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I-40 to open by Friday

Secretary of the NC Department of Transportation (DOT) has notified Ed Weber, manager of the Swannanoa Valley Chamber of Commerce, that the section of I-40 bypassing Swannanoa and Black Mountain will be open to interstate traffic on June 30.

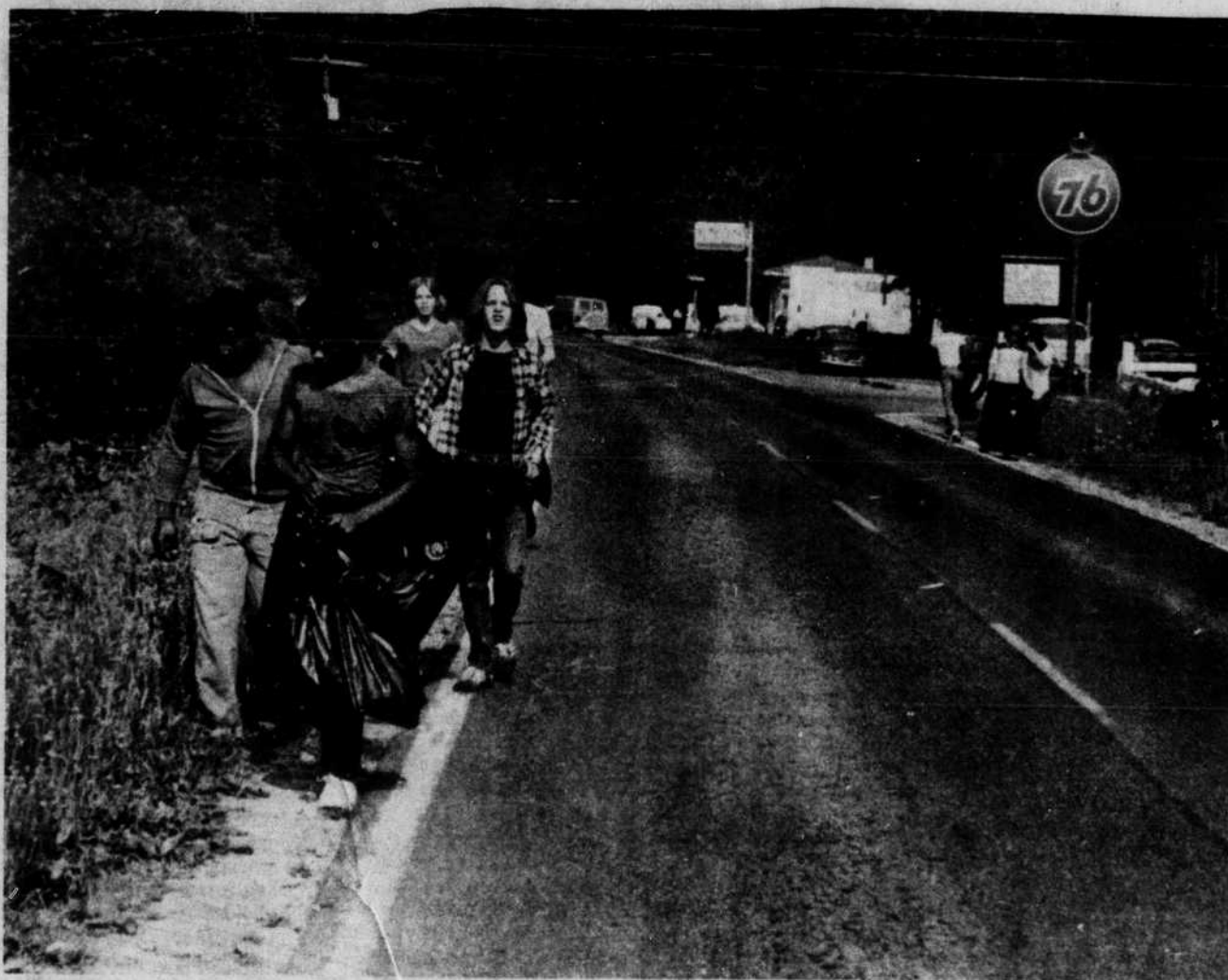
According to Weber, the Raleigh office said that the section would be opened before the July 4 holiday, even though some guardrails may not yet be installed.

Fred Pennell, assistant resident engineer in Asheville, said that the DOT had been planning to open the section June 30, but that the

opening hinged on whether the contractor, Asheville Paving, had completed repairing fencing, putting up signs, and installing guardrails. A representative of Asheville Paving said that the work should be done by June 30 if the weather permits.

According to Weber, who has been urging the DOT to have work completed by the holidays, the new section of interstate highway will be formally dedicated a week after it is open to traffic.

Last July 4, traffic was backed up several miles in each direction of Black Mountain.



Residents of the JEC scoured Old US 70 for litter during Valley Cleanup Day June 17. (More photos inside) (Dan Ward)

Cleanup Day draws large turnout

by Dan Ward

Civic groups, businessmen and a detail of volunteer residents of the Juvenile Evaluation Center turned out for an intensive one-day cleanup of the Valley June 17.

