



June bride, graduation specials inside!

Man charged for arson in Swannanoa

A Swannanoa man has been charged with arson in connection with a fire set at the Swannanoa Free Will Baptist church on June 4, according to Sheriff's police investigator Phil Ray Crisp, 39, whose last known address was in Swannanoa, was arrested by Lenoir County Sheriff's office. A police spokesman said no official connection has been made between Crisp and other cases of arson around Swannanoa.

Sheriff's police are also investigating a fire set June 5 on the back porch of the Elmer McDavitt residence on Old US 70 in Swannanoa. Crisp could not have been involved in that fire, a police spokesman said.

The Swannanoa fire department extinguished both of those fires.



Graduate candidates from Owen High School took part in Baccalaureate Services June 5 at Montreat-Anderson College's auditorium. (Charlie Taylor)

Owen graduates 201

At 8 p.m. on June 7, 201 Owen seniors received diplomas in Anderson Auditorium at Montreat-Anderson College.

The graduation address was given by David Turbyfill Dyer, secretary of the student council.

Debra Ann Stafford gave the valedictory address, having received the highest academic achievement among the class of '77.

Janice Lednum Price played the prelude, processional and recessional on the piano. They were "Nocturne No. 5" by Field, "Pomp and Circumstance" by Elgar, and the "Recessional March from Athalia" by Mendelssohn.

"Goodbye" by Sanford Brown was sung by the senior ensemble.

John Anson Daniels led the invocation, and John Dexter Collins introduced the speakers.

Charles A. Lytle, Owen principal, and Olen A. Sisk, assistant principal, presented the diplomas to Owen's class of '77.

The entire class sang "Alma Mater", led by Laura Renee Hipps at the close of the ceremony.

A Baccalaureate Service for the class was held June 5 at the auditorium. Baccalaureate Addresses were given by John Allen Crawford and Claire O'Connell Skidmore. Dennis Kevin Edwards introduced them. Ms. Price and the Senior Ensemble also performed at the Baccalaureate Service.

Theresa Jean Smith gave recognition to honor students, Terry Wayne Young, recognized scholarship winners, Tony Richard Scott noted the Beta Club members and Dennis Kevin Edwards gave tributes to parents and friends.

Man charged in holdup

Kenneth Eugene Glenn, 22, of Black Mountain has been charged with the armed robbery of an undetermined amount of drugs from Dogwood Manor Nursing Home in Black Mountain on May 26.

A spokesman for the nursing home said that in addition to the drugs, whose loss is being estimated by PSA Pharmacy in Swannanoa, the robber took "2 or 3" cartons of cigarettes and some hypodermic syringes.

A Sheriff's Police spokesman said that although drugs were confiscated at Glenn's home at the time of his arrest, none of the stolen drugs were found there.

The robber, gaining entry to the nursing home on May 26 through a cut window screen, forced a nurse at gunpoint to open the drug cabinet.

Black Mountain Fire Department

The Black Mountain Fire Department was called on two fires last week and was called out for a lost person search.

On June 3, one truck and 11 men took part in a controlled burning on Walker Cove Rd.

On June 6, 14 men and one truck put out a tractor-trailer fire on US 70 west. Minor damage was reported.

A lost girl turned up in Montreat before 12 men called out on a search got in the woods on June 6.

There were no fires during the previous week.

Meet the board Crisp -- conservative

by Dan Ward

Edward E. Crisp is a fiscal conservative.

That helps, when one is town commissioner for Montreat, a town taxing only 10 per cent of the property within its limits.

"Justice Marshall said, 'The power to tax is the power to destroy.' I feel that all the taxpayers should take a very keen interest in all levels of government," he said.

A foe of revenue sharing, which he calls "debt sharing," Crisp said too much of the commissioners' time is taken up catering to the federal bureaucrats to obtain money for town improvements.

"Our problem is filling out papers for the bureaucrats. It's a burden on small municipalities," he said.

Crisp said improvements in Montreat must take place on a small scale and at a slow pace because of the lack of a tax base. The town records are now kept at the home of the town tax officer, and no plans for a city office or building are in sight.

Crisp said the town has managed to increase the number of street lights, established garbage pickup services and "patch the patches in the roads," since it was incorporated in 1967.

