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★ Ridgecrest ★ Swannanoa

15 CENTS

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Arson investigation on Swannanoa fires

The Buncombe County Sheriff's Department is investigating two cases of what they believe is arson in Swannanoa recently.

One person has been questioned in connection with two brush fires, one week apart, on the uncompleted portion of I-40 near Swannanoa, according to Jerry Jones, investigator.

The Swannanoa Fire

Department put out those blazes, the more recent one being a large fire May 19 involving two engines and 12 men.

A mobile home in Jones Trailer Park on Asheville Rd. was a complete loss after a fire May 20. Three engines and seven men answered the call to put out the fire at the trailer, the home of George Wood. Nobody was injured.

The trailer and its contents were valued at \$10,000.

On May 12, two engines and 11 men put out a brush fire. On May 11, two engines and 17 men were called to put out a brush fire on Bee Tree Rd.

That day, 18 men and two engines put out a dump fire at the Beacon plant. Three engines and 18 men were also called to put out a dryer vent fire at the Owen plant.

Man to be charged in second stabbing

A Black Mountain man is expected to press charges against his brother for allegedly slaying him with a knife on Rainbow Lane May 19.

Bill Stafford, investigator, has returned upon completion of his course in narcotics.

The police recovered one stolen lawnmower.

The following accidents were recorded: Craigmont at

Laurel Circle, hit and run—\$300 damages; W. State Street and Craigmont Rd.—\$150 damages and one injury; and Ingles parking lot—\$175 damage.

Annex bill to pass soon

A bill to properly annex portions of Black Mountain and validate past votes of two aldermen who live in one of those sections has passed in both the state House and Senate and is expected to be ratified by News press time, state Rep. Gordon Greenwood said May 25.

The bill legitimizes past taxes and services supplied to the city for areas, including

parts of Spring Hill, that were improperly annexed in the past. It only legitimizes the annexation of property of persons who have legally filed for annexation.

The bill also legitimizes votes cast by aldermen Don Hoefling and Tom Sobol, who were discovered to live in an area incorrectly assumed to be in the town limits.

Bride issue

Included in the June 9 edition of the Black Mountain News will be a special June Bride Supplement. This section will include tips for weddings and new homemakers and various articles on bridal fashions.

They transported two to DETOX, ASSISTED THREE MOTORISTS, AND ANSWERED ONE DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE.

about every job in newspaper production well—and still does them when they need to be done.

Meet the staff

The boss gets inky

As president and general manager of Mountain Media, Inc., the business that takes in the Black Mountain News and job printing done by its presses, Grant Dickinson finds he must wear several

hats, or changes of clothes, as it were.

Although he can usually be found in a suit going about the business functions of a publisher, he sometimes dons a inkstained pair of coveralls to work on the touchy machinery of the presses or phototypesetter. He knows

"I worked my way up from the ground floor, he said, "that's the main reason I can't get away from general production of newspapers."

Grant started newspaper work while in high school as a part-time ad-builder and make-up assistant at the Clarksville (Tenn.) Leaf-Chronicle. He noted that the small Kentucky town he grew up in, while having a population of 600, has turned out 50 news professionals, including writers for a major news magazine and National Geographic.



Grant tries to let the News Staff produce the paper on their own.

"I assembled the crew that is presently working for Mountain Media and as usual, have found that I have assembled from a gofer to an actress, a perfectionist to a cleaning lady, and an over-worked supervisor to an under-derf salesperson. Generally, I think I had an excellent crew, but I was unaware of these facts until I saw them printed in 'Meet the staff,' he quipped.

"The biggest job I have is promoting the Black Mountain News and making decisions as to what direction to expand. I have a competent staff—therefore I'm seldom seen in the front office," he said.

However, I do like to keep a hand in the printing," he punned, holding up the hand he smashed in the press a few months ago.



