

Black Mountain Library
105 H. Dougherty Street
Black Mountain, N.C. 28711

Buncombe unemployment up in Dec.

While the unemployment rate in North Carolina remained at its November level of 6.5 percent, the Buncombe County rate rose from a November level of 5.8 to 6.4 percent. North Carolina registered 4.8 percent unemployment in December, 1979. (The Asheville area was the only metropolitan area to show increased unemployment during December, rising from November's 6.0 percent to 6.4 percent.)

Three counties, Union, Orange and Chatham, showed unemployment rates equal to or below 4 percent for the month. Union County had the lowest rate of 3.6 percent, down slightly from November's 3.9 percent. Orange County registered 3.7 percent, also slightly below last month's 3.9 percent.

Chatham County experienced the greatest reduction in unemployment during the month, dropping from November's 5.6 percent rate to 4.0 percent in December. Last December Chatham County had an unemployment rate of 3.5 percent.

Elaine Russ, of the Silver City Job Service office, said, "I think this

reduction may just be due to a combination of small things, such as improved weather conditions allowing construction to start up, small rehiring and recalls. It's probably just a fluke because jobs seem to have really dried up. I don't believe it signifies any coming improvements."

Swain County again experienced the highest county rate of unemployment during the month with 20.6 percent for December. The rate, up from November's 17.6 percent and last December's 10.9 percent, reflects seasonal unemployment aggravated by continuing plant closings in the area, according to Paul Guy, manager of Bryson City's Job Service office.

"We've had three plants close, one large textile plant to partially close, and a lot of temporary layoffs, and unemployment in neighboring counties does not allow them to absorb our excess workers," Guy said.

"I think though that this may be the peak since there is some construction work coming in and I expect things to improve some in February and March."

Coming your way! Welcome these young citizens into your home as they represent their school clubs in selling subscriptions to the Black Mountain News. They are earning funds for projects in the FHA, Beta Club and Library Club, while offering you an opportunity for a new or renewal subscription.

Club officers look over the latest issue of THE BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS.



BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

Dedicated to the growing Swannanoa Valley

Thursday, February 5, 1981, Volume 28, Number 67

Second class postage paid at Black Mountain, NC 28711 **25¢**



Old Fort Mountain was the site of a large traffic delay Friday when jackknifed semis blocked the highway, cutting off traffic for hours in the morning snowstorm.

(Photo by Paul Folse)

Weather... and more weather

Weather was the news for the weekend in the Western North Carolina mountains.

Schools closed in the middle of the morning Friday and children wasted no time in dropping pencils and books for sleds and snowballs.

Beginning about 8 a.m., the storm left Black Mountain with about 4 inches of snow, the first real accumulation of the season.

Some businesses remained closed for the day. Basketball games and meetings were cancelled. Jackknifed tractor trailer rigs caused the closing of I-40 on Old Fort Mountain, resulting in long lines of cars backed up for miles and hours.

Cars skidded and spun on the streets of Black Mountain, Montreat and Swannanoa. Tempers flared when vehicles blocked streets and highways and the Sheriff's Department reported incidents in which fists flew.

Black Mountain snowplows made the season's debut. Sanded and salted, the roads turned to soup, and cars that crept to work sloshed home.

Sunday morning brought another weather surprise—ice. More car accidents resulted though none were serious. Slippery sidewalks brought 25 calls to the Buncombe County Ambulance Service Sunday morning. Unable to keep up with all the requests, the Ambulance Service sought aid from

area volunteer fire departments.

A traveler's advisory remained in effect until well into Monday morning, Groundhog Day—when, of course, the sun burst through and Mr. Groundhog saw his shadow, assuring us of six more weeks' repetition of the last few days!

Icy weather conditions lead to highway accidents

Timothy Wayne Kilpatrick, 17, of Swannanoa was injured when his Volkswagen van went out of control on ice and struck a tree Jan. 30 on Bee Tree Road about 8 miles north of Asheville. The accident happened about 9:15 p.m.

Kilpatrick was pinned in the van for about 20 minutes while Buncombe County, Swannanoa and Black Mountain Rescue Squads worked to free him. He was taken to Memorial Mission Hospital and treated for a broken leg.

The van was reported a total loss.

Three people were injured in a two-car accident on the bridge at the I-40 exit in Swannanoa Friday afternoon. A northbound car driven by Carolyn Penley Grant, Swannanoa, went out of control on the icy bridge and struck a southbound vehicle driven by Jack Lee Weaver of Skyland.

Carolyn Grant and two passengers in the Weaver car were taken to the hospital and treated for injuries.

Dot mystery solved!

Some business owners are seeing spots. The little dots are red and white and they have appeared in the dark of the night on glass doors and windows in Black Mountain.

The mystery has been solved. The dots are placed on the doors and windows by the Police Department. By shining a light on a dot, officers can see that there is glass in the window and know that no one has broken or raised a window to enter the building.

On the first round of a "midnight tour," Jim Dolan, investigator for the

Police Department, said that the officer gets out of the car to check doors and windows. But for the rest of the night, the officer makes his check by shining a flashlight over the building from the car.

If the glass were not in place, the light could be caught and reflected by something behind the glass, making the

officer think that the window had not been broken or raised, Dolan said. With the dots, the officer can be certain whether or not the window is in place.

Dolan said that the dots also showed business owners that the building had been checked. "If you see dots," he said, "you know the officer has been there."

