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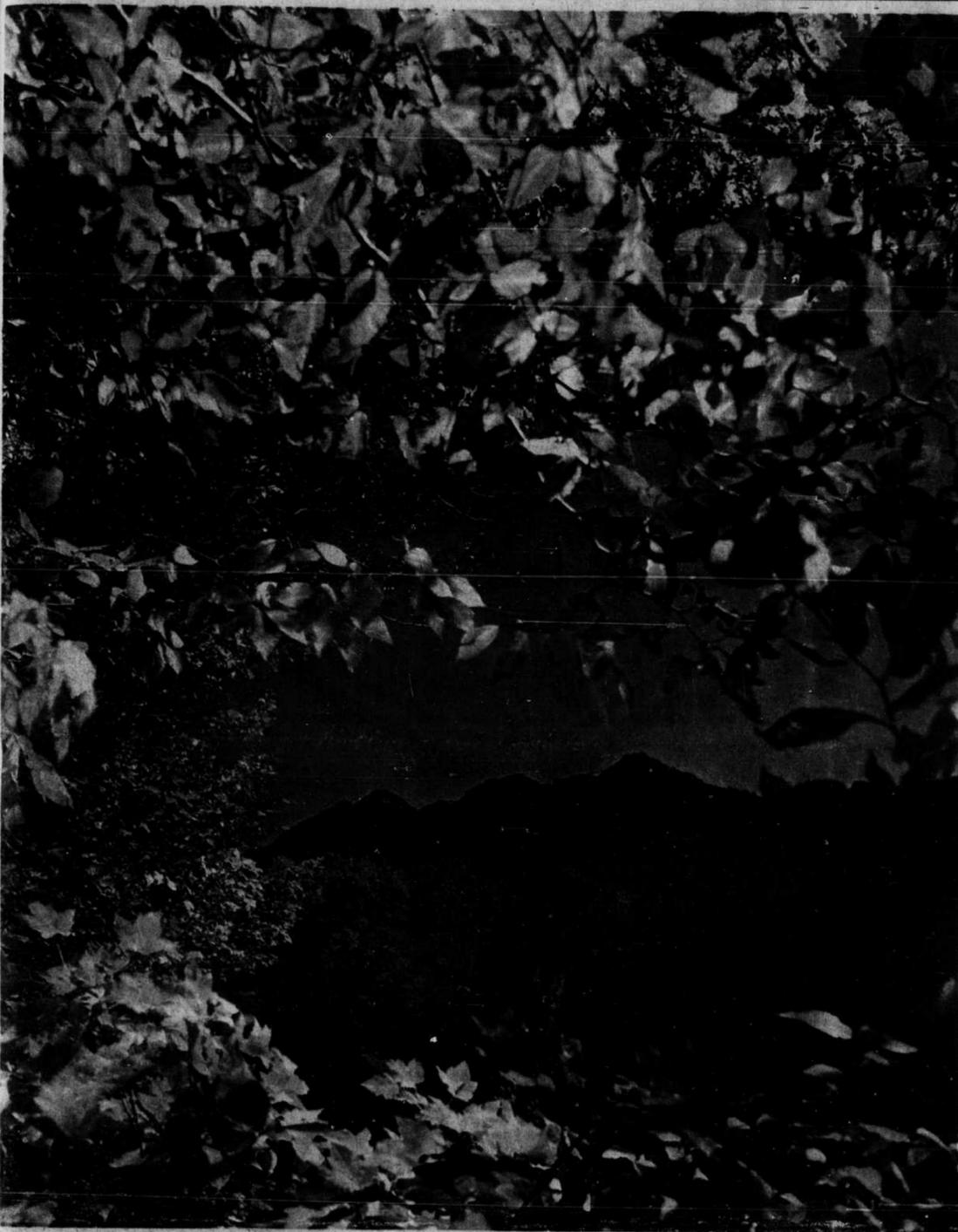
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Black Mountain, N.C. 28711

Thursday, October 20, 1977, Vol. 34, No. 1

BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

DEVOTED 100% TO OUR COMMUNITY THE GROWING SWANNA



This scene along N.C. Highway 105 just North of Linville shows Grandfather Mountain in a dazzling frame of Beech, Oak, Chestnut, and Maple leaves that are at their Autumn best now. The large Chestnut trees were killed by the blight 40 years ago,

but Chestnut leaves on small shoots coming up from the stumps still make their golden contribution during the great October show in the high mountains. (Hugh Morton)

Asheville "receptive" on water

by Dan Ward

The Black Mountain Town Board will learn within two weeks the reaction of Asheville authorities to proposals to purchase filtered water from that city at reduced costs.

