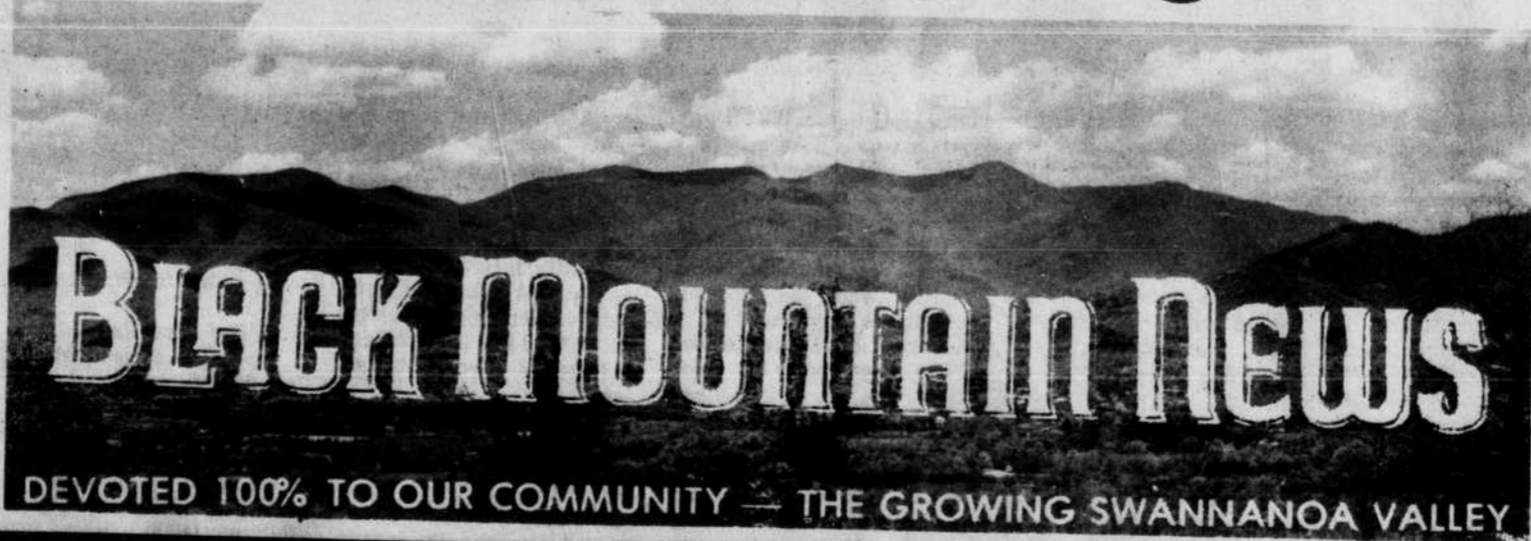


A happy Thanksgiving to all



Second Class Postage Paid at
Black Mountain, N.C. 28711

Thursday, November 24, 1977, Vol. 24., No. 6

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Roger Rogers, Gary Barlett and Steve King battle woods fire suspected of being set by an arsonist. (Dan Ward)

Arson suspected in fire

Black Mountain Police and the State Forest Service are investigating a suspected case of arson that caused a woods fire on south NC 9 November 16.

One person reportedly told Black Mountain firemen that an earlier arson suspect was seen at the scene of the fire before firemen arrived. Black Mountain Patrolman Gary Barlett said that the man has not yet been questioned.

Two trucks and 13 firemen responded to that fire.

Black Mountain firemen made 12 other runs last week. On November 15, two trucks and 10 men put out a brush fire at 403 Hiwassee Ave. Also that day, minor damage

resulted when a fire started in a stove as a result of a stopped up chimney at 101 Mountain St. One truck and 11 men responded to that fire.

On November 16, one truck and 16 men washed down after a wreck at US 70 west near the Mr. Zip store.

On November 17, one truck and 15 men put out burning burlap sacks on the back of a truck on US 70 west. No damage was reported.

On November 18, minor damage resulted when dust caught on fire in the boiler room at Black Mountain Woodworking. One truck and 16 men responded.

One truck and 12 men put out a brush fire on US 70 west

November 19.

