

Spring brings biggest snow

Although March has always been an unpredictable month, there were many who professed to "feel it in their bones" that we were still in for some snow. This weekend proved them right, when 12-15 inches fell between the early hours of Sunday morning and Monday morning, following smaller amounts of snow on Thursday.

County schools were closed Friday and again on Monday. The Drexel Plant on Old U.S. 70 and other area businesses were closed all day Monday, while others opened late.

Old Fort Mountain was closed Sunday afternoon. The Asheville Airport was closed from 4-7:15 p.m. Sunday because of poor visibility.

CP&L reported that 50 percent of the Valley was without electricity Sunday night when snow-laden limbs fell on the power lines. A spokesman reported that many areas remained without electricity because they were inaccessible even in four-wheel drive vehicles. CP&L requested assistance from state highway crews but were refused because the state crews were too busy trying to keep I-40 open.

Five crews contracted from Haynes Electric, three CP&L company crews and local crews worked all night, a total of about 60 men. By Monday morning power had been restored to all but 10 percent of the homes in Swannanoa, Black Mountain, Ridgecrest, North Fork and Broad River.

Black Mountain fire trucks returning from a fire experienced difficulty getting the trucks back in the garage off the

slippery parking lot behind the fire station Monday morning.

While Black Mountain received up to 15 inches of snow, Asheville reported

only four to seven inches and Weaver-ville one to two inches.



Cherry Street and State Monday morning....

BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

Dedicated to the growing Swannanoa Valley

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March 1960 holds record

Those who were here in the mountains and remember the March of 1960 won't think much of the little dab of snow that fell on Black Mountain this weekend. In 1960, the snow, sleet and freezing rain started on March 2 and it took until the end of the month for life to return to normal in the Western Carolina Mountains as storm upon storm piled up the snow. Record low temperatures and high winds added to the misery.

The Black Mountain News for the month of March reported many cancellations of meetings. Announcements of events generally included a "weather permitting" clause.

T.C. Roberson, then superintendent of schools, stated, "If we have to go to school until the Fourth of July, I do not intend to reopen the schools of the county as long as there is any chance of hurting any of the children."

The record cold and snow brought about the first ever closing of the newspaper office on March 2.

Jim Eurlison wrote in the Swannanoa News section of the paper, "These back roads around here are slicker than Yul

Brynnar's bald pate."

Engineers for an FM station on Clingman's Peak were snowed in for several weeks. Winds with gusts of 125 miles per hour finally blew the radio tower over.

Two muscovy ducks were discovered frozen to the surface of a lake in Grovemont. One duck died, but the other was rescued and cared for by Gabe Peek. Reports of wild game dying by the hundreds reached the News. Unfamiliar birds visited area feeders in large flocks.

While March, 1960, was an inconvenience for those who lived in the Valley, for some Western North Carolinians it was a near disaster. Marooned families in Buncombe, Yancey, Madison, Avery and Watauga Counties received supplies driven in by emergency vehicles and dropped by helicopter. Some had not been able to leave the caves since Christmas.

While no deaths were recorded, it was with great thanksgiving that Western North Carolina greeted the warm suns of April.

Donations sought for Atlanta murders

Despite intensive investigation and extensive searches, 20 Atlanta black children have been murdered, two are still missing, and police claim no leads to the murderer or murderer's identity. Joining people all over the nation who wish to do something to aid the situation, a group of organizations and



The News digs out.

individuals in this area is collecting donations to help defray the expense of investigation and search.

Donation boxes are or will soon be placed in the Black Mountain Library and in local banks. The boxes will remain in place until April 8 and then one lump sum will be sent to the Atlanta Police Bureau Investigative Fund.

Supporters and sponsors of the project (called Concerned Citizens) include the Buncombe County Sheriff's Department, Asheville-Buncombe Community Relations Council, Asheville Police Department, Allen Center, Opportunity Corporation-Head Start, YWCA, Jewish Community Center, City of Asheville City Council and the Buncombe County Ministerial Alliance.

Contributions, which are tax deductible, may be mailed to Concerned Citizens of the Asheville Area, Wachovia Bank and Trust, P.O. Box 2510, Asheville, N.C. 28801, Attention: Shirley Cragg.

