

BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

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Thursday, July 14, 1977, Vol. 33, No. 39

Moore attacks Hunt for "politics" in health services

At a morning press conference last Friday, H.F. Moore, director of the Western Regional Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center (ARC) criticized the administration for injecting politics in patient care programs throughout State institutions. He says that recent actions by Governor Jim Hunt and the legislature has demoralized staff personnel and this will reduce effectiveness in patient care areas.

The Governor has listed 868 key personnel in state government as policy makers, then toward the end of the legislative session a law was enacted that deprives all employees with less than five years continuous service of any rights under the State Personnel Act. This means that both groups—those on the exempt list and all those with less than five years service may be fired without notice and they have no right of appeal.

Moore said that the governor is in effect holding a club over the heads of a large segment of state employees and this is in effect a method of ruling through fear. He urged the governor to reverse

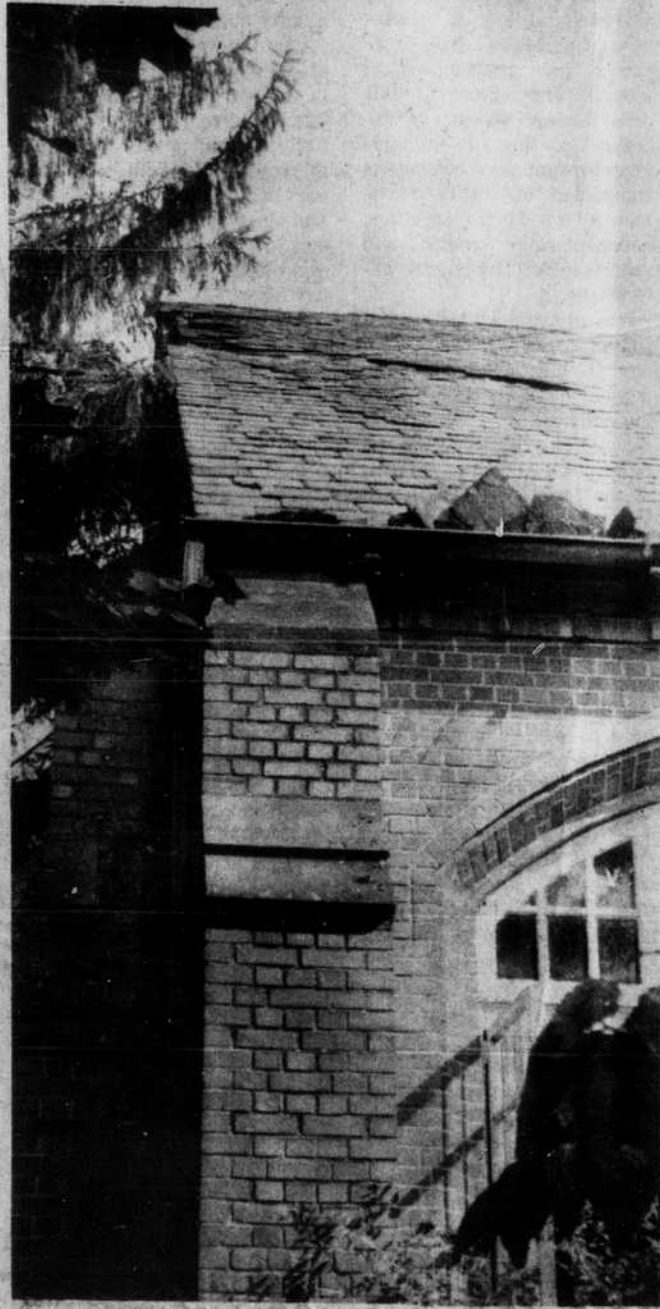
this by issuing an Executive Order to re-establish rights of employees under the State Personnel Act protections. This would include all but the direct policy makers at the highest state level.

