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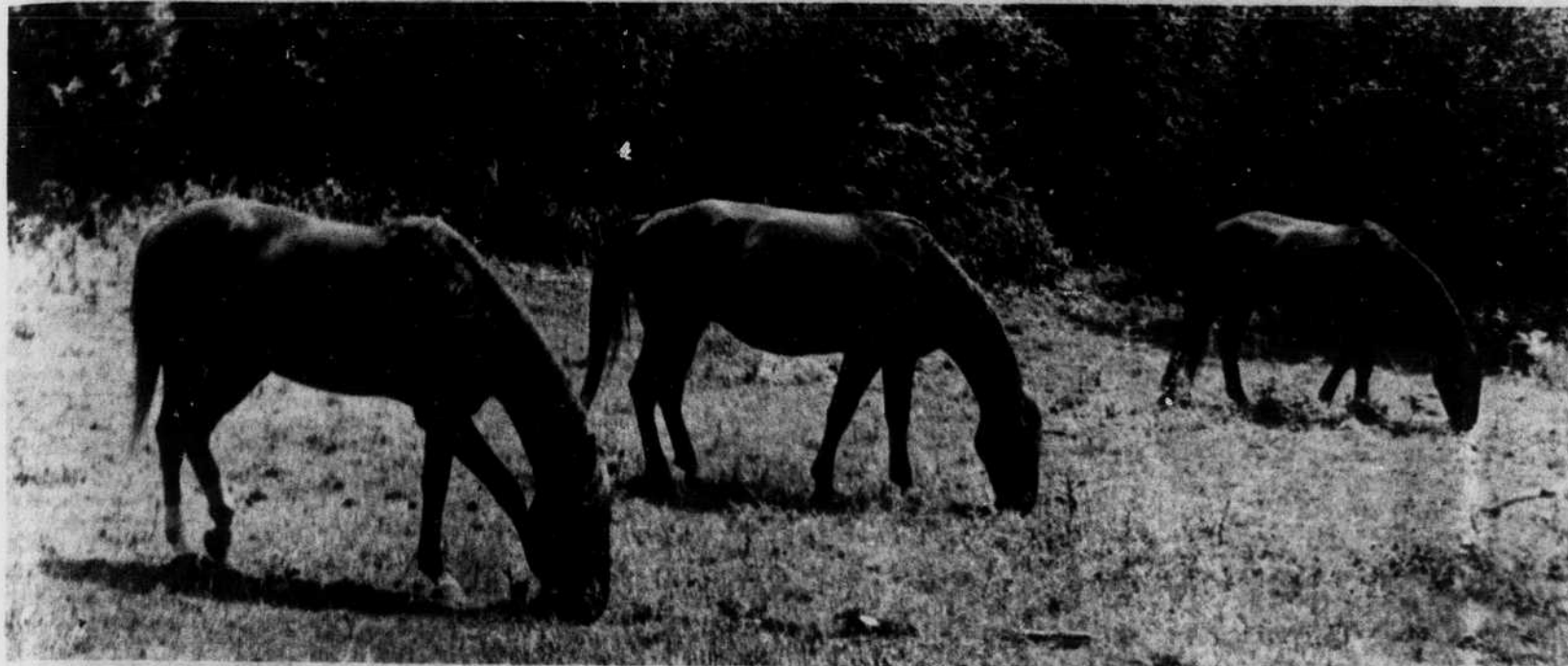
Serving--

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

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An equine triumvirate grazes contentedly in the early summer sun at Mareswood in Black Mountain. (Sharon Sutties)

New budget hike small

by Clint Williams

A four per cent reduction in the proposed cost of general government helped hold the Black Mountain budget increase of the upcoming fiscal year to 6.7 per cent, a rate well below the current rate of inflation. Proposed general fund expenditures for the 1978-79 fiscal year total \$631,930, an increase of \$39,867 over the proposed expenditures of last year's budget.

The greatest increase in the new budget is in money allocated for the police department. The police department will receive over \$26,000 more than they did last year, which is a 26 per cent increase. The establishment of a clerk of records position and three police dispatcher

positions is responsible for most of the increase. The money for these positions is provided, in part, through the receipt of two matching federal grants.

The municipal golf course will receive a 23 per cent, or \$11,000, increase in their appropriations. A \$12,000 increase in salaries due to allowances for over-time and the creation of the position of clubhouse manager—which has a salary of \$100 a week—is responsible for the allocation increase.

Proposed allocations for the city pool are \$20,100, up roughly one third from the \$15,500 set aside last year. According to Town Manager Mack Kirkpatrick, this increase is because of the inability of "qualified people to qualify" for the federal

funds that paid the salaries of pool personnel last year.

Proposed expenditures in the area of public works, which includes streets and sanitation, are up slightly and this can be accounted for by increase in material and labor costs.

