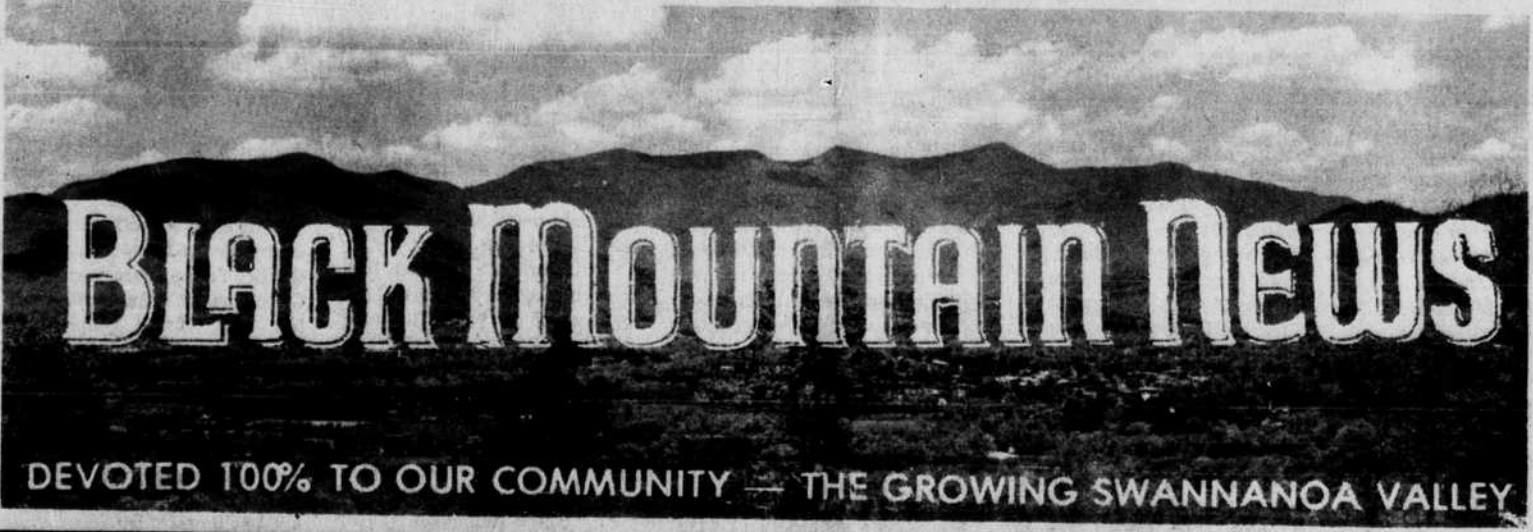


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Thursday, November 17, 1977, Vol. 34, No. 5

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New signs, clubhouse renovations in store

by Dan Ward

Clubhouse renovations, new street signs and "tying up loose ends" highlighted the last meeting of the present Black Mountain Town Board.

The board voted to allocate \$7,893 in non-earmarked federal revenue sharing funds to renovate the downstairs of the clubhouse on Lake Tomahawk for senior citizens' activity. About \$6000 of that money will be used for equipment of various sorts for recreation for senior citizens, Town Manager Jon Creighton said.

New signs

The board also voted, after some debate, to accept an opportunity the Governor's Highway Safety Program to

install modern reflecting street name signs throughout Black Mountain. Under the program, Black Mountain will be required to pay 30 percent of the cost, or about \$1500, according to Creighton.

Ald. A.F. Tyson opposed replacing the cement sign posts now used, saying they are unique and last a long time. Others said the cement posts are hard to read, costly to paint and replace and will be outlawed by pending federal regulations.

The cement posts will be auctioned when they are removed to make room for the new signs.

Tap increase

On the recommendation of Ald. John Mundy, the board voted to increase the cost to builders of installing sewer water connections to correspond with rising costs and rates used by other municipalities.

