

BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

DEVOTED 100% TO OUR COMMUNITY — THE GROWING SWANNANOVA VALLEY

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15 CENTS

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Swannanoa begins Neighborhood Watch

by Dan Ward

Plans are now under way to begin a Neighborhood Watch Program in Swannanoa. As the result of talks given to the Fire Department Board of Directors by John Heatherly of the Buncombe County Sheriff's Department, the board has planned to go ahead with a ham supper to introduce the program to Swannanoa residents.

The supper will be held June 1 at the fire station from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., according to Emma Crawford of the Ladies

Auxiliary. The cost will be \$2.50 for adults and \$1.25 for children under 12.

The Neighborhood Watch is a program in which neighbors agree to watch each other's property for suspicious activity. Mrs. Crawford said the program has been very successful in the Riceville and Buckeye Cove communities. Riceville has not had any crime since they began the program, she said.

In fact, she said, a recent upswing in crime in Swannanoa has been attributed to the effectiveness of the

program in the two neighboring communities. Would-be burglars have been opting for swannanoa as a safer place to commit crimes.

The only expense in joining the program is the \$1.00 purchase price of the warning sign members buy to place on their mailboxes, she said.

At its regular meeting May 5, the board of Directors also authorized a resolution to institute a four-mile fire zone and approved an \$800 expenditure for a 1500 gallon vinyl backup tank.

"VIPs reneged," ex-director charges

by Dan Ward

Eleven former staff members of the Lake James camp operated by the juvenile Evaluation Center (JEC) in Swannanoa have arranged grievance hearings to express their view that JEC Director William Noland and Bill Windley, acting director of the Division of Youth Services in Raleigh, reneged on a compromise allowing all 11 to return to their previous positions at the camp.

The eleven were fired between March 24 and 28 for collectively refusing to obey a memorandum from Noland to maintain night supervision at the camp. Jay Weinstein, director of the camping program and a Black Mountain resident, said Noland's directive was disobeyed because the camp only had 11 staff members, making a two-member all night watch impossible, and because of previous incidents, building up to the confrontation, of Noland personally altering camp procedures without input from the staff.

Noland, when contacted by the News, said he could not comment on any of Weinstein's statements because he was not allowed to talk to the press about personnel matters.

Windley could not be reached for comment at his Raleigh office before press time.

Weinstein told the News that it was decided in a meeting between the 11, Noland and Windley that all 11 staff members would be hired back to work at the camp. They also agreed to hire on full-time staff member to work as a night watchperson five nights per week, with one of the 11 performing the duty on weekends, he said.

Weinstein also said Windley personally called him April 1, the day after the meeting, and assured him that he would, in Weinstein's words, "protect the program from Noland's meddling." Weinstein said Windley apologized at that time for the firings, and said he would reinstate the staff within a few days.

Three weeks later, Weinstein said, he received a letter from Windley stating that he would not be reinstated because it would set a bad precedent for other state employees who had grievances. At that time, two other staff members, Van Burnett and Ruth Craine, were offered reinstatement, but as night staff workers at

the JEC, generally considered a far step down from work at the camp.

All 11 have decided not to be reinstated unless it is under the terms laid out in the March 31 compromise, Weinstein said.

The hearings will be held before a panel of five peers, co-workers of similar rank and qualifications. Weinstein is scheduled for May 18.

Weinstein said the fact that the camp, with 20 children and 10 staff members... only had one child run away in six months as compared to five per week on the average at the JEC was an indication of his staff's success without "meddling." The JEC has constant supervision and locked doors—which the camp did not. There are 180 residents and 120 staff members at the JEC.

Weinstein said the 11 will hold a benefit Sunday, May 15 at Deer Lake Lodge in an effort to raise enough money to defray lawyers fees. Food and live music will be provided, he said.

Hearing set

Buncombe County will have a public hearing at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 18, at the county building in Asheville,

on how the county should spend an expected \$1.7 million in federal revenue sharing funds for fiscal 1977-78, which begins July 1.