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Discouraging news from ARC

Town to get wells under way

Becky Williams of the Land-of-Sky Regional Council returned from Washington, D.C., with discouraging news for Black Mountain. "I'd work under the assumption that you're not going to get the ARC (Appalachian Regional Council) money," she told members of the Town Council and the Water Department Wednesday morning. "It looks pretty grim."

The group was gathered to get advice from Nilsson Engineering representative John Nilsson and Farmer's Home Administration (FmHA) representative Larry Merrill concerning the future of the planned water system.

Merrill outlined FmHA requirements necessary so that the town can begin to drill three test wells as soon as possible.

The town must have certification from the bond council that the town is in a position to go ahead and must adopt an

FMHA loan resolution, both of which only involve filling out a form, Mayor Sobol said. And, the town must gain control of the land where it will drill the wells.

The location for the wells engineers find most promising is on In-the-Oaks property. The property will most likely be obtained "under option," so that if water is not found there the town is not obligated to purchase, Sobol said.

While Black Mountain has an adequate water supply at this time, Council members are concerned that an emergency situation could exist this summer unless the town has available another well.

Under FmHA rules, the wells could not be tied into the distribution system with FmHA money until the entire distribution system is authorized under one bid.

Because of the uncertainty of ARC funds and uncertainty of the amount of Clean Water Bond money to be allotted consequently, the town cannot revamp distribution plans at this time.

With the three test wells drilled and capped, the town would have the option of putting the wells to use in an emergency using town funds. Otherwise the wells will remain capped until the entire project can be let out in one bid, as required by FmHA.

Water Department Superintendent Al

White estimated that three months would be necessary to tie the wells into the system after they are drilled. Engineer John Nilsson said the test wells could be drilled and available by mid-June or July 1 at the latest.

The Town had expected to have word by April 1 on the status of ARC funds. That date, according to Becky Williams, has been delayed to May. The bill remains in committee, she said, and Congress has 45 days to act after it leaves committee.

Authorization by the Board for Nilsson Engineering to begin procedure so the test wells can be let out for bids will be on the April 13 Town Council agenda.

Weather review



March 15 -- high 64, low 18 degrees.

March 16 -- high 62, low 34 degrees; .22 inches rain, sleet, hail, snow with high winds.

March 17 -- high 60 degrees, low 29 degrees.

March 18 -- high 61, low 48 degrees.

March 19 -- high 35, low 25 degrees; trace snow.

March 20 -- high 39, low 22 degrees; trace precipitation.

March 21 -- high 53, low 32 degrees.

March 22 -- high 31, low 30 degrees; .24 inches precipitation, 5-6 inches snow.

March 23 -- high 40, low 30 degrees; .39 inches precipitation, 12 inches new snow.

On March 19, Clingman's Peak was 10 degrees at 2 p.m. with 8 inches of snow and 2 foot drifts.

Courtesy of WFGW Radio National Weather Service station, Black Mountain.

Ground breaking held for gym at JEC

Ground breaking ceremonies for a new gymnasium at the Juvenile Evaluation Center on Old U.S. 70 were held Thursday afternoon. The new 10,000 square foot structure will be named for Bill Price, who worked at the JEC as an assistant unit administrator for 19 years.

The Center has been without indoor athletic facilities since their gym was destroyed by fire in the early 1960s. Since then, they have used facilities at the Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center, the Presbyterian Orphanage, Owen High School and South French Broad Junior High School.

Besides recreational sports, students at the JEC participate in interscholastic sports with five other training schools in the state. They finished second in this season's basketball tournament -- despite their lack of facilities.

The \$470,000 structure is scheduled for completion next spring, but may be finished as soon as this fall. Landscaping of the new building will include an azalea garden, designed with funds from a Bill Price memorial. Mr. Price died in May, 1980.



William R. Windley, director of the North Carolina Division of Youth Services, Pat Price, widow of Bill Price, Joe L. Craig, athletic director of the JEC and Don L. Pagett, director of JEC participated in ground breaking ceremonies last week for the new Bill Price Gymnasium at the Juvenile Evaluation Center.