

BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

DEVOTED 100% TO OUR COMMUNITY — THE GROWING SWANNANOVA VALLEY

Serving --

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

Drinking ordinance passed for July 4th

by Dan Ward

In a special Black Mountain Town Board meeting marked by political volleys and partisan divisions, the board voted June 23 to adopt an ordinance on public drinking it had rejected June 20, retain the firm of Crawley, Johnson, Price and Sprinkle as auditors of the town's 1976-77 ledgers, and heard questions and comments from the public on the felling of trees in a picnic area on Lake Tomahawk.

PUBLIC DRINKING

The meeting was called by Mayor Margaret Slagle to re-evaluate the board's earlier decision to reject an ordinance against public drinking and display of alcoholic beverage containers as unenforceable. Mrs. Slagle cited possible abuse of alcohol at the upcoming July 4 activities as the reason for an immediate meeting.

The board heard testimony from Inspector Bill Stafford that there is now no state law against public drinking-only public drunkenness. He added that the current policy for the police to wait until a public drinker becomes drunk is costing the department a great deal of time. Public drunks must be transported by police to Detox in Swannanoa.

In addition, Stafford said that the ordinance applying to littering would be more effective than the present littering law and would be enforceable.

Under the suggestion of Ald. Tom Sobol, the golf course and park areas designated by Town Manager Jon Creighton would be exempt from the ordinance.

The ordinance, setting a \$50 for public drinking, passed unanimously.

AUDITOR

The board's decision to accept a bid of \$2400 submitted by Crawley, rather than one of \$2200 submitted by the firm of

Don Williams, was brought up again due to what Mayor Slagle called a "misunderstanding." She said that the person who was familiar with the town's records was no longer with Crawley, making the rationale that Crawley was best able to audit Black Mountain's books invalid. Ald. A.F. Tyson said Mrs. Slagle's information was wrong. Another vote was taken, resulting in an identical tally of 3 to 2 in favor of accepting Crawley's bid.

TREES

A number of persons commented on the felling of trees in a picnic area adjacent to the clubhouse on Lake Tomahawk. Most asked why the public hadnt been informed of plans to cut the trees, questioned why that area had been picked to create a parking area, and why the board had not voted on the measure. Mrs. Slagle explained that the matter was not one that needed board approval—it should be handled

Public Drinking rule

Bill Stafford of the Black Mountain Police Department said Monday that the town's new public drinking ordinance will be enforced at the July 4 street party. The ordinance follows:

WHEREAS, it shall be unlawful for any person to drink, or to offer a drink to another person or persons, of any intoxicating liquor, as such term is defined in Section 18A-2(4) Article 1, Chapter 18A of the Statutes of North Carolina in any public park, parkway, public street, public alleyway, public lot, or any other property owned, controlled, or maintained by the Town of Black Mountain.

WHEREAS, the terms and provisions of this section shall not apply to the following locations described below:

1. Those locations where the state board of alcoholic control Authority or any other duly constituted authority has

by the town manager.

Rather than address further questions to Jon Creighton, the town manager, the audience and members of the board engaged in a debate concerning the authority and judgement of the town manager—as well as inuendos and counter-inuendos about the disappearance of the recreation plan for Lake Tomahawk from the town records.

Betty Tyson, who is working on a plan for the area with the recreation committee, said some trees will be planted and that tables and grills will be placed in a new picnic area near the old one. Trees will be planted around the 25-space parking lot, she said.

The meeting was adjourned and the board went into executive session to discuss personnel.

Although the meeting was announced on June 21 by a bulletin displayed at Town Hall, the News was given no notice prior to the meeting that it had been called.

