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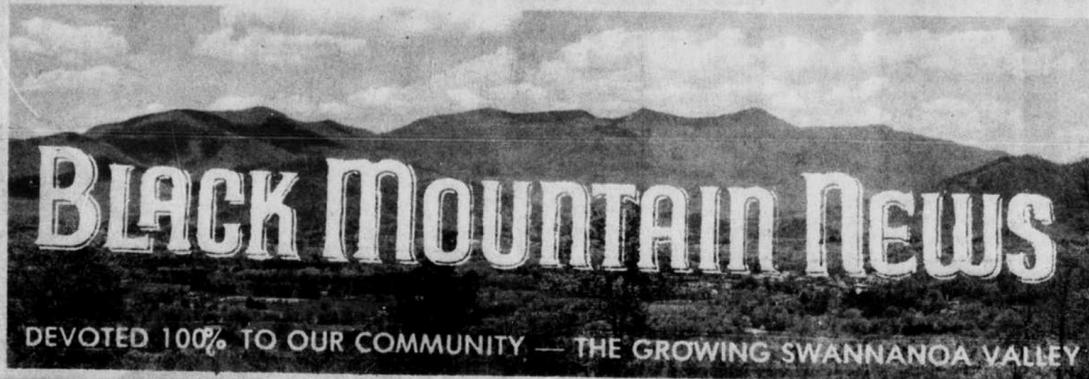
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Two breakins investigated

Two investigations are under way for larcenies in Black Mountain last week. Det. Bill Stafford of the Black Mountain Police said there are no suspects at this time in the breaking and entering and larceny of about \$100 worth of property from the Byrd Gordon residence at 1616 Byrd Rd. September 25. There are no suspects at this time, Stafford said. Police have a description of a person thought to have taken a wallet containing \$150 in

cash and two credit cards from the purse of an employee of Burnetts Appliances on September 30. No suspects have been questioned at this time. Police answered 69 calls last week. They responded to three traffic accidents and assisted the State Patrol on two. They issued six traffic citations, transported one to Detox and assisted Black Mountain Fire Department and the Sheriff's Police.

Plant refutes odor link

by Dan Ward

The manager of Winston-Salem and Finishing Plant in Swannanoa has said that the plant has not been cited as producing odorous emissions. Fuller, plant manager, said that the station plant was unfairly compared with two others as producing odors in an article in the September 29 edition of Black Mountain News. Fuller did admit that the plant produced black smoke emissions for a period of about

30 minutes when a boiler malfunctioned. That malfunction was corrected within a week, he said. Fuller noted that the plant has been recipient of the Clean Air Award given by the North Carolina Lung Association. The Regional Air Pollution Control Board has asked Fuller to attend a meeting to discuss emissions problems in the Valley, he said. However, Winston has not been singled out for any emissions violations, he added.



The bleakness of the high mountains is a reminder that winter is on its way. (David Peele)

Never routine for firemen

by Clint Williams

STATION FOUR:
NO DAY IS 10-43

Ed. note: The following article is a narration of the events that took place during three nights and two days at the Black Mountain Fire Department (Station 4). The events or lack of them, should not be considered as "typical."

Station Four itself, housing both the Black Mountain Fire Department and the E.M.T. crews of car four of the Buncombe County Ambulance Service, is spacious and comfortably appointed. Life at Station Four is an unlikely juxtaposition of monotony and crisis.

The scene Friday night is

one of domestic tranquility. Harry Oaks is preparing pork chops, rice, biscuits and gravy in the kitchen—a kitchen big enough to make any housewife envious. Fire Chief Mac Kirkpatrick and E.M.T. Bill Jones are watching "Chico and the Man" on a large color television donated by the Moose Club.

Abruptly, the ringing of the telephone breaks into the canned laughter of the situation comedy. There is a 10-40, a wreck on US 70, just east of town. A tractor-trailer and a car are involved.

Quickly, the E.M.T.s bound down the stairs to their ambulance, leaving Chief Kirkpatrick to watch the station—and the stove. Time out - 8:37. Flashing lights and wailing siren slice through traffic. The ambulance eases past the line of backed-up cars and stops where the crowd of ghoulish sight-seers have congregated.

The scene of recent violence is draped in a light, misty rain. The individual droplets seem to grasp and hold the red light of burning flares and flashing beacons, creating an eerie scarlet glow about the wreck.

A child's screams of pain and "ar cut through the drone of the crowd's murmers. The two E.M.T.s dart to the two blanket-draped bodies, each attends to a victim.