The ARC director told the press conference that the ARC had made dramatic progress in the last three years. They had been able to recruit top professionals including the social work supervisor, who is a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers; and more recently, a doctoral level psychologist. Dr. Norman Desrosiers, a well known psychiatrist and expert in the treatment of alcoholism was recruited as Supervisor of Clinical Services in November, 1976. Dr. Desrosiers has been working closely with professional staff in upgrading their skills and new treatment programs have been added. These include special programs for women and blacks. The position of clinical chaplain was added and scheduled Vester Services are now held at the center.

Moore contended that this dramatic progress and enthusiasm on the part of the staff was abruptly changed

the latter part of April when the exempt list was announced by Governor Hunt. It deteriorated further when Geraldine King, business manager, resigned rather than work under the threat of political dismissal. A very well qualified psychologist has also resigned and other staff personnel are looking for jobs elsewhere, he said. All these facts were brought to the attention of the Division Director, Dr. N.P. Zarzar, and to Secretary of Department of Human Resources, Dr. Sarah Morrow. The only response was Dr. Morrow's comments at a meeting with Mental Health institutional directors on June 27. She stated that the matter had been discussed with Governor Hunt and he was convinced his decision was correct and that the institutional directors would have to proceed within the framework of the Governor's decision. To date, she has also not taken up an offer by Moore to tour the ARC facilities and listen to feedback on the new policy.

Moore said that 60 percent of the ARC staff have no protection under the State Personnel Act. This has had a devastating effect on morale and directly affects patient care. He stated that "politics and patient care don't mix" and he now feels that the public must be informed of the situation.



A fire at the Presbyterian Home left a hole in the slate roof of the gym and extensive water and smoke damage inside last week. (Dan Ward)

Dog warden board choice

by Dan Ward

If the town of Black Mountain receives Title II funds, it will hire a full-time animal control officer in the near future to alleviate problems caused by strays and barking dogs.

The Town Board at its July 11 meeting informally approved a request by Jon Creighton, upon the recommendation of a special committee on dog control and the advice of County Board Chairman Curtis Ratcliff, for state funds under the Comprehensive Employment Training Act to hire a dog warden to patrol Black Mountain and within a mile outside its limits.

The dog committee proposal, submitted by Ann Hall, was based on discussions with Ratcliff concerning the options open to the town to enforce its leash law. The committee also investigated animal control procedures in other towns.

The town would be required to supply a uniform if needed, and fuel expenses for the warden. Jon Creighton said the town has a vehicle that can be used to pick up strays. The town would also be required to pay any overtime that may be incurred, but could also use the warden to perform duties that are not now budgeted by the town, under the requirements of Title II funding.

The grant would pay the warden's salary, set at the beginning allocate an additional \$2500

The grant would pay the warden's salary, set at the beginning pay scale for a town or county employee, whichever is higher. The candidates for warden would be required to show that they were not employed for at least 30 days prior to the beginning of the term as warden, and that they had registered with the state employment service. The position would expire in September, 1978.

WATER

The board also heard a recommendation from Ald. John Mundy that the town begin a surcharge of 45 to 50 cents per 10000 gallons to persons receiving town water near Sky-High reservoir and on McCoy Cove Rd. The town is losing at least that amount in providing water to those residents, he said, when electrical costs and pump maintenance are taken into account.

Mundy said he will have more complete figures on the cost to the town of providing water outside its limits at a work session July 25. The News hopes to go into greater depth on the Town's water problems in the future.

Jon Creighton, town manager, read a letter from Richard Phillips, regional engineer for the Land Quality Section of the Department of Natural and Economic Resources, stating that the town is required to have an engineer design drainage lines to prevent leakage at the large dam at the Dunsmore Cove Reservoir. The board authorized Creighton to spend the funds necessary for an engineer's recommendations.

