



Serving --

- ★ Black Mountain
- ★ Swannanoa
- ★ Montreat
- ★ Ridgecrest

## 200 petition against fire district growth

by Dan Ward

Approximately 200 households have signed a petition to remain outside the Swannanoa Fire district and continue receiving service from the Black Mountain Fire Department.

A public hearing is scheduled June 28 for opinions on whether the County Board of Commissioners should expand the Swannanoa Volunteer Fire district to a five-mile radius from its present three-mile radius. Such an expansion would take in a number of houses and businesses now covered by the Black Mountain Fire Department.

George Nalesnik, plant director for Singer-Kearfott, said he would like to see his plant continue to receive service from Black Mountain. He said a switch to coverage from the Swannanoa Fire Department would result in higher insurance costs and a reduction in the quality of protection. He said that changing from the services of a full-time, fully-staffed department to an all-volunteer department was a "step backward."

Tom Hixon, Swannanoa fire chief, said that the rationale for expansion of the district would be explained fully at the hearing. "We are just offering people a service," he said. "If they don't want it—fine." Grady Rozelle, who works with special projects for Beacon, and is a proponent of the expansion, said the district boundaries were drawn in conjunction with state recommendations on expanding fire districts to uniform zones.



A view of Black Mountain from Hwy. 9 south. (Phyllis Genetti)

## Ousted ABC chief charges politics

by Dan Ward

The former supervisor of Region 10 of the Crime Control and Public Safety Administration has told the News that one of the reasons he was given transfer orders was that political forces wanted to keep him from testifying in the trial of Melvin Spencer Warren for larceny of 72 bottles of liquor from the Black Mountain ABC store. Former supervisor Bill Ingram arrested Warren on December 27, 1976. His transfer, had he not resigned last week, would have moved him to Region 12, based in Durham.

Ingram also noted that John Brooks, director of enforcement for the state Board of Alcohol Control in Raleigh, had sent him a directive three weeks prior to transfer orders that Ingram and his agents were to be taken off ABC store enforcement.

Brooks said he did not give orders that Ingram take his agents off of the ABC stores. He said, "I didn't even know we had agents on the ABC stores. He said the agents are expected to spend most of their time investigating beer and wine establishments. He said they are free to inspect an ABC store if they wish."

In calling the transfer a political one, Ingram cited records indicating his replacement in Region 10, Gene Ervin, and the new ABC officer II, James Berlie Simmons, are incompetent and have engaged in unethical and possibly illegal actions as ABC agents.

Both Ervin and Simmons refused to comment on Ingram's charges.

"The only time I'll talk about it is in front of a judge," was Simmons' only comment.

Ingram cited purchase of a tractor by Ervin from the Town of Black Mountain without submitting competitive bid as an example. Ingram also referred to two letters he said he sent to Brooks alleging cases in which Simmons had falsified arrest records, destroyed another agent's cover and left the region while on duty.

Brooks said he did not recall receiving the memos from Ingram. He also said his files do not contain the memos at this time.

Ervin, one letter relates, conspired with Simmons either intentionally or through negligence in falsifying arrest records.

Ingram said he ordered Ervin to look up records of arrests Simmons had claimed as his own. Simmons accompanied Ervin, and according to Ingram's memo to Brooks, Ervin went to a shoe store, leaving Simmons to falsify records Ervin was sent to obtain.

Ingram also noted that the number of arrests made by the two men suggest they are either incompetent or intentionally overlooked liquor violations. Out of over 1300 establishments checked by Ervin as an ABC agent in 1976, he made no arrests. In contrast, Lenore Topp, a rookie female agent, made 13 arrests in 135 checks, the record states.

Ingram said the case against Warren for alleged larceny of liquor while he was an employee of the Black Mountain ABC store may be prejudiced by close ties between Ervin and the former town manager and mayor of Black Mountain, as demonstrated by the sale of a tractor, at cost to Ervin by the town.

C.D. Lindsay, former town manager, said the only ties between Black Mountain government and Ervin were professional. "We treated him as one of our police," he said. He said no favoritism was shown Ervin by arranging the purchase of a tractor, as he had done the same favor for others.

