

BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

DEVOTED 100% TO OUR COMMUNITY - THE GROWING SWANNANOVA VALLEY

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CofC Banquet

Clapp honored, new era cited

by Dan Ward

for the ANNUAL Chamber of Commerce Banquet and a toast-roast of Dr. Hubert Clapp of Swannanoa for 40 years of service to the valley. Keynote speaker for the

evening was U.S. Rep. Lamar Gudger, who told the audience that a moral rebirth has occurred in Washington, as evidenced by prayer groups and "secretaries who can type"

Dickey said that valley residents cannot expect Black Mountain to remain a "sleepy little town."

Highlight of the evening was a tribute to Dr. Clapp commemorating 45 years of marriage as well as 40 years as general practitioner in the Valley.

In tributes alternating between well-meant sarcasm and touching testimonies, a number of persons commended Dr. Clapp. Included as toasters were Chamber of Commerce Manager Ed Weber; Hardy Davidson, who played the violin at the Clapps' wedding and encored at the banquet; ex-Rep. Roy Taylor of Black Mountain; and the doctor's son Bruce. The doctor was also serenaded with "I Love You a Bushel and a Peck" by his three grandchildren.

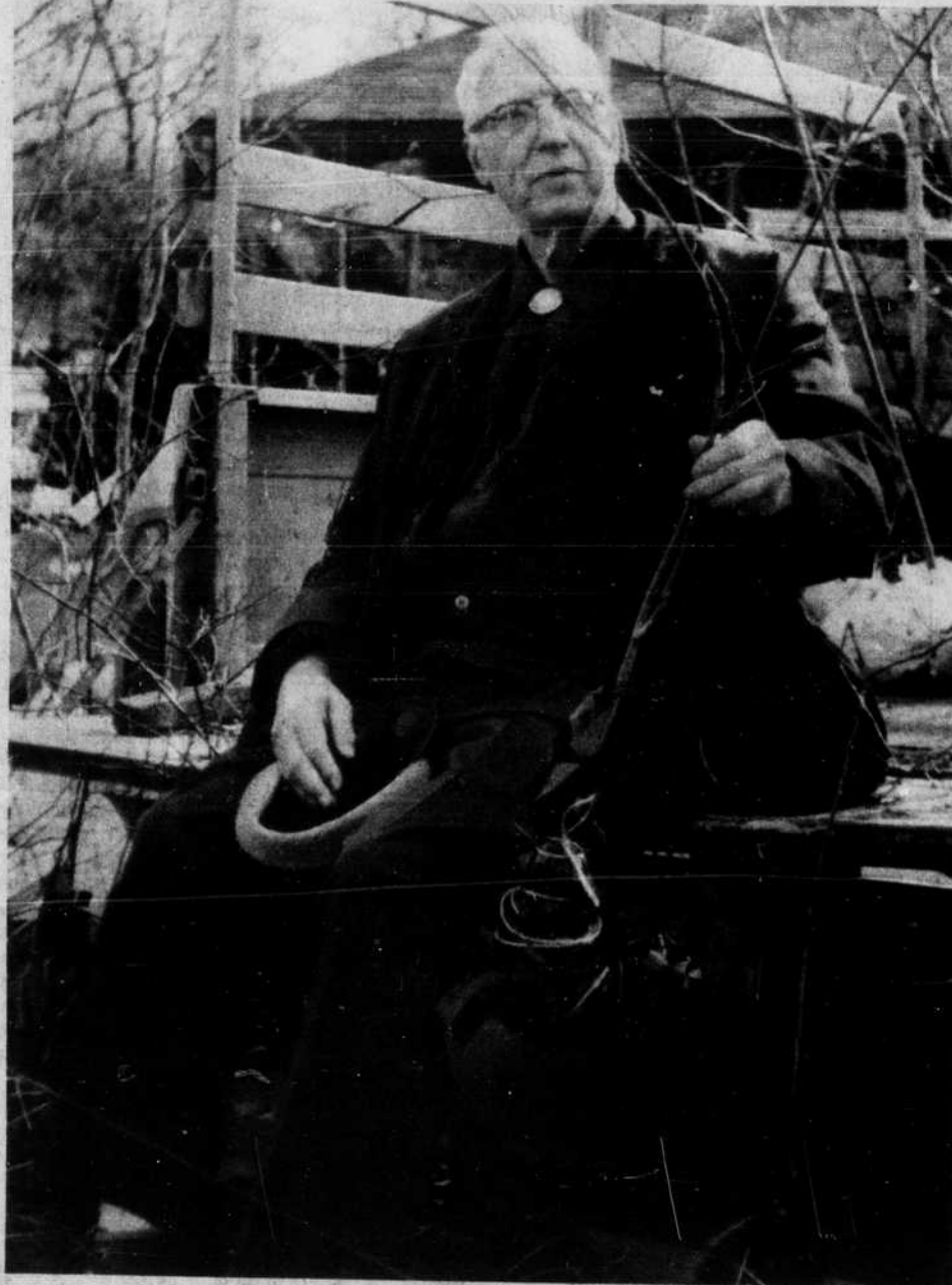
The doctor was presented with an album of sketches of the Swannanoa Valley created by artist Molly C. Lovitt, the last photograph taken of the Liberty Bell before it was moved from Independence Hall, taken by Black Mountain photographer Ed DuPuy, and a photograph of himself taken shortly after he delivered a baby years ago.

