

Black Mountain News

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EDITOR

Daniel A. Ward

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Regenia Byrd

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P.O. Box 8
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Reflections

by Gretchen Corbitt

The dead leaves laid to rest for the cold winter months had lost the brilliant color they had in October. Apparently they were not to be disturbed, an occasional cool breeze to

turn a leaf here and there. The soft snows of November made a beautiful frosting in years gone by, only to be relieved by delightful days of hazy sunshine. Man had spoken. He was fearful of the oncoming cold, dreary days ahead. Now all of

nature had something to say. The primeval sounds of nature were beating out pulsating and rhythmic drops of rain; the winds sprinted across the tops of the hills to make a hasty plunge into the river bottoms, dales, hollows, ravines, and gorges with the rains as their companion. There was no doubt as to what and who was in charge. Man had boasted of his abilities and powers that seemed infallible. He had leaned heavily on the props of fear, frustration, and fright to keep him supported for November, December, and January. Now for the first time man felt completely helpless. He could no longer flaunt, exhibit, or boast of what he had or could do. Nature's flood waters came to

teach him a thing or two. Or was he to be teachable?

Dawn, oh, dawn, we knew not what you would offer! Many surprises in many sizes came to us. What portion for each new dawn could only be anticipated. I looked for the sun to bring the warmth to my cheeks. To drive away the chill of the autumn frost. But you sent a mist playing hide-and-go seek with clouds to tease the mind. The mist hung around long enough to be joined by a sprinkle. Enough not to put out all of the sun. Clouds became full, unselfish and emptied its contents upon a dry earth. Earth could not accommodate and it slopped over into every available space. Man could neither harness himself or you. Rain in huge proportions came to govern. We have seen your rains wash away the dirt, slime, refuse, and all that contaminates. Dawn, is this your way of saying "Start a new and fresh day!" This is one day you have not tried, it maybe the best one yet?

Has November not brought most appropriate thanksgivings? Add up the rains, sun rays, the shadows, and their counterparts and they register a sum total of: NATURE - God's gift. Take courage, oh, man! November's stone, topaz, holds claim with the jewelers as being precious and the hardest to cut. The most precious thing's in life could be those which must pass the test of the great Stonecutter by means of searing, lashing, whipping, cutting, and chilling. How brilliant will the afterglow of November be? Will each dawn put a great deal of dew on the flowers of our hearts, many seeds in our way, making the blue very lofty and our branches lissom? Only to refresh! To fill to complete content!

Jack Milbee

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Our Readers Speak

TO THE NEWS:

I read the article, and for the short time you observed my making of a corn shuck doll. You did an excellent job with it. The only thing I hope people won't get an idea they can use bailing jute for the doll's hair. It's far too stiff. I use the soft wrapping twine jute that I cut in short lengths pull apart and dye.

-Mary R. Deschamps Swannanoa

To the News: I have just returned from the Black Mountain Grammar School P.T.A. Open House. I am so disappointed, frustrated, and discouraged until I'm almost to the point of tears.

I was told (by more than one teacher) of the seventh graders inability to read, and/or comprehend what they have read. I was told, 70 percent to 80 percent of the seventh graders at Black Mountain are at or below a fifth grade reading level.

While I was being told of the students' shortcomings, I watched the faces of the other parents and I believe that they along with me were surprised at what we were being told. Some of us feel since such a large percentage of the

students are behind, that the system must be at fault. There must be a better way, and we must find it fast. It is appalling to think that there are non-readers in the seventh grade. Where will these young people be in five years? Preparing for graduation? High school drop-outs? Unemployed? Criminals? What choices do they have?

I don't have a solution for this problem, but on the inside of the report cards your child's reading level should be indicated. This reading level does not tell you what grade level the child is reading. I strongly urge all parents to find out their child's reading level and discuss it with the teacher, before your child ends up two to three reading levels below his grade.

