

# BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

DEVOTED 100% TO OUR COMMUNITY — THE GROWING SWANNANOVA VALLEY

Serving --

- ★ Black Mountain
- ★ Swannanoa
- ★ Montreat
- ★ Ridgecrest

15 cents per copy



Sled dog

Ben shows his master, Kim Poe, that a smart dog rides instead of pulling. (Robert Green)

The way it was

## No whistling in church

This is the second in a series of the original ordinances passed in Black Mountain in 1893.

Sec. 13. If any one in the town of Black Mountain, except on his own premises, shall carry concealed about his person any pistol, bowie knife, dirk, dagger, slung shot, loaded cane, brass or other metal knucks, razor or other deadly weapon, shall, upon conviction, be fined not exceeding fifty dollars, provided that this section shall not apply to any one in the civil or military service of the United States or of the State, County, or town, while actually engaged in the line of duty.

Sec. 14. Any person who shall discharge any gun or other fire arm, or any rocket, cannon cracker or any other fire works or explosive in any street or foot way, or in any place less than one-fourth of a mile from the Southern Railway depot, except in self defense or by command or permission of the mayor, and board of aldermen, shall be fined not exceeding fifty dollars.

Sec. 15. Any person who shall habitually wander about the streets, depot, or any other place in Black Mountain without any visible means of support, shall be arrested as a vagrant, and upon conviction, be fined five dollars.

Sec. 16. Any person or persons who shall congregate in or about any church in the town of Black Mountain, either before, during or after divine service, in a disorderly manner and to the disturbance of those attending such church, or who shall by loud talking, whistling or laughing, or by any other noise or in any other manner disturb any congregation or any one of any congregation so assembled, or having been assembled for divine service,

shall, on conviction, be fined not exceeding twenty-five dollars.

Sec. 17. Any person peddling in the town of Black Mountain without a State or county license, shall, upon conviction, be fined ten dollars.

Sec. 18. Any merchant, trader or dealer, or other person who shall open any shop or store on Sunday for the purpose of buying or selling, shall, on conviction, be fined not exceeding fifty dollars. Provided, that any one may open their store for the purpose of selling grave clothes or medicines or any drugs that may be needed at the time being. And if any store shall be found open on Sunday it shall be prima facie evidence that the same was opened by the proprietor for the purpose of selling.

Sec. 19. Any one who shall break into or injure any guard house or place of confinement of prisoners in the town of Black Mountain, shall, upon conviction, be fined ten dollars and shall be liable for damages arising from such unlawful act.

Sec. 20. That the violation of any of the ordinances of the town of Black Mountain is hereby declared a misdemeanor under the provisions of section 3825 of the Code, and any person guilty of such violation, shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine not exceeding fifty dollars or imprisonment not exceeding thirty days, unless the ordinance shall prescribe a different punishment.

Sec. 21. That for the purpose of justice in exceptional cases the town court of Black Mountain may be allowed to exercise a sound discretion in imposing fines for the violation of these ordinances, provided that no greater fine is inflicted than is prescribed in these ordinances.

Sec. 22 That it shall be

obligatory on any merchant in the town of Black Mountain to erect place for the benefit of their patrons and others stopping in that vicinity. That such hitching place shall not be in or obstruct any street or sidewalk, and any merchant or salesman in charge of any store failing to comply with this ordinance within five days after being notified, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine or imprisonment or both, at the discretion of the court.

To be continued.

## Road death toll lowest since 1963

Fewer persons died on North Carolina highways during 1977 than in any year since 1963, according to Crime Control and Public Safety Secretary J. Phil Carlton. And the significant reduction in deaths took place during the last five months of the year when the State Highway Patrol began its strict enforcement of the 55 mph speed limit.

The final highway death toll for 1977 totaled 1,422 persons, some one hundred seven fewer lives lost compared to last year's 1,529 figure. At the end of July, traffic deaths totaled 637, five more than at the end of July 1976, so the greatest reduction

## Police Report

Black Mountain Police had a light week last week, having issued four traffic

A Black Mountain Fire Department spokesman has reported that the department fought 172 fires during 1977, including 57 in homes.