Overwhelmed by the tribute, Dr. Clapp said he would throw away his notes and simply tell anecdotes on what it is like to be a country family doctor. He received three standing ovations throughout the program.

Gudger also said that there is a new era of give and take among congressmen and more responsiveness to the electorate. He also said that ethics legislation has eliminated the days of Korean payoffs and excessive moonlighting.

Dr. Robert Dickey, president-elect of the Chamber of Commerce, called for a dynamic attitude in growth of the Swannanoa Valley. He said various civic groups, particularly the Town Beautification Committee, Kiwanis, Jaycees and Sourwood Committee have gone to great efforts in planning and implementing town beautification. With the completion of I-40, the merchants of the town should give full support to implementing beautification plans, Dickey said.

Dickey also said that the interstate's completion will cause the economic character of the Valley to change, forcing the merchants to gear themselves to the change. The area will no longer be bisected by travellers, but bypassed, he noted. A business emphasis from catering to transient customers must be changed to encourage long-term residents of the area, he said. Allowances must be made to account for housing growth into the Swannanoa Valley from Asheville, he said.



We should have ordered more...

Perry Stone, who has spearheaded the drive to make Black Mountain Sourwood City, muses over the unexpected demand that resulted in 350 sourwoods selling out in the first hours of a two-day sale. (Dan Ward)

Sourwoods sold out

by Perry L. Stone

The big sale of sourwood trees held last weekend for the beautification of Black Mountain and vicinity was highly successful, a member of the community tree project committee reported today. Of the 500 trees expected the nursery service furnished only 350. For most of these were prior orders from organizations, institutions, industries, and individuals. As the surplus was soon sold out, many prospective buyers who had not ordered sourwoods were disappointed. The project committee plans to make available another supply of trees in March before the buds break.

The sale last week brought to 1,050 the number of sourwoods distributed in the area since the planting program began in the fall of '76. Of the new batch of trees the Town of Black Mountain received 75 to be set out for the enhancement of public property. They were donated by the A.A.R.P. (25), the Pilot Club (25), and in-

dividuals (25). Town Manager Jon Creighton had crews begin planting them in appropriate places immediately.

Plans include the extension farther east toward the new I-40 bridge over U.S. 70 of the row of sourwoods put out last fall in the median between Old 70 and U.S. 70 east of town.

Chairperson Harriet Styles expressed the gratitude of the project committee to civic club representatives who solicited prior orders or assisted at the sale, to donors of trees to the town, and to all others who helped in any way to make the recent sale successful.

Those who purchased sourwoods last week are urged to get them in the ground as soon as possible. If delay is necessary, due to wet or icy soil, the trees should be heeled in temporarily or their roots otherwise protected from drying out with a covering of wet peat moss, sawdust or leaves. When the ground is crumbly proper planting may take place.

Store breakin

nets \$7000

Approximately \$7000 in clothing was stolen in a breakin at Leisure World on US 70 west in Black Mountain the night of December 2.

Black Mountain Det. Bill Stafford said that the burglar or burglars gained entrance to the building by knocking a hole in the rear entrance with a screwdriver. The stolen merchandise was not insured, Stafford said.

Stafford also said that the results of an investigation into the cause of a fire that destroyed an A-frame cottage

at the Travel-Eze Motel last week showed that the fire was started when a gas burner lit low overhanging cabinets on fire.

