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Even in black and white, the change of leaf color can be seen after last week's frost. (Dan Ward)

WNC Hospital care to change

by Dan Ward
Employees of WNC Hospital in Black Mountain were advised last week to begin training for a transition at the hospital from care of respiratory diseases to care of the mentally retarded by Dr. Sarah Morrow, secretary of the Department of Human Resources.

Morrow told directors of the state's specialty hospitals October 6 that WNC Hospital will be phased down to a 50-bed unit for tuberculosis (TB) in-patients, while the satellite unit of the Western Carolina Center, now occupying 40 beds, will be expanded considerably.

According to Jack Ellison, administrative director of the hospital, reaction among the 274 employees was mixed. "The immediate reaction was relief that the hospital would remain open. There is some wondering of 'where I will fit in', though," Ellison said he was mainly happy that Morrow chose to utilize the facilities for state health care and that she placed first priority on placing present hospital personnel in new positions that will open at the satellite unit.

Morrow, in a memo to employees, said that training for the new position will be given to any employees who desire it, and that they will be given first consideration for the new jobs.

Ellison said he did not know how many employees would be kept on for the reduced respiratory facility. The hospital contains 215 beds, 40 of which are now used by the satellite unit and 90 by the respiratory unit. With reduction of the respiratory unit, a total of 165 beds could be utilized for care of mentally retarded.

Town re-applies for grant

by Dan Ward
The Black Mountain Town board voted to take another shot at a Community Development Grant to install new water lines in Cragmont and upped its settlement offer to a family whose house was destroyed by a fire truck at its regular meeting October 9.

before it can re-apply. Sobol said that, in view of pressure put on HUD when only 4 per cent of grant funds in North Carolina went to the western half of the state, Black Mountain and other western municipalities may have a better chance of being awarded grants. If the town to install new water lines and fire hydrants is approved, the town would stand a better chance of receiving other grant money, including funds for a new storage reservoir through the Appalachian Regional Commission.

In that session, the board agreed 4 to 1 on a new settlement offer to the McMahan family that Sobol called "substantially increased" over a previous offer of approximately \$17,000. Ald. Ruth Brandon opposed the figure, saying she thought "the couple should" receive more compensation.

Norton and Ald. John Klutz that the town buy from a local dealer, and a suggestion from Ald. A. F. Tyson that a better price may be negotiated locally, the board voted to advertise for new bids. The board also gave Town Manager Mack Kirkpatrick permission to buy a back-hoe attachment for the water department at a cost of \$3049.

On Sobol's recommendation, the board agreed to make a decision on funding the program at the regular November meeting. Kirkpatrick told the board that, contrary to reports by Asheville media, Black Mountain is not buying Asheville water. He said the water level in the reservoir is down six feet, and water is still being pumped from the lower collection pond. He said Black Mountain did buy water from Asheville for three days in June while a pump was repaired.

State Transportation Secretary Tom Bradshaw has announced that checks totaling more than \$33.5 million have been mailed to 452 municipalities in North Carolina for local street construction and maintenance. The monies make up the 1978 allocation of state street aid (Powell Bill) funds. Black Mountain, with 27.02 of eligible miles of streets, received a check for \$59,557.09 for street repairs. Montreat, with 11.75 miles of eligible street miles, received \$15,473.02.

"The checks were prepared," explained Secretary Bradshaw, "on the basis of the allocation formula prescribed by the 'street aid legislation.' The formula reflects the population of the community and its local street mileage. "This year's sum of \$33,502,142.52 is the largest amount ever returned to North Carolina communities under the Powell Bill provisions. In fact, it is nearly \$1.5 million more than last year's record disbursement," Bradshaw added.

Funds, the largest single check went to the City of Charlotte. Charlotte's allocation of \$3,813,424.29 was based on a population figure of 306,230 and a local street mileage figure of 1,117.76. Of the total amount allocated as part of the Powell Bill Funds, 75 percent is proportioned among the municipalities on the basis of population and 25 percent on the basis of non-state system local street mileage. Each municipality furnishes its own certified local street mileage

and the population figures are the most recent annual estimates of population as certified by the North Carolina Department of Administration. The smallest check distributed under the act went to the municipality of Caswell Beach, Brunswick County, which will receive a check for \$839.21. Caswell Beach will receive its share of the Powell Bill Funds based on a population figure of 70 and local street mileage of 0.21 miles.