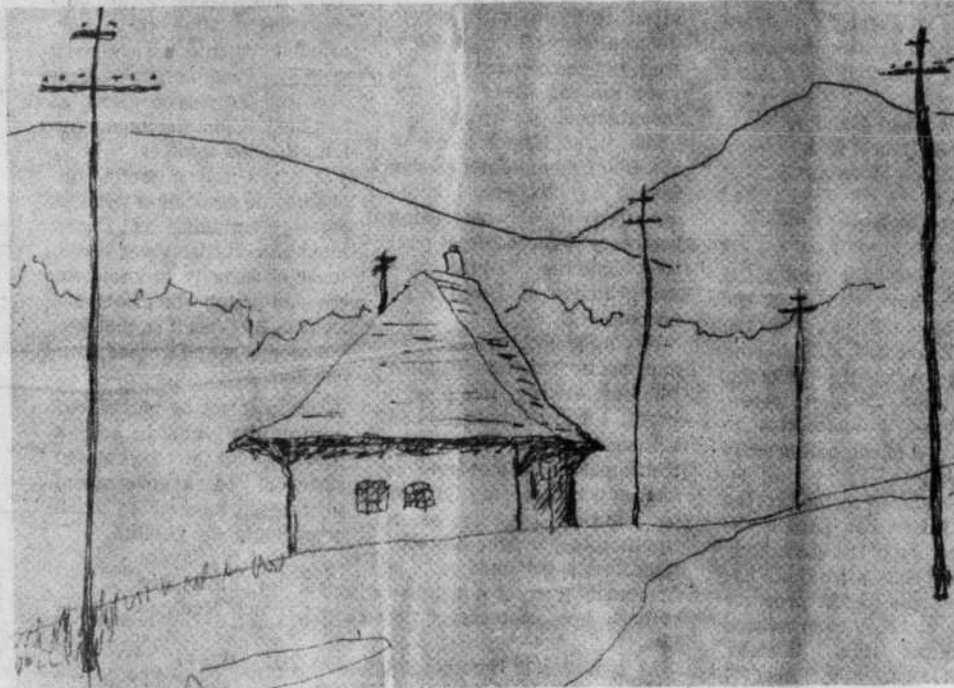
issued or hereafter issues a permit or license pursuant to the laws of the State of North Carolina.

2. Those locations under the supervision and control of the Director of Parks and Recreation which said Director designates as permitted locations under such regulations as said Director establishes.

WHEREAS, it shall be unlawful for any person to drop, throw, cast or deposit or in any manner container of whatever nature, and whether containing intoxicating liquor or not, upon, or in any public park, parkway, public street, public alleyway, public sidewalk, public parking area or lot, or any other property owned, controlled, or maintained by the Town of Black Mountain.

WHEREAS, the terms and provisions of this section shall not apply to the following locations described below:

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The Old Depot, as sketched by Belle Mordell. The Depot will be dedicated July 4 as part of a day-long celebration.

July booms in

July will arrive with a bang in Black Mountain as plans for various festivities are being completed.

FAIR

On July 1 and 2, the Swannanoa Valley Medical Center Fair will take place at the Black Mountain Primary School. About 50 booths will be selling everything from arts and crafts to ham biscuits. In addition, a number of educational displays and free blood pressure test will be on hand.

A free drawing of gift certificates will be held every hour. The fair will be in progress from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Proceeds from the fair will go toward the Medical Center. Fairs for the last eight years have helped pay for modern equipment at the center, including an emergency room and x-ray facilities.

DONKEY BASEBALL

Also on Saturday, July 2, the Black Mountain Fire Department will play the Black Mountain-Swannanoa Jaycees in a game of Donkey Baseball. The game will begin at 4 p.m. at the Black Mountain Athletic Field.

Advance tickets are on sale from the Jaycees or firemen for \$1.25 for students and \$1.50 for adults. The cost at the gate is \$1.75. Pre-schoolers may watch free.

Proceeds will go toward Black Mountain Fire Department Rescue Squad equipment.

PARADE

A parade put on by the Town of Black Mountain, Cherry Street Merchants, and the Old Depot Committee will leave the Town Hall at 2 p.m. on July 4, travel down Cherry Street and end at the depot. Mayor Margaret Slagle will cut a ribbon dedicating the depot at 2:30 p.m.

