

East Buncombe Fire District

\$43,000 contract offered to town

Discussion on a contract offered by Buncombe County to Black Mountain for fire protection in the East Buncombe Fire District was tabled Monday night in a motion made by Alderman Ruth Brandon and seconded by Margaret Slagle.

Mrs. Brandon made her motion after a letter dated May 9 was read from James R. Lamb, president of the Swannanoa Volunteer Fire Department to Curtis Ratcliff, chairman of the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners. The letter requests that the

Commissioners reconsider their action of last November to extend the west boundary of the East Buncombe Fire District to Eastwood Ave. in Swannanoa, changing it instead to the North Fork River.

Black Mountain stands to lose \$43,000 in taxes in 1981-82 if the contract is not signed in time to be included in the Buncombe County budget, scheduled to be completed by May 15.

If the contract is not signed, the new board of commissioners, who began

their term this year, will reopen the discussion which has been raging for the past four years. If the issue is reopened it will be at least December until a new decision is made, according to town attorney Ron Sneed, and people and businesses in the disputed area will continue to receive free fire protection for another year at other tax payers' expense.

Ruth Brandon and Margaret Slagle have called a special Town Council meeting to be held Thursday at 7:30 a.m. to "ask the commissioners to levy

a seven cent tax in the East Buncombe Fire District regardless of where the boundaries are," Mrs. Brandon said.

According to Town Manager Earnest Hudgins, unless the Board instead signs the original contract by Thursday, time will have run out on the \$43,000 revenue.

"I believe one or more of our (Black Mountain) elected officials have communicated with some people conspiring to keep us from getting this thing at this time," Hudgins stated, citing the timing of the letter from the Swannanoa

Fire Department and the fact that some council members were aware of its existence before it was made public.

"It is regrettable," he added. "Frankly, I think that we have become scapegoats in this thing."

Black Mountain Fire Chief Gary Bartlett said Tuesday morning, "Since this was settled last November (when the County Commissioners established the East Buncombe Fire District) we've had the best working relationship with

Swannanoa ever. We worked out a very good mutual aid agreement.

"It's things like this that kill accomplishments like that."

Mrs. Brandon said she believes that the letter from the Swannanoa Fire Department to Curtis Ratcliff should be considered and another decision made by County Commissioners before Black Mountain agrees to sign a fire protection agreement with the county.

Vandals destroy garden at lake

Vandals destroyed flower gardens planted at Lake Tomahawk by the senior citizens at Lakeview Center last Thursday night. The flowers, \$25 worth paid for by the staff and others donated by the senior citizens, were planted Monday and Tuesday.

Police Chief Sonnie Slagle said that there were at least two bicycles involved and at least two different sets of footprints, but maybe as many as four or five involved in the incident. The size of the footprints indicated, he said, that the vandals were "little ones."

"I just don't understand what makes people do this," said Alice Schweitzer, director of recreation for Black Mountain. She said many volunteers have recently gotten involved in making Lake Tomahawk a safe, pleasant and beautiful

park. "And it just gets destroyed by a few hoodlums," she said.

When the beds were made, Mrs. Schweitzer said, a wide bicycle path was left between for access from the swimming pool area to the lake level, so there was no reason for them to ride through the flower beds.

The senior citizens will retrieve plants thrown in the lake and try to save some of the stomped ones. Fortunately, rain on Wednesday had prevented them from setting out more plants they had on hand, and these will be planted. Besides flowers, the beds bordered by railroad ties will contain a vegetable garden.

A community clean-up of Lake Tomahawk is scheduled for May 14.



Hattie Simmons (left) and Myrtle Massey survey the damaged plants at Lake Tomahawk.

BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

Dedicated to the growing Swannanoa Valley

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Iris show features local beauties

by Bert Livingston

Rare iris blossoms from the extensive plantings of Carmen Garraux and Carl and Alice Hampton on Dillingham Circle, near Warren Wilson College, will be featured in the Fourth Annual Iris Exhibit by Carolina Mountains Iris Society in Asheville Mall from noon until 9 p.m. Friday.

The Hampton gardens' most unusual iris is "Esther the Queen," in the opinion of Mrs. Hampton's mother, Carmen Garraux. Mrs. Garraux describes the flower as having "huge florets with blue-green standards, falls of greenish buff and brownish-black beard resting on dark maroon signals." Mrs. Garraux is an 88-year old gardener who works with her irises every day.

