

BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

DEVOTED 100% TO OUR COMMUNITY — THE GROWING SWANNANOVA VALLEY

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Water 'critical,' new well to be drilled

by Dan Ward
Water—too little, too dirty, and unpaid for—topped the subjects for action by the Black Mountain Town Board November 13 at its regular meeting.

Town Manager Mack Kirkpatrick told the board that an increase in consumption last week placed the town's water supply at "the critical stage," and said the town may have to begin purchasing water from Asheville soon.

"Fourteen days ago, conservation was working well," Kirkpatrick told the board, "but now we are down 11 feet, 6 inches." He said consumption has risen from 22,000 gallons per day to 33,000.

Kirkpatrick told the board that an additional well could be drilled on the golf course and in operation in about a week. The well would utilize the existing chlorinator and well house there, and would cost up to \$9500 to drill and put in operation.

The board voted to use money from an account set aside to install water lines on North Fork Road from Azalea to Montreat Road to pay for a new well. Money remaining will be used to fund installation of pipe from Azalea to Holly on North Fork, with the remainder to be done in second stage.

Mayor Sobol noted that Black Mountain's water may have to be supplemented with Asheville water by Friday, and asked that persons cut back on water use until the new well is producing.

As an unintentional reminder of the cost of buying Asheville water, Sobol said he had approved payment of an \$18,600 water bill to Asheville for water purchased during the drought over a year ago. The town had held up paying the bill while negotiations were under way for compensation from Asheville for water flowing into North Fork Reservoir from Chestnut Cove watershed, for which Black Mountain has water rights.

Sobol said it was decided in meeting with Asheville officials that the outstanding water bill and negotiations for water rights should be treated as separate issues.

Ald. Mike Begley said that former Mayor Dick Stone has offered his services in negotiations with Asheville on the water rights. Begley said there would be no charge, and that Stone would be acting in an advisory function, having been familiar with the issue since the '60s.

Clean Water Representatives of the Land-Of-Sky Regional

Council gave the board a presentation on the goals of the 208 Plan for clean water. Under the plan, all levels of government would work with citizen committees to end water pollution and to establish a goal of swimmable, fishable water by 1983. Bob Purcell and Sherry Montgomery, representing the council's water quality division, asked that the town endorse the plan.

Endorsing the plan would not obligate the town to any spending, but only to support of the plan and an agreement to pass and enforce ordinances required to meet the goals, Purcell said. Part of the plan includes passing an estimated \$60 million in Clean Water Bonds for Western North Carolina — much of which would go toward establishing the Metropolitan Sewage District as an area-wide treatment system. 75 per

cent of the bonds would be financed by the Environmental Protection Agency, and 25 per cent by state and local funding.

The board agreed to study the plan, and make a decision on whether to endorse it at the next meeting.

McMahan Settlement
The board heard from John McMahan, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.E. McMahan, whose house was destroyed by a Black Mountain Fire truck in August.

McMahan told the board that his parents could not accept the latest offer given them for damages in the accident — \$20,741. He told the board that the expense of putting a modular home on the site, at Blue Ridge Road and Old US 70, has come to \$28,438.

That amount, he said, did not include personal loss to him or his sister for assisting their parents, nor did it cover the

loss of income to him for the last three months, when he missed work to supervise demolition and rebuilding.

McMahan said he would be willing to settle for \$30,000 from the town for real damages, and medical expenses for injuries his parents suffered as a result of losing their home and living in the trailer provided by the town.

Sobol told McMahan the board would meet again soon and submit another offer to his parents.

HUD Grant
Sobol said that the deadline for submission of Community Development grants from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has been moved from March to January 1.

He said the board will have to meet in special meeting by the end of November to call an additional hearing for

resubmission of a grant application to install water lines and fire hydrants in the Cragmont Community.

Horses and Donkeys
One of the more unusual and lighter items of business was a petition from Theodore Douglas and 36 other residents of the Cragmont Community complaining of the smell, noise and "reproductive actions" of several horses and a donkey kept within the town limits on West College Street.

