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Thursday, August 10, 1978, Vol. 24, No. 42

BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

DEVOTED 100% TO OUR COMMUNITY — THE GROWING SWANNANOVA VALLEY

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Rain eases drought, Asheville settlement soon

by Dan Ward

Heavy rain last week removed the need for voluntary water rationing, but failed to bring Black Mountain reservoir level up to normal, according to Water Superintendent Al White. "It's still 51 inches down from the top. The rain helped out, but didn't help all that much. The streams (feeding the reservoir) are up some," White said.

Before rains last week, the water level was six feet below the top. Last summer, when mandatory rationing was

enacted, the reservoir had dropped to 13 feet below the top.

White said that part of the reason the town is relatively well off following the driest July since the '20s is that the water department installed a second pump in the collection pond below the reservoir to pump additional water back into the storage system. Following last week's rains, the lower pond is overflowing, White said.

"Having two pumps is helping us through what could have been a crisis by the end of the week," White said. He

added that a request for voluntary cutbacks in water use had little effect on consumption last week.

In other events concerning water, White said that the well recently drilled on the Black Mountain Golf Course is producing more water than two earlier estimates predicted.

Tests made last week showed the well capable of supplying 40.7 gallons per minute, or about 15 per cent of Black Mountain's needs. Earlier tests showed the well capable of only 25 to 35 gallons per minute.

White said that the pump and chlorinator for that well should be installed by the end of next week. A proposed site for a second well on the golf course near Homer's Chapel Church has yet to be inspected by the county health department, White said.

Mayor Tom Sobol, in the meantime, said he will meet with Asheville city officials in what he hopes will be the final meeting to settle a trade-off involving a water bill owed to Asheville and Asheville's use of Chestnut Cove runoff belonging to Black Mountain.

Black Mountain incurred an \$18,000 water bill with Asheville last year when Asheville water was used to supplement the drought-stricken town.

Also at issue is Black Mountain's water rights to Chestnut Cove — water that flows into Asheville's North Fork Reservoir. Sobol said that Asheville engineers constructed a dam and measured water flow from Chestnut Cove over the past weeks to determine how much runoff is at issue. Results of that study are expected to be the key to negotiations between the two municipalities. Sobol said that negotiations have been friendly and cooperative, and that whatever agreement is reached, with Asheville City Manager Ken Michaelove is expected to be approved by the Asheville City Council.



A turtle dodges raindrops in a Black Mountain flowerbox. (Dan Ward)

Two arrested for theft

Two Black Mountain youths, Greg White, 19 and Ricky Reeves, 17, were arrested Saturday morning by Capt. Robbie R. Yates and Officer Ronnie Halford of the Montreat Police Department for larceny of a pocketbook and wallet containing approximately \$4,000 in cash, checks and jewelry belonging

Doris Davis of Charlotte, Montreat Police reported.

The pocketbook and wallet were taken from Anderson Auditorium in Montreat on July 29. Officer Nick Neville of Montreat Police recovered the empty pocketbook from a creek in Montreat on the morning of the larceny. The wallet, with only partial

contents was recovered from Lake Tomahawk August 5 by Frankie Williams, scuba diver with the Black Mountain Fire Department, where the youths had reportedly tried to dispose of the evidence.

White was released on \$3,000 bond, while Reeves was held in Buncombe County Jail under \$1000 bond. Det. Don Ramsey of Black Mountain Police assisted Montreat Police in the investigation.

Police did not know why Ms. Davis carried so much money with her to the program.

A Black Mountain man has been charged in the theft of a car on August 2.

Walter F. Tipton of Black Mountain was charged with DUI, no license tags, and possessing stolen property by McDowell County Police approximately two hours after the car was reported stolen from Steve Thorpe. Black Mountain Police also charged Tipton — with auto theft.

Black Mountain Police received 261 calls last week. They issued seven traffic citations and arrested two for DUI, including one who was driving a tractor. They recovered one stolen bicycle, investigated three traffic accidents and assisted Sheriff's Police in issuing a warrant.

Buckeye Cove, Montreat in beauty judging

Montreat and Buckeye Cove will be judged August 8 in the Buncombe County Beautification contest.

The judges will be Charles Norman, Max Osteen and Judy Schlaefer. They will spend 45 minutes in each community reviewing the efforts of those communities in improving the appearance of roadsides, mailboxes, picnic areas, parks, buildings and individual homes.

Three communities will be selected as having made the greatest improvements during the past year. The first place winner will be judged in area competition which includes all of Western North Carolina during the last week in August. The community selected as

having made the most progress will receive a \$100 cash award. Second place winner will receive \$75, and third place \$50.

The contest is sponsored in Buncombe County by the Community Development Club Council and the Buncombe County Agricultural Extension Service and on an area basis by the WNC Development Association.