STREET PARTY

A street party featuring a sidewalk art show, craft sale, hourly raffles, antique car display, baked goods sale and a beard contest will be in progress all day July 4 on Cherry Street. Live music by the Bear Creek Ramblers, the Starlight Mountain Boys,

Pam, Smyrna, Five Star Destiny, Captain Tom, Elena, Anita and Owen and Jerry Reed Smith will take place from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Jerry Reed Smith will also have a number of his hand-made dulcimers on display and for sale.

Raffle prizes have been donated by a number of local merchants.

DEPOT

The 100 year old Black Mountain Depot, after its dedication at 2:30 July 4, will be open to the public, with various arts and crafts on display inside.

Traveling exhibits from Southern Railways and the Asheville Museum will also be on display.

Montreat board passes budget

by Elizabeth Maxwell

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Montreat in special session on June 23 heard the third reading of the proposed budget for 1977-78 and, after one change, adopted the \$118,500 budget based on a tax levy of 65 cents per \$100

valuation. This levy represents no change from last year's rate. The main categories for expenditures are as follows: General Government \$9,427; Police Department \$60,587; Street Lighting \$6,800; Street Department \$33,228; Sanitation Collection \$47,966; and Special Appropriations \$520.

Appreciation was expressed to Commissioner E.E. Crisp and others who contributed information and recommendations for the preparation of the budget.

The board granted a permit to the Mountain Retreat Association to hold a parade on town streets on July 4.

The mayor, Elizabeth Maxwell, reminded those present that Dr. Larry Wilson, mayor pro temp, will assume the duties of the mayor during her absence in July.

The meeting was adjourned until the next regular session on July 14.

Trees controversy focuses on Manager

by Dan Ward

Felling by the Town of Black Mountain of a number of trees in a picnic area near the clubhouse on Lake Tomahawk drew a great deal of criticism and controversy within the town board last week.

Town Manager Jon Creighton, who ordered the removal of trees in the picnic area to make room for a parking lot, was the target of complaints. (see Readers Speak column on page 2)

Creighton said he chose the spot to alleviate parking problems because an area on the other side of the tennis courts was too great a distance from the clubhouse for senior citizens, who eat lunch there daily, to walk. He said a filled area on the other side of the clubhouse has not settled enough to use for parking. That area, once it has settled, may be used for building or additional tennis courts in the future, he said.

Creighton also said that he had received numerous complaints from residents prior to removal of the trees that the park was a haven for drunks and was so close to the street that it endangered small children who played there.

A number of persons complained at a special town meeting June 23 that Creighton should have cleared the decision to cut trees with the board.

At that time, a lively debate developed between Mayor Margaret Slagle, who defended Creighton's ability to make decisions, and members of the audience and the board.

Creighton also drew criticism for giving the wood to town employees. He said the wood was given to

anybody who wanted it, and said a pile of wood cut on the golf course last year laid around a number of days before anyone took it away.

A new picnic area will be created, Creighton said. He also said that trees will be planted around the periphery of the parking area.

Faces fascinate portrait artist

by Dan Ward

When Danny Pressley lent working at the Old Fort Finishing Plant, he is the practitioner of an art form that has all but disappeared with the advent of photography.

Danny Pressley is a portrait painter.

"There's not many portrait painters around," Pressley said. Most people work with landscapes now.

"Faces just fascinate me—especially the hair and eyes," he said.

Pressley, an Owen High School graduate who has taken 1½ years of art classes at Warren Wilson College, has painted 27 portraits of Buncombe County residents. In addition, the Black Mountain resident has been commissioned to do many more in neighboring counties.

He spends six to eight hours a week painting portraits ranging from \$50 to \$80, and he has a backlog of requests.

"I'm pretty well booked up," he said. "Last year I was 30 paintings behind."

Pressley regards the

popularity of his work—he has never received a complaint—to be the combination of an emphasis on realism with an eye for the flattering aspects of a person's appearance.

"I try to paint realistically—I try to capture what's really there," Pressley said.