While an investigation is still underway, Stafford said he could only speculate why the burners were left on in the unoccupied cottage. He said a window and the front door of the cottage had been broken in earlier weeks.

The Black Mountain Police answered 81 calls, issued six traffic citations and investigated six auto accidents last week.

Flat Creek flood control set

by Dan Ward

Black Mountain Town Manager Jon Creighton has received notification from

Gov. Jim Hunt's representative on disaster assistance that assessment of flood control needs for Flat Creek will be made and that federal disaster funds to prevent

future flooding of the creek have been applied for.

In response to a letter from Creighton asking that the National Disaster Program pay to have Flat Creek and the Swannanoa River cleared of debris, have blockages removed and banks improved and divert the flow where it endangers people and property, David Britt of the National Disaster program wrote that an assessment and

corrections will be made through an application already submitted by Buncombe County.

Britt said application has been made under provision of the Emergency Watershed Act of the Flood Control Act of 1950 to prevent future flooding.

Creighton said he has been told that funding will take about six months for approval on the flood control project.

Local man

shot, charged

A Black Mountain man has been charged with first degree burglary shortly after release from Memorial Mission Hospital for treatment of gunshot wound in the chest.

According to Sheriff's Police, James Nanney of Black Mountain was shot in the chest with a revolver December 4 by Michael Respass, a tenant of Nanney's at 95-C Blue Ridge Road, when Nanney broke into the Respass residence armed with a weapon. Respass had earlier that day asked to have a warrant taken out on Nanney for communicating a

threat in connection with a rent dispute.

Black Mountain Police reported that Nanney attempted to gain entrance to the Respass residence through a bedroom window at about 1:30 a.m., then came in through the front door. Nanney was carrying a revolver, police reported.

Sheriff's investigator Don Whittaker said that although Nanney was discussing filing charges against Respass, none had been filed by Tuesday morning.

Nanney was released from custody on \$1000 bond.

Reps needed

on women's group

Volunteers from the Swannanoa Valley are needed to serve on the newly-established Asheville-Buncombe Commission of the Status of Women, according to April Sauer, coordinator of the commission.

A nine-member panel will be charged with examining the extent of sex discrimination in all areas of the community and offering recommendations to correct discrimination.

Ms. Sauer pointed out that in a survey of 122 working

women in Buncombe County, 62 percent said that they worked for economic reasons, 39 percent said they earned less than \$6000 per year and 17 percent said that there was no chance for advancement in their jobs. Forty percent of the work force in Buncombe County is female, she added.

Persons interested in serving on the commission may contact Ms. Sauer through the Asheville-Buncombe Community Relations Council at the Allen Center in Asheville, 252-4713.

Jim Adams

Fireman lauded for service

by Dan Ward

When the Asheville Jaycees named Jim Adams of Swannanoa the fireman of the year, Adams was the person most surprised.

"I really didn't know what it was all about," said Adams, a two year veteran of the Swannanoa Fire Department and Rescue Squad, and who is not a Jaycee.

"On Wednesday, Tom (Fire Chief Tom Hixon) told me he submitted my name. Thursday afternoon the Jaycees asked me if I could come to the banquet they were having Monday night. I went out there and they gave me this plaque," he said, with obvious surprise that he should be chosen from nominees from throughout the Asheville area.

Adams said he didn't know what he had done beyond any other fireman to earn the award.

Barry Roberts of the department explained why Adams stands out.

"Every time there is a fire department function Jim is there. In fact, when he isn't working or sleeping, he's doing something for the fire department," Roberts said.

Tom Hixon explained why

he nominated Adams, even though "personally, I feel that all these men should get an award."

"Jim does a real good job," Hixon said. "He works hard and he's a valuable man in the daytime. Especially last winter when we had that cold spell. He spent a lot of time hauling water," Hixon added.