## Greenwood consulted for police S.S. payments

by Elizabeth Maxwell

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Montreat at its meeting on June 9 heard reports by Mayor Maxwell concerning old business. The Town Counsel, Phillip Carson, has contacted State Representative Gordon Greenwood to ask his help in solving the problem of retroactive social security for police. Mr. Carson has also reviewed a deed transferred to Mr. and Mrs. R.L. Campbell to the town for a piece of property lying between Assembly Drive and Texas Road Extension. Following the advice of counsel, the board ordered that the deed be recorded and that it be stated in the minutes that no consideration has passed from the town to the Campbells and that the town, by recording the deed waives no claims

that it might have had to the property conveyed or to any other property in a like situation. The Board moved on to the principal business of the meeting, the second reading of the proposed budget for FY 77-78. Several amendments to the budget as presented at the first reading were made, including the addition of funds for a truck for the Streets Department and \$300 for recreation. Several citizens, residents of Texas Road Extension, attending the meeting expressed

delight over the designation of \$7500 of Powell Bill funds for the replacement of a bridge washed out last year and giving access to their street. The total of the proposed budget is now \$118,500. The third and final reading will be on June 23 at 7:30 in Gaither Hall.

The financial report for May was presented by Commissioner E.E. Crisp and accepted. Mr. Donald Williams was named auditor for the 1976-1977 books. The open meeting was adjourned to go into executive session.

★ THE BLACK MOUNTAIN TOWN BOARD MEETING HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR JUNE 20 AT 7:30 P.M., CITY HALL.

### Meet the board

## Larry Wilson -- liaison

by Dan Ward

Larry Wilson sees himself the liaison between town, conference center and college in Montreat. And he should—his for all three. Each institution in Montreat has a cooperative attitude, but each is also engaged in its own objectives," he said. "Sometimes it leaves the board in the role of peacemaker."

at Montreat-Anderson College, recreation director for the Mountain Retreat Association and town commissioner, sees a need to bring about "cooperation between the three groups to develop mutually beneficial projects." One of these, in the planning, is a town park near the gate to the town.

Wilson said interest in local government in Montreat has been minimal. "The nature of the community is that it's almost impossible to get strong community support," he said. Wilson cited the transience of the population as the main reason.

"Interest seems to increase with problems," he noted. "As long as the streets are patched, snow is removed and police are at work everything is hunky-dory. As soon as a bridge washes out, people start coming to meetings."

"This isn't all bad," he added. "I believe that the size of government should be no greater than the demands of the citizens."

Wilson noted that many of the town's most severe problems are out of the hands of the town government. He cited the town's water and sewer system—which are owned and maintained by the Mountain Retreat Association, operating as a private utility.

Wilson is optimistic that future projects will come about through cooperation as the problems present themselves.

"I think all these problems can be solved by cooperation between town management and the major organizations of the town," he concluded.

## Bell to install new circuits

by Nelle Laetsch

More electronic telephone equipment is being installed in the Black Mountain "689" central office to meet the increasing telephone demand in the Swannanoa Valley area, according to R.B. Moore, Southern Bell's manager for Buncombe County.

The switching center is gaining 400 new telephone numbers and a like number of line terminations to bring the office capacity to over 4,000 customers. Also, additional equipment is being added to increase the capacity for automatic number identification on direct dialed long distance calls. Total cost of the extension project is \$200,500.

In planning for long range growth, new circuits are being added to increase the calling channels between Black Mountain and Asheville. This work is expected to be completed by July.

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## Tractor deal under investigation

by Dan Ward

A cancelled check for \$1000, made out to the Town of Black Mountain, was supplied to Black Mountain investigator Bill Stafford by Gene Ervin, newly-appointed supervisor for Region 10 of the Crime Control and Public Safety Administration.

It was brought to the attention of the News recently that Ervin had arranged to have the tractor bought through the town from the Department of Transportation. No record of the town having been reimbursed is in town files. The town paid \$1000 for the tractor.

An investigation is now underway by Stafford to find if there is cause of indictments as a result of the deal. Legally, a town must advertise for, and obtain competitive bids before selling property.

Charles D. Lindsay, former town manager, said he had often obtained equipment and materials for persons as a means of saving them money. He said that he practiced a policy of having a check for the purchase price before paying, with city check, for the merchandise. The credit to and withdrawal from town funds would occur at the same time he said. "We swapped checks—that's all, he told the News.

