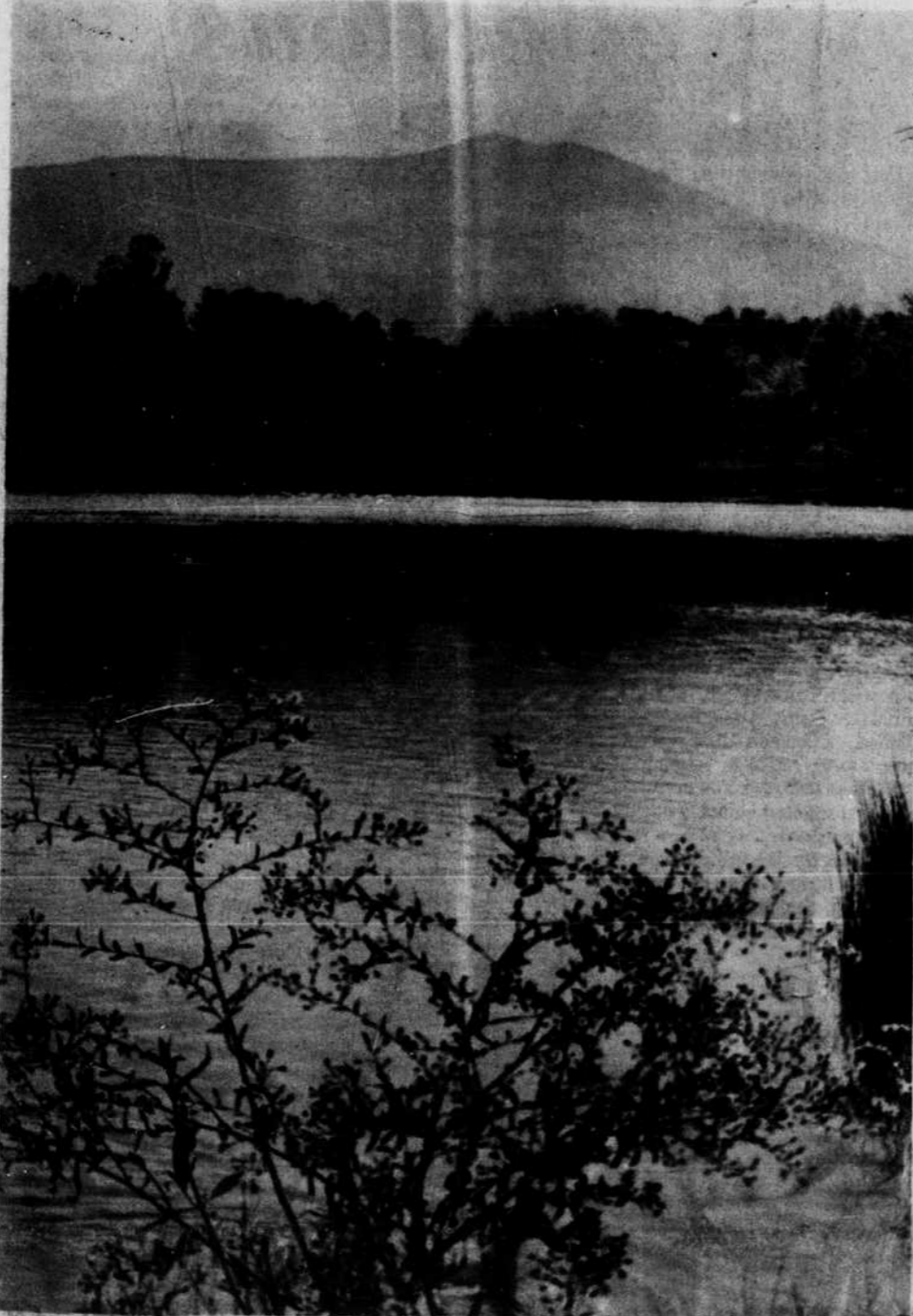


Reservoir funding discussed

Black Mountain Mayor Tom Sobol met with the local Government Commission officials in what he termed a "very encouraging" discussion on alternative funding of a one-million-gallon water storage reservoir for the town, should a pair of grant applications now pending fail. State and federal health authorities have warned that the town will have to build the reservoir within the next few years or face penalties. The town has applied for an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant of up to

\$460,000 to build the reservoir. That grant is hinged to the passage of a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to install new water mains in the Cragmont Community. That grant was rejected once, but is up for re-evaluation in December.

