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Local man gets 3 to 5 for break-in

Clarence Quinn, who was charged with the breaking and entering of a house in Black Mountain on April 18, has been sentenced in Superior Court to serve not less than three years and not more than five in the North Carolina Department of Corrections facility in Raleigh, a police spokesman reported.

While Quinn was on bond for that arrest, he was again arrested for breaking and entering and larceny of Carolina Jewelry in Black Mountain on May 26. A trial for that charge has not yet been held.

Black Mountain police arrested Lee McNamara of Black Mountain June 15 for manufacturing and possession of marijuana. Inspector Bill Stafford was working with the

SBI and Interagency Narcotics Squad in making the arrest.

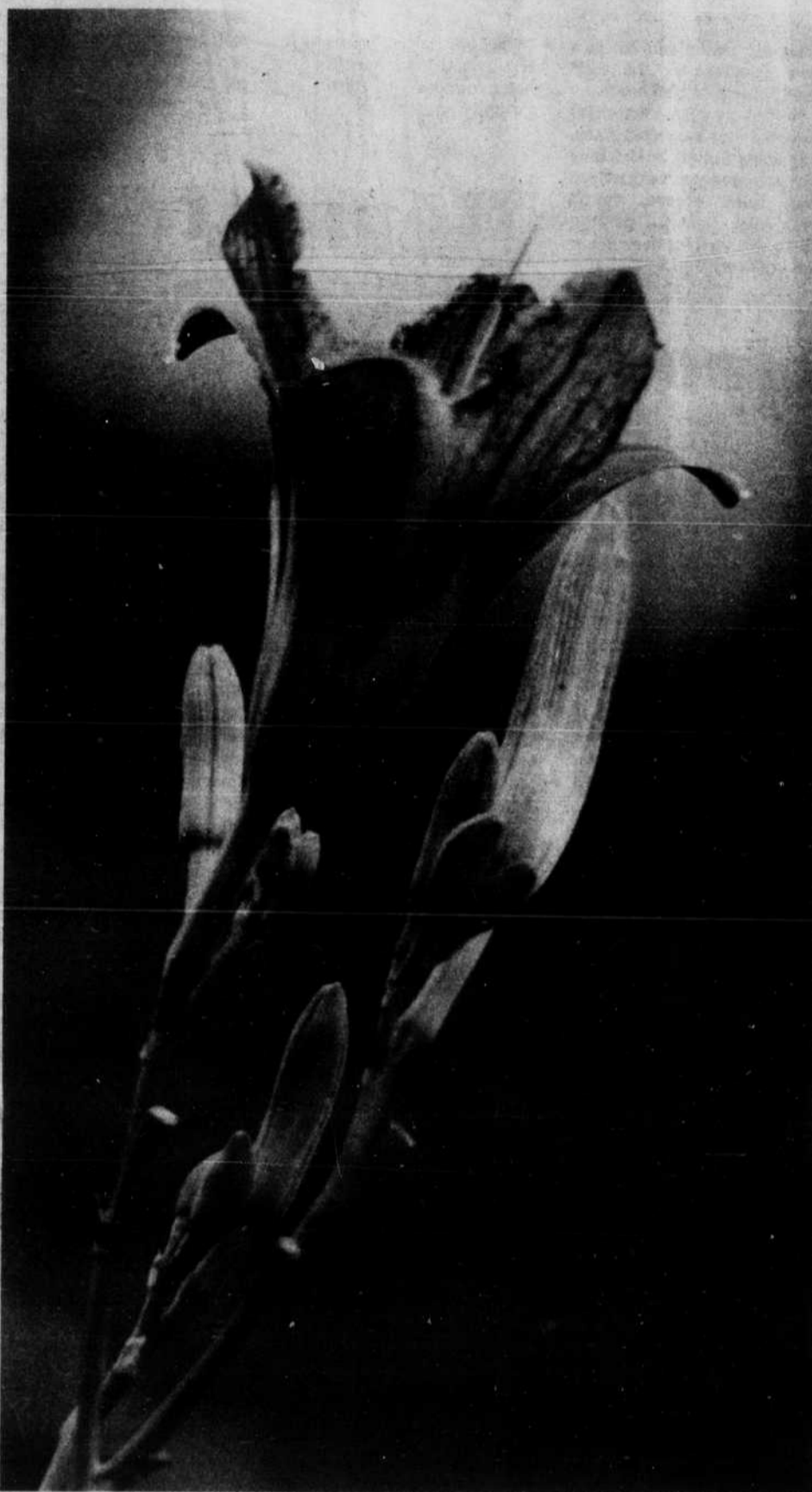
The Black Mountain Grammar School was broken into twice last week, police reported. Some property damage was reported.

The police conducted 10 investigations.

The police issued two parking violations, arrested one for DUI, issued five speeding citations, one for improper muffler and one for public drunkenness.

They assisted Sheriff's police and assisted five motorists, answered six civil disturbances, and six domestic disturbances.

