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BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

DEVOTED 100% TO OUR COMMUNITY — THE GROWING SWANNANOA VALLEY

Thursday, September 8, 1977, Vol. 33, No. 47

Water cuts asked in Montreat

by Dan Ward

Montreat, like Black Mountain, is rapidly running out of water, and an official here asks that residents cut back on water use.

John Lewis, who heads water and sewer affairs for the Mountain Retreat Association, said that the upper reservoir for the town has been running dry each day after only six hours of pumping. Additional water has been taken from the system's second reservoir and from the stream.

However, Lewis said, water entering the system is only three-fourths of what is pumped out, even though most cottage owners have left for the year.

Unlike Black Mountain, the Montreat Town Board cannot pass an ordinance to curb

water use. The water system is owned by the Mountain Retreat Association, which acts as a private utility. Lewis said that he could only ask that persons curtail water use voluntarily.

Because the reservoir from which water is now taken is lower, pressure has not been strong enough to supply households at higher elevations, Lewis said.

Montreat has no backup connections to the Asheville water system. Its only emergency connection is to Black Mountain through a two-inch line. "That wouldn't be enough water to do anybody any good," Lewis said.

Lewis said that if water consumption in Montreat continues at its present rate—and if heavy rains do not appear—there is only about three weeks of water left.



Touchdown!

At the bottom of this pile is Randy Scott, who scored Owen's only touchdown in its game against Enka last week. See story and photos inside. (Robert Green)

Black Mountain problems -- history reruns

Ed. note—We've all heard that history repeats itself. However, it is rare that it repeats itself as precisely as it does in Black Mountain. These quotes from back records, dug out by Mr. Griffith, are food for thought on how to deal with these problems, as well as a historical curiosity.

by Paul E. Griffith

The following are excerpts from the Minutes of the Board of Aldermen Meetings held in August and September 1925 and October 1926. Mayor Joseph Kinsey presided over Aldermen H.M. Davis, C.C. Hipp, G.F. Hall, F.W. Miller, and F.A. Schallwig. Clerk and Treasurer was H.A. Kerlee. Meetings were held weekly.

Japanese exchange teachers

Interested in West's methods

by Dan Ward

Two Japanese visiting Black Mountain last week will be taking more back home with them than "hillbilly" knickknacks and post cards. Teruo Matsumoto and

Hoshikawa Tsuneyuki may be carrying the future educational system of Japan.

"We were surprised and envious," Matsumoto said through interpreter James Moore of Black Mountain, who has worked with Japanese schools.

Education in Japan, Tsuneyuki said, is more structured and is not adapted to individual students. Slow students must work harder to keep up with the class or be left behind, Matsumoto said. In spite of, or perhaps because of such competition, 85 per cent of Japan's students perform up to the standards set for them, he said. In the United States, only about 50 per cent of the students come up to the standards—which are comparable to Japan's.

But the Japanese pair saw a great deal of value in open classrooms, where volunteers and teachers aides make it possible for children to pick whatever interests them to study, and in special education, which helps the slow learners keep up and the fast learners to utilize all of their potential. They are also interested in specialization of teachers at the elementary level. In Japan, the same teacher will teach everything from math to music—a trend American Schools are leaving behind.

Perhaps it is more than the schools and wonderful hosts that has kept the teachers happy in this area.

"These mountains," said Matsumoto, "are like Kyushu—my home."

in their country. For example, he said, Japanese teachers have been working for the last 10 years to have class loads reduced from 30 to 40 students down to 15 to 20. Establishing open classrooms will take at least another 10 years, he said.

Matsumoto was surprised that American students spend so much time indoors, and that school periods are so strictly adhered to. "In Japan, we are more flexible with the time," he said.

Time for the pair has been filled to the brim while in Black Mountain. They have been the guests of half a dozen families, have eaten at a different house each night, and generally given tours of every point of interest around Gaye Fox, one of the hostesses for the pair, said the hosts have been thrilled at the opportunity to share their home life with the foreigners.

There are 25 more Japanese teachers in North Carolina studying American teaching methods as part of a cultural exchange. Like the two in Black Mountain, they have skipped around the country, spending an average of three days in one town. Matsumoto and Tsuneyuki have spent 10 days in Black Mountain. From here they went to New Orleans.

Change is slow in Japan, Tsuneyuki said. Local teaching methods are determined at a cabinet level by much older educators. Tradition still carries much more weight than innovation.

Mr. J.L. Foy filed with the Board a petition signed by approximately seventy-five names, asking that an overhead crossing be made from Vance Avenue to State Street at Bridges Street, to relieve the congestion at the railroad crossing. Mayor Davis informs Mr. Foy that the matter is under consideration at the present time and action will be taken as soon as the Southern Railroad has been consulted.

August 26, 1925—Mr. W.H.

being of the opinion that the improvements are necessary for the future growth of the Town, it is on motion of F.A. Schallwig seconded by C.C. Hipp that the Town issue \$50,000 in water bonds for these and other improvements needed on the water lines. And that Mr. H.B. Craven be instructed to prepare the advertisement for this issue of bonds. On motion of F.A. Schallwig and seconded by C.C. Hipp it is ordered that the former Bond issue authorized by this Board on July 8, 1925, be repealed and cancelled.

"Mr. F.B. Dennis, secretary of the Broadway Dev. Co. states that they wish to pave the new street through the Simpson property and requests that the Town have the water and sewer put in on this street before paving begins, also that they hope to make this street a white way and ask that the Town consider with them the costs of the same. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried it is ordered that this matter be deferred until the next meeting night."