-Linda Ellis P.O. Box 173 Black Mountain

TO THE NEWS:

October of 1975 I placed my name on the ballot for mayor. I received your support and became the first woman mayor of Black Mountain. The following two years I placed the needs of the town before self, family or business--many times neglecting all to fulfill the

obligations and promise I made when assuming the honored and exalted position. The duties were not always pleasant but I filled the position with dignity and pride, never promising less than my best. The decisions I made were in the best interest of the town, even to not leaving any loose ends as to the request made concerning developers who have in the past been assisted by the town at the expense of the taxpayer. I for one hope there will be new policies in this department.

The responsibility is now on Mr. Sobol's shoulders. I wish

him the best of luck and feel he will continue to work to the welfare of the town and not for personal and private interests.

The citizens are no longer the little sleepy and uninterested populous we have been in the past.

I will continue to have the same interest I was forced to have when we were annexed into the town and hold dear to my heart the interest of "My People" My family thanks you for the results of the recent election.

-Margaret G. Slagle Black Mountain

Guest editorial

by Perry Stone

Let me sing the praises of the sourwood in two dozen sentences.

1. It is the official symbolic, community tree of Black Mountain, adopted after careful study and comparison.
2. It is native; and we are in the middle of its normal range where it propagates itself but does not become weedy.
3. It looks right, natural and at home in our valley, and not like an exotic import.
4. It is adapted to our acid soil, medium climate and 2400-foot altitude.
5. It is common, rather than rare, for it frequently occurs in the woods around us.
6. It is available, for the project committee will have a large supply on hand December 2 and 3 for public sale.
7. A sourwood tree is inexpensive to buy (\$4.00, \$3.00 and \$1.25); and also low in maintenance cost, requiring no spraying, pruning or fertilizing.
8. It is growable by the average householder who follows with care the directions that will be furnished.
9. It is strong limbed and low branched when cultivated in the open.
10. It is small enough for town lots and will not dwarf

one story homes.

11. It is a healthy species, resistant to insect pests, diseases and average pollution.

12. It is a long-lived tree, a long lasting investment in improved landscaping both for yourself and those who come after you.

13. The sourwood is a safe tree, being both thornless and non-poisonous.

14. It is a clean tree, requiring little raking for it bears no cones, nuts or balls.

15. It is shaped like a pyramid when grown in full sunlight.

16. The sourwood has lustrous green elliptical leaves in the spring and summer, which turn a striking scarlet in the fall.

17. The sourwood is an early age bloomer, displaying its racemes of delicate white blossoms while still small.

18. It is a summer bloomer, after most native ornamental trees have bloomed, and when the most visitors are here.

19. It is a fragrant tree when the aroma of its sweet smelling blossoms scent the air.

20. The sourwood may be called a honey tree because bees make the choicest of honeys from the nectar of its blossoms.

21. The seed pods of the sourwood are so decorative

PITY THE POOR PEDESTRIAN

Name Withheld on request

What's a pedestrian? A definition not found in any dictionary or tome is: A biped creature who vainly tries to compete with motorized traffic. You've never seen one? Of course not. You were going too fast. Even while you were watching impatiently for the first flick of the traffic light that would release you .. to mow down whomever or whatever might be the obstacle before you. Apparently it is not

they are sometimes mistaken for flowers.

22. The gray bark on the bole of the sourwood, its fissures deepening with age, is of winter interest, and the silhouette of the tree is impressive.

In sum and in short, anyway you look at it, the sourwood is beautiful a superior species of ornamental tree which, when widely planted, will prove useful in its function of beautifying our environment and will give our community and area a distinctive trademark and symbol, because it is graceful in form, decorative in foliage, lovely in flower, attractive in fruit, and delightful in fragrance.

Come on, folks, let's make Black Mountain widely and favorably known as the City of Sourwoods!

Living and Growing

by Carl Mumpower of Family Counseling Service

MARRIAGE—PART II Remember some of the children's fantasies that you learned in years past? Usually there was a beautiful young maiden princess, who

generally known by the city fathers or the town council or the citizenry of Black Mountain that there is (or would be if they dared) a considerable group of residents who either have to or prefer to WALK rather than drive, even if they had cars .. either for pleasure or business. They range in age from the very young to the very old .. and, generally speaking, enjoy their status. Some wear jogging uniforms. Others can be identified only by the apprehensive looks they wear and the extreme caution with which they dare proceed.