New test causes concern for some

by Dan Ward
When it was announced that Buncombe County Schools ranked above the state average on a trial high school competency test last year, Owen Principal Charles Lytle was hardly gleeful with the results.

percent higher than the state average on the trial competency test, now required for graduation. In Buncombe County, 32 out of 100 students failed the math segment of the test and 9 out of 100 failed the reading segment. "We were just about where Buncombe County was," Lytle said.

years. Many times that number will be left behind if the trial test last year is any indication. Owen juniors will have their first of three chances to pass the test November 1 and 2. Even when they pass the test, the students will have to fulfill the school requirements of 18 hours credit and passing grades on required courses.

of the new math we went through — I think that was one of the primary causes. "Surprisingly enough, lower grade children now are doing well on math," he said. The competency tests deal only with the most basic math and reading in day-to-day situations — reflecting what Lytle and other educators regard as "survival skills" in American society.

The fact that many students have not mastered the most basic skills suggests they may not have been tested enough on the basics before moving on to other work, Lytle said. He said that classes in remedial reading and math are now taught after normal school hours four days each week at Owen. Teachers are also stressing basics needed to pass the competency test in regular math and English classes now, he said.

Montreat water meeting set

by John Abernethy
When the Montreat Board of Commissioners meet Monday afternoon for the regular October session, they will hear an interim report from the Water and Sewer Negotiating Commission. The town council will be advised that the Montreat Management Council will delay further discussions until after the N.C. Attorney General has made a ruling on the appeal now in his hands. That decision could seriously affect the process of negotiations regarding the transfer of the Water and Sewer system from the Mountain Retreat Association to the Town of Montreat.

The board also will hear a report regarding the completion of the Texas Road Extension bridge, which already is being used by residents who live in the area. There will be discussion about road repair scheduled before the onset of winter weather. The Board of Commissioners usually meets the second Thursday each month, but the meeting was rescheduled when it was found that a quorum could not be present. The meeting will begin at 4 p.m. Monday in the Board's usual meeting place in Gaither Hall. Visitors are welcome.



Victor Hall, pastor of the Bible Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, and Mel Perry, pastor of the Grace Bible Presbyterian Church in Nashville, Tenn., picket the Montreat gate in protest of Billy Graham's trip to Communist Poland last week. The two said Graham is playing to propagandists who use his visits as an example of freedom of religion behind the Iron Curtain. (Dan Ward)



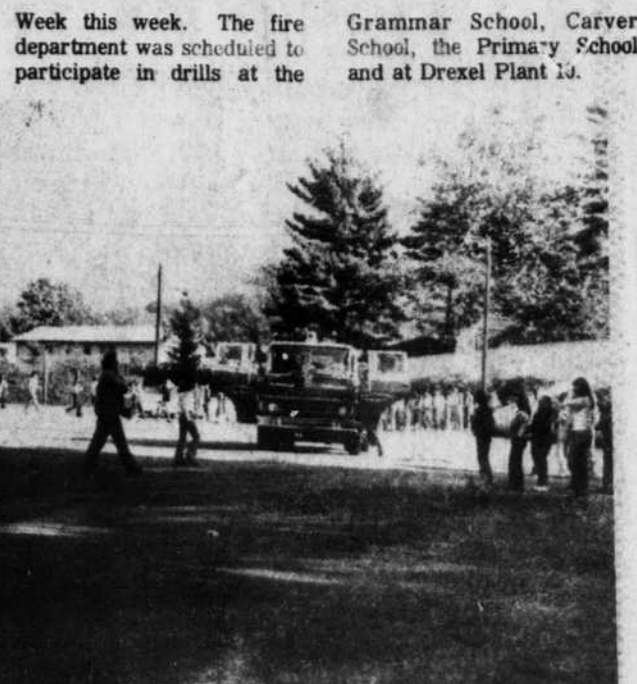
'This is one of the best things to ever happen' — Lytle

first, third, sixth and ninth grade students. "Those tests will do as much good as the competency tests, because now we'll know all along how well they are doing. I think we'll see an end to social promotion," Lytle said. One of the greatest advantages of the testing will be that parents who had formerly thought they had no part in their children's education will now have to take a more active role in seeing that school work gets done if the children are to graduate, Lytle said. "I think more parents are concerned now, but how they are getting involved I'm not sure," he said. He said one place that parental help is needed is in discouraging absenteeism.

"I think one of the dangers of testing is that everybody will tend to make everyone else a scapegoat," Lytle predicted. "I don't think that should be a basic concern — I think we should all just work together to make it work."

Fire drills held

A series of fire drills were scheduled to be held in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week this week. The fire department was scheduled to participate in drills at the Grammar School, Carver School, the Primary School and at Drexel Plant 14.



Black Mountain Grammar School, with the Black Mountain Fire Department, holds a fire drill during Fire Prevention Week. (Dan Ward)