Sobol said it is still early to discuss the particulars of the alternate funding, but said the possibilities include obtaining state Clean Water Bonds or selling municipal bonds at a reduced rate to the Farmer's Home Administration.



A late-blooming bush finds a beautiful backdrop at Lake Tomahawk. (Dan Ward)

Last suspect sought for armed robbery

Sheriff's Police were expected to arrest this week the last of four persons suspected of participating in the armed robbery of Ward's Drug Store at WNC Shopping Center October 24.

One person, Warren Lloyd Phillips, 21, of Swannanoa remained at large Tuesday. Arrested to date are Lonnie Howard Fox, 27, of Black Mountain, charged with armed robbery; Debra Gragg Effler, 18, of Swannanoa, charged with accessory after the fact; and Carmie Hensley, 25, of Asheville, charged with armed robbery, and other counts of armed robbery and

breaking and entering stemming from earlier incidents.

According to a sheriff's spokesman, "a large quantity of hard drugs and several hundred dollars in cash" were taken in the holdup Tuesday by two men wearing ski masks and carrying semi-automatic rifles. Although no rifles have been recovered, cartridges for an M-1 rifle were confiscated in the arrests, he said.

Hensley has been released from jail on \$53,000 bond. Fox and Effler are still being held, he said.

A November trial is expected.

Burning ban in effect

A burning ban is in effect for the Swannanoa Valley until a significant amount of rain falls, according to a fire department spokesman. In spite of under-dry conditions in the forests around the valley, Black Mountain Firemen had only two brush fires to put out last week. Two engines and 12 men

were called to put out a brush fire October 23 on I-40 west. On October 26, one engine and 18 men put out a second brush fire behind Hardee's on Old US 70.

Minor damage was reported from a car fire on Craigmont Road October 24, and again from a car fire on Broadway October 23. One engine and 10

men and one engine and 16 men responded, respectively.

Minor damage was reported after a grease fire at the Gary Propst residence on Portman Villa Road October 27. One engine and 19 men responded.

The Black Mountain Fire Department ambulance made one emergency run last week. The county ambulance made eight routine, two emergency and one unneeded run last week.

Local man charged with food theft

A Black Mountain man has been arrested and charged with breaking and entering and larceny in connection with two burglaries of the Epicure Restaurant last month.

Gregory Paul Blanchard, 20, has been charged with entering the restaurant through a rear door October 9 and again on October 20 and

taking an undetermined amount of food and some cash.

Black Mountain Police investigated three accidents last week, including one in which Gary Dean Messer, 20, of Black Mountain suffered a broken arm. Police received 370 calls last week.

Coming next week

30 years ago...

Watch for it!

Med Center applies for new doctors

Because of a recent study by the National Health Service Corps, the Swannanoa Valley Medical Center may soon have two or three new doctors, and be on its way to providing around the clock medical service, according to Tom Hildebrand, chairman of the center's Board of Directors. According to Hildebrand, a recent study by the corps resulted in Black Mountain and Swannanoa Townships being classified medical services "manpower shortage areas."

"What this means is that they will help relocate young doctors here as a way to let them work off student loans," Hildebrand said. Under the program, two or three new doctors would be established at the medical center, and will work under the guidelines set by the board of directors. Salaries for the doctors would be set by the National Health Services Corps, and would be paid through the corps by the medical center, who would bill the patients. Hildebrand said an offshoot of the program would be

controlled by the board of directors of when the doctors take vacations, the type of services they perform, and a requirement that the doctors agree to be on call for night emergencies. With the medical center retaining control of the office space, rather than renting it to private practices, the opportunity will arise to institute various community health service programs in cooperation with state and county departments, Hildebrand said. He said that under the

program, the recent medical school graduates would work for two or three years on salary, and then be free to set up private practice—preferably within the community designated as a manpower shortage area. "I'm told that there is no hang-up on the medical center's application for doctors," Hildebrand said. "We should hear something in 30 to 60 days." The board of directors were scheduled to meet November 2 at the center at 4 p.m.

