

# Grievances

## Police, fire departments meet with Town Board

Firemen, policemen, dispatchers, auxiliary and cadets of the Black Mountain Police and Fire Departments demanded of the Town Board Tuesday night the authority to run their own departments. Spokesmen from both departments presented grievances to the Board in a closed session and asked for removal of Mrs. Ruth Brandon as advisor to the Department of Public Safety, for fire and police chiefs to control their own departments and some additional equipment for the fire department.

After meeting separately with each department, Council voted in open session to hold a "workshop" to discuss

the possibility of changes in procedures and policies in the policy manual under which the town operates. This meeting will be held "within a couple weeks," according to Mayor Tom Sobol.

The Town of Black Mountain uses a liaison system in which aldermen serve as advisors to Town departments, a system Mayor Sobol called "totally contrary to professionalized local government." Black Mountain is one of the few North Carolina towns to continue this system, and may be the only town to do so, Sobol said. The question of whether or not to continue using a liaison system will be discussed at the workshop.

Also to be decided at the workshop is whether or not the Board wishes to change the Policy Manual to give department heads full authority. Presently, city management has final authority over all departments.

"The Town Board is the governing body, we realize that, but we did feel that we had some grievances to air," Police Chief Slagle explained. He said that he would be satisfied with the workshop, "if we can accomplish something."

About 80 men and women from both departments were present Tuesday night. "These men were very adamant," Mayor Sobol stated.

"Never in 13 years (on the Board) have I seen them this upset over a matter. They're not the type to get upset." The Board denied a request by both departments to meet jointly with the Board and instead met first with police and then fire departments.

Cited as an example of procedure to which the firemen are opposed is the Jan. 30 action by the town manager to put Assistant Fire Chief Sterling Poe on indefinite probation for an accident involving the fire engine Poe was driving. "I didn't want any action taken," Chief Bartlett stated, adding that Poe had an 11-year accident free record for driving prior to the incident.



Sam Stewart of the Baltimore Orioles and Sheriff Tom Morrissey approved of the new orange and white uniforms to be worn by Valley Little Leaguers this spring.

## Sheriff's Association to sponsor Little League here

by Cynthia Reimer

When you think of crime prevention, you hardly ever connect it with Little League baseball. But that is exactly what the Buncombe County Sheriff's Association is going to do this spring.

The Sheriff's Association announced Wednesday plans to sponsor a Little League team in the Valley for underprivileged youths with funds from the Sheriff's Association.

"You have to start with youth in crime prevention," Crime Prevention Officer Bobby Ferguson said. "We're fighting crime all over the state, and we're starting here, taking kids off the street."

"It's our way of trying to prevent crime constructively," Sheriff Chief Tom Morrissey explained.

This is the first Little League team sponsored by a Sheriff's Association in North Carolina, Morrissey said, adding that he hoped others would follow the example. Chairman of the Buncombe County Sheriff's Association is Roy H. Creasman.

Practice is scheduled to begin in May at the Charles D. Owen Park in Swannanoa. Seventeen boys from Black Mountain and Swannanoa will participate this year, Ferguson said.

At a press conference Wednesday, four boys modelled the brand new bright orange and white team uniforms they will wear and got advice from Valley baseball players who have made the Major Leagues—Don McKenzie of the Seattle Mariners, David Wilson of the Minnesota Twins and Sam Stewart of the Baltimore Orioles.

"It's not always important to win or

lose, but to improve," Stewart told the boys.

"It (Little League) is a good place to start," David Wilson said. "I'd like to see them do better than any of us!"

All three pros are products of Little League teams, Ferguson said.

Sheriff Morrissey sent the boys off with final words, "You don't have to win every game—just every one you can!"



Gladys Jones (left) and Myra McLellan are two of ABCCM-E's more than 30 volunteer workers. Mrs. Jones has been a volunteer for four years, Mrs. McLellan five.

## Fuel oil need critical for ABCCM-E aid recipients

Last weekend an elderly woman ran out of fuel oil. She was expecting a Social Security check on Monday but until then she had no money to have her empty tank filled and heat her home. Temperatures plummeted. For 24 hours the 87-year old woman struggled to keep warm.

Neighbors discovered her plight and called ABCCM-East, who saw that she received a few gallons of oil to tide her over until Monday, when her check would arrive.

This woman is one of hundreds of people assisted by ABCCM-E. Lois Nix, director, said that in January she spent \$1000-\$5000 over her budget for the month. Seventy percent of those expenses were for fuel oil.

"We spent more in January than we've ever spent in that office," Mrs. Nix said.

ABCCM-E is supported financially by 20 Valley churches, civic clubs and individuals. Our churches are doing

about all they can," Mrs. Nix said. She is hoping that individuals will help to make up some of the difference in the doubled budget.

Mrs. Nix said that "short time" and lay-offs in local industries have caused hardships for many people. "They just don't make enough to make ends meet," she explained. Many are not eligible for food stamps or other federal programs for various reasons, but their needs are nevertheless authentic.