One of the victims, a four-year-old boy, has suffered lacerations over the eye and on the back of the head. The boy's father, after being placed in the ambulance on a stretcher, refuses to go to the hospital. He is released to the custody of the police.

The mother of the child arrives and accompanies her frightened son to the hospital. With Harry in the back of the ambulance with the victim and his mother, Bill drives fast but without reckless haste to Memorial Mission Hospital. At one point during the trip the siren is used to help keep the child, who has a concussion, from falling asleep.

The ambulance pulls into Station Four at 10:35. Harry goes upstairs to put the biscuits in the oven.

The rest of the evening is uneventful. Everyone goes to bed in the large bunk-room about 12:30.

Sleep is shattered by the loud ringing of the special phone next to the fireman's bed. A truck has overturned on Highway 9 south of Black Mountain. There are no in-

juries but a fire truck is requested in case the gasoline tank ruptures. Groggy eyes consult the clock. It is 3:10 a.m.

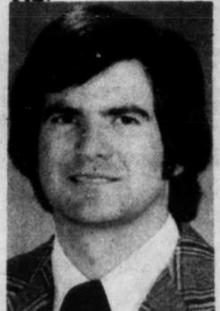
The early morning air awakens you by the time the firetruck arrives at the scene of the accident. The gas tank hasn't been ruptured. The truck is towed away without incident. The fire truck is back in the station by 3:49 a.m.

Saturday the tedium, the boredom is so intense that a man finds himself reaching into his pocket time and time again to draw out his change and count it; as if it might multiply or decrease by itself. Television shows fade into one another. The two E.M.T.s on duty must leave "Starsky and Hutch" to transport a drunk complaining of chest pains to Memorial Mission Hospital.

Everyone goes to sleep about 1:30 a.m. During the night the phone rings at least six times. All the calls are on the police line. No calls for an ambulance or firetruck. It must almost be a nightmare for fireman Charles Shook - no action and no sleep.

Sunday morning, Gary Bartlett comes in to replace Shook and Austin Burgess and "Peanut" Goodman come in to replace Ricky Patton and Thomas Lee. Sunday, if it is at all possible, is more boring than Saturday. The monotony is exhausting. That night, after everyone goes to bed, not even the phone breaks the dull routine of the day.

It must take a special breed of man, a unique temperament to be able to adjust to the harsh extremes of inactivity and emergency that are routine, or 10-43, at Station Four. But then I doubt any day is truly routine at Station Four.



WILLIAM MICHAEL BEGLEY has announced for the office of alderman in Black Mountain. He is a member of Floyd D. Brock, Attorneys at Law in Asheville.

JEC head fired

by Dan Ward

Bill Noland, former director of the Juvenile Evaluation Center (JEC) in Swannanoa, said he was "shocked" over his firing last week by Dr. Sarah Morrow, Secretary of the Department of Human Resources.

Noland, who has been director of the JEC since 1975, was given notice of his termination in Raleigh on September 28. No reason was given for his termination at that time, and no hearing was made available—as is legal under a recent amendment to the State Personnel Act.

According to Dr. Morrow, Noland was fired because he failed to obey a directive that all state employees living on the JEC grounds be charged for utilities. She also said that Noland had failed to report an

incident in which a girl at JEC. He added that the incident in which the girl was struck by another resident with a broom was relatively minor, making it unnecessary to report to division authorities. He noted that the parents were contacted and the incident recorded in the girl's record.

Noland is being replaced by Robert Atkinson, who is assistant director of the Division of Youth Services of the Department of Human Resources.

Noland said he hopes to obtain another position within state services.

Noland added that he was told that it would not be necessary to charge for utilities until after JEC housing is insulated. He added

that deductions for rent are taken out of employees' checks.



Troubled system

Part two:

by Dan Ward

Ed. Note: This article is second in a series on Black Mountain water problems and possible solutions. This article will provide an insight into what shape the water system is in now.

Black Mountain's water comes from a 515 acre watershed in Dunsmore Cove. There is a main collection reservoir and a smaller supplementary reservoir in Dunsmore Cove that were created with WPA labor during the Depression. A chlorinator and pump are also located there.

Until construction of I-40 caused it to be shut down, a 165,000 gallon storage reservoir, Hemphill Reservoir, was used to guarantee a backup water storage.

At this time, four small storage reservoirs with pumps are in use. They are the Jeanie Ave., Walker Cove, McCoy Cove and Sky High Reservoirs. Each is accompanied by an individual pump that pulls water to areas with inadequate pressure. The town maintains all but McCoy Cove Reservoir.

