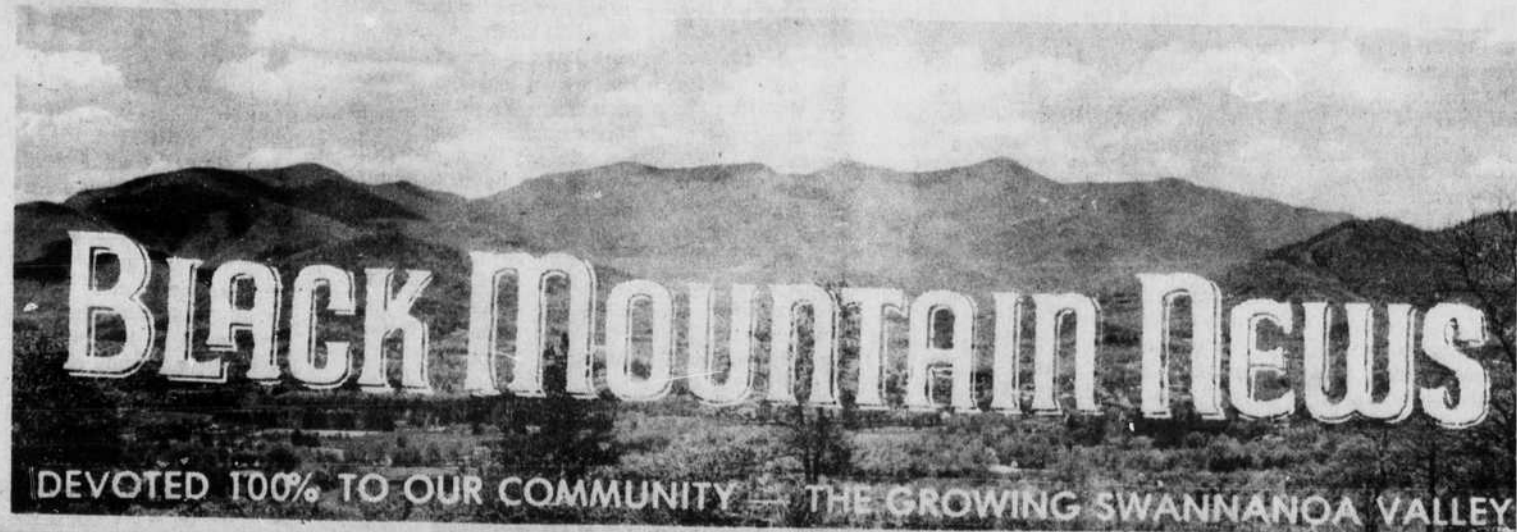


Special year-end photo issue!



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Robbery, drug suspects arrested

Black Mountain police have arrested one for possession of controlled substance and a partner, one for forgery and recovered \$1200 in stolen property.

On December 16, police arrested Glaston Alton Russell of Chicago on charges of possession of a controlled substance and cocaine after Russell was stopped while driving through town.

On December 18, police arrested Kenneth Smith, Jr. of Asheville on charges of forging checks on three accounts.

On December 9, Black

Mountain Police recovered \$1200 worth of stereo equipment taken from the Family VIP store in Asheville. Bobby Miller, of Asheville, who had been laying carpet in the store and was suspected to have left a door unlocked to remove the merchandise, has been charged in the theft, police said.

Police recovered the equipment when they responded to a call from Timmy Rayburn of Black Mountain that the lock on a door to garage on McCoy Cove Road he rented to Miller had been broken. Management at

the Family VIP store did not know the merchandise was missing until they were notified by police that their label was on the suspect equipment.

On December 17, police recovered an automobile stolen from Raleigh. The car had been abandoned and set on fire in the Family Dollar store parking lot.

During the last two weeks, police responded to four accidents, issued two traffic citations, took reports of two hit-and-run incidents and assisted Sheriff's police in an arrest.

Old Fort woman arrested for murder

An Old Fort woman has been charged with murder in the shooting death of the owner of the Friendly Tavern inside the bar on December

Buncombe County Sheriff's Police reported that Faye Turner Raffield, 49, of Old Fort allegedly shot Ted Calvin Cable, 39, of Fairview, with a .22 pistol. Cable was

pronounced dead at the scene. Police would not give a motive for the shooting, but said witnesses from Old Fort are being questioned.

Meet the Board

'Beauty a priority'

by Dan Ward

As a conservationist, new Montreat Town Council member A.E. (Andy) Andrews sees maintaining the natural beauty of the area as a priority along with flood repairs and water quality.

"I'm glad to have a part in the comprehensive planning," Andrews, who is also director

of promotions for the conference center, said.

"People just do things sometimes without thinking about the long-term effects on nature. They don't consider the overall beauty of the place. It's not intentional," he said.

Andrews will specialize in planning for streets, parks and public services for the

town. He served once before on the council, as its first elected mayor in 1967. "The three who got elected drew straws," he said of that honor.