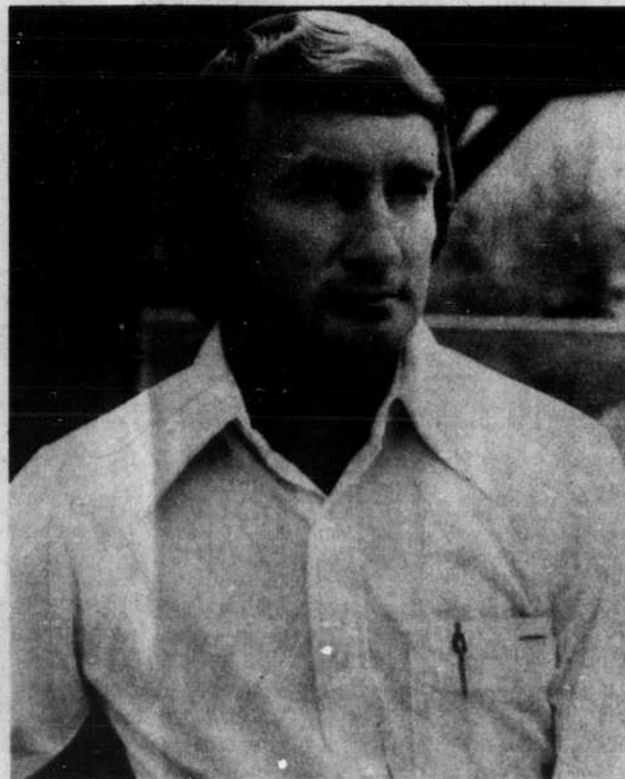
He said he has even painted portraits of dogs. One woman wrote him to say that the portrait of her dog done by Pressley "looked so real that

it seemed to want to bark at you."

Although he will paint from a photograph, Pressley said he prefers live models.

"The camera washes out many of the things you see in life," he explained.

Pressley plans to have some of his work on display during the July 4 street celebration in Black Mountain, as well as in the Old Depot gallery when it is completed.



DANNY PRESSLEY



Pat Peters, one of Pressley's subjects, with her portrait.

Youth charged with murder

A 16-year-old Black Mountain youth has been charged with the murder of 12-year-old Johnny Keith Anderson of Black Mountain.

\$100,000 bond was set for Jack Michael Gragg, who is charged with first-degree murder in the shooting death of Anderson on the night of June 26. Det. Bill Stafford of the Black Mountain Police Department said he has not yet been able to question Gragg fully about the particulars of the shooting, which took place at Gragg's home.

Anderson was shot with a 30-06 rifle, Stafford said.

Bond was set June 27 when Gragg appeared in court to answer a charge of breaking and entering of the golf house at the Black Mountain Golf Course on June 21. He was out without bond, on a promise to appear, on that charge at the time of the shooting.

Gragg is a rising sophomore at Owen High School.

A probable cause hearing will be held July 11 for Gragg. Asheville Police reported that Luther Watson Hensley Jr. of Black Mountain was shot in the chest June 27 by a person he would not identify.

According to a police spokesman, Hensley gave

three different locations of where the shooting took place, named an assailant he later said did not shoot him, and refused to press charges.

Hensley was taken to Memorial Mission Hospital and was reported in satisfactory condition.

The Black Mountain Police Department issued one speeding ticket, one ticket for unsafe movement, and picked up two for public drunkenness.

Accidents were reported at Cherry Street and U.S. 70 west last week, resulting in \$250 and \$1200 damage respectively.

Highway Patrol gears up for 4th

The State Highway Patrol is preparing for a record volume of traffic during the long July 4th weekend, according to Patrol Commander John T. Jenkins. He said that traffic usually increased on any given weekend, but with the activities normally associated with July 4, the highways this year are expected to be very crowded. Traffic is expected to be heaviest on Friday night and the evening of the 4th, Jenkins said.

The Patrol is not planning

any special programs to cope with the traffic except that every available man will be on duty. Jenkins said the Patrol is going to make travel as safe as possible during the holiday by strictly enforcing all motor vehicle laws. Special attention will be given to speeding motorists and drinking drivers.

According to J. Phil Carlton, Secretary of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, 19 persons lost their lives on the highways during the July 4 weekend last year.



Happy 201st, America!