The most noticeable feature of the proposed budget is the marked decrease in money allocated for utilities, telephone and postage, and travel in all departments. This, according to Kirkpatrick, is indicative of an effort by the city government to "tighten the belt."

Also sharply reduced were monies set aside for legal services and zoning and planning. "We hope we don't have as many legal problems," said Kirkpatrick. He also ex-

plained that a number of cases pending against the city have been dropped.

The allocation for zoning and planning was reduced because in the past there had always been a sizable surplus, Kirkpatrick said.

The budget published in last week's Black Mountain News has not been finalized, however. In a public meeting held June 5, there was an amendment to the budget to transfer \$2,000 from the contingency fund to the police department to facilitate the purchase of two used cars from the state to be used as police cruisers. There has also been a proposal to allocate approximately \$1,000 for the purchase of uniforms for the volunteer fire department, Kirkpatrick said.

News analysis

Unscrambling the mixed-beverage law

by Clint Williams

The mixed beverage legislation currently pending before the State House of Representatives is certainly the most controversial issue confronting state government this year. It is also one of the most confusing issues confronting the people this, or any, year.

The majority of the voters are only half-informed as to the total aspects of the bill. The bill now before the House is lengthy, makes numerous references to the existing alcoholic beverage control laws, and is written in the legislative mumbo-jumbo style of language that is hard to understand and typical of government.

What follows is an attempt to condense the law into its

key points and simplify the language.

The first section of the law

passed by the State Senate last year and currently before the House defines the term

"mixed beverage." A mixed beverage is a drink made up wholly or partially of alcoholic

beverage and served to an individual in a quantity less (continued on page 3)

I-40 opening set for July 4

North Carolina Secretary of Transportation Thomas W. Bradshaw, Jr. has announced

plans for the opening of I-40 from southeast of Swannanoa to US-70 east of Black Mountain.

The 6.4-mile segment is expected to open July 4-5, weather permitting. The opening of this portion of I-40 will eliminate the present traffic congestion in the town of Black Mountain. Total construction cost of the project was \$12.5 million.

The 4.2-mile segment of this project was constructed by Asheville Paving Company, and the 2.2-mile portion was contracted to A.B. Burton and Company. These projects were originally scheduled to be completed by September and October, 1978, respectively.

"The early completion of this highway," noted Bradshaw, "was due to the interest and concern of Governor Hunt and his commitment to construct east-west corridors throughout our highway system. The elimination of this bottleneck of traffic in Black Mountain will enhance tourism and travel to the mountainous areas of our

State. In addition, we owe a special thanks to Asheville Construction Company and A.B. Burton and Company for their cooperation in moving ahead to get the job completed," Bradshaw concluded.

Just east of the Black Mountain section, there are currently two construction contracts underway to convert existing US-70 to interstate standards to become a part of I-40.

The first section, 1.6 miles extends from US-70 and SR 2702 (Yate Avenue) intersection easterly to the McDowell County line.

The second section, five miles in length, will add two additional lanes to existing four-lane segment from Ridgecrest to Old Fort. Projected completion dates for these projects are August 1979 for the first section and November 1978 for the second section.

Traffic will be maintained through the construction site.



Azaleas bloom wild along the Black Mountain railroad tracks. (Dan Ward)

Clean-up projects increase

by Dan Ward

As Swannanoa Valley Cleanup Day neared, a handful of businesspersons, clubs and a church joined others in accepting projects for Valley beautification.

Recycling stations have been established for aluminum at the Bi-Lo parking lot by Boy Scout Troop 50; and for paper at Black Mountain Union 76 on State Street, sponsored by the Eastern Star.

Troop 50, the VFW, the Juvenile Evaluation Center, and Macedonia AME Zion

Church have offered to pick up roadside litter in Black Mountain, on Craigmont Road and around the lake, along US 70 and Old US 70, and in Swannanoa, respectively.

The Black Mountain Moose Lodge plans an intensive cleanup of "Potters Field" cemetery.

Free trash bags for litter pickup are available from Quality Forward in Asheville or possibly later at the Black Mountain News.

Dr. Robert Dickey, in a letter to local businessmen, urged them as members of the Swannanoa Valley Chamber

of Commerce to take part in clean-up activities by fixing up their own businesses. The Nostalgia Store and Black Mountain News have planned projects for the day.

Black Mountain Town Manager Mack Kirkpatrick has said that the town will have a truck and driver available to pick up bagged roadside trash within the Black Mountain Town limits on June 17.

The Black Mountain Town Improvement Committee, XYZ Club, and Black Mountain News have been working to promote Swan-

nanova Valley Cleanup Day. The valley logo was designed by Appalachia Windchime Factory.