Sobol said he has researched the town ordinances and found that while pigs and goats are prohibited within the city, no mention is made of horses. He did say that the owners of the animals may be charged under ordinances dealing with unclean stables, stables too close to housing, and disturbing the peace.

An element of humor was injected after Ald. Ruth Brandon, a Republican,

suggested donkeys be outlawed in the town limits. Ald. Jim Norton jokingly charged the alderwoman with playing politics on the non-partisan board.

Sobol suggested that Police Chief Craig Slagle warn the owners to remove the animals or be charged under existing ordinances.

Sidewalks
Kirkpatrick told the board that sidewalks had been completed on Cherry Street, Montreat Road and Church Street. He said that between \$200 and \$1000 remains in the Cherry Street allocation.

Ald. A.F. Tyson said that as soon as the remaining amount is determined, he would like to see the remainder spent to complete as many additional feet of brick sidewalk on Cherry Street as possible.

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Part one—

Volunteerism thrives at valley schools

by Dan Ward
Something positive has happened in our schools in the last few years. It hasn't cost the taxpayer a cent more. In fact, it may have been aided by the defeat of a bond issue aimed at hiring more teachers.

Gene Delliner, principal of Black Mountain Grammar School, said the phenomenon is a positive backlash to the generation gap of the '50s and '60s.

The phenomenon is volunteerism. More parents and interested citizens are spending two hours a week in Swannanoa Valley classrooms than ever before. And the help they give goes beyond fund-raisers and athletic boosting. Parents are working in roles once reserved for teachers, such as reading and math instructors and librarians.

"I think volunteerism is the way to overcome overcrowded classrooms — I'm tired of hearing about overcrowded classrooms," said parent volunteer Landy Qualls, a former teacher herself who commutes with her child from Enka to Carver School each day.

Carver Optional School, as one might expect, is a sort of showcase for volunteerism. Out of 54 households represented at the school, there will usually be 20 adult volunteers at the school each

day, according to Mrs. Qualls. Virtually every parent has turned out for special events such as building a playground or producing a play. Without volunteers, the open classroom concept could not work at Carver, she said.

While in-school parent aid is not as overwhelming at other valley schools, it is thriving. At Swannanoa School, a group of parents and grandparents in the PTA established a student bookstore on their own initiative. The closed-turned-stationer, manned by volunteers, has proven to be a huge success.

Besides getting children involved in running a small business and saving parents the inconvenience of leaving work to buy school supplies, the two-for-a-nickel eraser shop has shown a considerable profit. And those who want to work directly in education are welcomed, according to Principal Bill Williams. "We heavily use those who are available — mostly in the primary grades," he said. Beside 18 parent volunteers, the school will have 25 Warren Wilson College students, Owen students, and upper grade Junior Beta Club members helping teach remedial reading and math.

Do teachers at Swannanoa School feel their authority is threatened by sharing teaching duties? "If I had five student teachers next quarter, I'd

have 20 teachers running after them," Williams said. To emphasize the point, he held up a card passed to each teacher asking if he or she would like volunteer aides. Each name had "yes" written after it.