Crash report not in

Fire Chief Gary Bartlett said that results are not yet in from an investigation made by the American LaFrance Corporation into the cause of

Street. That ceremony will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday. Those persons in charge of registration for the following schedule of events are: horseshoe pitching — Bill Ricketts at the Nostaleia

Store; Open Market — Ron Morrow; Swim Meet — Black Mountain Pool; Sourwood Marathon Race — Black Mountain Police Department; and Skate Board Contest — Steve Minnick.

WEDNESDAY — AUGUST 9

Golf tournament:
8 a.m. starting time. All day at the Black Mountain Golf Course.

Old Depot:
All day. Art and craft displays, music, craft sales, and demonstrations.

Sourwood Parade:
4:30 p.m. Begins at Black Mountain Athletic Field and ends at WNC Shopping Center with free ice cream for the kids at Cherry Street afterwards. Over 25 units, 11 floats, horses, wagons, antique cars, etc.

Street Dance:
7:30 p.m. Swannanoa Ingles Shopping Center. Rock and square dance music.

THURSDAY — AUGUST 10

Old Depot:
All day. Arts and crafts demonstration and sales.

Horseshoe Pitching Contest:
Cherry Street parking lot.

Street Dance:
7:30 p.m. Cherry Street in Black Mountain. Rock and square dance music.

FRIDAY — AUGUST 11

Old Depot:
All day. Arts and crafts sales and demonstrations.

Fair Grounds:
Jaycees Open Market. Funds go to fight Muscular Dystrophy. All day at Primary School in Black Mountain. Food, games, crafts, exhibits.

Swim Meet:
Black Mountain Pool. Different age groups.

Horseshoe Pitching:
Cherry Street parking lot.

Street Dance:
7:30 p.m. on Cherry Street. Rock and square dance music.

SATURDAY — AUGUST 12

Sourwood Race:
7 a.m. 4.6 miles from Swannanoa to Black Mountain. By age groups. Jr. Women's Club will have refreshment booths along route.

Fair Grounds:
Jaycees Open Market. Funds go to fight Muscular Dystrophy. All day at Primary School in Black Mountain. Food, games, crafts, exhibits.

Old Depot:
All day. Arts and crafts.

Skate Board Contest:
10 a.m. Ages 7 to 19. Three groupings at Black Mountain Primary School.

Awards Presentation:
4 p.m. at Cherry Street. For all events held during week.

Family craftsmen rate own shop

by Dan Ward

It isn't uncommon to have enough cooks in a family to open a restaurant. Nor is it odd to have enough carpenters in a family to start a contracting business. However, having enough artisans in a family to open a craft shop is a distinction that the Martins of Swannanoa only may be able to claim.

While some of the crafts on display at Driftwood Den, across from Beacon Manufacturing, are from non-Martins in Swannanoa, Black Mountain and Hendersonville, the main attraction is definitely things made by the descendants of the late Marcus Martin, one-time state fiddle champion and one of the finest fiddle-makers in the Blue Ridge.

Elaine Early, a granddaughter of Marcus, operates the little shop.

"I've always been interested in crafts and always done them. There's so much talent in the family that I felt should be displayed and sold. There's always local people who want to get one of Edsel's birds, or one of Fred's dulcimers, or something and can't get it," she said. Elaine, herself, creates totem paintings — paintings on wood or metal — that hang along walls of the shop.

Edsel and Fred Martin are two of Elaine's uncles. Edsel, who now lives in Old Fort, is

nationally renowned for his hand-painted birds he carves out of boxwood. The birds are so detailed and life-like that the Smithsonian Institution in Washington asked him to carve a series as a national keepsake. Edsel also makes — and plays professionally —

traditional mountain dulcimers.

"I have some of his birds here and his dulcimer music album. I hope by the end of the week, I have some of his mountaineer carvings," Elaine said.

Edsel's wife, Elsie, makes

wood snaving flowers that are sold in the shop.

Fred, whose daughter, Joyce Moore, and granddaughter, Kristy Moore, also contribute crafts to the shop, is also a woodcarver. His specialty is dulcimers he makes at his home in Swan-

nanoa. He also makes cast silver jewelry ranging from a "Carter peanut" to a cast of a mountaineer's face carved by his brother Wade.

Wade, beside being an accomplished carver of figures of mountain people and animals, is also a dulcimer maker. His son, Bruce, makes carved birds like Edsel's for the shop, which his daughter, Nancy Jo, paints.

Joyce Moore makes wooden flowers and paintings of mountain people for the shop, while her daughter, Kristy, 15, makes paintings, painted-rock animals and yarn animals.

Elaine's sister and brother-in-law, Ginger and Rick Hall, make hydrocol molds, a sort of plaster cast. Elaine's son, Darrie, 15, contributes Christmas cards and ornaments to the homespun variety.

Being off the beaten track doesn't seem to hurt the Driftwood Den, which Elaine opened in April.

"To start out, most of them (customers) were locals, but now they are mostly tourists who come through," she said. "The reaction's been good," she added — so good that Asheville-Buncombe Technical Institute will sponsor craft classes there this fall.



Darrie and Elaine Early (Dan Ward)