The Asheville-Buncombe Clean Community System has supported the Cleanup Day, and has information on establishing an ongoing beautification program. Persons or organizations interested in the Clean Community System may call Jean Webb at 254-1776 for more information.

Those who would like to adopt a project for Cleanup Day may call Dan Ward at the News at 669-8728.

Line for sandwiches often ends outside

by Dan Ward

If it's a fast meal you're after, don't go to Lilli-Bett's Country Basket.

If good conversation and sandwiches like Mom used to make are in your line, you may want to get in line.

Two fairy godmother-like ladies, Betty Walker and Lillian Reynolds, were almost strangers to each other when they decided to pool their talents and money and begin business next to the Black Mountain Presbyterian Church seven years ago.

"When we first opened up, we sold craft supplies and health foods—Lillian and I were primarily interested in health foods," said Betty, taking time out in the afternoon from mixing up a batch of brownie-like "dollies."

"We just put in the sandwiches, tacked them on, as a little sideline. What happened is that the sandwiches have just taken over the business."

Jars of vitamins and natural foods give an orderly clutter to

shelves that line most of the walls. Craft supplies dangle from hooks that cover the remaining wall-space in the tiny converted house. What remaining wall space that remains is taken up by yellow curtained windows that shed light on a shop that can only be described as cute at its cutest. In spite of the stock, people jam the tiny store at lunch time for one thing—sandwiches the ladies make while you wait.

"We used to sit on the porch and do macrame. I can't believe it now. Now we don't have time to sit and breathe," Betty said.

Part of the attraction of the sandwiches is cost. In spite of rising costs, the ladies have held the price down to under a dollar for most.

"I was just talking to someone yesterday," Betty said. "She said 'Why do you stay in this business—how much do you make a year?' I said this is just a charitable organization," she said with a smile.

"We feel this way, and you can see it all over town.

Prices jump higher at the grocery stores as soon as the tourists arrive. But we hate to do that—many of our customers are business people from town."

Has she ever thought of quitting the sandwich business to get back to crafts and natural foods?

"No-o-o!—it never crossed my mind. I love cooking. We cook fresh every day. We just cook whatever we're able to cook, unless we wanted to work 24 hours a day. When it goes, it goes. We just try to have enough to make it through the rush hour."

Another attraction of the store is its crackerbarrel atmosphere. Jokes flow free and fast across the counter.

"We have very nice customers," Betty said. "We're blessed in that respect. They'll come to the store every day and always have a nice word. It makes life enjoyable."

"I think it's one of the last places where people can freely stay. Last week three ladies stayed for over an hour. There aren't many places like that anymore."

Commencement for 198 Owen graduates was held June 4 in Anderson Auditorium of Montreat-Anderson College.

Commencement was made up of two services, with a Baccalaureate service held at 3 p.m. Featured in the service were three piano pieces played by April Lynn Buckner, a speech by Christina Marie Wojtyna and address by Joe Glenn Ballard, and the Owen Chorus singing "Joy in the Morning."

Graduation exercises began at 8 p.m., and included music by Miss Buckner and the chorus.

After an invocation by William Gilbert Anderson, Mary Ann Myers, student body president, spoke on "Commencement is Just the Beginning," and Becky Lynn Loftis, valedictorian, gave an address entitled "I Want to Live."

Diplomas were awarded to almost 200 members of the Class of '78 following recognition of 26 honor

students, 44 Beta Club members and various scholarship recipients.

Following a tribute to parents and friends by James Henderson Love, diplomas were presented by Charles Lytle and Olen Sisk, Owen principal and assistant principal respectively. Beverly Coston introduced speakers and led the class in Alma Mater.

Photos of the ceremony will be included in a special Owen graduation edition of the News June 15.

Owen graduates 198

Police report

Police are still investigating the larceny of a sewing machine from the Monte Vista Hotel that occurred June 5 night. Suspects remain to be questioned, police reported.

Also under investigation are two break-ins, both of which occurred June 5 night. Nothing was apparently taken in a break-in at the office of McMurray Chevrolet. Also that night, a window was broken at the back of Dairy King, but entry apparently was not gained, police reported.

Two juveniles were charged with car theft June 6 and returned to Raleigh authorities after they were arrested by Black Mountain Police for theft of gas from Burton's store. A trace on the car the youths, 15 and 16, were driving showed that it was stolen in Raleigh, according to Sheriff's Police who assisted in the arrest.

Several persons were arrested and later released in the custody of relatives following a fight on McCoy

Cove Road June 5. Police reported two bicycles were stolen last week.

Six out-of-town youths who entered a room of the Apple Blossom Hotel to take showers without paying June 7 were not charged, police reported.

Police issued four traffic citations, arrested one for DUI, and investigated two accidents, including one involving a car and bicycle. No injuries were reported. They answered 252 calls last week.



Lillian Reynolds and Betty Walker at rush hour. (Dan Ward)