Broken down into categories, the department fought 51 dwelling fires, 26 to other buildings, 55 woods or brush fires, 6 to mobil homes, and 34 to vehicles.

The department also answered 8 false alarms, made 11 investigations and was involved in 10 rescue operations.

The spokesman said that eight fires last year were suspected to have been caused by arson.

One death and two injuries resulted from fires answered by the department last year.

Volunteer firemen put in 3,603 hours fighting fires, 1,375 hours training and 687 hours on other activities through the department.

Assistant Chief Sterling Poe began duties January 13 as new Black Mountain Fire Chief. Official confirmation of Poe as replacement for Mack Kirkpatrick, who has accepted the position of town manager, is expected at a special town board meeting to be held 6 p.m. January 19. Poe was the unanimous choice of Black Mountain firemen for the position.

Black Mountain firemen answered three alarms last week.

On January 10, one truck

and 13 men responded to a fire caused by a furnace motor at the Schmelz residence at 202 W. Fourth St. Damage was estimated at \$48.

On January 11, two trucks and 17 men responded to a grease fire on a stove at the Gragg residence at 205 Goldmont. About \$20 damage resulted.

On January 12, two trucks and 11 men investigated a misfired oil stove at the Wheeler residence at 103 S. Ridgeway. No damage was reported.

The Buncombe County Ambulance Service made 29 routine and two emergency runs last week, and was not needed on six occasions.

## Gudger letter backs manager choice

Black Town Manager Mack Kirkpatrick has received a letter from U.S. Rep. Lamar Gudger promising backing from the congressman while noting what Gudger called the "somewhat trying circumstances" under which Kirkpatrick was hired.

Gudger's letter reads:

"Dear Chief,  
"From all I hear you come to your new position as Town Manager for Black Mountain under somewhat trying circumstances. I hope that those circumstances, which in no way reflect upon your own potential for positive service, will prove to be a minor problem.

"Your years of devoted and competent service to the community as Fire Chief are solid evidence of both your personal abilities and your commitment to advancing the welfare of the community.

"In your new role, there should be frequent opportunity for this office to be of service to you and the people of Black Mountain. Please be

assured that we stand ready to assist you in every possible way as you undertake your new duties.

"Warm personal regards, I am  
Sincerely,  
Lamar"

Robert Jones

by Dan Ward

Robert Jones of Montreat is not only one of the most popular local artists, but he has found himself in the role of historian for Montreat and Black Mountain.

"A lot of my nature is not wanting things to change," Jones said, explaining why old-timey scenes and tumbledown houses and barns appear often in his work.

Quite accidentally, Jones has made last drawings of at least three institutions in the Valley shortly before they were destroyed. Those three sketches - of the Montreat Store, Max Twitty's Fruit Stand and a street scene near the Depot showing the old bank and Key City Drug Store - have been reproduced into small prints that Jones sells.

Each of the three were made within two months before the destruction of the buildings.

"There's a building here in Montreat I'd like to do, but I'm

afraid they'll tear it down if I did," Jones quipped.

The artist said that the prints have "tremendous nostalgia value" to summer residents who are disappointed to find the area changed each year.

Jones said that the object he strives for in his paintings and sketches is to put "atmosphere" in them, a value he learned from his high school art teacher.

"Even without people, this picture tells a story of Black Mountain at night," he said of one of his prints he had painted over to depict a desolate, but lighted, night scene.

Many of Jones' works are serene landscapes with old barns or houses in them, reminiscent of the works of Andrew Wyeth. On occasion, he said he "cuts loose" and paints abstracts or impressionist works. His abstracts, he said, are pure atmosphere - expressing the same value as his more



Arctic icescape

A Black Mountain town employee walks through arctic scene created by the spray from a cracked water line on Ninth Street. (Dan Ward)

## Folk concert at WWC features local musicians

As part of its Appalachian Music Series, Warren Wilson College will host a concert open to the public featuring folk musicians from the Swannanoa Valley.