Mayor Margaret Slagle said Asheville City Manager Ken Michaelov was "very receptive" to proposals offered by Black Mountain Town Manager Jon Creighton last

week on a long-term agreement between the towns. Creighton was out of town last week and unavailable for comment.

A proposal made by Creighton was that Black Mountain install a 10 to 14 inch water main directly to the Asheville water treatment facilities at North Fork Reservoir. Such a line would avoid reducing water pressure to users in the Swannanoa Valley already on the

Asheville water system. When Black Mountain was using Asheville water last month during the peak of its water crisis, pressure was reduced in many parts of Swannanoa.

In addition, pumping the water directly from Asheville's reservoir may enable the town to buy it at reduced rates.

Asheville's rates for wholesale water sales are set by the Sullivan Law, which

prohibits that city from selling water to towns at different rates from each other or from industry. By installing its own line to the Asheville reservoir, Black Mountain may be able to be exempt from the Sullivan Law prohibition.

In addition, Creighton discussed the possibility of receiving a certain amount of water without cost from Asheville because 365 gallons per day flowing into the North Fork reservoir comes from the Chestnut Cove watershed.

Black Mountain owns the water rights to the Chestnut Cove watershed, but owns no land there on which to build a collector reservoir. The Chestnut Cove water rights have long been an issue between Asheville and Black Mountain water authorities.

According to Mrs. Slagle, Creighton and Michaelov also discussed the likelihood that Asheville's water system will eventually become a county water system once the Clean Water Act becomes enforced.

In terms of far ranging goals, the two spoke of how installing a large line directly to Black Mountain from North Fork Reservoir could eventually solve treatment problems suffered by Montreat and Ridgecrest.

Water changes due

by Dan Ward

In a special workshop on Black Mountain's water crisis, the Town Board made some decisions that will be officially acted on at the next regular board meeting November 14. The board decided to approve a hike in the cost of installing a tap to town water from \$110 to \$225, in keeping with other water systems.

Also they are expected to approve a cost raise from \$60 to \$125 for installing a sewer tap.

The board also decided, on Town Manager Jon Creighton's recommendations, not to switch from monthly to bi-monthly billing. Bi-monthly billing, suggested by Ald. Jon Mundy as a way to cut costs, would cause problems in collective from delinquent accounts, Creighton said.

If Asheville authorities consent to a proposal by Creighton to allow Black Mountain to install a direct line to Asheville's North Fork treatment facilities, the board will also discuss funding such

a project. Trying to pass a bond issue or obtaining a loan will be the two major alternatives, according to Mayor Margaret Slagle.

The board will also approve installing taps for five buildings owned by Stepp-Nickols Realty. Taps for those houses were already approved prior to the water crisis, pending reservoir improvements by the contractor.

Mayor Slagle noted that the water bill to Black Mountain from Asheville for last month was \$15,000.

S.V.F.D. joins state group

The Swannanoa Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad has decided to join the North Carolina State Association of Rescue Squads, following a vote by the department's Board of Directors on October 13.

The department, originally chartered in 1959, has shown a recent interest in life-support and Rescue Squad activities, and has acquired the minimum equipment for membership in the State Association, which currently has over 230 organized squads

with more than 6,000 individual members represented.

The Swannanoa unit will be assigned to Area X, which ranges from Buncombe County to Cherokee County. Max Coffey is chief officer of the rescue squad.

On October 10, eight men, three engines and rescue truck responded to a house fire on New Salem Road. The fire, which started when a furnace defected, caused \$4000 damage. Names of the residents were not available.

Later that evening, one truck and 20 men were called to stand by at the scene of a wreck 2 1/2 miles east of Swannanoa on US 70.

Frances Tate was treated at Memorial Mission Hospital and released for smoke inhalation when she was caught in a fire at the Wanda

Jo Pruett residence on Patton Cove Road. Two trucks and 21 men answered alarm—from another fire caused by a faulty furnace. Damage was estimated at \$250.

Three men have completed firefighting school. They are Max Coffey, Ricky Bradley and Glenn Hensley.

Candidate night

There will be a "Meet the Candidates" night for the Town of Montreat on Friday, October 21, at 8 p.m. in Gaither Hall. Those who have filed for candidacy in the election of

three commissioners for the Town of Montreat are John Abernethy, Steve Acto, Andy Andrews, Frances Foreman, and Ivan Stafford.

Kevin Moorehead

by Dan Ward

Warren Wilson College's Homecoming Queen might win personality points in the Miss America Pageant—but would surely flunk the evening gown and bathing suit competitions.

You see, the college has elected as Homecoming Queen Kevin Moorehead, whose shoulder length hair and trimmed beard are reminiscent of countless renderings of Jesus hanging in Sunday School classrooms worldwide.