JAMES NANNEY, of Nanney's Repair Service, puts the finishing touch on an upstairs window frame at the antique shop on Cherry St. (Dan Ward)

Hospital likely to remain, phaseout a possibility

by Dan Ward

A proposal to close Western North Carolina Hospital is expected to be defeated, but may possibly result in a phasing out of the hospital and denial of a request for \$2 million to renovate a wing of the institution.

"I believe we've got it (the proposal) cornered for this session," state Rep. Gordon Greenwood said May 25. "We have a lot of support on our side. Our chances are real good. They're talking about

phasing it (WNC Hospital) out, though—we can't let that happen either."

Greenwood said he has obtained the support of Gov. Jim Hunt, and has spoken to the Lt. governor and speaker of the house. He said a great deal of opposition to the proposal is needed because the Base Budget Committee, which produced the proposal, is very influential. Greenwood said the proposal, even if overcome, is likely to hurt the chances of a proposal he has introduced to allocate \$2

million to renovate a wing of the hospital built in 1937.

Greenwood said a joint meeting of three committees, including the appropriations on Education Committee, of which he is vice chairman, will be studying the appropriations proposals all week. He said the group would be hearing from Dr. Sarah Morrow, secretary of the Department of Human Resources, on May 26. She has not yet made a stand on the proposal, he said. The previous administration of

that department had recommended closing WNC Hospital, he added.

WNC Hospital employs 280 persons from the Swannanoa Valley. The proposal to close it, made by a sub-committee of the Base Budget Committee, recommends closing the hospital to save the state an estimated \$2.8 million.

The hospital treats 1200 patients, yearly from the western part of the state primarily those with chronic respiratory ailments.

Plant vows to end emissions

Black Mountain Woodworking on Vance Ave., the subject of an Asheville television newscast because of occasional windblown sawdust pollution, will have pollution problems corrected within three months, according to plant owner and president Joe Chamberlain.

The newscast was made as the result of complaints from

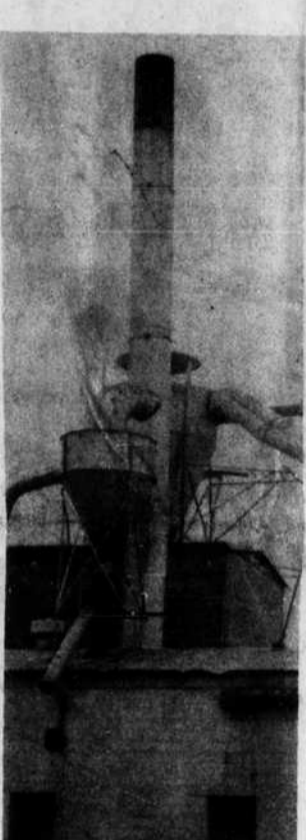
persons the station did not name, and did not include comment from Chamberlain.

"We were indeed polluting," Chamberlain admitted recently.

Chamberlain said his plant has expelled an exceptional amount of fine sawdust particles three times within the last five months. He said

those emissions occurred when the plant cyclone, a centrifuge that removes particles from the air, became plugged up. He also said the plan has been emitting more sawdust since he had a sander installed in February. The sander, he said, produces a sawdust that is so fine the cyclone cannot remove it.

As the result of a directive from the state Pollution Control Board, Chamberlain has submitted a plan for installation of equipment to remove the dust.



Black Mountain Woodworking's cyclone.

Buncombe to get disaster funds

Gov. Jim Hunt has announced that the Small Business Administration has declared Buncombe County a disaster area as a result of heavy rains and flash floods April 4, making residents of the area eligible for special disaster-relief loans.

The disaster declaration

also applies to any area in counties adjacent to Buncombe that suffered damage in the storm.

As a result of the declaration, the SBA will make loans available at 6 and 8 percent interest. Applications for physical damage loans may be filed through July 11 and for economic injury loans through February 13, 1978. They can be filed at the state or county civil preparedness office in the Health and Welfare Building in Asheville.

