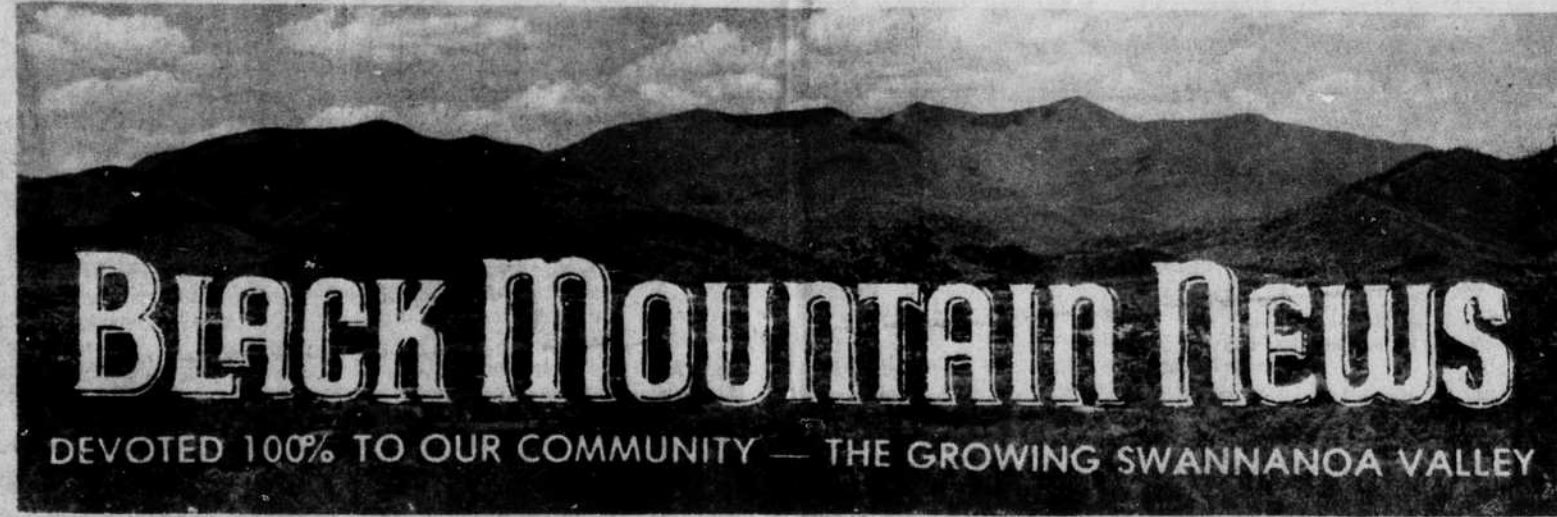


June Bride Special inside



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- ★ Swannanoa
- ★ Montreat
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Golf revamp spurs resignation

by Dan Ward

The Black Mountain Town Board voted to once again change the description of the present golf course manager's job and hired a clubhouse manager at a special meeting held May 22.



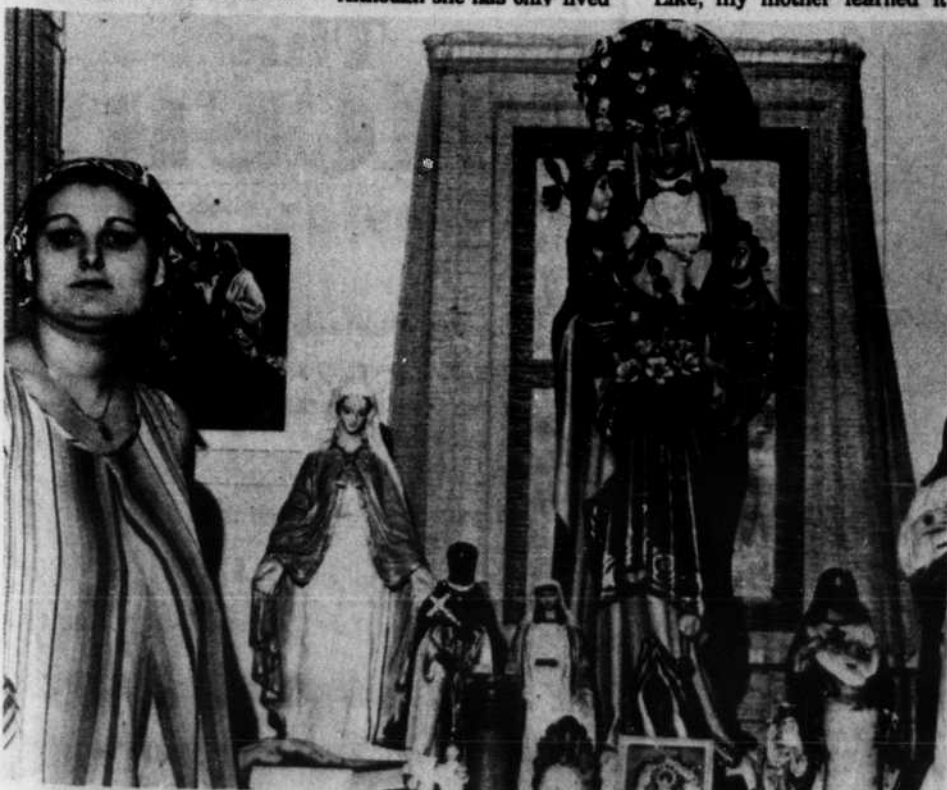
A wild iris hails the rain. (Dan Ward)

Sister Ann

Her business ranges from lost pets to lost love

by Clint Williams

"Well, like, if people have problems or sickness I help them just by touching them, just by praying with them," she said through her thick accent.