The most pressing need is for money to purchase fuel. Men's winter coats are another priority, Mrs. Nix said. "We can use anything, household articles, pots and pans, drapes, food, sheets—anything but furniture," she added.

ABCCM-E is open from 9-12, Monday through Friday. It is located at the corner of Church and State Streets at the rear of the building on the second floor. Call 689-9404 for more information.

## Town Council

# Fence to be built at lake

Town Council passed a resolution Tuesday to erect a fence from Tomahawk Avenue to Laurel Circle Drive around Lake Tomahawk along the foot bridge and dam at the south end of the lake. The fence was recommended by an advisory committee as a partial solution to drug trafficking and other undesirable activities occurring near the lake.

The lowest bid for the project was \$6388. Town Manager Earnest Hudgins stated that the money could come from this year's budget by amendment.

The motion to erect the fence was made by Alderman Brandon and seconded by Alderman Begley. The only dissenting vote came from

Alderman Slagle who stated, "I don't think it's going to cure the problem." She also expressed concern over precedence being set by the Town assuming responsibility for a problem involving some private property.

Begley, not feeling precedence was being set, said, "This is a law enforcement problem...It is offensive to all citizens."

Town Council previously passed a resolution to erect no parking signs on Tomahawk Avenue, which have not yet been erected.

In other action, Town Council passed a resolution to buy liability insurance

for all town officials. The policy will cover 80 employees including aldermen, members of the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustments, as well as policemen and firemen previously covered under a separate policy.

The additional insurance will cost the Town about \$3000 a year, according to the town manager.

Expressing concern over continuing dry weather conditions, Council agreed that construction of the three proposed wells should be begun as soon as possible.

"I'm very much concerned about our water supply this summer. I would like

to see us go ahead right now and get started... and get them (the wells) in production by the first of June," Alderman Tyson said.

Al White, superintendent of the Water Department, replied that "Even if we started drilling today, it would take two and a half to three months to get one well in production."

Cost for the three wells is \$39,000, but drilling firms have expressed willingness to defer payment. Location and bids to be accepted will be confirmed and the wells will be on the March Town Council agenda.

## It's Girl Scout cookie time

by Cynthia Reimer

Girl Scout cookies have become as much a herald of spring as the first returning robin.

And no wonder—last year Western North Carolina residents ate 221,712 boxes of Girl Scout cookies.

It all began 45 years ago in Ohio when a Girl Scout leader asked a baker, Bob Wilson, to bake some cookies for her Girl Scout troop to sell.

A local tinsmith fashioned a trefoil cookie cutter (a trefoil is the symbol of the Girl Scouts) and Mr. Wilson stirred up 5,000 trefoil-shaped sugar cookies.

The Scouts quickly sold all 5,000 cookies for 25 cents a dozen, and a tradition was born.

The price is a bit higher today, but the selection is wider, too. Girl Scouts are selling thin mints, peanut butter patties and sandwiches, assorted sandwich cremes, shortbreads, and two new specialties—old fashioned oatmeal and Sumores at \$1.50 a box.

"Chocolate mints," said Cathy Roberts, in charge of the cookie sale for the Pisgah Council, "are best sellers," but she predicts that the new Sumores will take over the number one position this year. What are Sumores? "A vanilla cookie, dipped in caramel, then chocolate, then toasted coconut," Ms. Roberts explained.

Pisgah Girl Scout Council encompasses the sixteen counties of Western North Carolina, including the Swannanoa Valley, and serves 4,000 Girl Scouts.

What do those little girls do with all that money?

"It's used," Ms. Roberts explained, "for troop programs and Council capital expenditures like running Camp Pisgah." Some troops, she said, have earned money for trips to places such as Washington, D.C. and New York City.

Girl Scouts from Brownies to Seniors, grades one through 12, will take cookie orders from Saturday, Feb. 14 to March 2. Cookies will be delivered from March 26 to April 13.

If you miss ordering cookies in February, reorders will be taken March 26 to April 13. And if you miss that, you'll have to wait another whole year for Girl Scout cookies.



Tanya Melton (right) and Christine Nix plan to sell a lot of Girl Scout cookies. Both girls are 10 years old and in the fifth grade at Black Mountain Middle School, and are members of Girl Scout Troop 53. Tanya is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Melton. Christine is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Nix.



## Weather Review

Jan. 31—high 35, low -1 degrees.  
Feb. 1—high 45, low 17 degrees, .16 inches precipitation.  
Feb. 2—high 42, low 26, .91 inches precipitation.  
Feb. 3—high 28, low 9 degrees, .02 inches precipitation.  
Feb. 4—high 33, low 15 degrees.  
Feb. 5—high 39, low 18 degrees.  
Feb. 6—high 48, low 17 degrees.  
Courtesy of WFGW Radio, Black Mountain.