate is finished and some of the heavy traffic alleviated.
Mrs. Styles reported that all of the 500 sourwood trees were sold, many of which are now being planted around Lake Tomahawk by the Black Mountain Women's Club. Mr. Creighton said that the walking path around the lake will be started next week.

for receiving these collected items was set for May 21 in the rear parking lot of the Bank of Asheville. The Town Improvement Committee hopes to have information on the collection of newspapers and cardboard very soon. This is a project that would be a fine service to the community and a money-raising plan for some organization.
Mrs. Tyson said, "Now that our sidewalks and streets are back in shape, it is time for all of the downtown businesses and shops to paint up, fix up, or at least wash their windows!"
Members of the Town Improvement Committee are: Chairman Betty Tyson, Secretary Kay Hyder, Hugo Thompson, Albert Garland, Harriett Styles, Chet Prentice and Gay Fox.

Police Report

The Black Mountain Police Dept. conducted 25 investigations this past week. They arrested one for DUI, issued a citation for a loud muffler, two for stop light violations, five got speeding, one warning citation and arrested one for public drunkenness.
They assisted nine motorists, assisted BCSO, assisted SHP, transported two to detox and escorted one funeral.

They had two civil disturbances.
The following accidents were recorded: Craigmont Rd., with property damage of \$900. The driver fled scene of accident in a one car accident.

Meet the board "Board is dedicated" -- A.F. Tyson

by Dan Ward
"We've been torn up with water improvements, telephone improvements, and I-40 being built. It's been hard to do anything in a permanent way. I think we're ready to move now," said Ald. A.F. Tyson, 14-year veteran of the Black Mountain Town Board.
Tyson said he is satisfied with the rate of improvements in Black Mountain and predicted that some new programs will be implemented as soon as the heavy interstate traffic is diverted from town.
Tyson was "Born and raised in Black Mountain and has worked at the family-owned Tyson Furniture since the business began in 1946. He served on the board for 12 years in 'the 50s and 60s' before dropping out of politics until last election.
He said that he believes there is no communication gap between the board and the citizens. "I think there is good communication between the town and board, as evidenced by the turnout at meetings," he said. "I see no problem on that account at all."
Tyson said the best way for

citizens to get action on an issue is to demonstrate that they are willing to work for a goal. "The people themselves have to be interested—they can't depend on federal funds or someone else to do it for them."
He also advised that a person carries the greatest clout when he speaks out at a public meeting.
"I believe in bringing problems to the open meeting. I don't like going to the individual board members," he said.
"There are more people concerned about it (local government) than ever before," he noted. He cited organized efforts to beautify Cherry St. and renovate the depot as examples.
He said he believes the present board has been more willing to invest a great deal of time to public service than any before, and is optimistic that the town will go through some great changes once the interstate highway is completed.
"I tell you, when I-40 is completed, I think this town will become the nicest little town in Western North Carolina."