The cost of installing a water tap is raised from \$110 to \$225, for a sewer tap from \$60 to \$120, and for a street cut from \$25 to \$50.

Mundy noted that he will be one of the first to have to pay an additional \$60 for a sewer hookup to his home.

Attorney resigns

Assistant Town Attorney William Eubanks said that Town Attorney Jim Williams is resigning from his position with the town. Under Williams' recommendation, made via Eubanks, the board appointed Eubanks town attorney for a month until it decides on an attorney for the next two-year term. Under a recent ordinance revision, Eubanks is eligible for the position of town attorney because he has been a Black Mountain resident for over two years.

Eubanks also capsulized three pending lawsuits against the town.

He said that the town will probably be found under municipal sovereignty to be immune from prosecution in two cases. They are a suit

filed against Black Mountain policemen and a fireman for assault, and a suit against the town building inspector for faulty inspection of a house.

A third suit involving ownership of a right-of-way names the town as one of the sued parties only as a legal formality. The town is more or less a bystander, Eubanks said.

Eubanks said that legal work for the town has been simplified considerably because Creighton draws up ordinances and files legal notices rather than passing that responsibility to the town attorney.

Reservoir dispute

In order to "tie up loose ends" before she leaves office, Mayor Margaret Slagle asked that Ald. Tom Sobol, mayor-elect and co-manager of Valley Realty, come to a settlement on a long-standing dispute with the town over a reservoir built by Valley Realty at Sky High Acres.

The town has maintained that Valley Realty owes about \$2800 for installation of pipe done by the town for the Sky High water system. Valley has maintained that it does not owe the installation cost, because it was done under recommendation by Al White, water superintendent, and was later disapproved by county health officials. Ald. Sobol also said that the disputed amount was only about \$2100.

Ald. Sobol agreed that he wanted to see the matter settled because "I don't want to hear two years (as mayor) of Tom Sobol did this or Tom Sobol did that."

He and the rest of the board finally came to an agreement that Valley Realty pay half the installation cost and the town pay the other half. After consultation with Valley Realty management Tuesday, Ald. Sobol said the realtors will pay the entire amount under dispute.

After installing a vent and a lip around a manhole cover, the reservoir will meet health code specifications and will be

able to replace a condemned reservoir, 10 feet away, now supplying Sky High and Old Toll Road Residents.

Bids retaken

Because Matthews Ford could not meet specifications for a truck in its bid accepted last month, the town will again advertise for bids on a four-wheel drive truck for the

street department.

Water deal with Asheville
Creighton told the board that a response from Asheville officials on a proposal from Black Mountain to install a 10-inch water line directly to North Fork Reservoir will probably not come for another month.

Creighton said Asheville and County officials were to meet Tuesday to discuss expanding the Asheville water system to accommodate communities that will not be able to comply with Clean Water Act restrictions. Asheville city elections have also delayed an agreement from officials there, Creighton said.

Sweeps are VIPs

by Dan Ward

On a crisp, fall day in another time, people may not have turned their heads to see what were the low men on the social totem pole - but now they are celebrities.

Richard Riggs and Mickey McMasters, of Hendersonville, have appeared in the valley lately to perform their duties as chimney sweeps - complete with top hats and tails.

"It's been a real good job," Riggs said. "When people see us all dressed up it puts a smile on their faces. They love to watch."

"Yeah, they run and get their instamatics," McMasters added.

Riggs, who also works with stained glass, said chimney sweeps are more than a novelty. Before electric and oil heat overshadowed wood heat, sweeping the chimney was recognized as a necessary yearly chore to prevent flue fires and maintain a good updraft.

With the resurgence of wood heat, people aren't aware of the need to keep their chimneys clean, he said. He noted that there were 41,000 chimney fires nationwide last year.

McMasters, who spends most of the year making wood-crafted signs, said he has been surprised at how much waste sometimes they find in chimneys.

