

Thursday, May 19, 1977, Vol. 33, No. 32

Report recommends closing WNC Hospital

by Dan Ward

A legislative subcommittee has recommended the closing of Western North Carolina Hospital in Swannanoa as part of a plan to save \$5 million and consolidate health care in the state.

The closing would put most 280 area residents employed at the hospital out of work and require that approximately 100 county residents, most of them long-term patients, attend health facilities in Aberdeen.

The plan, proposed by a subcommittee of the Base Budget Committee, in its recommendations on the budget of the Department of Human Resources, recommended the closing of WNC Hospital and Wilson Hospital, and consolidating their patients at Central McCain Hospital near Aberdeen.

The plan followed a request by WNC Hospital for \$2 million to renovate a wing of the hospital that was built in 1937.

Jack Ellison, hospital director, said a similar plan had been introduced two years ago, and had been discarded after testimony at a public hearing showed the state could treat patients easier and better at the regionalized facilities.

The hospital, which specializes in treating respiratory problems, treats 1200 patients from the 34 western counties yearly, Ellison said. About one-third of those patients have

tuberculosis, and the rest have various illnesses such as brown lung or lung cancer, he said. Many of those patients must come in often for visits or be hospitalized for great lengths of time, he said.

The Chamber of Commerce will begin a drive to have the proposal defeated, according to Chamber President Ed Weber. The hospital brings \$1 1/4 million per year to the Swannanoa Valley, Weber said.

"The chamber is prepared to go all out and fight this," Weber said. "We'll promise the biggest fight they've ever seen."

Weber said he will contact local representatives in Raleigh in an effort to have the proposal defeated.

Meals on Wheels at new location

by F. A. Foster

ABCCM has announced that the MOW food distribution center has been moved to the United Methodist Church in Black Mountain. Meals-On-Wheels brings a hot lunch to disabled elderly in the area.

Mrs. Lois Nix, office manager for ABCCM (Asheville-Buncombe Community Christian Ministry) said there will be no changes in drivers or delivery schedules. Rev. Horwood Myers pastor of United Methodist, helpful as always, said that he is delighted to offer ABCCM use of the church facilities. Myers attaches great importance to the concept that a church should serve the whole community and in the past has provided space for a health clinic, nutrition site, a food stamp distribution center and now MOW. ABCCM has an ethic which closely parallels that of Rev. Myers. Their motto is "Making the Word Flesh."

ABCCM has been helping valley residents in emergencies for over two years without every asking questions about faith. It is supported by 13 churches in the valley and could use more help. It invites church workers and others to come in and get acquainted with what they are doing. Mrs. Nix says she is most happy to assume this new responsibility and "Will stay with it as long as the need exists."

A note of thanks is due to Irene Stephenson, Site Manager of the XYZ Club who

firstbrought MOW into the Valley. Mrs. Stephenson regrets that new responsibilities make it necessary for some other community organization to supervise the activity. She wishes to thank all of those who helped her in the past year.

Information about MOW is available from Mrs. Nix by calling her at 669-9404 between 9-12, Monday through Friday. Applications for admission to the program may be obtained in her office.