August 19, 1925—Mayor Pro Tem Davis "takes this occasion to express his and the Boards appreciation and thanks to Mr. H.B. Craven for his help in installing a pump for emergency water supply and his assistance and cooperation in the welfare of the Town, and the Clerk is instructed to notify Mr. Craven of this action."

"On motion duly made, seconded and carried, the Clerk is authorized to make corrections on water bills for the past two months, due to the fact that a part of the bill is caused by cutting off water at nights."

October 20, 1926—"A letter from Mr. R.K. McClain, Supt. of Southern Railway, was read to the Board—about a grade crossing from Broadway to Lakey Street. Messrs. Dennis and Bowman were before the Board as a committee from the Chamber of Commerce in regards to this crossing and wished the Board to know that they would cooperate with the Board in getting this crossing. On motion of F.A. Schallwig and seconded by A.G. Allison, the Clerk was instructed to write Mr. McClain that the Town would stand the expense of building the approaches on each side of this crossing and the expense of moving the Freight depot, if the Railway Co. would have the crossing put in."

August 26, 1925—Mr. W.H.

Burnette meets with the Board in regards to compensation for the water rights on his place, and states he would rather the Town of Black Mountain would have the water than any other Town or City, and makes a proposition to the Board to sell to the Town of Black Mountain the water rights on his place for the sum of \$1000 and in event he is living at his present home in five years from now, that an agreement be entered into, by and between the Town of Black Mountain and himself, that the Town will pay him yearly according to the agreement reached on August 12, 1925. On motion of C.C. Hipp and seconded by F.A. Schallwig the above proposition is accepted."

September 9, 1925—Alderman Davis reports that Professor Wood expresses his and the teachers willingness to cooperate with the Town in conserving water. Mayor Kinsey states that the school Board is willing to have the water hauled necessary to flush the Toilets at the school house, in event the present drought continues."

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August 26, 1925—Mr. W.H.

Black Mountain Police reported two accidents last week—one on Padgett Town Road, damage unknown, and one on Old US 70 east, in which there were two injuries and \$1000 damage.

Police arrested one for public drunk and answered 98 calls.

Officer Gary Sorrells said a

Black Mountain on Asheville water

by Dan Ward

Although Asheville water is now coursing through Black Mountain pipes, the water shortage here is far from over, according to Town Manager Jon Creighton.

Creighton said that a pressure release valve was closed on the Asheville eight-inch main, allowing pressure to raise to a level that overcomes Black Mountain.

Although residents now have adequate pressure and no immediate worries about having to get water from a tank truck, the situation is still critical, Creighton said.

Asheville's reservoir on North Fork Road was down 8½ feet last week.

The Black Mountain reservoir, which is still supplying water to the town, has one-third less water coming in from springs than it did last week.

In addition, the lower reservoir has gone dry. Water in the upper reservoir has risen some, Water Superintendent Al White said, since the town began using Asheville water.

Asheville water officials cautioned Creighton that the sale of water to the town was not unlimited. Asheville, now

supplying Woodfin and Weaverville during their water shortages, is also running short.

White said that water users have not cut back significantly here. From a level of 353,000 gallons per day before the shortage was made public, residents are now using about 349,000 gallons per day.

Only one citation has been issued so far for violation of the ordinance against watering lawns or washing cars. Others have complied with the ordinance after a single warning, Creighton said.

Beacon deems truck to Swannanoa V.F.D.

Beacon Manufacturing Company presented a Dodge fire truck equipped with a foam spray and dry chemical unit to the Swannanoa Volunteer Fire Department at the department's Board of Directors meeting Thursday, September 1.

After accepting the truck from Herb Coman, Beacon's Director of Employee Relations, Fire Chief Tom Hixon commented that this addition makes the Swannanoa Department one of the best equipped in the State with

six units ready and available to roll. The staff is composed of over 30 fully trained fire fighters and rescue personnel, including one female fire fighter.

Commissioner Bill Oglesby attended the presentation representing the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners.

Also at its meeting, the Board of Directors chose to hold its meetings on the second Thursday of each month, beginning with the

On the basis of a coin toss, it was decided that Herb Coman will serve a two-year term and Barbara Settle a one-year term as directors.

The department responded to two calls on September 3. One pumper and nine men were called to wash down after a wreck on US 70 west near the Alexander Inn. Two engines, a rescue truck and 12 men also responded to a false alarm at 115 Edwards Ave. that day.

The Ladies Auxiliary met at 7:30 p.m. September 6.



WWC student injured, arrested for cocaine

A Warren Wilson College student from Peru has been listed in satisfactory condition at Memorial Mission Hospital

after having both feet partially severed while attempting to jump on a moving freight train in Swannanoa.

Charges were also expected to be made against Antonio Ircarte Echecopar, the student, for possession of cocaine estimated to be worth approximately \$15,000.

Sheriffs police reported that a train conductor saw Echecopar throw a plastic bag away after the accident, which occurred the morning of September 5. After a search, police found the bag of cocaine.

A police dispatcher reported that calls came in shortly before the accident concerning a young man carrying a plastic bag who was running through back yards on Warren Wilson Road.

An investigation is underway.

Police Report

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Officer Gary Sorrells said a number of cases have been reported recently of persons throwing rocks and wood off of the I-40 and NC 9 bridges. One wind shield was shattered as a result of the vandalism. He said extra surveillance has been given to watch for vandals...