

Bee Tree Community Watch success

by Bert Livingston

Active Community Watch Programs can lead to other benefits as important to the community as the added neighborhood security, according to Bill Sites, president of Bee Tree Community Development Club. A group organized to start a Community Watch Program soon found other community projects that would benefit from their attention.

The club was created in the fall of 1979 with assistance from the Crime Prevention Squad of the Buncombe County Sheriff's Department. Residents of upper Bee Tree Road and Summer Haven are pleased to report no major break-ins or vandalism losses occurring since the program was set up in 1979.

Several factors are credited with contributing to the success of the Watch Program. More than 30 orange and black signs warning of Community Watch participation by property occupants continue to be displayed prominently. Highway signs at points of entry where community watch protection is practiced are also thought to be effective in the community's freedom from criminal activities.

Community Watch participants say that programs with color and sound movies presented monthly by members

of the crime prevention squad assist greatly those taking part in the program. These training sessions have included instruction and distribution of printed materials on subjects ranging from effective measures for making property more secure to recognition and handling of dishonest door-to-door sales and money-raising schemes.

Community Watch members discovered other community issues and projects to work on and the Bee Tree Community Development Club became an outgrowth of the Community Watch Program.

Closing of an unauthorized garbage dump and trash landfill on property adjacent to state-maintained Bee Tree Road, and continuing work to get rid of environmental problems and other problems created by the dump have been principal projects of the club.

A study of effects upon the community of a proposed return of Bee Tree Lake to the city-county water system is also in progress under club sponsorship.

Persons or groups interested in establishing Community Watch Programs are invited to contact John Heatherly, Crime Prevention Squad, Buncombe County Sheriff's Office.



The Cowbell Hollow String Band will present an evening of old-timey "fiddle 'n' banjo" music at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, January 21 in the Kittredge Community Arts Center at Warren Wilson College. The public is invited. Admission is \$2.

Montreat water exceeds turbidity limit listed by EPA

The Mountain Retreat Association, Inc. reports that analyses of water samples taken in September, October and November showed a turbidity concentration above the maximum contaminant level listed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Mike Queen, director of operations at Montreat, described turbidity as the solid particles in water, such as minerals, that chlorine can't take out.

"I guess what it really is, is dirt," Queen said, "but it's clean dirt."

The solid particles are gathered when the water goes through the soil of the watershed and into the reservoir, where some of the particles settle out.

Montreat is working to correct the problem, Queen said, by drilling six wells which will eliminate the use of a reservoir. The town will vote on a water bond referendum January 15 that, if passed, would fund the updating of the entire water system.

The system is currently owned by the Mountain Retreat Association but will be purchased by the Town of Montreat to be eligible for federal and state grant monies.

There is no conclusive evidence that turbidity alone causes disease or sickness in humans, Queen said, but it can interfere with disinfection of the water. The N.C. Health Department is satisfied as long as progress is being made, Queen said.

"Lots of towns and cities have the same problems," Queen concluded. "I think people used to call it 'hard water'—minerals and things."

New winter usage record set by CP&L customers

Customers of Carolina Power & Light Co. set a record winter demand for electricity on the CP&L system on January 5. Their usage peaked at 6,063 megawatts between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m.

That peak surpassed the winter record set February 5, 1980 when customer usage hit 5,809 megawatts, said Mack Clark, CP&L's manager of system operations.

The new winter peak demand is less than the all-time peak demand on the CP&L system of 6,139 megawatts set on August 5, 1980.

CP&L serves more than 725,000 customers in a 30,000 square mile area.

Trade-in time for tired tags

Has your car license plate seen better days? Is it hard to find an uncrinkled corner to put the 1981 sticker on? If so, the Motor Vehicle Department will swap you for a new one, free of charge.

To get a replacement, bring the old tag to the licensing office at Westgate Mall in Asheville. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To avoid long lines, don't go at lunch time, and do go within the next couple of weeks.

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Cannon agrees to purchase Beacon

Beacon Manufacturing Company in Swannanoa received word last week that Cannon Mills Company of Kannapolis will purchase Beacon from the National Distillers and Chemical Corporation.

Otto G. Stolz, chairman of the board of Cannon Mills Company, announced that Cannon has executed a "definitive agreement" with National Distillers and Chemical Corporation for the purchase

of the assets and certain liabilities of Beacon, National's blanket manufacturing division.

Approval by boards of directors of both companies and regulatory approval is expected to be completed by March 1, according to Herb Coman, Beacon Manufacturing's employee relations director. "We assume there will be no hitches," he said.

Cannon had agreed to purchase

Beacon a year ago, Coman said. "We thought it was finalized a year ago, and then it was dropped," he said.

Coman said that he was pleased to hear of the sale and that he expected few changes in the company under the new owner. The name will remain Beacon Manufacturing Company, he said, and the plant will continue to manufacture and merchandise blankets.

No report of the financial agreement

between Cannon and National was available.