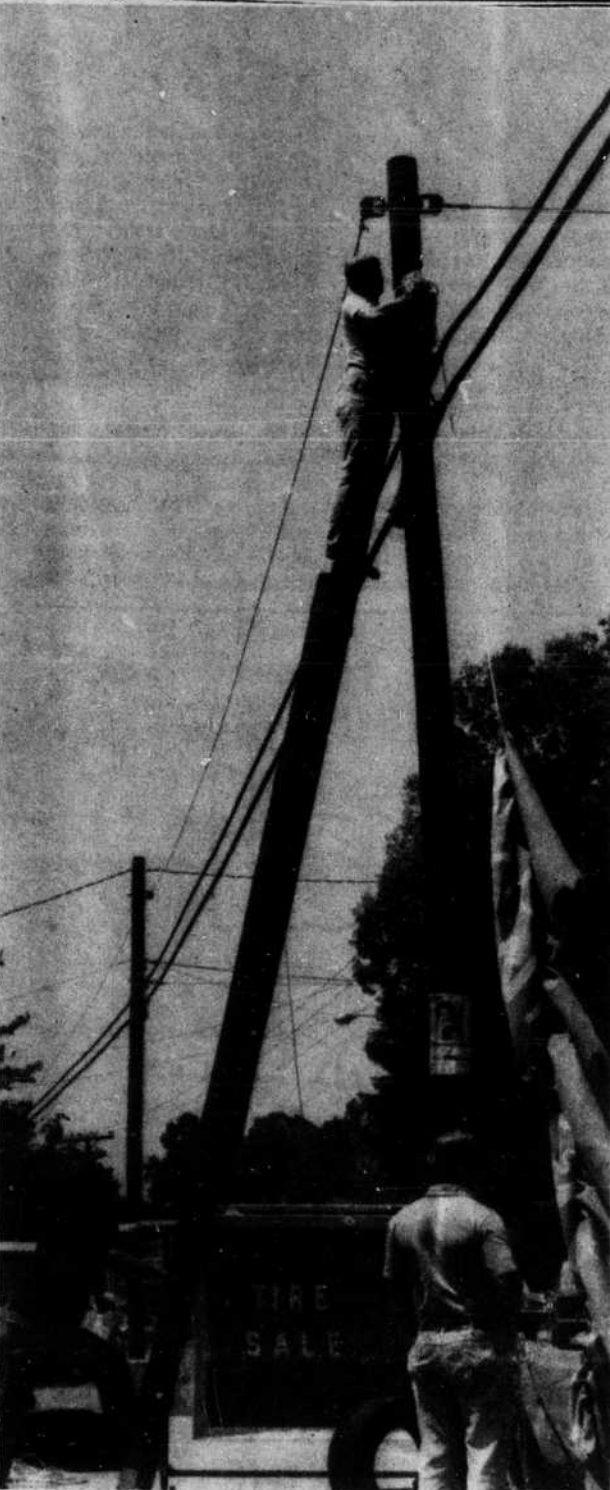
Armed Forces Week set

Governor James B. Hunt Jr., has declared May 16-22 Armed Forces Week in North Carolina.

In proclaiming Armed Forces Week in North Carolina, the Governor commended the "thousands of North Carolinians serving in America's Armed Forces worldwide as well as our National Guard and Reserve Units in North Carolina."

"For over two hundred years," the proclamation read, "men and women in the United States Armed Forces have responded when peace and progress were threatened; and...continue to maintain a constant vigil for the protection of all Americans and their allies."

This year, in conjunction with the national observance of Armed Forces Day on



Jaycees sweep state awards

The Black Mountain-Swannanoa chapter of the Jaycees walked away from the state Jaycees convention in Asheville with an armload of awards—including the state award for conservation projects.

The Swannanoa River Cleanup project organized by the local Jaycees won them

both divisions and state awards for energy and environment. Winning the award places the Black Mountain-Swannanoa Jaycees among contesting chapters nationwide for the national energy-environment award to be presented in Seattle next month.