He added that he considered publicity of the tractor deal with Ervin to be "Political nit-picking."

Jon Creighton, the present town manager, said the town has sold property without advertisement, but with competitive bidding, since his own administration began. He said he was unaware of advertising auction of property was required.



An Appalachian delicacy found favor with Hanna Ashy of Lebanon when R. Curtis Ratcliff, Chairman of the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners gave him his first taste of ramps. Ashy was one of several journalism students at Warren Wilson College who attended the ramp festival sponsored annually by Ratcliff at the Union Hall on Sardis Road. (Photo by Duncan Grosball).

## Police Report

Black Mountain Police conducted nine investigations this past week. They issued 10 "Parking not allowed" tickets at the pool on June 10. They arrested two for public drunkenness. They arrested one for DUI. They issued four speeding citations, one for

expired inspection ticket and one for screeching tires.

They answered three civil disturbances and one domestic disturbance. They transported three to Detox.

The police assisted seven motorists. They also lent assistance to Sheriff's Police.

## Black Mountain Fire Department

Three trucks and 23 men from the Black Mountain Fire Department were on duty to combat storm-related problems around town on June 6, including downed power lines and trees.

On June 10, one truck and 11 men were called to put out a brush fire on U.S. 70 east.

Also on June 10, one truck and nine men were called to put a car fire at Garland Landscaping.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT AMBULANCE

The fire department ambulance made three emergency runs and one routine.

### BUNCOMBE COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE

The ambulance service made 22 routine runs, two emergency and was not needed for two.

## Center to center-stage easy

by Dan Ward

You know Theresa Smith? Yeah, that's the one. Fine basketball player for Owen, sports awards, blue jeans, tennis shoes.

She just became Miss North Carolina Teen in Montreat June 5.

"I guess I feel...great," the 6-foot pageant winner said recently in trying to describe her reaction to winning the title. "I feel I lucked out. I didn't even think of winning."

Wearing a crisp white dress, set hair and a touch of make-up, she presented an image in striking contrast to earlier images of a lanky, straight-haired athlete putting in a hook-shot.

"It's not that bad," Theresa said of balancing the athlete and beauty queen roles. "Even if you're a tomboy you want to be a girl now and then."

Now she's going to have to be a girl alot. Her plans for the summer include a number of appearances at other pageants, parades, festivals and fund-raisers. She predicts that she will come out in the red financially for her appearances as Miss NC Teen, but the experience will be valuable in a career of modeling.

A recent Owen graduate, Theresa has been studying modeling from Ann Knight of Black Mountain for about a year. Ms. Knight approached Theresa with the idea of entering the Miss Teen contest only one week before it was

held. Theresa said she would have entered one earlier if it hadn't conflicted with basketball.

Beauty pageants are no longer the body show they once were, as Theresa found out.

"It isn't just a beauty pageant. The interview counts alot," she said. "The judges want you to be honest. If you try to fool the judges, you'll lose."

Ms. Knight said Theresa was favored by the two women and one man who judged the pageant because of her honesty. When asked what she planned to do for the rest of her life, Theresa was the only girl who admitted that she wasn't sure what she wanted to do, Ms. Knight said.

Ms. Knight also said the judges favored Theresa because she has a "wholesome North Carolina approach that people would be proud to have representing the state."

Part-time modeling with the security of a secretarial job seems to be in the offing for the time being for Theresa—but she's still deciding. "I could teach riding and make twice what I can as a secretary," she ponders, being an experienced horsewoman.

In the meantime, she is working for her family at the Silverman Co. on Tunnel Rd. Theresa is the daughter of Larry and Gloria Smith of Asheville.

Next fall, it will be off to the Miss North Carolina pageant for Theresa to try to follow in

Susan Profit's footsteps.

And following in Theresa's footsteps are Dawn McCrite and Kelly Williams of Montreat and Swannanoa, respectively. They were first and third runners-up in the

Little America Miss contest, held also in Montreat. Kelly, 3½ is the daughter of Mary G. Williams of Swannanoa.

Chris Wojtyna of Black Mountain was fourth runner-up in the NC Teen competition.