SPORTS MONEY

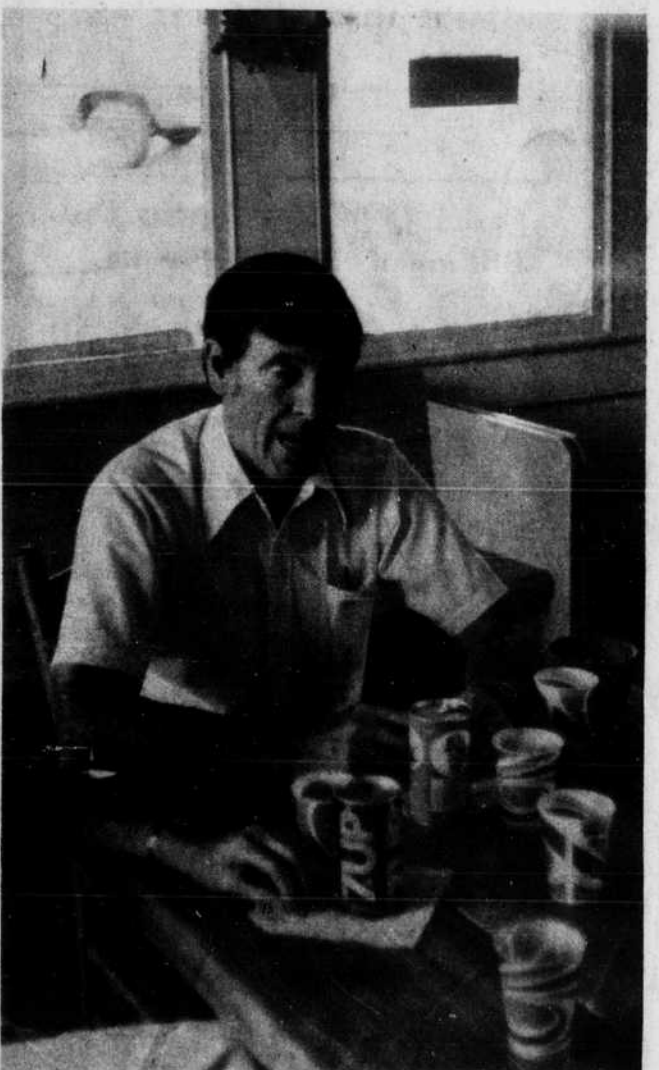
On recommendation of Ald. Don Hoefling, the board voted to allocate an additional \$2500 to the Committee for Better Sports to purchase new equipment required by the Western North Carolina Football League. The money is in addition to \$2500 already allocated to the committee for updating equipment and will come out of the recreation budget.

Belle Mordell went on record as opposing the town's spending additional money on sports while the Depot has been denied funds for art classes for children.

WORK SESSION

Mayor Margaret Slagle announced at the Town Board meeting that there will be a special work session July 25 at 7:30 p.m.

She later told the News that the board will meet with Denny Martin, assistant director of the Land of Sky Regional Council about obtaining funds under the Clean Water Act to improve the



CURTIS RATCLIFF, chairman of the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners met with a special committee on stray animals in Black Mountain at the Old Depot last week. (Dan Ward)

town's water system.

REFUND FOR UNANNEXED

The board also heard a request by letter from Mrs. John E. Nanney and the Ronald Price family for a refund of taxes charged them while their land was improperly annexed to the town of Black Mountain.

Ald. A.F. Tyson said that he did not think that a refund was due because the families had originally petitioned to be annexed, had received town services, and were thought in good faith to be annexed by themselves and the town. Both property owners have chosen not to re-apply for annexation.

Tyson suggested that the board ask the families to withdraw their requests. Ald. Tom Sobol recommended that the town manager obtain a legal opinion from the attorney general. Mayor Slagle asked Jon Creighton to implement both suggestions.

NOISE

The board also heard complaints from Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hall of excessive noise from the Clubhouse being carried across the lake and

creating a public nuisance.

Ald. Don Hoefling, who said he checked the decibel level of the P.A. system at the pool once, said he will recheck the noise at full volume. Mayor Slagle said the loudspeaker will be used in the future only for emergency and telephone announcements.

Ald. Hoefling said he will investigate ways to cut down on the sound level at the clubhouse during dances.

WARRANTS

Paul Griffith suggested to the board that a magistrate be established in Black Mountain to facilitate the issue of warrants for police and the future dog warden.