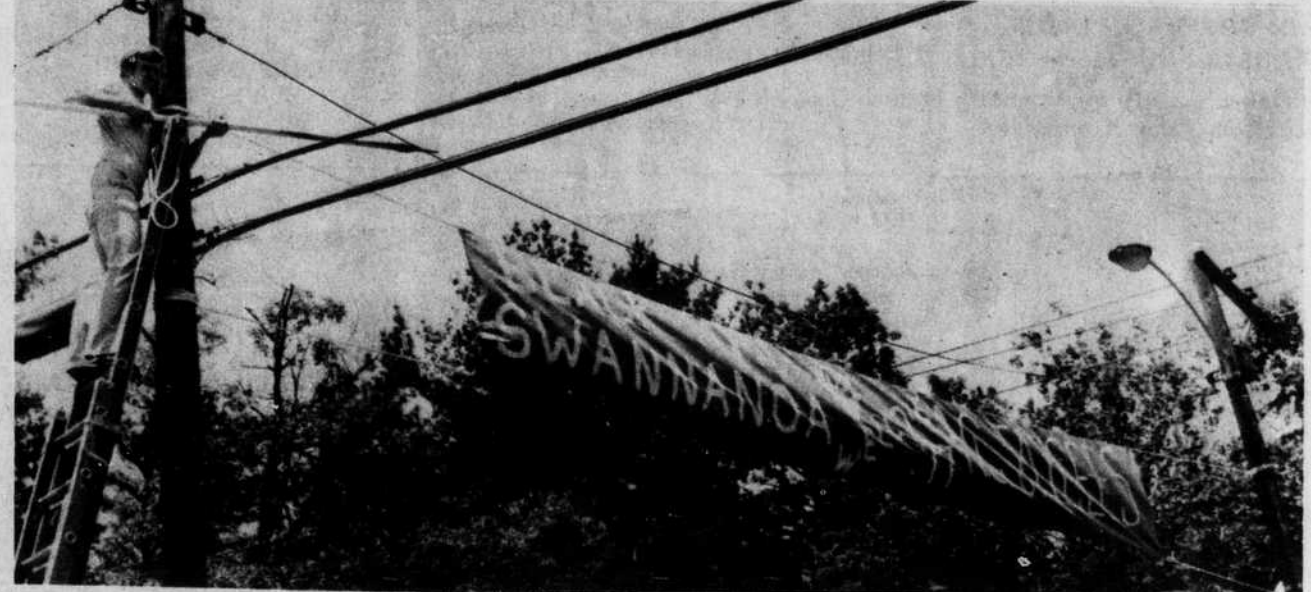
The chapter also won the

Doubling Up award, given to chapters that have shown more than 100 per cent increase in membership within a year.

They were also presented with the Extender Club award, an award given to outstanding chapters. It consists of the Founder's Plaque, desk set, State

Residents' Award of Honor and an Award of Appreciation plaque.

Over 3000 Jaycees from all over North Carolina attended the convention in the Asheville Civic Center last weekend. The three-day convention featured meetings, contests, plays, training workshops, music, and 40 kegs of beer.



STEVE KING and Tom Turner look on as Charles Shook adjust a banner over State Street welcoming the state's Jaycees to the Valley (Dan Ward)

Montreat streets patched, trash pickup scheduled

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Montreat met in regular session on May 12.

Chief of Police Pete Post reported that no major problems have developed in the last month. Assistant Building Inspector Ed Berg said that four new houses are in the early stages of construction. In the absence of Dr. Larry Wilson, Chief Post reported that pot-holes have been patched and that grading of the unpaved roads will be done within a week.

Under old business, Elizabeth Maxwell, Mayor, in observance of instructions from the April meeting, reported that John Hamilton will place a dumpster between Texas Road and Assembly Drive for the use of weekenders, the financial arrangements with Mr. Hamilton for 1977-78 will remain the same, and a special pick-up will be held on Friday June 10 for general trash, not including large furnishings or appliances.

On motion of Commissioner Ed Crisp, the board instructed the mayor to write the League of Municipalities that Mon-

teal will be unable to contribute to the cost of their new multi-million-dollar building. This may mean that the town's participation in the League Group Insurance plan will terminate on June 30.

The mayor was also instructed to ask Philip Carson, town attorney, to contact State Representative Gordon Greenwood concerning the payment of back Social Security for police officers. The board continues to resist this requirement, feeling that the state's refusal to accept offered payment in 1971 removed any responsibility the town had in this matter.

The dates of May 23, May 30, June 9 and June 23 were set for

hearings concerning and adoption of the 1977-78 budget. The financial report was accepted after an amendment deleting Equipment Rental and adding that amount to Gas, Oil and Tires.

After a discussion of suggestions given in the 1976 Planning Study prepared for Montreat by R. D. Tillson, the section titled "Review of the Zoning Ordinance" was referred to the Planning and Zoning Commission for study and recommendations.

Upon motion of Mr. Crisp, the Mayor was requested to issue a proclamation honoring Wilton Watkins for 35 years of service to Montreators and for his effective citizenship.

Food Stamps to increase

Food stamp allotments and income eligibility levels, reflecting an August to February rise in food costs for low-income families, will increase for most households on July 1, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced.

In all the continental states and District of Columbia, monthly food stamp allotments for all household sizes, except one-person households, will increase by at least two dollars. The monthly stamp allotment for a family of four will rise from \$166 to \$170. Food stamp allotments are based on USDA's Thrifty Food Plan, which computes the cost of a nutritionally adequate diet for low-income households.

Since income eligibility levels are tied to the size of food stamp allotments, these levels also will increase in most cases. The net income limit for a family of four will increase from \$553 to \$567 per month.