He said he sees a need to keep the citizens informed on what is happening in their town. The annual cottage-owner meetings have been the best means of doing this so far, he said. In addition, Susan Neville, the town's tax officer, has tried to keep non-resident cottage owners updated on town affairs, Crisp said.

In addition to his work for the town, Crisp is executive officer for Blue Ridge Broadcasting, Treasurer for Black Mountain Savings and Loan and a semi-retired public accountant. He has lived in Montreat since 1962.



Town tractor disappears, was it sold or given?

by Dan Ward

It was learned by the Black Mountain News last week that a tractor purchased by the Town of Black Mountain in 1974 for \$1000 is now in the possession of Gene Erwin, newly appointed supervisor for the Crime Control and Public Safety Administration office in Asheville.

Erwin, when contacted by the News, said he paid "11 or 12 hundred dollars" for the tractor, and that he had a cancelled check for the purchase. No record of the tractor having been sold could be found in town files.

Erwin told the News he would find the check or give the News access to his banking files at the Wachovia branch he patronizes. Tuesday, he had not produced the check and denied permission to see his bank records. He said he would find the cancelled check after press time.

Town records contain a letter from Erwin, undated, that reads "Dick, This is a copy of letter that you send in. Needs to be on town letterhead. Talked with Mr. Tom Crook, who is second in charge (of Department of Transportation Equipment Department in Asheville) and he said to send the letter on to Mr. Brandon then call him in about 3 days and tell him you and he had already looked at piece of equipment and by that time he should have a price on same. Mr. Brandon will send letter on to Raleigh if the price is O.K. Gene Erwin"

Attached to the note was a draft of a letter to L.S. Brandon of the Department of Transportation offering \$1000 for a 1966 Ford 4000 tractor, equipment number 826-0008.

On September 19, 1974, C.D. Lindsay, who was town manager of Black Mountain at that time, sent a retyped version of Erwin's sample letter to Brandon. Town records for October include a purchase order for the tractor, with sickle mower for \$1000, and a copy of a check signed by Lindsay and then-mayor Richard (Dick) Stone for \$1000 for tractor number 826-0008. Under explanation of payment, the check reads "streets."

Brandon, when contacted by the News, confirmed that the tractor was bought by the city and picked up by Fire Chief Mack Kirkpatrick. Kirkpatrick acknowledged that he picked up the tractor in Asheville under the directive of Lindsay. He said he was told that it would be used to mow the golf course grass.

Neither Lindsay or Stone could be reached for comment.

Erwin told the News that he has bought surplus equipment from the Department of Transportation in the past, but did not specify whether it was done through town governments.

Erwin was an agent for the Alcohol Beverage Control Board at the time the town purchased the tractor.

Police arrest two for jewelry robbery

Two Black Mountain men have been charged with breaking and entering and larceny of jewelry from Carolina Jewelry in Black Mountain May 26.

Walter F. Tipton and Clarence H. Quinn were charged. Tipton was arrested May 26, Quinn on June 1. Quinn was out on bond from another breaking and entering charge at the time of the robbery.

A warrant was served on Cecil Green of Black Mountain for communicating a threat June 4. A Black Mountain Police spokesman refused to release further information on the threat or explain why he would not release it.

The Police conducted 11 investigations this past week. They issued three citations for speeding, one for running red light, one for public drunkenness. They arrested three for DUI.

They assisted the Sheriff's police in one instance and lent assistance to five motorists. They answered seven civil disturbances and three domestic disturbances.

Accidents recorded were at: State St. and Dougherty St., \$1150 property damage, no injuries; Lakey St. and a driveway, \$150 property damage, no injuries; Ingles parking lot, \$300 property damage, no injuries; W. State St. and Dougherty St., \$350 property damage, no injuries; Craigmont, \$1100 property damage, no injuries.

Ms. Young shows youth on 99th

by Dan Ward

"Like the little boy said, I'm 99 going on 100," Charlotte Young said with a deadpan expression betrayed by lighted eyes.

June 11 she is having an autograph party on what also happens to be her 99th birthday.

"Heretofore I've never given a hoot about birthdays. I'm going to make good use of this one, though, to promote my book," she said, referring to *Thunder In Winter*, her third book of poetry.

About her poetry, Ms. Young said, "I take the freedom of all forms and life itself. Inspirations are thick as birds in the sky. I just coddle them into form."