Meet the staff

Martha ties up loose ends

by Dan Ward

Every organization should have a Martha Dickinson. Although her job here is bookkeeper, she takes it on herself to tie up the loose ends



-and there are plenty in newspaper production.

Depending on what day a person visits, he may find her setting type, proofreading, cleaning up the clutter of the composing room or making

the coffee--when she isn't bogged down by the infinity of bookwork involved in newspaper management.

"I'm one of these that like to see everything done right. I can't sit still if it isn't," she said. "I guess that's why I pitch in--I like to see it go smoothly."

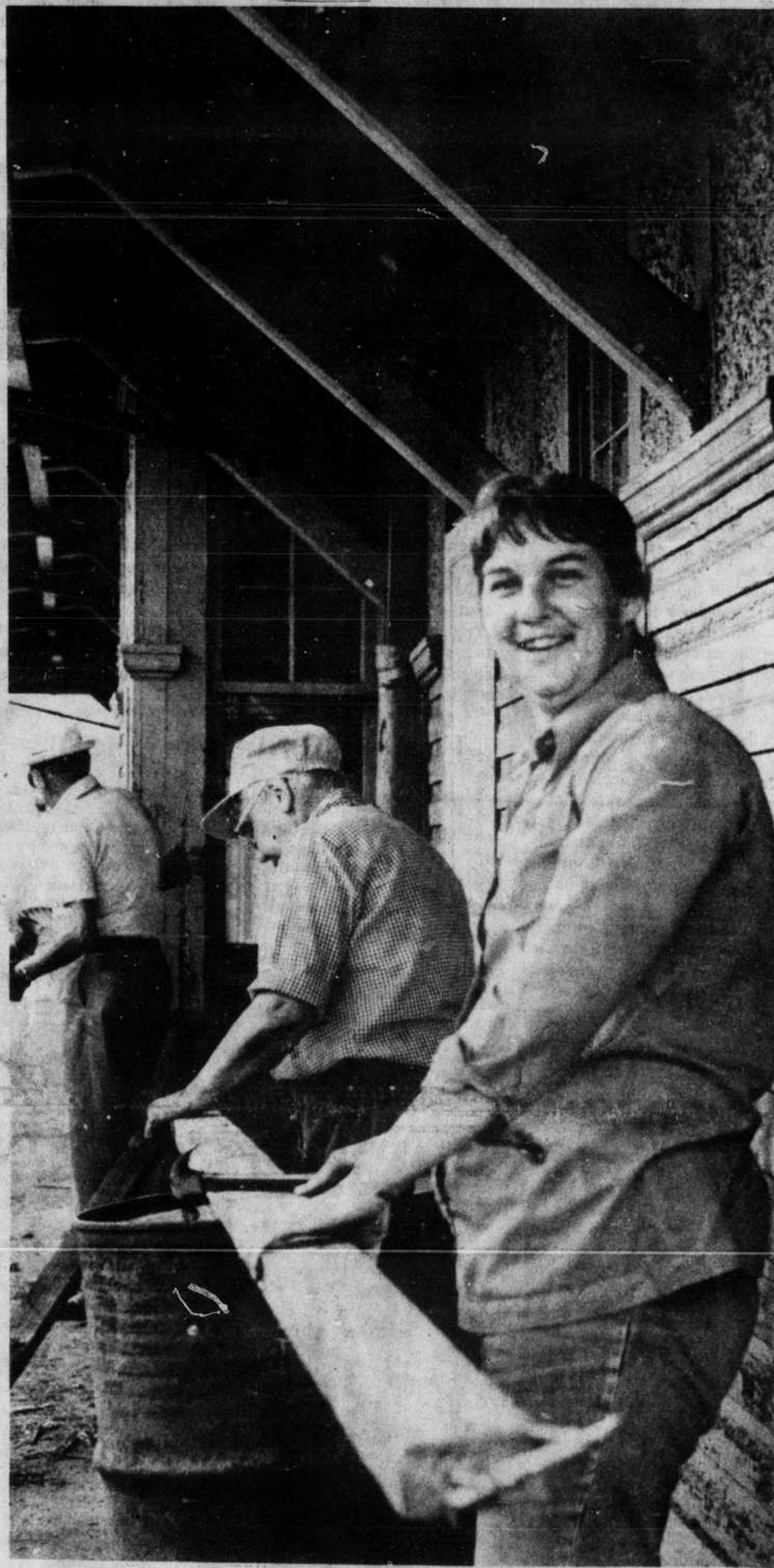
Martha has been doing the book work for the News for some time now. Until we moved our presses here recently, she worked at the Canton office for Community Newspapers, publishers of the News, where she said, "my title there was everything--I did whatever had to be done."

