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Poll shows pro-drink 2-1

by Clint Williams
A random telephone and street survey of people who live within the Black Mountain city limits, and would be eligible to vote in the September 12 mixed-beverage referendum, revealed a surprising trend in the attitudes of potential voters. Although the sample survey was not large enough to be considered conclusive, the almost two-to-one margin favoring mixed drinks may indicate a 180 degree swing in the political climate compared to 1973. Slightly over 59 per cent of those questioned said that if the referendum were held today, they would vote in favor of allowing mixed drinks to be served in restaurants eating more than 36 and social establishments. Nearly 40 per cent of those questioned were opposed to

mixed drinks and one per cent were undecided.

Perhaps the most significant figure in the poll was that 64 per cent of those questioned did not vote in the 1973 state-wide referendum in which state-wide liquor-by-the-drink was defeated by a two-to-one margin.

Of the three restaurants in Black Mountain that could serve mixed beverages if the referendum passes on September 12, two of them will probably do so in the future. "As far as I know," said Frank Gibbons, co-manager of the Red Rocker Inn, "we'd be for liquor by the drink. If we could obtain a license, we would."

Peter Kirk, manager of the Epicure, said that he "would love to have it," but the cost of hiring a trained bartender and setting up his restaurant to

serve mixed beverages would delay his installing liquor by the drink if the referendum passes.

The manager of the Coach House, M'Della Knight, said she would have to wait before she would comment.

Hunt due for I-40 dedication

Governor Jim Hunt took part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony signaling the formal dedication of I-40 from southeast of Swannanoa to US-70 east of Black Mountain on Wednesday, July 19. The

segment was opened to traffic on June 30 prior to the July 4 holiday traffic.

The ceremony, scheduled for 1:30 a.m. was held 1 mile east of NC-9 and 1 1/2 miles west of Ridgecrest.

North Carolina Transportation Secretary Tom Bradshaw, who presided at the ceremony, said, "The early completion of this project reflects the Governor's commitment to construct east-west corridors linking the mountains to the piedmont and the ports. We view this important link as a vital element in attracting additional tourism and trade to the western part of the state. In addition," Bradshaw concluded, "we owe a special thanks to Asheville Paving Company and A.B. Burton and Company for their cooperation in moving ahead to get the job completed."

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 Company. Total construction cost of this project was \$12.5 million.



Storm clouds gather over the In-the-Oaks Golf Course. (Charlie Taylor)

Six rescued from apartment fire

Black Mountain firemen were called on to carry out a rescue of six persons from the smoke-filled upstairs apartments at Monte Vista Apartments early July 18 morning. A fire, apparently started by a cigarette dropped on a sofa in apartment 3, on the first floor, spread the upstairs apartments to become filled with smoke. Firemen Jerry Hains, Tim Rayburn, Pete

Post and Steve King awakened sleeping tenants on the second floor and led them from the building shortly after arriving at 2:21 a.m. No injuries were reported. Two trucks and 22 men responded. Damage from fire and smoke was estimated at \$1200 to \$1400, according to Chief Gary Bartlett. Bartlett said that it was

fortunate nobody was injured by smoke inhalation in the incident, and said that damage and danger could have been reduced if smoke detectors had been installed in the building.

Black Mountain firemen made one other run last week. On July 10, two engines and 22 men responded to a fire in a dryer at Ridgecrest Boys Camp.

Second well planned

Black Mountain Town Manager Mack Kirkpatrick said Tuesday that approval has been granted by the Swain County Health

Department for the town to drill a second well on town property behind Pizza Hut on US 70. Kirkpatrick said that a

second well is needed because the first one, recently drilled near the 17 green at Black Mountain Golf Course, produces only 25 gallons per minute.

Drilling of wells to supplement water supplied by the town's reservoir was approved by the Black Mountain Town Board as a means of heading off a water shortage similar to the one suffered last summer. Kirkpatrick said that he is taking bids for drilling the second well. The first was drilled by Cauldwell Well Drilling.

A high-speed automobile chase involving the Black Mountain Police Department ended in the arrest of two youths the evening of July 14. The chase ran along Flat Creek Road and Old Toll Road, with both cars traveling at 70 to 80 miles per hour, according to arresting Det. D.

by Clint Williams
Millions and millions of years ago, the surrounding Blue Ridge Mountains towered higher than the present day Rockies. Wind, water, glaciers, and time slowly broke the mountains down. Through the eons, pieces of the mountains migrated downward, traveling with immeasurable slowness and undeniable certainty. Many of those rolling stones stopped and gathered moss on a piece of

property off of McCoy Cove Road known as "Blue Heaven". About three years ago, Charlotte LeVine discovered that her property was listed as an area with concentrated deposits of kyanite and blue corundum in a geological survey published by the state of North Carolina in 1958. Until then, the only indication Mrs. LeVine had that her property contained mineral deposits was the midnight

chipping of clandestine rock-hounds. "People would come while we were away and chip away at the large stone the children used as a stepping stone to get on our horses," said Mrs. LeVine. The stone she referred to is a miniature monolith that lies in her rock garden in her front yard. It is now about half its original size, according to Mrs. LeVine. Mrs. LeVine's research into

the mineral deposits on her property, after she found out that they were there, revealed that more than a dozen different minerals could be found on her property. Among the minerals found on the grounds of "Blue Heaven," Mrs. LeVine's nickname for her mountain retreat, are the precious minerals kyanite, garnet and blue corundum — better known as sapphire. Mrs. LeVine's niece, Judy Leffe, shared her interest in the new discovery and went into searching and researching full force.