On November 20, one truck and 11 men put out a car fire on State Street. Minor damage was reported. Also that day, two trucks and 18 men responded to a fire caused by an electric heater at the Don Allen Residence on Chapman Home Road. Minor damage was reported.

Also on November 20, two trucks and 20 men responded to a report of smoke filling the E.J. Irvin residence on Texas Road in Montreat. Minor damage resulted from the incident, caused by a closed fireplace damper.

Again that day, two trucks and 19 men responded to a car fire on Old Toll Road. The car,

Black Mountain gets \$15,000 flood rebate

Black Mountain will be reimbursed approximately \$15,000 from federal disaster funds, according to town Manager Jon Creighton.

Creighton said he was told the funds will come "within three weeks" to compensate the town for emergency repairs made on town sewers, water

lines and streets.

Creighton also said that a private contractor has been called in to use special machinery to repair a break in a 10-inch water main under Flat Creek near the I-40 bridge. It was found by town employees that the line had buckled downward during

heavy flooding three weeks ago, requiring that it be unearthed and new sleeves be installed at the joints. Repairs on that line were expected to be completed this week, enabling the town to use its own water, rather than Asheville's.

Town goals meeting set for Nov. 28

by Dan Ward

Concerned Black Mountain citizens are asked to attend a workshop on Monday, November 28, 7 p.m. at the Library to determine future needs and goals of the town.

The meeting, one of a series of Small Town Meetings held nationally, is sponsored under the federally-funded Balanced Growth Program. It is designed to hear and organize citizen input into town needs, and record it into a workable

program in one evening.

One person familiar with the process called it "mental ping-pong," in which persons may incorporate other persons' ideas into their own, or use them as inspiration for others.

Pat Wegandt, a volunteer for the program who is experienced in organizing the think sessions, will chair the workshop. Mayor Margaret Slagle said that representatives of schools, civic organizations and town government have been invited, as well as concerned individuals.

News closed Nov. 24

The Black Mountain News will be closed all day Thursday for the Thanksgiving Holiday. On Friday, we will be open from 9 a.m. until noon to take news items and ads. Stories and ads may be slid under the door at 204 Sutton Ave. or mailed to P.O. Box 8.

Black Mountain, at any time. We wish you a very enjoyable holiday and bon appetit.

Two injured in auto mishaps

Two pedestrians were injured in automobile mishaps last week, Black Mountain Police reported.

Willie Rob Wilson, of South Carolina, who works for the contractor installing Southern Bell conduit, was struck by a 1977 Cadillac driven by Steve Arrowwood of Fayetteville on west State Street November 17. Wilson is listed in fair condition at Memorial Mission Hospital.

Ricky Fox, 15, of Black Mountain suffered two broken legs when he was pinned between a parked car and another involved in an attempt to pull start it. Police are investigating the incident, which took place on Pine Tree Drive November 17. Fox was listed in good condition.

Black Mountain Det. Bill Stafford has apprehended two Black Mountain youths suspected of the November 17 burglary of a summer home at 716 Ninth St. A number of household items, including a television and silverware were recovered from the youths, police reported. An investigation is underway.

Police responded to eight accidents, issued four traffic citations and assisted the Black Mountain Fire Department twice. They answered 57 calls last week.

Disaster form help exists

The look in the elderly woman's eyes was familiar to Joe Winkle. Others with less experience would have seen sorrow in those eyes, but Winkle saw bewilderment.

In her hand she clutched a number of government forms the flood workers told her would help. But, they explained, she must first fill them out.

Winkle, federal disaster worker for 15 years and now director of recovery efforts in western North Carolina, could recognize the frustration that number of papers represented to the old woman.

He'd seen devastation wrought by Hurricanes Agnes, Camille, Celia and Beulah; the crushed homes left in the wake of roaring west Texas tornadoes; floods that had stripped fertile farmland to bedrock.

That's where he'd seen that look. And where he had so often seen the forms.

"I'll be the first to admit that some of the assistance applications can be confusing and difficult," Winkle said. "But the law requires them so all we can do is try to make completing them a little easier."