Andrews, who is an accomplished photographer, said he will take into account the total visual and environmental impact in planning road improvements, sign placement and creation of recreation facilities.

"I think Montreat, in view of its surroundings and natural beauty, should be involved in the North Carolina Beautification competition," he said.

In addition to preserving what he calls the "uniqueness of Montreat," Andrews said the highest priority for the town is to make flood repairs and improvements to prevent flooding in the future.

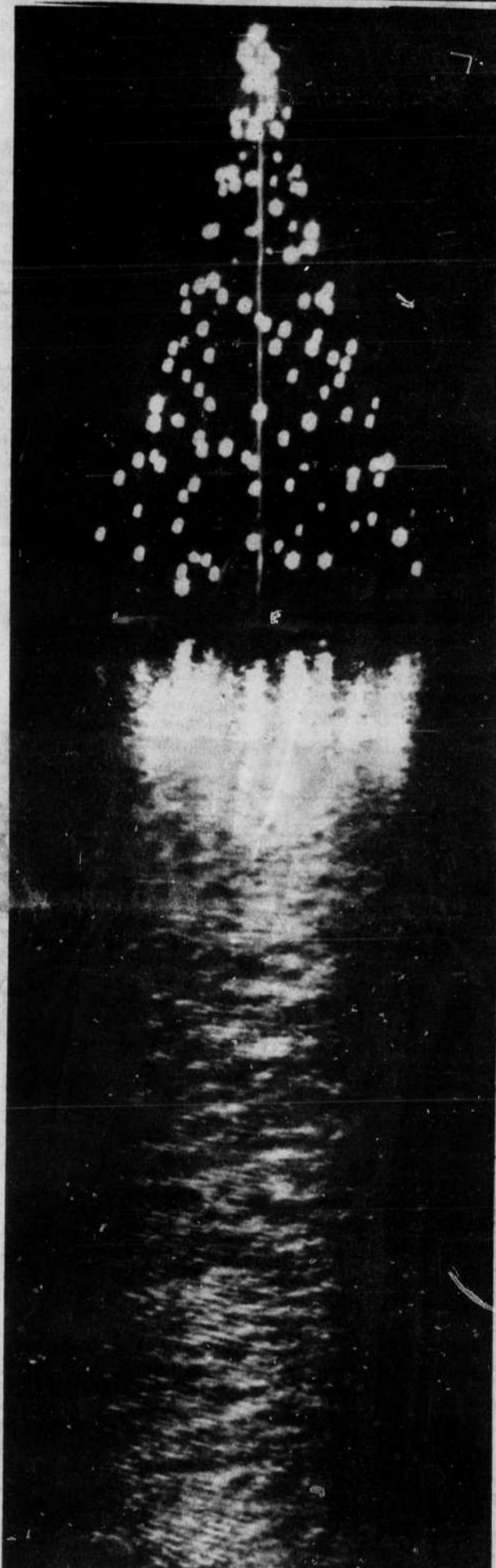
"In the last couple years we've had three abnormal floods. The last one filled the lake up in three hours. The culverts we have won't handle that," he noted. The town is scheduled to receive \$27,235 in federal disaster funds to help pay for improvements.

The council, who Andrews said works together well, will also have to do some long-range planning to allow for upgrading of the water system to comply with state and federal standards.

"We'd like to put a priority on paving Assembly Drive, but we don't want to have it dug up two years later to put in a new water line," Andrews said as an example of how water problems affect other areas of improvement.

Andrews said he is "excited" about town improvement, noting that citizen participation has been good.

"A lot of people are interested. Just last week a bunch got together to put a foot bridge across at Texas Road Extension," he said.



The tree on Lake Tomahawk in Black Mountain casts its reflection across the water. (George LeMieux Jr.)

30 years ago ...

by Dan Ward

Thirty years ago this week, these were the big stories in the Black Mountain News.

Basketball was the news of the week as the Black Mountain cagers increased their first place standing by beating second place Enka 47 to 39. Stevenson, Brake, Earl and Edwards led the scoring for the Darkhorses.

Stevenson was also top scorer for the American Legion team, which dropped one 54-33 to Sodaland. The Sodaland team was made up entirely of Pattons and Hartleys. The American Legion later beat the new Naval Reserve team 61-21.

The Black Mountain girls beat Oakley 21-19 on a difficult backhand shot by Peggy Morrow. The Oakley boys beat the Darkhorses 33-20, though.

Black Mountain's chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star received its charter.

Officers for the new chapter were Lockett Burgin, Clyde Watkins, Alfrida Ring, Fred Higginbotham, Reva S. Hinkle, Mary Hauth, Edna McDougle, and Josephine Finch.

Many businesses ran traditional Christmas greeting ads. One noted "We are the world's most inventive race - and yet we haven't found a new way of saying 'Merry Christmas! Maybe it's just as well!'"