Book selection policy complaint filed Monday

A committee headed by Wendell Runion, pastor of Asheville Baptist Tabernacle, which met last week at Owen High School to discuss concern about some books in the Owen Library decided to file a complaint against the county book selection policy. Buncombe County Schools Superintendent N.A. Miller received a formal complaint from the committee Monday.

At the Jan. 22 meeting, a list of books found offensive by the committee was distributed. Monday's action marked a decision to file a complaint against book

selection policy instead of individual books on the list.

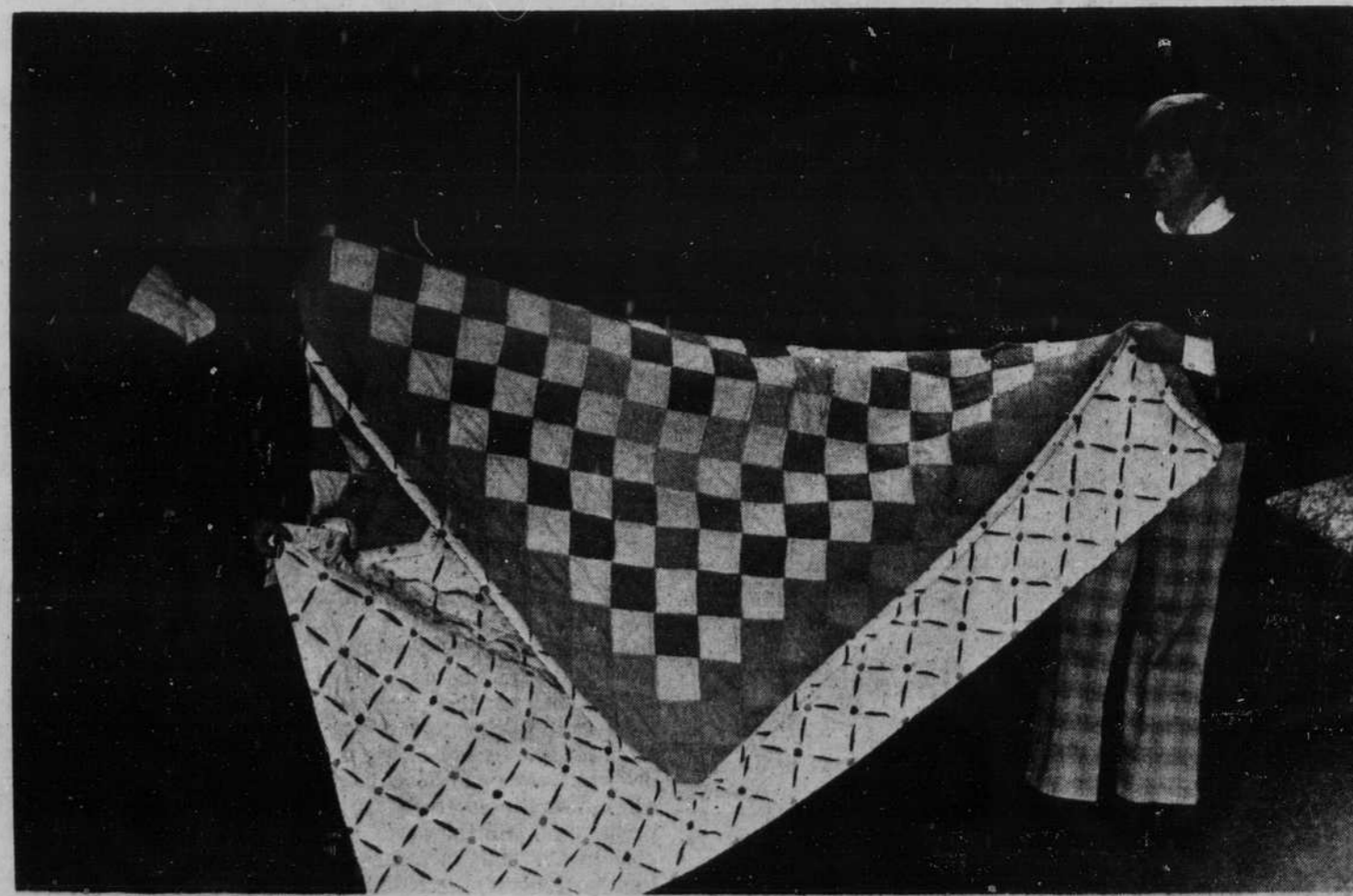
A complaint against school policy must be heard by the school administration and the school board attorney. A special school board meeting is expected to be called to address the issue.

Although the group calls itself "Concerned Citizens in the Owen High School District," school board policy change would affect all Buncombe County schools.

Weather Review



Jan. 23—high 45, low 39 degrees.
Jan. 24—high 57, low 32 degrees.
Jan. 25—high 62, low 19 degrees.
Jan. 26—high 62, low 28 degrees.
Jan. 27—high 63 degrees, low 33 degrees, .05 inches rain.
Jan. 28—high 46, low 33 degrees, .07 inches rain.
Jan. 29—high 54, low 33 degrees.
Jan. 30—high 28, low 23 degrees, 4 inches snow (.11 precipitation).
Courtesy of WGFV Radio, Black Mountain.



Senior citizens to hold bake sale

This quilt, made by the quilting group at the Lake View Center, will be raffled off Saturday, Feb. 7 at the Center's bake sale and flea market. Home canned goods, baked goods, furniture,

clothing, books, crafts and more will be sold. Proceeds will go toward the purchase of a van for the Center.