Accidents were recorded at Ridgeway St. and E. State St.—\$600 property damage, and Azalea Ave.—\$450 property damage and no injuries.



This wild lily was an irresistible model as it posed on a roadside near Swannanoa. (Dan Ward)

Town applies for Title III

by F.A. Foster

A bid for Title III funds was submitted by City Manager Jon Creighton at the Asheville meeting of the Area Agency on Aging. Creighton requested a grant of \$16,440 to hire a director, asst. director and counselor to operate the Senior Citizen Center at Lake Tomahawk full-time. Title III grants are made under the Older Americans Act to local programs helping the senior citizens. The Federal government provides 90 percent of the support needed for approved programs for a

three year period and local municipalities must offer matching funds. It will be some time before it is known whether Creighton's bid is successful as a review is required by county, state and federal agencies before the final funding is approved.

Other Black Mountain officials present at the meeting were Mayor Margaret Slagle, Paul Lambert and Irene Stephenson. Lambert, representing the Buncombe County Council on Aging, asked for \$16,000 to provide office and staff for the Council.

Squirrly story

Sweet care saves Sugar

by Dan Ward

Some people would think Carrie Wheeler of Black Mountain was squirrly for what she did, but Edith Raber of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said "it's a wonderful person who did what she did." Carrie Wheeler has adopted Sugar, a blind baby squirrel

that fell—or was pulled by birds—from its nest at one month old.

"When we found her, her little nose was bleeding," Mrs. Wheeler said of Sugar. "After a while, she just laid out like dead."

Mrs. Wheeler said her first thought was to have the animal put to sleep, but her daughter, Pat, wanted to try

to nurse the squirrel back to health. "My daughter is just crazy about animals, you know," Mrs. Wheeler, who has three dogs herself, said.

"Well, I took Sugar out of the cage and started talking to her until she came to," Mrs. Wheeler said.

Mrs. Wheeler said she took Sugar to Dr. A.E. Wagener of Black Mountain. The veterinarian didn't give Sugar much chance of survival, she said, but prescribed antibiotics for the animal.

"That biotic took her right out of it," Mrs. Wheeler said. The animal is now, at four months, a bundle of energy.

She wants to eat all the time now, Mrs. Wheeler said. "She likes grits." Sugar takes her grits in a bottle with evaporated milk. She also has a habit of eating the tiny nipples, a scarce commodity that Mrs. Wheeler has to go to Asheville to buy.

Mrs. Wheeler claims Sugar's eyesight is returning. At this time, the squirrel falls off of furniture, but seems to follow Mrs. Wheeler's hand as she moves it in front of the animal's eyes.

"If her eyesight comes back, I want to take her somewhere where they don't hunt and let her go," Mrs. Wheeler said.

In any case, Mrs. Wheeler is getting good advice on squirrel-raising from her sister, Pearl Shelton. Ms. Shelton is foster mother to 25 to 30 wild animals that have been orphaned or injured.

Fire Chief teaches class at fire school

Black Mountain Fire Chief Mack Kirkpatrick left June 20 for Wilson to teach a week-long course in pump operations at the state Fire College.

Steve King called "one of the smartest men in North Carolina on pumps," was asked by the Department of Insurance to teach the short course. He will return to duty June 27.

Black Mountain Fire Department

The Black Mountain Fire Department fought three fires last week.

On June 15, two trucks and 18 men fought a fire at Tall Oaks Cottage on Cherokee Ave. Minor damage was reported.

On June 17, \$200 damage was the result of a car fire on US 70 east. One truck and 11 men were called to that fire. Two trucks and 18 men put out a fire in a clothes dryer at Camp Ridgecrest for Boys on June 17. Minor damage was reported.

The department received a false alarm, answered by one truck and seven men, on June 14.

FIRE AMBULANCE

The Black Mountain Fire Department ambulance made

one emergency run, one routine and was not needed on one.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The ambulance service made four emergency runs, 18 routine and was not needed on six.

Medical Center

The Swannanoa Valley Medical Center saw 170 regular patients, 10 emergency and five injuries last week.

Board votes to oppose Swannanoa fire district growth

by Dan Ward

A four-member committee will study ways of combating Black Mountain's stray animal problem and report to the Town Board at its next regular meeting in July.

The committee was chosen by Mayor Margaret Slagle at the Town Board meeting June 20. At that meeting, the board also passed the 1977-78 budget, passed a resolution opposing expansion of the Swannanoa fire district into an area now serviced by Black Mountain, and rejected an ordinance prohibiting public display of alcohol containers.

Anna Hall and Grace Austin told the board of bad experiences they had with stray animals and of receiving threats and harassment from pet owners as a result of trying to have the strays picked up. Ms. Hall suggested the town hire a part-time animal warden to alleviate the stray problem.

Mayor Slagle appointed Ms. Hall and Ms. Austin, along with Belle Mordell and Naomi Brigman to study methods of animal control and present their recommendations to the board at its next meeting.

BUDGET

The board also passed the 1977-78 town budget without objections. The News will try to analyze that budget in a coming issue.