Moorehead's election was motivated by more than vanity or a joke.

"A couple of guys suggested I run as a joke. I said, 'why not?'" Moorehead said. "When I came out of class, there were signs up and everything saying, 'elect Kevin Moorehead Queen.'"

Moorehead went along with the campaign, seeing it as a protest against the cost and elitism he felt the election demonstrated.

"The money part, I did have my facts wrong on," he said. He had been told that the cost of choosing and crowning a queen was \$400 out of student activity funds. He later found out that the entire Homecoming weekend's activities cost \$400—the queen aspect cost less than \$30.

He also saw the election as being contrary to the philosophy of education practiced at Warren Wilson, where everyone works for room and board, despite

financial status.

"I thought it was kind of ridiculous. Around here everybody works the same, but this sort of establishes a quality system—it seems kind of unfair."

Moorehead, as a result of a write-in campaign, was one of seven finalists. Two girls, including his girlfriend, dropped out of the running. He became the favorite among the five remaining.

What he hadn't expected was a strong reaction from many students and alumni who didn't appreciate the mockery.

"This girl told me two days ago that at an alumni meeting the middle-age people were somewhat against (having a male queen), but the older people were pulling for me. There were rumors during the election that the alumni would quit donating money if I won," he said.

Although Moorehead's protest has aroused many students from what he called "apathy," he is pushing to have the Homecoming Queen contest abolished through a student caucus referendum.

In the meantime, he is enjoying the benefits that go with being queen—a bouquet of roses and rhinestone crown he can keep for a year. One benefit he didn't receive, but doesn't miss at all, is the traditional dance with college president.

"The whole thing was really sad for awhile," Moorehead said of his election and crowning ceremony. "I really

got discouraged around the middle of it."

But would the biology major go through it all again, now that he knows all that being a

male homecoming queen involves?

"Probably—I'm basically pretty crazy," he said.

Bearded beauty wins crown

Our Valley part one: Avenged murder opens Valley settlement

by Dan Ward

Ed. Note—This is the first in a rather sketchy series on the history of the Swannanoa Valley. Like most American history, it will neglect the thousands of years the red man lived here—not out of prejudice but out of a lack of information. Our sources are Western North Carolina History, by John Preston Arthur and Western North Carolina: Its Mountains and Its People to 1850, by Ora Blackman.

Samuel Davidson was not only the first white settler of the Swannanoa Valley, but the first white settler west of the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Carolina. With his wife, baby and female slave, Davidson trespassed into hunting land owned under treaty by the Cherokee and built a log house near where Bee Tree Creek joins the Swannanoa River.

The Davidsons came by a rough trail used during the Revolutionary War to fight

British-sympathizing Cherokee, which wound from Old Fort to Ridgecrest approximately along the same route as Mill Creek Road and Old US 70.

Old Fort, originally known as Ft. Davidson, had been built in the 1750s to protect settlers in what were then the western parts of Burke and Rutherford Counties from hostile Catawba and Cherokee. During the revolution, it served as a military base for battles against the Cherokee, who were supplied with guns and ammunition by the British.

Davidson, a Revolutionary War veteran himself, met with ill fate when he was lured from his homestead up Jonas Mountain and ambushed by Cherokee. The Indians used the bell the settler kept around his horse's neck to make Davidson think that he was chasing his escaped horse. Although rumor has it that Davidson was scalped, neither book confirmed that account.

Davidson's wife, servant and child hid, and returned to

Old Fort after hearing the fatal rifle shot.

An avenging party, led by 94-year-old Major Ben Burgin, out of Old Fort killed a number of Cherokee and opened the Valley to white

Absentee ballots given, poll changes

Absentee balloting will be allowed in all county precincts on the state-wide bond issues and constitutional amendments. Those residents living within the boundaries of the Buncombe County School District are also able to vote absentee on the local question concerning changing the election of school board members from nonpartisan to partisan.

All absentee ballots must be applied for in the Board's office in the Courthouse Annex during regular business hours. A near relative may sign an ap-

plication for an absent or invalid voter, and the ballot will be mailed to the voter after the application is approved by the Board of Elections. The deadline is Wednesday, November 2, at 5 p.m.

The county Board of Elections has also noted that the polling place for Black Mountain Precinct 3 will be the clubhouse, rather than the Eagle's Nest. Now that renovations have been completed at the clubhouse, it will become the permanent polling place for that precinct.

and their families. There were also three families of Pattons, and one each of Guder and Forster (later also called Foster) to begin those family lines still growing in the Valley.



FRANCES O. FOREMAN has announced for the office of alderman in Montreat. She has served as Montreat mayor in the past.