Healing and solving the problems of others is the business of Sister Ann, who has her home and private church at 711 Old US 70 in a modest white frame house next to Webb's Package Store. Although she has only lived

in Black Mountain for about a month, she said she has been a faith healer all her life. "I was born with it," she said of her faith-healing power. "I was gifted. It went from generation to generation. Like, my mother learned it

and when my daughter grows up, I'll learn her," gesturing to her blanketed baby on the couch.

During her stay in the Black Mountain area, approximately 500 to 600 people have come to consult her, Sister Ann said. Some of the people have come from as far away as Charlotte and many come from Asheville. She said they learn about her through ads she has placed in the newspapers and on radio stations in Asheville and Hendersonville, and circulars she distributes.

"I'll be busy all day," she said about her case load, "I'm busy 24 hours with my customers."

Some have physical afflictions and "some have problems with their love, some have problems like can't hold a job." Sister Ann said that she has even helped people locate their missing pets.

"I tell the future, past, present," she said. She went on to explain how she does this—"I read the heads, the vibrations of the head. I tell them everything that goes through their head. Like, how they feel about my work."

How the people who visit Sister Ann feel about her work is crucial to the success of her efforts, she said. The success of the healing, she explained, "depends how they feel about my work. Like, if they believe in God, if they believe in my work. If they think I'm just playing around and all that, they won't see results. It's up to you. If you believe in God, believe in me and all that, you'll see results."

Sister Ann declined to illustrate the procedures involved in one of her healing services. "I cannot show you what I do. No. It's private," she said. "I would like to and all that, but I can't. It's private."

She went on to say that, "some people, when they come over for a reading, want all the lights out, the porch light out."

The church in which Sister Ann conducts her faithhealing services is in a small, narrow room off of her kitchen. The space is almost completely filled by a love-seat and an altar. The altar, a table draped with green felt, is covered with three Bibles, a notebook and several multi-colored statues of various

done behind my back." Taylor was out of town when the board moved that he be asked to find other living quarters so that the clubhouse could be renovated to include a concession area and locker rooms. Taylor was also absent from all but one of several other Recreation Commission and Town Board meetings where his position had been discussed and acted upon. Contrary to reports from commission and board members, Taylor denied that he had been notified of the meetings.

Taylor said he is not resigning only because of losing the golf cart concession or earlier action that forced him to move from the clubhouse.

"There's a lot of things," he said. "The worst thing about it was that all this has been

the future.

Waters has been hired at \$100 per week to manage the golf course clubhouse activities, including recording green fees and supervising the concessions area. In addition, he will be fully responsible for, and receive all profits from, the new food concession and pro shop. He will also receive 40 percent of the gross profits of the golf cart concession. He will be responsible for upkeep and maintenance of all concessions.

The town will receive the other 60 percent of gross profits on golf carts. Mayor Tom Sobol has estimated informally that the town will receive about \$8000 per year from the golf carts.

Montreat budget reading held

In a special meeting Monday night, the Montreat Board of Commissioners gave final reading to its proposed budget totaling \$122,845 for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1. Based on estimated appraised values of \$7.8 million and with the continuation of the present tax rate of 65 cents per \$100 of valuation, estimated Ad Valorem tax income for the new year will be \$50,000.

Second reading will be given during the board's monthly meeting on June 8, at 7:30 p.m., in the town meeting room at Gaither Hall. Montreat residents are encouraged to be present and express themselves. Copies of the proposed budget are available for study at Montreat's Historical Foundation, which is open daily.

In other action, the board accepted with regret the resignation of Susan Neville, municipal accountant and tax collector for the Town of

Montreat. She has served the people of Montreat in this capacity for eight years, and now for personal reasons she will terminate her work the end of June. The board expressed its appreciation for her accomplishments and devotion to the town, and it then requested that persons interested in applying for this part-time job should contact

one of the commissioners—Dr. Ivan Stafford, E.A. Andrews Jr., or Mayor John F. Abernethy.

The board announced that funding for much-needed paving and other street improvements is being sought beyond the annual budget. Announcement of plans will be made in the near future, they said.

BOR Grant reapproved

Black Mountain's application for a Bureau of Outdoor Recreation grant for a Youth Park near the Lake Tomahawk dam has been again recommended, along with additional material, by the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development and has been forwarded to Atlanta, Ga., for final federal approval.