"The insurance man really didn't give her (Mrs. LeVine) a good feeling about having people here," said Mrs. Leffe. The legal and financial liabilities of a commercial operation made the project impractical for the residents of "Blue Heaven". And there were a aesthetic considerations.

"I wasn't sure if I wanted to open a mine and commercialize this area with all the tourists. It's such a lovely, lovely area," Mrs. LeVine said. There was still another reason the mining project wasn't pursued.

"We don't want to go out there and dig ditches and holes trying to find a rock. It's hard work! Who wants to do it?" Judy Leffe exclaimed.

Hard work, liability, and more importantly, the desire to preserve something more precious than any mineral — privacy and natural beauty — has kept Mrs. LeVine from exploiting the mineral deposits found on her property. The rock-hounds may grieve, but for Mrs. LeVine, the riches of "Blue Heaven" are not found in the dirt.

Two arrested after chase

R. Ramsey. At one point in the chase, the two cars ran along side of each other, alternately forcing the other car onto the shoulder of the road. Walter F. Tipton, Jr., 16, was charged with reckless driving, failure to yield to a blue light and misdemeanor

possession of marijuana. Riding in the car with Tipton was Jame Howard Stafford who was charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana. On July 15, the Black Mountain Police Department issued seven citations, and made two arrests for DUI last week. The department received 282 calls.

of Phentermine. In the course of serving the warrant, police searched the vehicle of Owenby and found a misdemeanor quantity of marijuana. Black Mountain Police investigated three accidents, issued seven citations, and made two arrests for DUI last week. The department received 282 calls.

Swannanoa Fire

The Swannanoa Fire Department made only one run last week.

Two trucks and 14 men responded to a false alarm on New Salem Road on July 17.

Bead craft journeys here from 5000 BC Egypt

by Dan Ward
Image — An Egyptian artisan, his skin bronze and

glistening in the sun, squats over a flat stone rolling a faintly striped clay worm,

cutting it afterwards into beads, which he strings for baking in a primitive kiln.

The year, 5000 B.C. Another image — Black Mountain native Kay Cole, rolling the same dull clay on a wooden table at the Cherry Street Framery. The minerals are the same, the technique is the same, but Kay makes use of a modern electric kiln.

"There is something about beads that appeals to everyone. One time, a man in his 70's bought a string, took off his tie, and put them around his neck," she said. The uniqueness of the Egyptian beads, Kay said, is the fact that no paints or glazes are used to give them their shiny, bright colors. Different minerals mixed in the clay turn color and salts in the mixture melt to form a natural glaze in the firing process. "To get different blues, I add different amounts of cobalt carbon, for purples, I add manganese dioxide," she gave as examples. After she rolls the beads from pre-mixed batches of clay in labeled containers, she

strings them on wire to dry. The salts that form the glazing rise to the surface and give the beads and pendants she makes a powdered appearance. At that stage, there is no way of telling which will be a red bead, or a striped bead, or a yellow bead, or whatever.

The brilliant products that emerge from the kiln defy their drab origins. Kay has been making the beads for over two years, and now travels regularly to craft shows throughout Western North Carolina selling them. She didn't have to go to an Egyptian to learn the art. "I was staying on the Outer Banks, and I became friends there with a girl who made the beads. She showed me how to make them. "She came to the mountains during the summer for a visit. She told me then she wanted to sell the kiln and supplies — she was going to graduate school. "I bought them, not knowing

if I'd make 10 beads or 10,000," she said. Tens of thousands of beads later, Kay is glad she left alcoholic counseling to become a full-time bead-maker. "This part is tedious, mixing the ingredients. Producing beads gets to be old. The fun part is putting them in jewelry — trying to come up with something different. "I put them in earrings, necklaces, wall hangings, mobiles... I want to start putting them in silver, but that's an expense I'm not ready for," she said.

A member of the High Country Crafters and the Toe River Crafters group, Kay finds herself meeting with, and being inspired by, crafters and craft fans throughout the area. "I think the thing I like most about working with beads is meeting people at shows. Not knowing who I will meet has been exciting. People have been really nice," she said.

Valley phone book set

Officials from Southern Bell unveiled plans to publish a Valley-oriented telephone directory to community representatives at a dinner meeting held July 13 at the Red Rocker Inn. The new directory would

place listings for Black Mountain, Montreat, Swannanoa and Ridgecrest at the front of the book and include Yellow Page listings of Swannanoa Valley businesses separate from those of the metropolitan Asheville area.

Local merchants would also be included in the Yellow Pages of the Asheville directory. The books distributed throughout the Valley would have two white page sections and two Yellow Page sections. The first of each of these sections would be devoted exclusively to the residences and businesses of the Valley.

Street dance

set for Saturday

A street dance sponsored by the Town of Black Mountain, has been planned for Saturday evening, July 22, according to Black Mountain Recreator Keith Osteen. The dance, to begin at 7:30 p.m., will be held on Richardson Boulevard between State and Sutton Streets.

The Stoney Creek Boys will play Bluegrass square dancing music. An exhibition will be given by the Pisgah View Ranch Dancers. Wolford Johnson will call. There is no admission charge. Another dance has been scheduled for August 19, Osteen said.

The cover of the new phone book would depict a scene that pertains specifically to the area served by the directory. Because of the restricted circulation of the new book, advertising rates for area merchants in the first section of Yellow Pages would be approximately one-third the rate currently charged, according to Bell officials. The representatives present seemed very receptive to the proposal and Montreat Ald. Andy Andrews and Black Mountain Ald. Michael Begley pointed out that the new directory could be the "vehicle to pull the Valley's communities together."