Black Mountain must have been a beautiful, friendly town in its halcyon days of foot-paths and dirt roads. Even today walkers TRY (though vainly) to stop and chat with each other as they pass, or wait together. In most incorporated areas walking in the street is like signing your Will .. for THAT territory belongs to the motorized quadrupeds, which have multitudes of ways to remind the pedestrians of it. In this "advanced civilization" sidewalks exist here on few streets, then usually on one side only. They are beset with obstacles: street marker posts are planted in the middle of the sidewalk. Guy wires supporting utility poles are also embedded in the sidewalk concrete, very stubbornly. My experience has proved that it is utterly impossible for my 145 pounds plus the bag of groceries I tote to get between guy wire and street marker. Furthermore, the sidewalk at that corner is almost granulated by the heavy

trucks that try to make a short turn right. There are only two alternatives open to me: climb the wire or take to the street. EITHER of which would mark "THE END!"

In autumn, the thick carpeting of leaves and acorns are added hazards. At least this puts an end to the skateboards which have preceded them.

In winter, pedestrians simply must stay indoors or hire a taxi (which is not readily available nor economically priced). Winter sidewalk obstacles are insurmountable by even the most courageous pedestrians: street-scrappers, rarely seen, pile snow on the sidewalks, which open them as ski-slopes or at least sledways.

In spring and summer, rose bushes, hedges and other flora from adjacent lawns spill over the sidewalk making these pedestrian creatures walk single-file or take - to - the - street. If at ANY season the pedestrian infringes upon the right-of-way of the motorist (to escape sidewalk obstacles) the blast of auto horns makes him climb the guy wires or leap the nearest fence!

Not any bona-fide citizen or year-long resident or tourist-by-choice delights in staying indoors ANY season, certainly not ALL. Must a sidewalk license be purchased and worn by pedestrians and all other animal - human - mechanical would-be-patrons?

And in the spring, .. what about all the little children who would have no place to learn how to skip???

WHO MUST DECIDE TO DO WHAT? A HAVE-TO WALKER

Candidate's address



By McNeill Smith

Senate Candidate My name is McNeill Smith and I am running for the U.S. Senate. Unlike Jesse Helms, I believe in the future of America and in all its people. I believe that we can look ahead in this country with hope, with optimism and with love instead of constantly looking backward with distrust, with rancor and with pessimism. I believe we can solve our problems, but not by saying no. We can't say no to education for handicapped

children, no to federal aid to public schools, no to closing tax loopholes for the super-rich, no to finding alternate sources of energy.

Constantly saying no is not an answer but a retreat. It is not a solution to our problems. I am proud that throughout my life I have been able, with the help of good friends, to find solutions ... practical, positive solutions. I led the fight for statewide public kindergartens. I led the fight for utility rate reform. I pioneered in energy conservation. I got the legislature to crack down on drunk drivers. I have not turned my back. I have said yes and I have been successful. And I

want to take these experiences to Washington.

I know that we can find and save the energy we need. We can find jobs for all who are able and willing to work. We can put an end to runaway inflation which robs everyone, and especially those on limited, fixed incomes.

We can make so much happen in this nation if we approach our problems with hope, with optimism and with spirit.

I am running for the United States Senate because I have faith in the future. I have faith that with God's help we can solve our problems, govern ourselves and again be a beacon light to the rest of the world.

Examine Clothing Sale Buys Very Carefully

To get the best buy at clothing sales, buy as carefully as you would at the regular price.

If you judge clothing primarily on dollar savings, you may be disappointed to realize that the bargains weren't really things needed or wanted, say agricultural extension specialists at North Carolina State University. Trying on clothes before

buying becomes even more important if a store has a "no return" policy on sale items. If a tag says "as is" or "damaged" be sure it can be cleaned or repaired.

Check the workmanship carefully. Seams and hems, grainline, stitching, seam finishes and interfacings, zippers and other fasteners should be examined thoroughly.

Thank you for your vote of confidence

Tom Sobol

Thanks
Thanks to the many friends
who gave their
encouragement and support
in the Nov. 8 election.

John A. Kluttz