Before coming to this area, Martha and her husband, Grant, general manager of the News, worked for the Leaf Chronicle in Clarksville, Tenn. and at the West Palm Beach (Fla.) Post-Times.

"And then we moved to the mountains," she said. "It's a nice place--the mountains are just gorgeous."

"I don't know that many people here, but those that I've met are really nice and have welcomed me. They come in and act like they know you already," she said.

Martha is the sort of person it's easy to feel like you've known for a long time.



DR. LILLIAN RICH and craftswoman Jan Morris put their talents to use in the depot cleanup last weekend. Dr. Paul Limbert is in the background. (Belle Mordell)

Depot cleanup begun

by Belle Mordell

It was a busy day at the Old Depot and the engineers in the trains that passed by from time to time were treated to the sight of a dozen wildly waving arms greeting them as they hooped by.

The sweeping and hammering and laughing that went on all day was something to behold.

A lot of people have been asking why the fence goes only part way around the station. It is just to meet the

requirements of the railway company for public protection.

At our 4th of July celebration we will have a Railroad Booth where you can buy some of the artifacts that were dug up.

We plan to have a part of the Depot Room devoted to Historical Black Mountain and if anyone has anything of interest which they would like to have us display, please get in touch with the writer at 669-

2327.

Those of you who manage to stay up until 11 o'clock at night may have caught us on WLOS-TV that night.

We are still expecting contributions from a lot of people who have promised support. Now is the time.

We will have another Clean-Up Day after the electricians, plumbers and carpenters are through. If you couldn't make it Saturday, come next time. It's fun.

Police Report

The Black Mountain Police Department conducted 15 investigations last week. One stolen vehicle was recovered in Henderson County.

The Police arrested three for public drunkenness, three for DUI and one for aiding and abetting DUI. They issued five speeding citations, one for expired inspection ticket and one for unsafe tires, plus three warning citations.

Their miscellaneous duties included locating two missing persons, assisting six motorists, transporting one to Detox, assisted BCSD, assisted SHP two times each. They had two domestic

disturbances and five civil disturbances. The following accidents were recorded: West State St.

and Church St., \$500 damages and no injuries; Montreat Rd. and W. State St., \$400 damages and no injuries.

Bride issue soon

The Black Mountain News will be printing a special Bride Supplement to its regular paper within the next few weeks. It will include tips for new homemakers as well as suggestions for wedding arrangements, bridal fashions, gifts for the couple and other important information for the favored wedding month.

We encourage all couples who will be wed within the next two months to bring in announcements and photos for this special issue. As always, photos that are submitted to the News can be picked up unharmed after they are used for the paper.

Two aldermen back, fixup plan encouraged

by Dan Ward

Two Black Mountain aldermen resigned and were immediately rehired and Cherry Street businesspersons were encouraged in their beautification efforts by the Black Mountain Town Board at its regular meeting April 9. Amid snickers from the audience, Ald. Don Hoefling and Tom Sobol resigned their positions and were immediately reappointed by the remaining board. The procedure was recommended by the state attorney general's office as the most effective and easiest way to ensure that the two board members' votes will be valid in the future.

A bill to validate the past votes of the two, which came in question when it was discovered they did not legally live in Black Mountain, has been introduced in the state legislature.