Cutbacks asked, but water holding

Despite water shortages from lack of rain throughout the mountains, Black Mountain's reservoir has been holding steady at just over eight feet below capacity, according to Town Manager Mack Kirkpatrick.

"Last weekend and the one before, it really pulled on it, with everyone here to see the leaves and all," Kirkpatrick said. "But it was held at 8 foot 2, 8 foot 3 below the top since then."

Kirkpatrick said that there are no plans to invoke mandatory cutbacks in water use, as happened this time last year.

"I wish people would conserve, but I don't want to invoke the ordinance. Of course, if we had a pipe burst and had to use Asheville water, we'd have to use the ordinance passed by the Town Board last year to regulate what water could be used for in event of a shortage."

Kirkpatrick did ask that Black Mountain residents cut back on water use voluntarily in case of such an emergency, in view of a recent cutback appeal to users of Asheville water.

One reason that the town has kept up with demand is that the pump installed on a new well at the golf course has been in operation since last week, Kirkpatrick said.

That well has been producing 57,000 gallons per day, with the exception of three times when electrical problems caused the pump to be shut down. The house for that pump was completed last week.

Leaves Kirkpatrick noted that the town is now collecting leaves from those who call Town Hall for pickup. He said that persons who wish to have leaves picked up should pile them on the edge of the lawn

and remove all brush, which will not go through the vacuum. He said persons should not put leaves in the ditches. When the leaf fall becomes heavier, the town will establish a pickup schedule, Kirkpatrick said.



A Black Mountain employee checks the pressure on the new pump at the golf course. (Dan Ward)

City cow queen of the fair

by Dan Ward
Kiwanis Lisa Queen, better known as Clarisse the Cow, is

an individual Vally residents can be proud of — a local cow that won a first place in

statewide 4-H competition, a fifth overall in state and sported the second best

costume. What makes Clarisse all the more special is that she was raised in town.

Although her owner and trainer, Lisa Bishop, an Owen senior, lives with her family on a small farm that straddles the Black Mountain Town Limits, country ways are not new to her. Having grown up on a farm in Tennessee, and having shown horses since she began riding at 13, Lisa is not new to raising farm animals. But Clarisse is her first cow — and a champion at that.

"We got her through 4-H from a farm in Leicester. She has Biltmore bloodlines," Lisa said of the hefty Jersey heifer. "Through a program at the Black Mountain 4-H Club, Lisa received the Jersey as a calf free of charge, with the provision that when Clarisse gives birth, one heifer calf or two bull calves be given to the 4-H for other young farmers to raise. Lisa plans to have the 16 month-old heifer bred soon for her first calf."

Clarisse's showing at the State Fair recently surprised even Lisa, whom the heifer obeys and follows like a puppy. "I was competing against

all these handlers from the big farms and all. I couldn't believe it," she said. Lisa and Clarisse came back from a first place in the 4-H senior heifer class to take a fifth state-wide in the senior calf class for Jerseys.

In between, Clarisse charmed the judges in a harem outfit made by Lisa's mother, but took a second place to a swaggering calf dressed as the town drunk that bribed the judges with moonshine in the costume competition — a contest that only Western North Carolina 4-H members entered.

Lisa said she feels that her experience in showing horses helped her face the pressure of state competition. Her family owns eight horses, all of which graze with Clarisse on the farm on High School Road.

Horses, in fact, are the main interest of the Black Mountain 4-H Club, better known as the Mountaineer Horse Club, which meets at the Bishop home the first Tuesday of each month.

But Clarisse isn't worried about taking a back seat to the horses. She knows that even though a city-slicker, she's queen of the Jerseys.



Comments by the school board that water damage at Black Mountain Primary School has not caused safety hazards were challenged last week when a ceiling tile fell in a downstairs classroom. Students were at the other end of the room at the time. (Dan Ward)