"We've found pigeons in them and everything," he said. "We actually did one where we carried five garbage cans of soot out."



Mickey McMasters and Richard Riggs demonstrate their trade at the Depot. (Dan Ward)

The two, who began their unusual occupation this year, commented on the worst jobs they've had to tackle.

"We had one where the house was full of white rugs the first week we did this," McMasters said. "We spread out more plastic than you've ever seen."

"Another nightmare," Riggs said, "was a three story house with a tin roof."

Succeeding at those two jobs early in their career has given the two confidence to stick with it. Now they clean about five chimneys a week.

Riggs first struck on the idea of being a chimney sweep while digging swimming pools. "I decided there had to be something better," he said. "We saw their was a need and decided to be chimney sweeps."

"We checked it out," McMasters said. "We went down to the library and read up on it. In fact, there's a chimney sweep union. But we wanted to do it the primitive way - the way they've done it for years instead of more modern vacuuming methods."

The two arrive on the job in top hats and tails. They cut down on clothes cleaning expenses by wearing white shirts they buy at thrift stores for 25 cents each.

The history of the well-dressed sweep is nebulous. "At first I think it started out as something of a joke, to show up with top hats in such a nasty job," Riggs said.

To clean a chimney, they first place a sheet of plastic over the fireplace opening to prevent soot from flying into the room.

Then, they climb onto the roof and scrub the inside of the chimney with dry brushes on long poles.

Finally, they clean the shelf near the fireplace damper and scrub the inside of the fireplace. Of course, they clean up the mound of soot they've acquired.

Cleaning chimneys was not always a fun job, McMasters noted. In the last century, children were often lowered into the chimneys to scrub them by hand. Many of the children were doomed to die of cancer at an early age.

These modern day sweeps, however, keep the soot out of their lungs, if not off their formal working clothes.

Burst main found, fixed

by Dan Ward

More than a week after heavy flooding damaged Black Mountain water lines, a leak in a 10-inch main caused a loss of 800,000 gallons per day was finally repaired Tuesday.

Five engineers from the Federal Disaster Assistance

Administration aided Black Mountain employees in wading up Flat Creek in search of the leak. Town workers began testing stream water in the area of the leak on November 7, but were unable to obtain a sample showing chlorite because flood waters diluted city water seepage. On November 14, the break was pointed just east of the

I-40 bridge under Flat Creek.

Town employees worked until 9 p.m. Monday damming the creek to reroute it while repairs could be made. They were expected to have the leak repaired Tuesday.

Water pressure was restored to normal Monday when the broken main was shut off for repairs. The town

was supplied with water from a six-inch line from Dunsmore Cove Reservoir and others from the Asheville water system.

The day after county health officials recommended Black Mountain residents boil water, a determination was made that the water was safe for drinking without boiling, according to Town Manager Jon Creighton.

Creighton also said that the federal government will reimburse the town for repair costs to public property. This includes "a whopping bill" for the cost of damming Flat Creek long enough to repair an eight-inch line buried underneath, Creighton said.

Creighton also said that the murkiness of Black Mountain's water will disappear as the water in the reservoir settles. It was stirred up slightly last week when town employees tested water pressure at hydrants throughout town to try to locate the break in the water system, caused by flooding November 6.

Toccoa unlikely here

by Dan Ward

North Carolina officials are trying to prevent a disaster such as occurred in Toccoa, Ga. two weeks ago - passing the Dam Safety Act in 1971. Because of it, North Carolina dams such as at North Fork Reservoir and Bee Tree Lake are inspected regularly.

Bill Allen, environmental engineer and technician for the Land Quality Section of the Department of Natural and Community Resources, said

that both dams were inspected immediately after November 6 flooding, and that North Fork Reservoir had been inspected shortly before.

Both dams were found to be safe, he said.

"We are trying to inspect the high-stress dams at least once a year," Allen said. "But we have been carrying out an intensive inspection program from helicopters and on the ground since the flood," he added.