The board heard a request from a delegation of Cherry Street businesses to financially and legally aid them in making the street open only to

south-bound traffic, erecting a directory sign, planting sourwoods and painting parking dividers.

Although the board told them that they must first obtain the recommendation of the Planning Board, their response was one of support for the group effort.

"If that's what the people on that street want, I don't want to see it bogged down in technicalities," Ald. A.F. Tyson said. "We have a pile of improvement plans that have never been implemented," he added.

The board also approved, pending recommendation from the Health Department, the installation of water lines to the Town limits on NC 9 toward Christmount.

The board was asked to provide water to a 90 acre subdivision being by Stepp Nichols Realty in the area between Black Mountain and Christmount. Chuck Ray, representing Stepp Nichols, told the board that the realty company would petition for annexation of the area to

Black Mountain and build the system if the town will provide the water. Mayor Margaret Slagle noted that Stepp Nichols will have to see that the water problem and annexation of the Hilltop area must be settled before the town can consider providing water to a new subdivision.

The board approved the expansion of the Zoning Board of Adjustments to six members, the newest to serve three years.

The board also postponed approval of a second group of streets to be improved when it was found that Sunset Street and Hilltop had been left off the list. Town Manager Jon Creighton and Ald. Tyson said they will rearrange priorities on the list and present a new one at the next meeting.

The board also asked Town Attorney William Eubanks to look into the problems that might arise by granting a tax release to Joe Lytle because his sheet metal business does not utilize city services.

Chief, 2 policemen named in assault suit

Black Mountain Police Chief Creight Slagle said he and two of his officers will reply within 30 days to a suit brought by a 25-year-old man that they and a Black Mountain fireman assaulted the man in August. The suit, filed by Charles L. Quinn, seeks a total of \$5,000 in damages from four defendants, including Gary Bartlett, a Black Mountain fireman.

The police officers named in the suit are Creight Slagle, chief of the Black Mountain Police Department, and two other town policemen, Myron Fineberg and Gary Sorrells.

Quinn alleges in his suit that the four men assaulted him without provocation on Aug. 1, 1976, at Carson's American Service Station on U.S. Hwy. 70 in Black Mountain, where Quinn says he had stopped for

gas. Quinn also alleges that he was wrongfully charged with reckless driving and resisting arrest by Officer Sorrells during the incident.

Quinn alleges that the charges against him were dismissed in District Court on Sept. 15, 1976.

Slagle said he would not comment on the suit until his reply becomes public record.

Sheriff's report

During the week of April 25, through May 2, the Buncombe County Sheriff's Department served a total of 88 criminal papers.

The arrests are as follows: forgery one, breaking and entering and larceny one, order for arrest eight, failure to give name and address two,

damage to property one, hit and run one, abandonment and non support one, failure to appear on traffic citation five, assault on female two, accommodations without pay one, assault with a deadly weapon one, larceny one, trespass one, escape one and fraud two.

Deputies also served 21 criminal summons for violation of parking ordinance, two order of forfeiture, seven juvenile summons, 210 criminal subpoenas, 156 civil summons and investigated 73 reported crimes.

Meet the board Tom Sobol -- individuals 1st

by Dan Ward

"I think we need to concentrate on human needs rather than exterior improvements," was Ald. Tom Sobol's consensus of the role of the Black Mountain Town Board in the future.

"You've got to work with people on an individual basis. If you do that, the other things will follow," he added.

Sobol, a lifelong resident of Black Mountain, is a partner with Bud Haney at Valley Real Estate.

Sobol, who is in his fourth term on the board, said he sees the attitude of many of Black Mountain's residents changing because of what he calls "growing pains."

Rather than attending town meetings out of civic interest, "it seems most people who are there have a particular complaint that should have been taken care of before (by a town department other than the board)."

"I believe few things can be handled in black and white," he said. "I am a firm believer in gray areas." An anti-constructionist, Sobol said he sees a need to be less rigid in policy in order to more easily help the individuals who have problems.

"I'd like to see more people at Town Board meetings. I