Ms. Young's party, which will include "sweet things to eat and drink," will be held from 3:30 - 5:30 in the lobby of the Monte Vista Hotel in Black Mountain, where she resides.

"I'm inviting all poetry lovers who love poetry enough to read my book," she said. She said she hopes to have a good supply of the first editions available for autograph copies.

Ms. Young does not appear nearly as commercial as she sounds. Sitting in the peaceful lobby of the hotel, she would stop talking when a favorite poem was aroused by some reminder thrown out in her youthful dialogue.

Leaning back and closing her eyes, she would pause... Catching a rhythm within her—a rhythm inherited from the pulse of the mountains—she would chant out the lines of one of her poems, poems she says reflect the speech of mountain folks.

One of those poems was *Flowers, a tongue-in-cheek commentary on God's handiwork.*

"Fool flowers. Biggest fool flowers I ever seed, Them there Chrysanthemums, Jim, the hired man said.

"Like as if there's any need Bloomin' just 'fore white frost comes And kills 'em dead.

Beatenest blossoms I ever seen, Them there Chrysanthemums."

Her people, the mountain people, are her favorite inspirations.

"They tell me their dreams, their hope and wonders—and sometimes it's pure poetry," she said. "I find that poetry is innate with most of my neighbors from up in the coves and hollows."

Ms. Young is from the mountains and, as she says, is a part of the mountains. Originally from Hominy Valley, now known as Canton, she spent most of her life teaching Latin and German all over the country before returning to Asheville, and now Black Mountain, to live.

She had already published her earlier two books, *Heart Has Reason, Speak To Us Of Love*, before she quit teaching at age 85. The choice to quit teaching was hers, having decided to "leave the job of blotting out ignorance to someone else" and devote more time to her poetry.

But Ms. Young can't seem to talk about the past for very long. She doesn't fill time with sagely advice or pleasant memories. Her total existence seems to be in the here and now—her book, her upcoming musical drama, a book prose she wants to have written in time for her 100th birthday.

"I've found a lot to live for," she said. "While I'm the last leaf on a tree of six, I've never pitied myself for being alone, I have a lot of friends. I also have the friendship of our Heavenly Father. I feel as blessed as a person could be."

"I enjoy life," she concluded.



Neighborhood Watch, supper a success

An estimated 250 persons turned out for a ham supper held by the Swannanoa Fire Department to introduce the Neighborhood Watch program to the community. Emma Crawford of the Ladies' Auxiliary said the program was reported as being very well accepted and that the supper was a huge success.

"Quite a few" of the watch signs have been purchased already, she said.

The Neighborhood Watch program is simply an agreement between neighbors to watch each other's property for suspicious activity in an effort to thwart crime. The fire department will sell a \$1 sign to stick on the mailbox of any who wish to take part in the program. Signs may be purchased from any Swannanoa fireman.

The Fire Department elected new officers for the upcoming year. They are Thomas Hixon, chief; Ken Crawford, assistant chief; Dwight Barnhill, major and training officer; David Trexler, fire captain; David Strickland, fire lieutenant; Leon Rice, traffic captain; Doyce Settle, traffic lieutenant; Jim Adams, assistant chief of rescue; Max Coffey, rescue captain; David Bartlett, rescue lieutenant; Glenn Holbert, secretary; Don Lee, treasurer; David Trexler, chaplain; and Paul Adkins, supply sergeant.

Don Lee has been chosen fireman of the month. He lives on Hawthorne Dr. in Government with his wife, Karen. He is co-owner of Blue Ridge Electronics and has been with the department for about a year.

Last year, according to the yearly report, the Swannanoa Fire Department fought 66 fires, engaged in 12 rescues, and performed 67 drills accounting for a total of 4,088 man-hours.

Land of Sky hearing June 22

Land of Sky Regional Council will hold a public hearing June 22 at 2 p.m. at the council's conference room at 25 Heritage Dr., Asheville.

The 1977-78 budget will be discussed. A copy of the proposed budget is available for inspection at the Council office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

CP&L rates to drop

For the second month in a row, there will be a substantial drop in the "approved fuel charge" on bills received during June by retail customers of Carolina Power & Light Co. in North Carolina.

The "approved fuel charge" is the portion of the bill which reflects fluctuations in the cost of fuels required to generate electricity.