While results seemed to have little effect on the overall appearance of the Valley, brigades of volunteers apparently made an impact on some individuals who took part in home or roadside cleanups of their own.

A handful of Veterans of Foreign Wars picked up a number of bags of trash around Lake Tomahawk and along Craigmont Road in Black Mountain. About 16 residents of the Juvenile Evaluation Center, motivated in part by the prospect of a burger and soda each, picked up trash along Old US 70 from the Swannanoa bridge to Black Mountain. Cottage parent Ronnie Crane organized the group.

Residents of Highland

Farms once again collected trash along Tabernacle Road. The group, led by Bill Penfound, intends to keep collecting trash there as an ongoing project, according to Highland Farms Council President Katherine Ward.

Members of the Moose Lodge continued putting in hard labor in cleaning out brush and leveling grave sites at a neglected cemetery near Tabernacle Church. Neil Bartlett of the Moose said that some persons have yet to identify graves of relatives so that the Moose can place new markers on them. Truckloads of brush have been removed from the overgrown cemetery, he said.

Black Mountain Boy Scouts collected litter along North Fork Road and from Christmont to Black Mountain on NC9. They have also set up an aluminum recycling collection center at Bi-Lo Food Store.

Staff and employees of Executive Plaza cleaned up

the area around their business and planted sourwood trees on Saturday. The Nostalgia Store and Cherry Street Framery planted flowers, repainted and cleaned up rubble in that business district.

Some persons brought paper to Slagle Union 76 on State Street for recycling. The Order of the Eastern Star has established a permanent recycling collection station there.

The congregation of Macedonia AME Zion Church in Swannanoa was expected to pick up litter in Swannanoa Saturday, but could not be reached by the News.

Bags for roadside litter pickup were donated by Quality Forward in Asheville, which provides programs for the Clean Community System, an ongoing cleanup-beautification program.

The Town of Black Mountain removed bagged trash collected Saturday.

Sourwood fest set for August 9-12

A subcommittee of the Swannanoa Valley Chamber of Commerce last week finalized more plans and set a date for the Swannanoa Valley Sourwood Festival, to be held August 9-12.

Included in the four-day event will be a parade, arts and crafts fair, booths for civic organizations and advertisers, a softball game between civic organizations, square dancing nightly, including a dance in Swannanoa, a golf tournament, a swimming and diving meet, a horseshoe pitching competition, and an ice cream social party sponsored by local businesses.

According to subcommittee chairman Carl Bartlett, the Chamber is considering holding a marathon run from Swannanoa to Black Mountain and a bar-b-que supper as part of the festivities.

Bartlett also said that if the event is a success, the Chamber hopes to hold a formal dress ball next year.

The Black Mountain-Swannanoa Jaycees will be setting up booths used previously for the Medical Center Fair and will rent them to interested parties for the second two days of the Sourwood Days Festival.

Proceeds from the Jaycee booths will go to Muscular Dystrophy.

Board wavers on mixed drinks here

by Clint Williams

One of the two methods of calling for a referendum to decide whether mixed beverages will be allowed within a local ABC district is for the governing body of that district (the Town Council in the case of Black Mountain) to make a request to the Board of Elections. A recent poll of the Black Mountain Board of Aldermen, including the mayor, would seem to indicate that a different route to the referendum may have to be taken, if Black Mountain is to have mixed beverages.

Mayor Tom Sobol said that he had heard a "rumor" that the town council would be receiving a petition requesting a referendum to decide the mixed beverage question. "If

we get a petition," Sobol said, "we're obligated to give the people an opportunity to decide." Sobol went on to say, however, that if there was no request, there would be no action.

Ald. Jim Norton declined to comment, saying that he would like "a little more knowledge on the subject" before making a statement.

Ald. John Klutz took a similar stance saying that it was "too early to have any idea on the thing."

"The only wise way to address the issue would be through the voters," said Ald. Mike Begley. He also said that he would wait to be approached by the people on the issue "rather than have the Council soar-heading it."

Ruth Brandon, the only board member completely opposed to holding a referendum, said that she "would not be in favor of a referendum that would make alcohol more readily available." She went on to say that she would rather do without the revenues proponents of mixed beverages say the new law would bring than contribute to the "downfall of her fellow man."

A.F. Tyson was the only alderman who was in favor of the board asking for a referendum. "I'd be willing to ask the board for a referendum," Tyson said. "I think it (liquor-by-the-drink) is better than brown-bagging."

If the Black Mountain Town Board declines to make a request to the Board of Elections to hold a referendum, a petition signed by 20 per cent of the registered voters within the local ABC

district will have to be presented to the Board of Elections in order for a referendum, allowing the residents of Black Mountain the opportunity to decide whether mixed beverages can be served in restaurants and social establishments to be held.

Calculations based on Board of Elections statistics indicate that 404 names would be necessary on such a petition.

Rhododendron peaks this week

Rhododendron blossoms along the higher elevations of the Blue Ridge Parkway should be at their peak this week, according to Superintendent Gary Everhardt.

"Although there were areas of brilliant color last weekend, we expect the really spectacular displays to develop between June 20 and 25," the superintendent said.