Under the 1971 Dam Safety Law, all dams more than 15

feet high and containing more than 10 acres of water must qualify for permits before they may be built. Agencies building the dams must submit engineer-approved designs that meet state specifications. Dams built before 1971 must meet state safety criteria and undergo regular inspections.

Allen said the North Fork dam passed an inspection made the Monday after the flood. He also said that Bee Tree's reservoir has been inspected since the flood.

THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 1976.

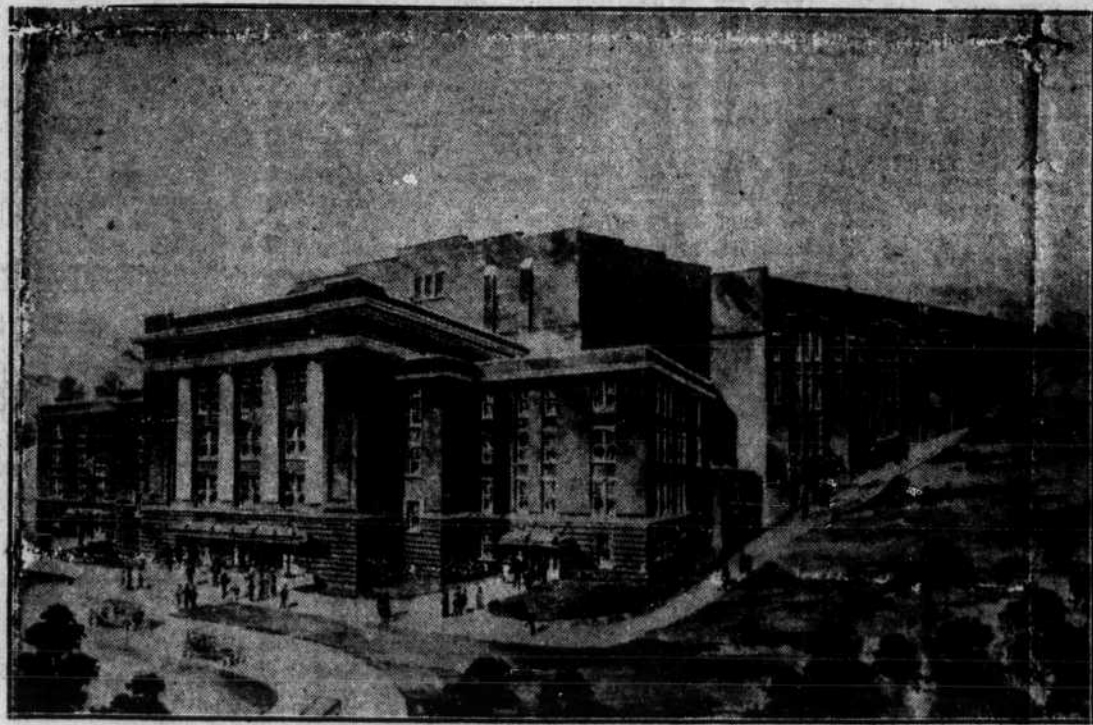
National Music Festival of America to Make Black Mountain Music Center of United States

North Carolina as the musical center of North America! This sounds like somebody was dreaming, but that dream will be taking on solid substance the 15th of next August when the Auditorium built by the National Music Festival of North America will be opened at Black Mountain.

The Auditorium will seat 21,500 people, the largest in the South. It is a gift to the National Music Festival of North America, a man whom many have already heard of. He is the president of the United States, the Music Festival of North America, and he has been elected to the National Music Festival of North America. He is a man whom many have already heard of. He is the president of the United States, the Music Festival of North America, and he has been elected to the National Music Festival of North America.