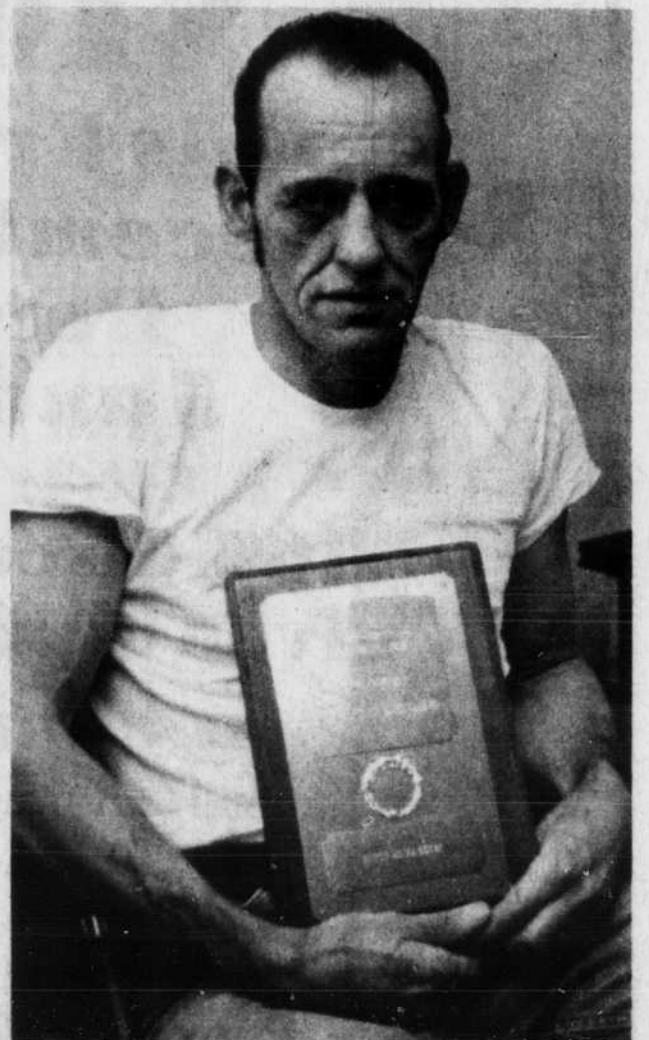
Hixon said that a questionnaire on nominees was primarily concerned with the fireman's activities and availability to the community.

"He goes out of his way to do that (be available)," Hixon said.

Adams and his wife Sue, who is a rescue squad trainee, are very proud of the award. Beside being firefighters, they are the parents of Bruce, who is stationed with the army in Germany, and Keith and Sherry, students at Owen High School.

Hixon noted that Adams is especially valuable to the volunteer firefighters because he is available during the day after he works third shift as a nursing assistant at the VA Hospital in Oteen.

"I feel Jim earned it," said Hixon, displaying no surprise at all.



more than 300 Valley residents filled the Montreat Assembly Inn Banquet Room



U.S. Rep. Lamar Gudger delivered the keynote address of the Swannanoa Valley Chamber of Commerce annual Banquet December 5. In it, he defended the morals of the current congress. (Dan Ward)

Meet the Board

"Put our heads together"

by Dan Ward

John Klutz, owner and pharmacist at Knight Pharmacy in Black Mountain, brings to the board not only goals for the town but desire to promote cooperation and to get as many citizens contributing to decisions as possible.

To me it's sort of a complex

type life we're living and I think we need as many people as possible to voice their opinions and give us help," he said. "I can't see any way four or five people are going to be able to do it alone."

Klutz said that his decision to run was not based on discontent with the previous board.

"I feel I have benefitted

from somebody else's struggle and that it was about time I could do what I can offer," he said.

Klutz, who has lived in Black Mountain for 23 years, has served on various committees in the past - Owen School District Committee, the Planning and Zoning Board, and the Planning Board of Adjustments.

The father of four was the only candidate who did not submit an address to the paper or take our political advertising.

"I figured that after 23 years here, everybody knew me well enough," he said.

Klutz makes it further clear that he was elected on his character rather than proposals in calling himself "a kind of non-controversy person."

He predicts that the town will have many changes with the completion of I-40. Safety for senior citizens should be a top priority in the down-town area. The upgrading of the water system "for quality, not just quantity", will be another primary concern. Problems will have to be attended to as they arise, and long-range problems, such as zoning and flood control, providing services in the face of inflation, and protection for all citizens, need to be given much study, he said.

Klutz sees himself more as a listener and a promoter of cooperation.

"The more people you get involved, the better organization you have," he said.

With the new board, cooperation can be a reality, he said.

"I think it's a good group - I really do," he said. "I've known them all for quite a few years, and I think we'll be able to put our heads together and get things done."