Ald. Tyson compared a magistrate to the Justice of the Peace system formerly employed.

"The J.P.s had no sense of law at all—it was almost a farce," Tyson said. The board took no action on the recommendation.

The board will hold its next regular meeting on August 8. The subdivision ordinance will be discussed at that time.

Moore may be fired in VIP meeting

H.F. Moore, director of the Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center, said that Secretary of Human Resources Sarah Morrow and N.P. Zarzar, director of the Division of Mental Health Services, will meet within the next few days to decide whether or not to fire Moore for protesting state policy publicly.

Neither Morrow or Zarzar returned calls the News made

to their Raleigh offices to confirm Moore's statement. Moore said he is expecting to be terminated and is preparing for possible court action.

Under new guidelines handed down by Gov. Jim Hunt, Moore does not have the right to an appeal in a hearing before peers because he is within a group made exempt from the State Personnel Act.

The ARC employs 130 persons from the Black Mountain-Swannanoa area. Seventy-five of those persons would without the right to a hearing if terminated under the new policy, Moore said.

Virtually all Democrats in the state house and senate voted for the new measure, Moore said. He has stated that he has not registered as either a democrat or Republican.

Fire hits Presbyterian Home

Black Mountain firemen fought for two and one-half hours to put out a fire in the ceiling of the gym at the Presbyterian Home for Boys on July 10. Nobody was in the building at the start of the fire, which was started by lightning.

Steve King of the fire department said that the fire was difficult to get at and to see through the clouds of smoke in the 35-foot tall building. The building suffered some smoke and water damage, as well as a hole in the slate roof. No monetary estimates have yet been made of the damage.

One truck and 11 men were called to put out a car fire on Ridgeway St. July 9. Minor damage was reported.

One truck and six men were called to standby on a car wreck on US 70 east on July 10. Also that day, one truck and 17 men were called to standby on another car wreck on US 70 east.

One truck and 16 men were called to put out a brush fire on Burgin Cove Rd. on July 7.

Still pickin' after 40 years

Zeke and Wiley Morris -- bluegrass pioneers

by Dan Ward

The Morris brothers, if they'd played it right, could have been part of the sequin-Cadillac Nashville set right now—but they seem to enjoy being body shop owners in the "nicest little town in the world," Black Mountain.

The two former recording artists, who credit themselves as the inventors of Bluegrass, now only play two or three times a year publicly—usually

at bluegrass festivals. Wiley Morris, who is best known in Black Mountain as the owner of Morris Body Shop and best known internationally as the guitar-playing Morris brother, doesn't dwell on not being in the music spotlight today.

"We don't have to brag," he said. "We're still the best and we know it."

The Morris brothers in the mid-30s took what was then

called "hillbilly music," according to Wiley, and gave it a less choppy rhythm—music that came to be known as bluegrass.

Zeke, who began singing with J.E. Mainer's Mountaineers in 1934, joined with brother Wiley and Homer Sherrill in 1937.

Homer, (Pappy) Sherrill only stayed with the Morris Brothers two years, but he rejoined them in 1972 to record an LP record in the band room

at Owen High School. Live singing on the radio, primarily WBT in Charlotte, gave them the notoriety they needed, and required that they produce a great deal of original music. SALT Y DOG was one of those songs. Today, Zeke and Wiley continue to receive royalty checks twice a year for the popular song.

"That's our old standby," Wiley said of SALT Y DOG. "We've been drawing royalties off that since the 30s. We're

making more money off it now than we did when we recorded it."

Wiley said he doesn't consider SALT Y DOG the best song the brothers have written—citing GRAVE UPON THE GREEN HILLSIDE and TRAGIC ROMANCE as his two favorites. Zeke disagreed, saying that whichever song was the most popular with listeners has to be the best.

In addition to producing a volume of original recordings, the Morrises were responsible for introducing other musicians to show business. The most notable—and one of the few who give the Morrises public recognition for their help—is Earl Scruggs.