The Auditorium proper is designed to seat 21,500 people, 2,000 of whom will be in the chorus on the stage. The stage contains approximately 12,000 square feet; the orchestra pit is 1,000 square feet; the distance from the front of the stage to the rear of the Auditorium is 350 feet; the Auditorium is 400 feet wide at the widest point and 485 feet long from front to rear. The building is in the shape of a megaphone with the stage as the mouthpiece. The width of the building at the front is 234 feet.

The seats are arranged circular from a common center. Exeity-four feet there is a large wide cross-aisle leading across the entire building from the side to the side on the other side. These wide cross aisles are connected to each other and to the other parts of the building by means of a number of smaller aisles running at right angles to these cross aisles. The seats will be of comfortable orchestra chairs.



Auditorium of the National Musical Festival of America.

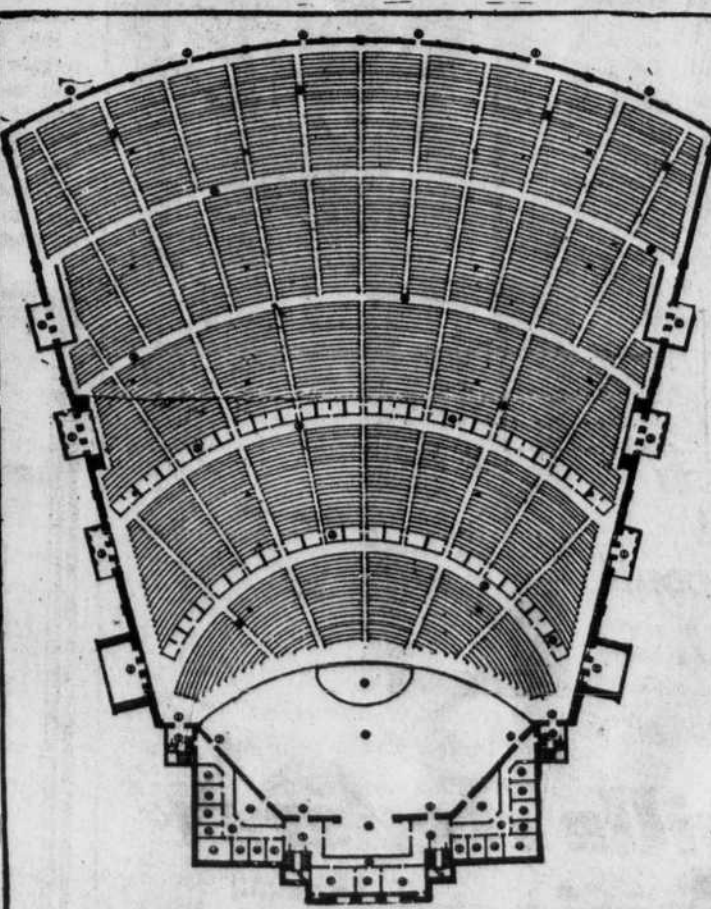
constructed so they may be removed easily to permit of the ancient Greek plays being staged.

In front of and a part of the Auditorium building are the ground floor lobbies, lounging rooms, toilet and shower rooms and storage space. On the

second, third and top floors are the offices of the chorus and of the organization besides bath and toilet rooms, rooms for practice, rest, sleeping and storage. There will be in all approximately 50 rooms in connection with the Auditorium. The large and

handsome room for the directors is on the top floor. It is finished in hardwood with high wainscoting plaster and beams all consistent with the magnitude of the project.

The contract will be let upon for the completion of the building by the 10th day of August.



ESTIMATED SEATING CAPACITY: 21,500
 • BALCONY
 • ORCHESTRA PIT
 • STAGE
 • LOBBY
 • REST ROOMS
 • OFFICE BUILDING
 • CHANGING ROOMS
 • BATH AND TOILET
 • FRONT ENTRANCE UNDER STAGE

Submitted by Vicki Solesbee.

AUDITORIUM FOR THE NATIONAL MUSICAL FESTIVAL OF AMERICA, BLACK MOUNTAIN, N.C.