Catawba rhododendron, with its purple blossoms, long has

been one of the major spring attractions along the Parkway. The Craggy ardens area north of Asheville is perhaps the prime viewing area for this species.

Everhardt urged as many visitors as possible to travel the Parkway on weekdays during the peak bloom period. Weekends, he said, usually are crowded and detract from the overall Parkway experience.

ARC: new methods, new results

by Clint Williams

The halls are busy with the activity of class changes. Men and women mingle and socialize as they walk from one lecture to another, or from a session in the arts and crafts center to a group seminar.

In the modern gym there is a pick up half-court basketball game at one end and a volleyball game at the other.

In such a scene one would expect to see young college men and women buzzing in the halls and sweating in the gym. Instead, the characters are mostly in their 30's and up and wearing large colored buttons.

The set is not a college campus but the Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center (ARC) just outside of Black Mountain.

The days of the clients here are filled with a range of activities—educational lectures, group therapy, individual counseling, vocational counseling, exercise periods, and arts and crafts.

According to Opal Grove, the program becomes "more intense as the badge changes color." (The color of the badge indicates the week, 1-4, in the program.)

Each patient or client at the Center is referred to the Center through the Mental Health Department of one of the 38 western counties that the Center serves.

All the clients enter the program of their own free will, although they may be under considerable pressure from their probation officer or spouse. No one, however, is "committed." The authorities at the center can't stop a client from leaving against clinical

advice before the 28-day program is completed, either.

With permission, clients are allowed a four hour weekend pass when accompanied by a family member.

The program, with an Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) philosophy orientation, is designed to "treat alcoholism as an illness—a physical, emotional, spiritual illness. We treat it as a family illness," said Family Program Supervisor Ingrid Adelsbach.

During the first week of the treatment program, the emphasis is on the physical rehabilitation of the client.

Upon admission, the client will spend one to three days in the infirmary to be sure that he or she has been detoxified. Antabuse, a drug that has no side effects unless administered with concurrent use of alcohol, is prescribed to each patient. Each client also goes on a vitamin program. Alcohol flushes vitamin B out of the system and many of the clients who come to the center have beriberi, a disease caused by a deficiency of vitamin B, Adelsbach said.

Although an exercise program continues throughout the 28 days, for the second, third and fourth weeks, the emphasis is on the emotional and spiritual healing of the alcoholic, she added.

The program attempts to deal with the "human ecology" of each client and not just deal with the patients isolated needs. The concept of family counseling to aid treatment of the alcoholic is relatively new at the ARC. When the Center abandoned its psychiatric approach last August to adopt

the A.A. concept of treatment it concerned itself with treatment of the family as victims of the alcoholic and as a means of helping the client.

"Helping the family recover is helping the patient in the long run," said Ms. Adelsbach.

The "after-care" program at the ARC includes referrals to the client's local mental health department, referrals to continuing education programs and referrals to the local A.A. chapter. A prescription for antabuse is also given each client to

discourage consumption of alcohol after the patient leaves the center.

The center also holds reunions in the spring and fall of every year. "Approximately 300 former clients attend the reunions," said Mrs. Grove.

treatment by the center seems to have brought about a change in effectiveness.

"The clients that come in here now, if they can't make it they're not going to make it at all," said a departing client who had been in alcoholic rehabilitation centers five times before. "The way they"

got the program set up now, you can learn something."

"When I left here in '73," he continued, "the way they explained it to me all they were doing was making you feel good for 28 days. So, I got drunk before I left here, waiting for the bus. That's how much I got out of it."

The client went on to say that with the new approach, he "learned more in the first two days that I all the previous times I came."

"If anybody leaves out of here now without the right intentions, it's not the center's fault," he said.



Black Mountain Boy Scouts make the best of their part of beautification. (Dan Ward)

Avondale plant here closes

by Dan Ward

Avondale Mills Black Mountain plant will discontinue operation in mid-July, according to a memo sent to plant employees in late May and confirmed only last week by Avondale management.

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Donald Comer of Avondale's Alabama office, via a memo to Divisional President Greg Mullins of the Asheville office, confirmed that the plant, now

employing 33 persons, would be closed within a month. The Avondale Outlet Store will continue to operate, Mullins said.

Black Mountain Office Manager Kenneth McMahan said last week that he had not received confirmation of the plant closing, and that the decision was to be made last weekend in Alabama. Mullins, however, said that the decision to close the plant had been made earlier and

employees were notified in May.

Prior to announcement of the closing, the plant had employed approximately 45 persons. Prior to closing of another department in March 1977, the plant employed 130.

According to Comer's memo, issued to employees, some employees will be absorbed immediately into the Asheville knitting plant. The memo also notes that Avondale plans to employ more at

that plant in the future as it places additional emphasis on growth of the knit business. Additional persons now employed by the Black Mountain plant will be offered an opportunity to work at other Avondale plants or will receive assistance in obtaining other work, the memo states.

The Black Mountain plant building will be used as a warehouse for Avondale Mills, Mullins said.



Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center staff meet for programming. (Clint Williams)