Cannon Mills Company is a major manufacturer and merchandiser of cotton and synthetic household textiles, decorative fabrics, knitted apparel fabric, yarn and other textile products. The Company has 19 manufacturing plants in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, and 13 regional sales offices throughout the United States.

Town Council

Dunsmore Dam 'Unsafe'

The Dunsmore reservoir dam is unsafe, according to a study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the National Dam Safety Act of 1972.

A December letter to Town Manager Hudgins from the Corps of Engineers called the situation "nonemergency." The Phase I study report, done by Golder Associates, Inc., stated that, "The hazard classification is 'high' under both State and Federal criteria."

The Phase I report showed that slope instability was noted on the downstream slope of the dam, that the lower third of the same slope is soaked by seepage; and that the spillway system is inadequate.

At a Town Board meeting Monday night, Hudgins stated that spillway replacement alone could cost between \$75,000 and \$125,000.

The Ridgecrest reservoir was completed in 1935. Alderman Tyson expressed surprise that after nearly 50 years of hard rains, floods and "freshets," the spillway should now be found "inadequate."

The purpose of a Phase I study is "to identify . . . dams which may pose hazards to human life or property." There are, according to the report, two lakes and three houses downstream between the dam and I-40. Black Mountain is located two miles downstream.

Hudgins said that a follow-up study by an engineer for the Town will be required to find the source of the seepage at the base of the dam and to find a means of stopping the seepage. Other corrective action will include upgrading and enlarging the spillway and fortifying the lower lake.

The aldermen expressed hope that the repairs could be delayed until the three new wells planned can be dug, when the lake would not be critical to the Town water supply.

Town Council agreed to hear engineer Bob White at the February Town Council meeting. Prior to this, aldermen will visit the reservoir to observe conditions.

Revenue sharing
Also at the Monday night Town

Council meeting, Mayor Sobol reported that the Town had received its first revenue sharing check for the year. The \$10,000 was not budgeted and represents "a little extra to work with," according to Sobol.

Sammons Communication

John Howell, regional manager for Sammons Communications, appeared before the Town Council to state the company's plans for the next year.

Beginning some time this summer,

Sammons will extend cable service to East and West Pearl Streets, Taft Street, North Fork Road at the North Fork Apartments and out past Daniel Lane, Cragmont, Goldmont, Greenbriar Road, Forest Lane, Carolina Heights and other areas.

Howell said a map showing all proposed new lines will be available at the Black Mountain office in about three weeks.

Crime at lake

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Kids with guns menace to lives and property

Kids with guns are becoming something of a problem in Black Mountain according to Jim Dolan, detective for the Black Mountain Police Department. Irresponsible youths have shot out house windows, car windows, killed cats, squirrels, rabbits and a pedigreed Airedale dog.

The curly-haired male dog, Colby, was a friendly animal, a pet to golfers on the golf course as well as the pet of a loving family. On Dec. 16, about 11:30 a.m., a Coke delivery man heard a shot and saw Colby crawl onto the golf course.

Colby died later that day at the veterinarians' of internal injuries from a gunshot wound.

A young man admitted off-the-record to Dolan to having shot Colby. He said it was accidental—he had only meant to scare the dog away from his female dog.

Workmen at the golf course report burying several small animals they found shot on the golf course.

Several persons have come to the police recently to report finding dogs that have been shot, or to report their own dogs shot, some with BB guns.

"Apparently there is a lot of indiscriminate shooting going on," Dolan said. "If any parent is going to buy a gun for a child, they should teach him how to use it." A target or targets in a

safe place should be provided for the child to practice on.

There is a state law and a town ordinance against firing a gun in the city limits. So, besides behaving cruelly and dangerously, the youngsters are breaking the law.

Dolan said that it is possible that police will set up a target practice range in the future.

Commissioners say keep manned station

Don't remove the manned warning station from Old Fort Mountain, was the plea of the McDowell County Board of Commissioners last week.

A resolution unanimously passed and signed by Paul Richardson, chairman of the Board of Commissioners, stated, "It has been proven on two occasions that a manned warning station at the top of Old Fort Mountain . . . has been effective in preventing accidents and in saving lives."

The warning station is scheduled to be replaced by signs and flashing warning lights this month.

Montreat to receive \$248,770

Dr. Sarah T. Morrow, secretary of the N.C. Department of Human Resources, and Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. announced that state grants of nearly \$5 million for water projects have been made to 29 local governments across the state. The Town of Montreat will receive a grant of \$248,770.

These grants were made under the provisions of the N.C. Clean Water Bond Act which permits grants of up to 25 percent of the total eligible costs for approved water supply systems projects to assist in their construction.

Grants are based on priority ratings and the total amount of funds available annually. To date, under this act and the one preceding it, 1,010 applications have been received and 794 grants representing nearly \$135 million in state funds have been awarded to water projects, with a total cost exceeding \$700 million.

About one and a half years remain for making grants under this program. Applications are processed quarterly. The next announcement of grant awards will be made in early April.