All of those reservoirs overflow occasionally or have poor venting.

At the time a Cummings Engineering study was done in 1975, it was found that the town had less than one-half of the recommended amount of storage for emergencies or fire. Since then, the Hemphill Reservoir has been shut down.

In addition to inadequate storage, the study showed that inadequate pressure for firefighting existed because many of the town's water lines were only two inches in

diameter. The burying of a 10 inch line up State Street and a 10 inch line up the new NC 9 spur have alleviated some pressure problems, but only the first part of the first phase suggested by Cummings to provide adequate water to the town. Town Manager Jon Creighton has estimated that it will cost \$1 million to complete phase one of

Cummings' suggestions. At this time, main lines in Black Mountain are primarily six inch, and spur lines are two inch.

Two inch lines do not supply enough pressure for firefighting. The Craigmont Community, in particular, is fed completely by two inch lines, except those households getting Asheville water. There are no fire hydrants there.

Water grants under study

by Dan Ward

Based on talks with Cummings Engineering last week, Town Manager Jon Creighton said he will meet with Asheville water representatives to discuss the probability of Black Mountain buying Asheville water full-time in the future.

Creighton said that earlier recommendations made by Cummings, in their study of the town's water system, have become modified by the Clean Water Act passed earlier this year.

Under the act, all municipal water systems must utilize filtered water. To date, the act has not been enforced in Black Mountain, which has no filtration plant.

"There is no way Black Mountain can go out and build a \$1.5 million filtration plant," Creighton said. He said that the only viable option for Black Mountain is to plan on eventually buying filtered water from Asheville.

Creighton is also studying a plan to apply for Community

Development funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to upgrade the water system in the Craigmont Community. At this time, houses there are supplied by two inch lines. There are no fire hydrants. If the town could obtain \$100,000 of \$400,000 in funds available to this region in April 1978, the town would be able to provide six inch lines and 12 fire hydrants.

The grant, in addition to improving service to that area, would serve "seed money" to facilitate getting other grants, improve the town's firefighting capabilities and would make a sound hookup with the Asheville system easier.

If the town could obtain the Community Development grant, Creighton said, it would facilitate obtaining later grants from the Appalachian Regional Council for up to \$500,000 and a Clean Water Bond to help build one million gallon reservoir and provide feeder lines throughout the town.

Ducks free from snow, snarls

by Dan Ward

It's gonna be a long, hard winter. What will the poor birdies do? They'll fly to the South with worms in their mouths and tuck their heads under their wings.

The poor things! They go the song. But though the ducks do not fly south from Black Mountain, they have little excuse to tuck

their heads under their wings and become poor things. With some labor and a great deal of care on the part of the town street crew, Lake Tomahawk ducks now have a refuge from winter weather and hungry dogs.

Harold Dotson explained that the duck house, located near the clubhouse, was made from the former barbecue shelter boxed in with plywood. The street crew cut

the shelter off from land with a chain-link fence. The fence serves the triple purpose of keeping dogs, drunks and overzealous duck-watchers from bothering the ducks.

The shelter was built as much to protect town employees as the ducks. In the past, Dotson and co-worker Woody Timmerman risked their lives to rescue ducks stuck in the ice near the middle of the lake.

"We went out after them in a boat—just slid along on the ice like a sled," Dotson said. After getting the ducks loose, the pair found that the boat had become frozen to the ice. "The boat froze down so we had to rock it to get it loose. Then it broke through the ice. It about scared me to death," Dotson said.

"We had to use a shovel to break the ice ahead of us," Timmerman added.

"Thank goodness that now the Redheads (Scova) ducks are keeping the mallards close to shore," Dotson said. "Even if one does get stuck in the ice, it won't be in the middle of the lake."

In an effort to keep the ducks close to the shelter, street employees have been feeding them cracked corn there two or three times per week.

"This winter well have to feed them every day," Dotson said. They won't be able to get any insects then.

"I hope people will help us feed them this winter. They do belong to the community, not us," Dotson said.

There are now 70 birds at the lake, including seven newborn ducklings and some geese that appeared overnight.

Dotson said children love to feed the ducks.

"There was one little girl," he said, "she was holding a loaf of bread up and all the ducks gathered around. When she saw all those ducks coming at her she started yelling 'Mama!' Dotson said. "They won't hurt you though," he added.

The ducks antics can keep an adult fascinated for hours, too.

"These are about the screwiest bunch of ducks I've ever seen," Dotson said.



HAROLD DOTSON, duck-caller Woody Timmerman and Leslie Russel...and friend. (Dan Ward)