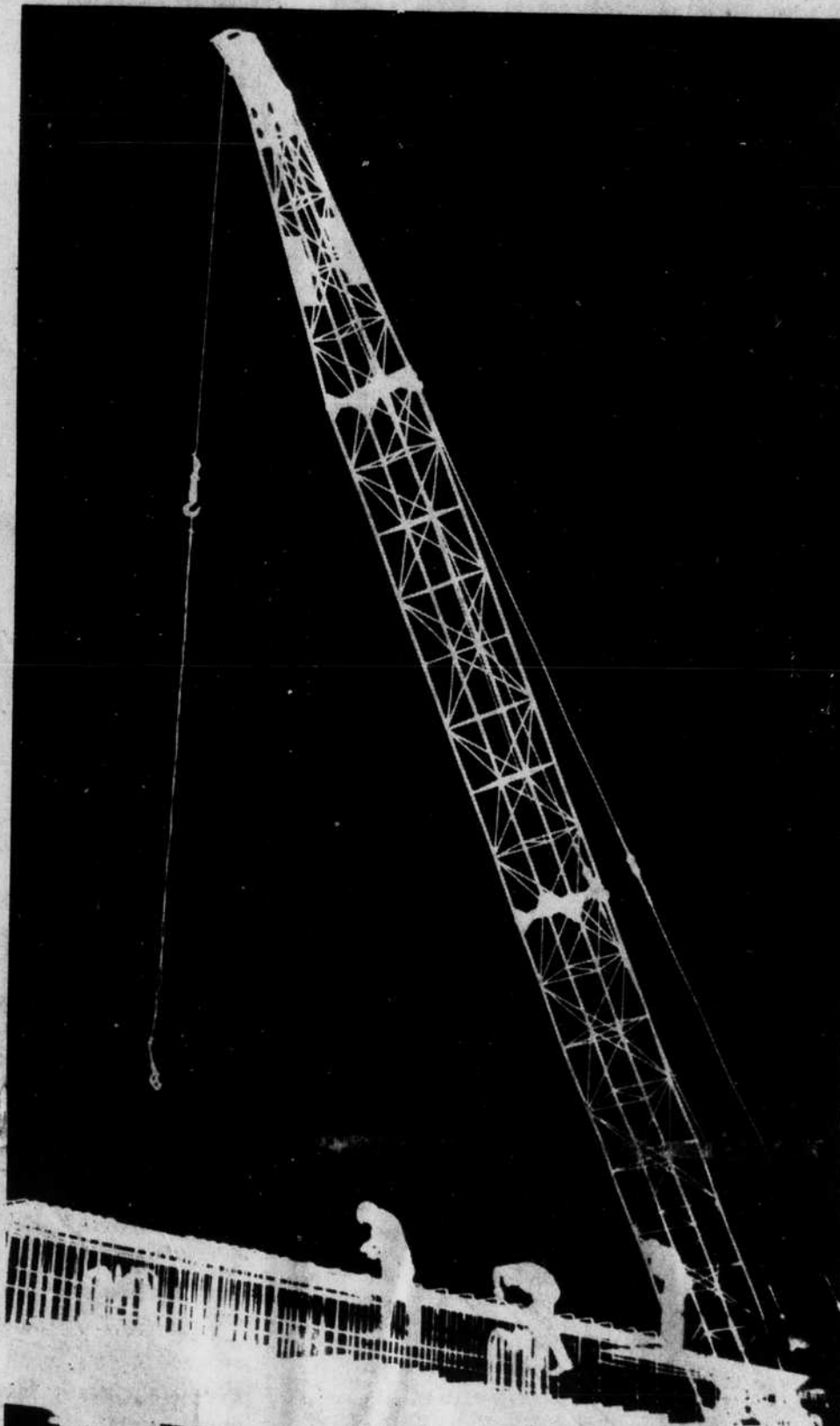
Black Mountain Primary School began actively seeking volunteers only a month ago. From a beginning of 10 parents then, there are now 20 who are working with small groups or individuals on reading. Another 15 shouldered the annual school fund raiser.

Jerry Green, principal of the Primary School, said the volunteer program has started off on a cautious, but optimistic footing. While

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Parent volunteers average two to a classroom at Carver. (Dan Ward)



A reversed photo of construction on the bridge across I-40 in Ridgecrest is a study in geometric shapes. (Dan Ward, graphics by Taylor)

Ashley to leave Retreat post

Monroe Ashley, executive director of the Mountain Retreat Association says he will seek a less public, more academic post after completing four years at the helm of the association on September 30, 1979.