However, income standards for one and two-person households will not change. These income standards \$245 and \$322 per month, respectively) will remain at USDA's poverty guidelines. Food stamp regulations require USDA to use either allotment based calculations or the poverty guidelines, whichever are higher, in setting income eligibility levels, department officials explained.

Monthly net income limits for the 48 states and District of Columbia, effective July 1 are: One-person

household...\$245, Two-person households...\$322, Three-person households...\$447, Four-person households...\$567, Five-person households...\$673, Six-person households...\$807, Seven-person households...\$893 and Eight-person household...\$1020.

Black Mtn. Fire Dept.

The Black Mountain Fire Department made two runs last week.

On May 9, two trucks and 19 men answered a call about an overheated stove at 205 E. College St.

Two trucks and 21 men were called to put out a house fire

on US 70 west on May 14. Minor damage was reported.

Buncombe County Ambulance

The ambulance service made 17 routine runs and four emergency last week.

Police Report

The Black Mountain Police Department conducted 12 investigations last week. They arrested two for DUI, three for public drunkenness. They issued two citations for expired inspection ticket, one warning citation and three speeding citations.

They located two missing persons.

They assisted BCSD in a couple of instances and assisted three motorists.

They answered four civil disturbances and one domestic disturbance.

Accidents recorded were on W. State St. and Church St.—\$500 property damage and at

Montreat Rd. and W. State St.—\$400 damages.

Swannanoa fire dept.

The Swannanoa Fire Department fought one fire last week.

Six men and two engines were called to put out a brush fire May 12 on the unfinished part of I-40 behind the Beacon plant. No damage was reported.

The Fire Department picnic was held May 15 at Owen Park.

Meet the staff Uva is Mom to most

by Dan Ward

Uva Miracle is not only distinguished editor emeritus of the News, she is mother and grandmother to about half the population of the Swannanoa Valley.

But that is common knowledge. "You don't have to write anything, everybody in town knows about me anyhow," she said recently.

Uva, who was full-time editor of the News for most of the last nine years, left the staff three months ago to pay more attention to home and family and because of what she calls "sickness."

"I quit because of sickness," she said, "My husband and family got sick of my working."

Uva, however, is addicted to the journalist's malady of ink in the blood. Since she left, she has written up a number of engagements, retirements and weddings as only she can.

"One reason I take such an interest in the weddings is that the young people are 'my' kids. I only have two children of my own, but I have two or three thousand by proxy. I like to see them have a permanent remembrance of that special day," she said.

On being an editor, Uva said, "It had its joys, its frustrations. One thing I learned is that you can't please everybody."

"I'll always look back on the years I worked here as the most rewarding and fulfilling

of my life, though" she added.

Uva has found freedom from work ("Don't call it retirement, I'm too young to retire") has opened new doors for her. She has spent a good deal of time traveling lately, particularly to see her children and grandchildren.

"I'm very busy being a wife, mother and grandmother and enjoying it immensely," she said.

We at the News enjoy Uva immensely, and hope she will contribute and visit often. She's the best at what she does, be it mother, grandmother, or society writer.

Meet the board Mundy -- Mathematician

by Dan Ward

John Mundy, newest member of the Black Mountain Town Board, has earned the epithet "Mathematician" from one of his fellow aldermen. It's easy to see why.

While explaining the city's water problems at his desk at the Square D plant in Asheville, Mundy kept referring to a huge stack of graphs, listings and computations he's compiled on the subject.

"I guess it's the engineer in

me," he said. "I hate to stick my neck out on something unless I've got plenty of data to back me up."

Mundy, a lifelong resident of Black Mountain, was appointed to the board to fill the vacancy created when Gordon Greenwood was elected to the state legislature.

"I always tell the other board members that they got elected, but I won," he quipped.

Mundy said he sees a need for people to go to the alderman whose specialty is the category the problem falls in. His is the town's water and sewers.

"Since I've been in, not one person has called me about a water problem," he said. "I was called once about a sewer problem and was really glad."

Mundy said he and Water Superintendent Al White went out and investigated the problem.

Mundy said he would like to see more people attend Town meetings, but added that "if they don't come, I guess everything's all right."

On his role as alderman, Mundy regards the work as a challenge.

"When our boss comes by," he said, gesturing the room his desk is located in at Square D, "and lays a pile of papers on my desk, he doesn't say, 'here's more work for you.' He says, 'Here are more opportunities.' We have plenty of