That's why Winkle directed his staff to open four Follow-Up Assistance Centers Monday in cooperation with state personnel who also are involved in the recovery effort.

The centers, which opened at 1 p.m. Monday in Burnsville, Asheville, Morganton and Boone, are staffed by people who care, Winkle said.

"I've asked them to be sensitive, understanding and helpful," he said. "They may not have all the answers, but they'll be willing to take the time and energy to get them."

By the final closing of the seven assistance centers Saturday following eight days of operation, 4,889 families

Con't on page 10.

Swannanoa Fire

The Swannanoa Fire Department made five runs last week.

On November 14, two trucks and 24 men were called to put out a fire caused by an improperly installed wood stove flue at the Brown residence at 111 Red Road. Damage was estimated at \$200.

On November 15, minor damage was reported from a car fire on Old US 70. One truck and 10 men reported to that fire.

On November 16, one truck

and eight men put out a soot fire in the chimney at a house owned by Charles Hopkins at Jim's Branch Road and US 70.

A grass fire, across from the Excello plant caused by a cigarette, was put out by Swannanoa and Black Mountain firemen November 19. Two trucks and eight men responded to the fire from Swannanoa.

One truck and 19 men stood by a gas spill at a wreck on US 70 east of Lytle Cove Road on November 20.

US 70 narrowed for conduit burial

by Dan Ward

Digging requiring US 70 west of Black Mountain to be narrowed to two lanes will continue until the end of December, according to a spokesperson for Southern Bell Telephone, Buncombe County division.

In order to provide additional circuits for calls between Black Mountain and Swannanoa and in turn Asheville, contractors for the

phone company must bury additional conduit, or pipe, to house cables that will be installed next year.

Conduit has so far been buried from the telephone switching office on Church

Dr. Clapp

Humanistic healer

by Dan Ward

With his gruff exterior and obvious concern for his patients, Dr. Hubert Lee Clapp practices medicine in a different manner than some of his aloof, ciliated counterparts.

Perhaps Dr. Clapp's country doctor ways are a big reason why he has been named the Black Mountain-Swannanoa Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year.

"I just work and take care of my patients. I don't know if there's anything special about that," he said. "Except that I have what I consider good relations with the people."

Dr. Clapp's "good relations" aren't built on sugary, kind words and modern office trappings. They are built on over 30 years of practice in Swannanoa, having delivered thousands of babies in the valley, and continuing to make house calls daily when most doctors are leary of leaving the office except for an emergency, a tradition he shares with his brother-in-law, Dr. Eugene Knoefel of Black Mountain.

A resident of Swannanoa since age 12—that was 60 years ago—Dr. Clapp could think of no better place to open a business after medical school in Chapel Hill and at the University of Georgia than "home"—Swannanoa. Five years as an army medical officer in New Zealand, Fiji and India during World War II did not convince him that there was a better place to practice.

"It was home. I like the mountains. There was nothing that could interest me



Workers lay conduit through which telephone circuits will be pulled next year. (Dan Ward)

Meet the Board

"Town for locals"

by Dan Ward

Ed. note—This is the first in a series of three on the new members on the Black



Mountain Town Board. It will not deal with particular issues, but general philosophy and background of these men. Jim Norton, owner and

operator of Norton's Qwik Shop at Montreat and North Fork Roads, brings a background heavy in economics if rather light in government to the Black Mountain Town Board.

The Navy veteran, who has worked as finance officer for banks and finance companies, as well as manager of the Black Mountain branch of Bank of Asheville for three years, has been in business for himself for five years. He has also served for three years on the Board of Adjustments.

Norton said that what he saw as "too much outside influence" motivated him to run for alderman.

"I wanted to see the town turned back over to the local people," he said. "The local people's interest and not some stuff we've seen going on."

"There's a lot of good people in this town that over the past recent years has been put down, that have been accused of things they didn't do, that could be put to good use for the town," he said. "There's too much worry about what went on in the past and not enough about the future."

Norton said that the relationship between the town and townspeople "definitely needs improvement."

"It should be more personalized," he said. "It should be for the people, not for any group."

The father of one seemed satisfied that the new board will work together well.

"I think there will be more cooperation on the board now," he said.