Citing his experience thus far with the Association as "instructive, productive and fulfilling," Ashley stated that "vocational and other personal considerations" led to this decision. The continuing good working relationship with the Association's Management Council was

affirmed both by Ashley and the council's chairperson, Charles W. Bell of Greenville, SC.

The Rev. Ashley was profuse in his praise for the Mountain Retreat Association's staff. Together their prime responsibility is operation of the Montreat Conference Center. This work is carried on under the ownership and auspices of the Presbyterian Church in the United States. Ashley came to his present duties in October, 1975. He entered the four-year term of

office with a varied background — pastor, college chaplain, management consultant, camp director and conference center promotion director. He grew up in Greenville, SC. He is married to the former Roberta Harris of Brevard.

The Ashleys reside on Virginia Road in Montreat, along with their three children — Matt, John and Allison.

The Mountain Retreat Association has an 81-year history in Montreat as an agency for conferring. It fostered early development of

that community, giving life to Montreat-Anderson College and the development of the Town of Montreat. Today its primary work is the Montreat Conference Center, and it still owns and operates the town's water system.

Ashley expressed the hope that the next 10 and one-half months would see orderly changeover for the association and a fruitful time as he and his family re-orient. To this he pledged "full measure of loyalty, enthusiasm and hard work."

Election '78—Voting here in line with county

by Dan Ward
If voting patterns in the Swannanoa Valley show anything, it is that voters here went with the majority in the November 7 elections.

In only one race, for U.S. representative to the House, did voters here disagree with the majority. A sub-total of all precincts from Broad River to Asheville gave Curtis Ratcliff a 175 vote majority over incumbent Lamar Gudger. However, if only votes from the Owen School district are

used, Ratcliff led the Democratic congressman by only four votes here.

Perhaps the most surprising outcome in voting here came in the three contested seats for school board. In spite of a last minute campaign by parents to oust incumbents from the Erwin and Reynolds districts, results were close. Official tallies for the valley show those incumbents, Russell Knight and Rueben Caldwell, losers by less than 80 votes

each. The N.C. Board of Elections as of Monday, was still checking figures in the race between Caldwell and Bruce Dean Pike from the Erwin and Reynolds districts, results were close. Official tallies for the valley show those incumbents

still checking figures in the race between Caldwell and Bruce Dean Pike for the Erwin seat to determine a winner or call for a new vote.

The Swannanoa Valley, with the exception of two precincts, also fell within a state-wide average of 55 to 60 per cent voter turnout.

Those exceptions were Black Mountain precinct 3, where 77 per cent went to the polls, and Broad River, where only 47.7 per cent turned out.

Although heavy voting in Black Mountain's third precinct would indicate heavy voting for Lacy Haith, the only Black and only Republican

running for state representative, the challenger did no better there than in most precincts, where he lost miserably. Most of Black Mountain's Black community lies in precinct 3.

Haith, as well as all Republicans, did best in Broad River, carrying the majority in that small precinct. With the exception of U.S. Sen. Jesse Helm's bid for reelection and Ratcliff's challenge to Gudger, all other

precincts went overwhelmingly in favor of Democrats.

x denotes incumbent

NC Senate				NC House				US Senate		US House		Clerk of Court		Sheriff			
Black Mountain 1	252	233	197	185	282	282	288	286	177	290	285	317	249	281	171	285	213
Black Mountain 2	249	231	157	154	266	275	311	267	132	247	231	258	223	258	133	279	173
Black Mountain 3	308	261	206	205	352	377	398	367	181	367	306	354	313	352	160	410	177
Black Mountain 4	199	180	219	206	273	277	304	226	172	267	306	243	286	245	161	302	170
Broad River	37	33	62	58	40	35	38	38	62	38	91	39	478	34	63	33	82
Riceville	303	289	355	358	384	396	385	409	294	347	478	335	506	389	280	481	307
Swannanoa 1	139	143	130	139	153	167	176	155	122	155	194	158	202	158	113	187	155
Swannanoa 2	396	362	337	340	499	488	497	440	283	440	415	429	436	450	259	534	295