Ronald Boone, director of the Pollution Control Board for Buncombe and Haywood Counties, said Black Mountain Woodworking's plan to install a collector will probably be approved at the board's next meeting. He said Chamberlain will have until June 30 to have the unit installed.

Chamberlain told the News earlier that delivery and installation of the unit will take 8 to 12 weeks because the unit must come from California.

Chamberlain said he is making an extra effort to see that the cyclone does not become plugged up again.

Holiday driving hazardous

More persons lost their lives on North Carolina highways during Memorial Day weekend last year than on any Memorial Day holiday since 1972, according to Colonel John T. Jenkins, State Highway Patrol Commander. A total of 19 persons lost their lives during the holiday weekend last year as compared to 13 during each of the holiday periods for the past three years, he added, and excessive speed was the violation listed most often as

causing fatal accidents.

During the holiday period this year, which begins at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 27, and ends at midnight on Monday, May 30, every available trooper will be on duty, Jenkins said. Although no special programs have been planned, Jenkins emphasized that troopers will direct their efforts toward speeding motorists.

By using electronic speed computers and moving radar, troopers will maintain a

regular patrol observing all traffic while detecting the speed of vehicles. They will also be available to aid motorists should they have problems on the highways during the holiday period.

Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety J. Phil Carlton urged citizens who are planning to travel on the state's highways during the holiday to allow enough travel time and to avoid exceeding the legal speed limit.



GARY BARTLETT awaits an additional fire extinguisher to put out a fire in a Southern Railway engine in Black Mountain last week. (Dan Ward)

Black Mtn. Fire Dept.

The Black Mountain Fire Department fought three fires last week, including an electrical fire in a Southern Railway engine and a house fire at Ridgecrest Assembly.

Two trucks and 11 men were called May 17 to put out a fire in an engine of a freight train that had stopped behind Burger Hut. Damage was reported at \$10,000.

On May 20, two trucks and 17 men were called to put out a house fire, caused by lightning, on Ridgecrest Assembly Dr. The house was a total loss, and worth approximately \$12,000. The house belonged to the Assembly and was being

prepared to house maids for the summer.

Two trucks and 16 men were called to put out a brush fire on North Fork Dam Rd. on May 17. On May 18, one truck and five men were called for an investigation on Briarbrook Rd.

The fire department ambulance made three runs last week.

Meet the board

Jon Creighton, buckstopper

by Dan Ward

Ed. Note—Our series on Black Mountain government will end with this interview with Jon Creighton, town manager. Although he is not an elected official, he deals more directly with Black Mountain residents than the board and is overseer for city services.

"I think we give a lot better services than a big city like Asheville," said town manager Jon Creighton recently.

"It's more personal. I got to know a lot of persons fast. I won't call it friendship, necessarily—I treat everyone the same."

Creighton's job is to carry out directives given him by the board and to oversee the duties of the town's sanitation, water and sewer, and street departments and to a certain extent, the fire and police depts.

Creighton, who received an MA in city management from Appalachian State University

recently, was hired by the town board 16 months ago. Prior to that, he had lived in Asheville and worked in town government in Canton as an intern.

"I'm not political," he said. "I didn't know of any of the board members before I came here."

Sometimes he draws criticism.

"On \$700,000, you can only do so much. If you want to raise taxes, we can more men and be faster and more efficient. For the manpower we've got, I think we do a good job. I do my best," he said.

Although he finds town management has its drawbacks—especially when he becomes the target of dissatisfaction with the town's services—Creighton said he is happy to live in Black Mountain and with the challenge of his work.

"Black Mountain is a nice place—I enjoy it. It's got a lot going for it. I think it will really blossom once the interstate is done," he said.



WWC gets grant

Warren Wilson College has been approved for a grant of up to \$5,000 through the National Endowment for the Humanities, it was announced recently by United States Congressman Lamar

The Humanities Endowment's grant supports the planning of interpretive archaeological exhibits for the museum at Warren Wilson College.