"We gave him (Earl Scruggs) the first job he ever had," Wiley said. "He was wearing a blue shirt and a pair of overalls. Grady Wilke came in to us and said he had a 5-string picker out in the car and could we listen to him."

"Well, he played as good or better than as he does now," Wiley said with admiration.

Scruggs remembered his roots when he went on a national tour in 1970 to make a documentary film and recording called Earl Scruggs' Family and Friends. One segment was filmed in Wiley's back yard, and included a few numbers performed by the Morris brothers. An LP album was later made from the soundtrack, with a bass and female vocal mixed in on a couple numbers.

Numerous showings of the documentary film over educational TV have resulted

in a resurgence of popularity for the brothers. One couple flew from Japan just to meet the Morrises at a bluegrass festival.

"I guess you could say we've helped more musicians than any two people in the country," Zeke said. "We didn't always get credit for it—but we don't care."

Zeke, who plays a 72-year-old, one-of-a-kind mandolin, is owner of the Zeke Morris Body Shop in Black Mountain. He got his start in 1934 with J.E. Mainer singing on WBT radio in Charlotte on a program sponsored by the Crazy Water Crystal company, a Texas mineral water marketer.

The brothers found themselves pioneers in another medium in the early 50s when they had a weekly TV show on the infant WLOS-TV in Asheville.

Their latest concert was last year, when they played before a packed arena on a Friday night at Oklahoma State University.

"We outdrew Scruggs by 50 percent," Wiley said. "And he played on a Saturday night." Wiley attributed much of the crowd's enthusiasm to a showing of the Scruggs' documentary on television a few days before the concert.

The Morris Brothers have cut down drastically on their appearances now and don't intend to play again until next year, at a bluegrass festival in Raleigh. They still expect to see a few of the old-timers there, as well as young folks, who know who the pioneers of bluegrass are.



ZEKE AND WILEY MORRIS back in the 30s (left) and today, on Wiley's front porch in Black Mountain.



Budget breakdown

by Dan Ward

Ed. note: In this story we will attempt to break down some of the larger expenditures in the 1977-78 Black Mountain town budget and compare them with last year's expenditure. This analysis will not deal with individual line items or many of the lesser categories, which may be examined at town hall. The 1977-78 budget was unanimously approved at the regular June meeting of the Town Board.

The Black Mountain town budget of \$592,063 is about \$70,000 above the budget for last year. Of that amount, only \$211,000 is from property taxes. The most notable sources for revenue anticipated are the local option sales tax, \$53,000; Powell Bill (state grant for street improvements), \$53,000; ABC revenue, \$38,000; and golf revenue, \$55,000. With the exception of golf revenue—which will be the same—all of

these revenue sources are expected to bring in more money than last year. In addition, \$42,000 is anticipated in revenue sharing funds—a \$3,000 decline from last year.

While most areas of expenditure in the budget are slightly higher than last year—attributed by Town Manager Jon Creighton to a rise in utility, supplies and maintenance costs—a few areas of the budget show a marked change.

The difference between the anticipated budget for 1976-77 and 1977-78 for the Police department, for instance, is an increase of almost \$32,000, or 47.4 percent. Creighton noted that the actual expenditures for police last year were actually much higher than was budgeted, due primarily to addition of a patrolman to the force, purchase of another vehicle and expenditure of almost \$3,000 more than was anticipated on auto supplies—primarily fuel. In addition, this year the

town will purchase liability insurance, at a cost of \$800, pay an additional \$3,400 in matching funds for the state investigator grant, and hike police pay by 7 percent. The total police budget this year, not including revenue sharing funds, is \$98,982.

The Fire Department, which has retired a bond issue costing \$5,200 per year for a fire truck, is budgeted \$58,960, about a 4 percent increase over last year. That amount does not include \$9,600 anticipated from revenue sharing that the department did not receive last year.

The water budget has experienced a 68 percent reduction from last year, to \$129,276. Creighton said that last year's budget for water was exceptionally high because it included a \$100,000 capital outlay to put the 10-inch water main through town. The town expended such a large amount last year to take advantage of a rebate