The Roxy Theatre was showing Desert Fury, White Stallion, Trouble with Women and Code of the Saddle.

The Buncombe County Tax Assessor beckoned all to "give yourself a Christmas present" by paying property taxes before they become overdue.

One ad announced that the WLOS Jamboree would be held at Black Mountain Grammar School. Featured speaker was Mountain Mike.

Four per cent mortgage loans were available through W.J. Erlich.

Council to act on improvements

by Dan Ward

The Land of Sky Regional Council was scheduled to act December 28 on a proposal to make highway improvements in the Swannanoa area.

Based on a survey conducted by the Department of Transportation of area residents, a committee of the council is recommending that the intersection of US 70 and SR 2412 be widened and improved, and that SR 2416 be closed to truck traffic between SR 2436 and SR 2435.

The plan also calls for the improvement of the intersection of SR 2435 at US 70 and declaring SR 2412 a commercial access road.

If the council approves the proposals, they will be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners.

The committee has also

recommended that the improvements be made under the North Carolina Highway Improvement Program and that a similar survey of area individuals be made in the future in determining highway

needs.

The council was expected to meet at 2 p.m. December 28 at 25 Heritage Drive in Asheville to discuss the proposals as part of its regular monthly meeting.

License renewals due

The North Carolina Department of Transportation Division of Motor Vehicles reminds citizens that validation stickers and plates for 1978 will go on sale

throughout the State on January 3.

Renewal cards necessary for obtaining a 1978 sticker or plate were mailed December 15 by the Division of Motor

Vehicles and should be received by January 1. Anyone not receiving a renewal card should notify the Division of Motor Vehicles in Raleigh (919)733-8025. It will take from 10 days to two weeks to obtain a card. Newcomers to North Carolina or those buying a car for the first time should make application for a license plate at the nearest local agency. New plates or stickers must be displayed by midnight February 15, 1978.

Motorists are reminded also that plates will be one dollar higher this year. The extra dollar was authorized by the General Assembly and will be used for continuation of the driver education program.

With the exception of some special classifications, 1978 automobile licenses will be required with a validation sticker to be affixed to the upper right-hand corner of the current plate, over the 1977 validation sticker. Care should be taken to place the sticker exactly as instructed to prevent accidental removal.

An annual license plate will continue to be issued for all other classifications, including trucks.

Any newly acquired vehicle will be issued a plate and sticker unless a plate is to be transferred.



Grace or Chuck
Black Mountain
North Carolina

Not all that the postal system hears are complaints. This Christmas card that found its way to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mixon was addressed simply to "Grace and Chuck, Black Mountain, North Carolina."

Firewomen a first in area

by Dan Ward

In an area with a history of women used to hard work and independent thinking, the induction of three women firefighters into the volunteer fire department in Swannanoa may come as little surprise.

According to Barbara Settle, who completed her probationary period about a month ago, Women's Liberation had nothing to do with her desire to take on a job traditionally held by men.

"The main thing is that Women's Lib had nothing to do with it," she said. "We didn't think the men weren't capable of doing a good job - they do a fantastic job. It's just that we needed more firemen."

"Really, we just wanted to see our husbands," quipped Karen Lee, who with Sue Adams was confirmed as a firewoman two weeks ago.

All three are firewives, and saw that they could see more of their husbands as well as increase the department's "manpower." Barbara's husband, Doyce, and son, Ronny, both work for the department. Sue and Karnn are married to firemen Jim Adams and Don Lee, respectively.

"Sometimes it gets rough when all three of us try to get out the same door at once to get to a fire," Barbara said of her firefighting household.

Of the three women, only Barbara is primarily a firewoman within the department. She, like Sue, is on call days.

Both Sue and Karne are on the rescue squad. All three have had training in both

firefighting and rescue procedures, including advanced first aid, CPR, hose and nozzle training, fire truck driving and pumper operations. Like many members of the department, they will continue training in other areas.

"We all had to join the fire department first" before being assigned to the rescue squad, Sue said. "When a fire call goes out, we all respond whether we are with the fire department or rescue squad."

All three agreed that although they often have to "make an extra effort" to do the same job as the men, no occasion has come up where they have had to say "I can't do it."

"The ladders are really heavy," Karen said. "The hoses are rough to handle, too!"

Barbara said that being a woman made rescue operations during recent flooding difficult for her.

"I think if I had been a little heavier, I could have stood up better with all the water coming down," she said.

Karen said that the men have not shown any resentment and have helped the women tremendously in training. The women, however, are not exempt from kidding, though.

"The men all tease us about being slow, you know, but my husband tickles me to death. I've beat my husband a few times getting dressed for a fire," she said.

The three firewomen may be the first in Buncombe County. Sue noted that

Riceville has women ambulance drivers, but the only department nearby to accept

women firefighters is Skyland, which is training one through A-B Tech.



Barbara Settle, Sue Adams and Karen Lee. (Dan Ward)

