

The publisher, editor and staff of  
the Black Mountain News wish our  
friends throughout the Valley  
a very Happy New Year!



# BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

Dedicated to the growing Swannanoa Valley

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Folks brace for the winter months ahead as snow caps the peaks and cold pulls thermometers down. This scene looking south from Black Mountain shows clouds rising from the mountain tops leaving a blanket of snow on tree limbs and

ground. A mixture of weather from sleet, to snow to rain, and from cloudy skies to clear, and from near zero to the forties had us all guessing this past week. There's still promise of a mild winter.

## Flashing warning signs to replace trucker stop on Old Fort

by Cynthia Reimer

Information signs and flashing warning signs will replace the trucker information stop atop Old Fort Mountain within the next couple of weeks, according to Bob Hopper, supervisor of the Western District License and Theft Division of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Signs have been constructed and are ready to be erected, Hopper said, "provided the weather holds." Signs to be erected between Ridgecrest and the station on top of the mountain will include information signs showing the location of the sand pits, speed limit and other information. On the east downhill side of the mountain, special signs will flash if a trucker goes over the 35 mile per hour speed limit, Hopper said. Signs will also tell truckers to use the shoulder of the highway to cool off overheated brakes.

The information station was opened last September to provide around-the-clock information on the mountain for truckers. Hopper said that the manned information station was a temporary measure until the signs could be made and erected. Old Fort Mountain has claimed over 20 lives in the past seven years.

State and federal Department of Transportation personnel, the trucking industry and law enforcement officers

met about six months ago to discuss safety measures. "The consensus was," Hopper said, "that signs and flashing lights were the desired tool to get information to truck drivers."

When the signs are erected, Hopper said, "I'm sure our people will stay

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When the signs are erected, Hopper said, "I'm sure our people will stay

there until we're sure they are operable."

If the warning system is not effective or sufficient, Hopper said that other measures would be taken.

## Drunk driver causes Montreat woman's death

A Montreat woman and an Asheville man were killed in a head-on collision Dec. 23 on I-40, one mile west of Swannanoa.

Julia Neville Codington, 29, of Long Circle, Montreat, and Orman David Ponder, 40, of 63 Bellevue Road, Asheville, collided in the eastbound lane and were both killed on impact, according to Highway Patrol reports. Both cars were destroyed in the crash.

Reports stated that Miss Codington was traveling east in the eastbound lane of I-40 at about 12:45 a.m. when her 1979 Honda was struck by Ponder's 1977 Pacer which was traveling west in the wrong lane. Reports indicated that there were no skid marks.

Both drivers were alone in their cars. There were no witnesses to the accident.

According to reports, Ponder was intoxicated when the accident occurred.

Miss Codington was born in Kobe, Japan. She grew up in Korea and was a graduate of Cornell Nursing School, New York City. She recently spent

three years as a medical missionary in Bangladesh.

She was a nurse at Memorial Mission

Hospital in Asheville and was returning home from there when the accident occurred last Tuesday.



The quiet, gentle nature of Julia is captured in this 1970 photo taken by her friend Harrietta Turner. Perhaps her sudden death seemed untimely, yet Julia had given more of her life to others than most give in seventy years or more. She had prepared well through college and nurses training and then went out to serve as a medical missionary to Bangladesh. Returning here she worked as a nurse at Memorial Mission Hospital. Julia Neville Codington will be missed by the many she has so willingly served.

## Drunk drivers present hazards during New Year's holidays

It's two a.m. on New Year's day and spirits are soaring as part of the group breaks into yet another chorus of "Auld Lang Syne."

Is anything wrong with this holiday picture?

Not yet, but there easily could be if one of the drunken revelers decides to drive home. According to the National Safety Council, drinking is a factor in about half of all fatal traffic accidents. In 1979, 25,000 Americans died as a result of motor vehicle accidents involving drivers who had been drinking.

National Safety Council shows also that during last year's New Year's holidays, 493 persons lost their lives in traffic accidents and 21,700 suffered disabling injuries. The Council predicts that this year 420 to 520 persons will lose their lives and 19,000 to 23,000 will be injured during the holiday weekend. To help insure that your happy holidays are safe ones as well, here are some suggestions.

... If you decide to drink and drive,

know your limit and stay below it.

... If you go to a party with someone else, one of you should either not drink or should restrict the drinking to insure a safe return.

... Do not drink on an empty stomach.

... Eat something while you are drinking.

If you are hosting a party this year, the Institute offers these tips.

... Provide a non-alcoholic punch or eggnog for those who either do not drink at all or are choosing not to drink because they are driving.

... Provide snacks or hors d'oeuvres so that your guests will have something to eat while drinking.

... Be prepared to either put up guests for the night or to provide alternate transportation for those who should not drive.

Following these suggestions should enable you to ring in the New Year in both a merry and accident-free manner.

### Police and fire report

## Police have cases under investigation

### Black Mountain Police Department

Another break-in at the Grammar School occurred December 23. The building was entered through a classroom window. Desks were rummaged through, as were storage closets in the principal's office. Police found some evidence at the scene and the case is under active investigation. Another break-in at the school was reported on Dec. 21.

On Dec. 27, a Volkswagen was broken into on Avena Road while the owner was away from home. Tools were stolen from the vehicle. Also on the 27th, a break-in occurred at the Pizza Hut. Police found footprints and fingerprints and have the case under active investigation.

Officer Allen Willet apprehended three juveniles in a stolen car on Dec. 26.

The parents of a young woman, Carolyn Simpson, who was reported missing from Black Mountain on August 1, request that anyone having any information on her whereabouts or disappearance contact the Black Mountain Police Department, 669-8072.

### Black Mountain Fire Department

On Dec. 23, Black Mountain firemen assisted the Swannanoa fire department at a car accident on I-40 at 12:52 a.m.

On Dec. 24 and 29, the fire department was called to extinguish fires in sawdust at Biltmore Woodworking.

A house fire at the Mike Tavener residence at Oak Knoll on Old U.S. 70 caused approximately \$200 damage on Dec. 27. Hot ashes fell on leaves igniting a woodpile, which in turn set the house on fire, according to the report.

A fire in a trash can brought firemen to the Black Mountain Post Office on Dec. 23. No damage was done by the fire, the report stated.

A car fire was extinguished on Dec. 24 at the Juvenile Evaluation Center.

Firemen also answered five false alarms at Highland Farms and the WNC Hospital.

### Rushes traffic light

I had stopped for the traffic light at the intersection of Dougherty and State Streets. A shrub on my left completely blocked vision from the west, so when the light changed I carefully inched ahead. Sure 'nough, some guy ran the red light, and was hugging the curb so close he almost got me.

A police car was coming up State Street from the east and was preparing to turn into the station parking area. I'd like to commend this officer for being alert, and pulling across to block this dangerous driver.

Getting stopped by the police may have been the best New Year's citation he's ever gotten. (T.V.M.)

I've been around the Valley these past few days and have seen some real close-out, pre-inventory sales. Hope you don't miss out. Do some shopping around and you'll probably find everything you wanted right here at home.