FIRE DISTRICT

The board passed unanimously a resolution asking that the County Board of Commissioners do not expand the Swannanoa fire district beyond the Excello plant on U.S. 70. At this time, the Black Mountain Fire Department provides service to areas east of the Excello plant. (See guest editorial on page 2)

ALCOHOL ORDINANCE

An ordinance to prohibit public display of alcoholic beverage containers—aimed primarily at litterers on Cherry Street—was defeated 3 to 2 as being unenforceable. Mayor Slagle and Ald. A.F. Tyson noted that a littering law already exists and is difficult to enforce. Mrs. Slagle said that the police will be particularly watchful of littering in the Cherry Street area in the future.

John Allison, owner of Winks Bar, said he will take extra pains to keep the street clean around his establishment and will stress to patrons that they may not take their beer outside. He asked the board to write to his beer distributor urging that the distributor supply returnable bottles to discourage littering. Mrs. Slagle said such a letter would be written.

Ald. John Mundy and Ruth Brandon voted against rejecting the ordinance.

AUDITOR

The board voted 3 to 2 to accept a bid of \$2400 from Crawley, Johnson, Price and Sprinkle, CPAs, to audit the town's 1976-77 accounts. The bid, \$200 higher than one submitted by Don Williams, CPA, was accepted on the basis that Crawley has done the Black Mountain audits a number of times in the past and is familiar with the books.

Ald. Brandon, who joined Ald. Mundy in voting against award of the job to Crawley, complained that Crawley was responsible for "messed up" ledgers in the past. She also said that Williams has a

specialist in small municipalities auditing. She questioned the legality of rejecting the low bid.

ANNEXATION

A copy of the ratified bill to annex property through the legislature that was improperly annexed by the town was read. The bill also validates past election and actions as board members of Ald. Don Hoefling and Tom Sobol, who were found to live in one of the areas.

The board also voted at the meeting to annex property near Spring Hill being developed by Stepp-Nichols. Ald. Tyson asked that persons moving into the area be made officially aware that the town will be unable to supply water to the area because of its altitude. All three readings of the annexation were held at the meeting in order that it be passed during the 1976-77 fiscal year.

STREET OPENING AND CLOSING

The board voted to complete and maintain a 125 ft. gravel drive as a town street ending at the Henry Burgin property off Craigmont Rd. Two families already use the drive. The Town would be required to extend the road 21 feet and maintain it. Persons living on the street have agreed to provide a name for it.

The board also voted to close Washington indefinitely as a public thoroughfare. Residents in the area petitioned the town to close the street because it had become a favorite spot for drunks.

APPOINTMENTS

The board appointed Bob Bougham to the Board of Adjustments and William Hamilton to the Planning Board. It also reappointed Naomi Brigman, Aaron Belt and Jesse Cook to that board.

The board reappointed J.G. Northcott to the ABC Board and William Hutchins and Florence Bulmer to the Library Board.

Mayor Slagle cautioned against reappointing board members as a tradition, saying that the boards may become stale, and that it deprives other citizens from serving.

OTHER ACTION

The board chose to deny a tax release to Joe Lytle because his business does not use town garbage collection. It was noted by Town Counsel William Eubanks that Lytle receives other town services. Town Manager Jon Creighton said he is trying to arrange to have Lytle's trash picked up.

The board also chose to postpone paying a three-year-old water bill from the City of Asheville pending negotiations with that city.

Cherry Street fixup now underway

by Dan Ward

A Black Mountain street crew is now tearing up old sidewalks on Cherry Street as the first step in renovation of that area.

The Town Board held a special meeting recently to approve a Planning Board recommendation to support efforts by Cherry Street merchants to beautify the street.

The board allocated \$2500 toward repairing broken sidewalks, building a stone planter at the corner of Cherry and State Streets, supplying benches, and building a wooden planter along the

chainlink fence near the middle of the block.

Town Manager Jon Creighton said he was not sure all of the projects will be completed by the July 4 deadline set by the merchants.

"The sidewalks will be done, the planters will be done—but I don't know about the benches," he said. He said that the town will hold off on purchasing benches until the cost of the other projects is known. The merchants requested "four or five" benches, Creighton said.

In addition, the merchants will pay the cost of erecting a directory for all the businesses on Cherry Street over the sidewalk at the corner of State and Cherry.

Harriet Styles, who helped organize plans for the directory, said the sign will consist of individual plaques naming each business and connected by chains. The effect will be "rustic," she said. Merchants have agreed to contribute up to \$10 apiece to make the directory.

In addition, the Womens Club will provide shrubs and annuals for the planters, Mrs. Styles said. She said she hopes other groups of merchants will follow the Cherry Street example in rejuvenating their businesses as part of a town beautification program being encouraged by the Womens Club.



RAY WILSON of the Black Mountain Streets Department breaks up the sidewalk on Cherry Street to prepare for improvements. (Dan Ward)



CARRIE WHEELER AND FRIEND Sugar