Robert Basnight,

assistant director of the state grant analysis division, said that new information sent by Town Manager Mack Kirkpatrick, including a revised map of the area and flood plain information, had met no objections in Raleigh. He said that it will probably be four to six weeks before a response comes from Atlanta.

Basnight had said earlier that if the new information—particularly flooding in-



Black Mountain firemen battle flames at 305 Flat

Creek Road, suspected of being set by an arsonist. (David Peele)

Second fire seen as arson

For the second time in 15 days, a vacant house on Flat Creek Road is thought to have been burned by an arsonist. Three trucks and 21 men responded to the blaze at 301 Flat Creek Road on Friday, May 26. The house, owned by Bernice Berryhill, was valued at \$8,000 and considered a total loss.

Both this fire and the May 11 fire at 302 Flat Creek Road are

under investigation by the Black Mountain Fire Department and by the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI). "We don't have lead one on either one of them," said Captain Steve King of the Black Mountain Fire Department.

One truck and 18 men responded to an automobile accident on US 70 at the Blue

Ridge crossing on Tuesday, May 23. There was one minor injury and the accident is being investigated by the State Highway Patrol.

On Wednesday, May 24, two trucks and 11 men answered a call at the Robert Swan residence in Hickory Ridge Estates. The fire, started by a washing machine motor, caused minor damage.

A car fire at the residence of

Connie Stroup on Goldmont Street was answered by one truck and 14 men on May 24.

Another car fire at the ABC store was answered by one truck and 13 men on Friday, May 26. The car, owned by Victoria Lytle, received minor damage.

The Buncombe County Ambulance Service made 11 routine calls, one emergency run and two unnecessary runs.

Our Valley

The Civil War years

by Bill Penfound and June Hodge (Continued from last week)

A few words about the involvement of The Valley in the Civil War (War between the States) is in order. In the small valleys, such as the Swannanoa, the farms were small, independent, multicrop and lonely. In general, the men from the small, mountain farms were Union men

whereas the owners of large farms in the lowland and the town people were Confederate sympathizers. Asheville, the county seat of Buncombe County, was the mountain center for confederate activity. In many cases, households were split in their loyalties which resulted in constant struggle since "the enemies were intimates, neighbor to neighbor, cousin to cousin, and such proximity did not allow forgetfulness even for a day" (Dykeman, 1955:78). No important battles

were fought in The Valley but it was a war waged with unspeakable bitterness and sometimes with inhuman cruelty. A truce between the Union and Confederate forces was signed April 5, 1865, but it was days before the last soldiers of the tributaries of the French Broad River heard about it and ceased fighting.

After the War between the States the hardest hit were the big slave-holding landowners such as the Pattons and the Murphys. The once great plantation of John E. Patton went to ruin and William Patton's house, located where the Municipal Club House is now, burned to the ground (Reed, 1967:127).

Among the important people from The Valley during the Civil War was Zebulon B. Vance. In 1859, he was elected to The House of Representatives and was a staunch supporter of the Union. However, when President

Lincoln called for two North Carolina regiments for the Union Army, Vance cast his lot with the Confederacy. In 1862 Vance was elected as war-time Governor of North Carolina and was elected twice more to the same office. In 1879 he resigned his office and won a seat in the U.S. Senate. According to Burnett (1960:78) Senator Vance built a mountain home named Gombroon, on a plateau in the North Fork of the Swannanoa River, a home in which many famous people were entertained. As witness to his many contributions to Western North Carolina is the Vance Monument in Pack Square, Asheville.

The mountain whites often clashed with the Cherokee and sometimes called on the state and federal governments for assistance. The dealing of the United States with the

(continued on page 12)

Clean-up okay sought

The Black Mountain Moose Lodge has asked that all persons who have relatives

Swannanoa fire

The Swannanoa Volunteer Fire Department responded to five calls last week.

On Tuesday, May 23, one truck and 21 men responded to a false alarm on Buckeye Cove Extension. One hour later they returned to the same location to answer another false alarm concerning a car fire.

Two trucks and 10 men responded to a car fire on US

70 on May 25. Minor damage was reported.

Lightning caused a garage fire at the George Seaward residence on Patton Hill Road on May 28. Three trucks and 28 men responded to the call. The amount of damage was undetermined.

A false alarm at 705 Old US 70 drew the response of two trucks and 25 men on Monday, May 29.

contact them and give them permission to fill in sunken graves, remove rusted fencing, and mow graves inside the neglected cemetery, featured in an earlier edition of the News.

In addition, Miller Funeral Home has donated grave markers and will engrave the names free for those who contact the Moose Lodge and describe which graves are those of relatives.

To give the needed permission and obtain grave markers, persons should contact Creed Mundy Sr. at 669-8665, Neil Bartlett at 669-7352 or Mack Kirkpatrick at Town Hall, 669-8732.