According to David Holt, coordinator of the concert

series, local artists included in the concert are Zeke and Wiley Morris, banjoist Walter Davis, the Buzzard Brothers and the Williams String Band. The concert, free and open to the public, will be held Friday, January 20 in the

Kittredge Building on the Warren Wilson College campus beginning at 8 p.m. Other concerts featuring the Black Community and other communities of Western North Carolina will be held in the future, Holt said.

## Montreat artist paints 'atmosphere'

photographic works.

Jones said he learned to paint using watercolors, and has adopted the different technique of using acrylic paints like watercolors.

The artist said he sees himself as an "idea person". He will often walk through stores in Black Mountain examining merchandise and fixtures simply out of curiosity and in search of inspiration. He said he knows this is sometimes puzzling to storekeepers.

"Sometimes I'll just cut off and go to Asheville or some other town and just look around," he said. "People will ask me 'how do you see these things?' (that he puts in paintings). I just do without thinking about it."

Jones said one of the persons he most admired was Walt Disney. "He was a cartoonist, an artist. But he also designed an amusement park that became a dream city," he said. Jones said that some people

think he is too commercial because he is always trying to come up with a print or craft to sell to tourists. He said the romantic notion of the bohemian artist did not appeal to him.

"It's not that way with me - I like to eat," he said. "I just like to see what people like."

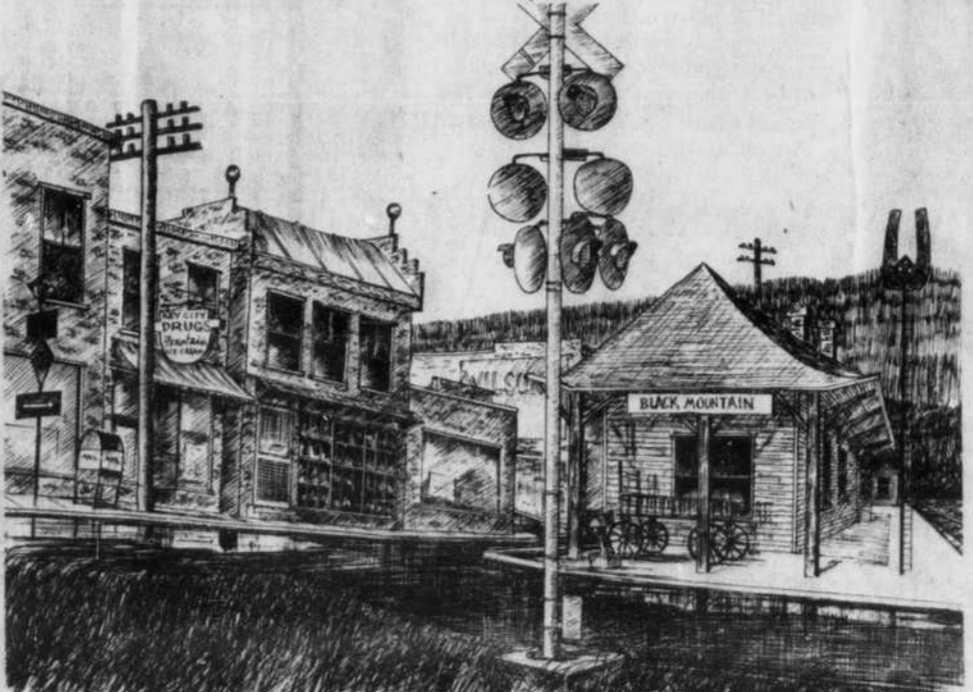
Even so, the artist said he sometimes creates something he knows will not appeal to the general public.

"Whatever I do for me is better than what you might want me to do," he said. He sometimes will put a painting

or sketch away and only show it to a person he knows can identify with the feelings he had about the subject he painted.

"I was satisfied with that one, so I stuck it in a drawer and left it," he said. When the Cub Scouts asked to sell his prints for a fund-raising, he took the Depot sketch out of hiding and gave it to them, he said.

"If I hadn't given it away, it would probably still be sitting in a drawer," he said.



The Black Mountain Depot with now-defunct bank and drug store, as sketched by Robert Jones.