Several hundred other blossoms of the finest irises that can be grown in North Carolina will be exhibited, according to Flossie Nelson, Hendersonville, president of the society. Included will be "Attention Carolina," produced by Lottie Powell, Princeton, one of the state's outstanding hybridizers. New to the horticultural section of the exhibit this year is a division for showing flowers grown by school-age gardeners.

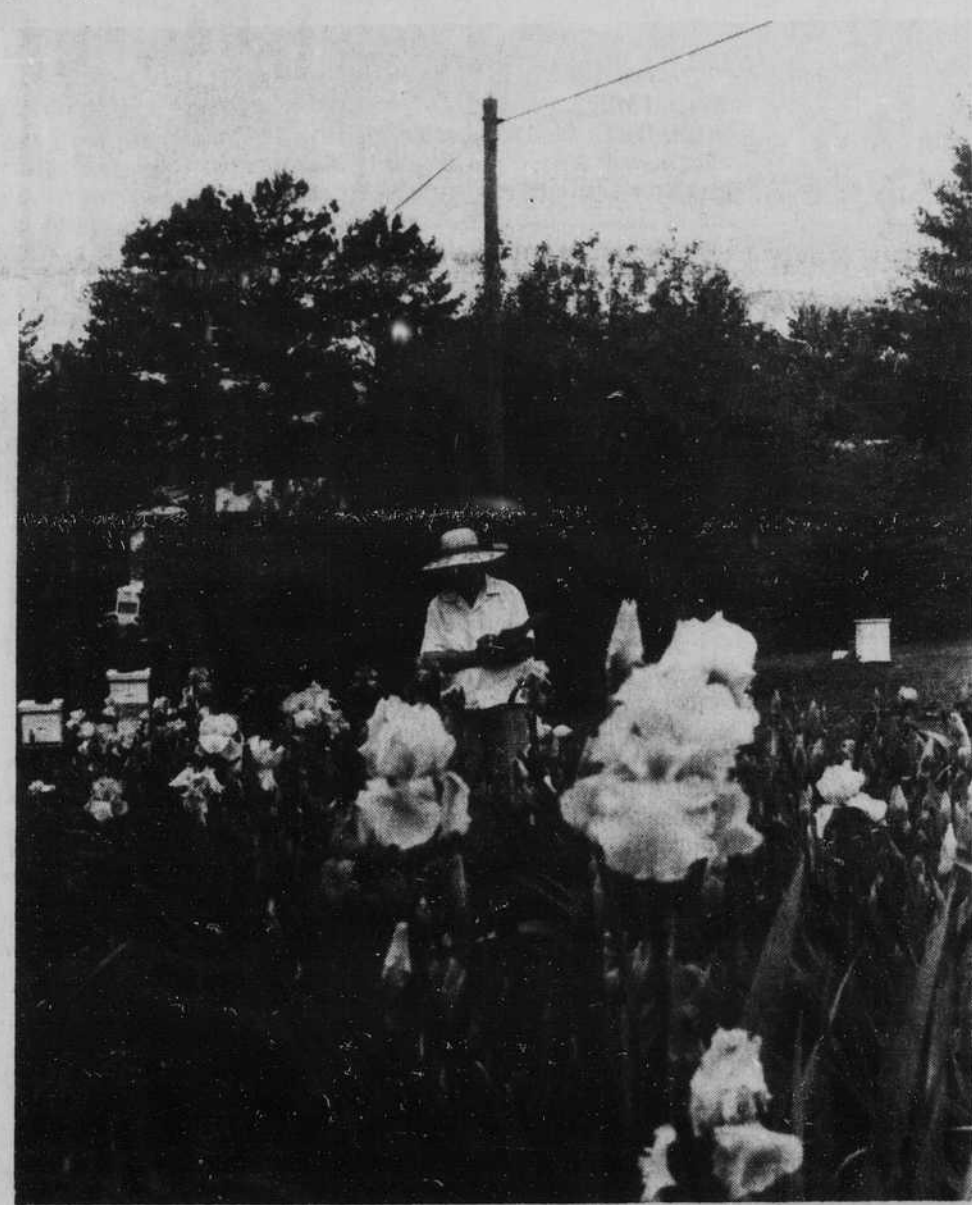
Judging will be conducted by Mr. and Mrs. B.J. Brown of Charlotte. The Browns have 15 years of experience as judges in the American Iris Society.

Theme for this spring's exhibit is "Beauty Lies Within the Eyes of the Beholder." Besides horticultural displays of blossoms, there will be 24 iris flower arrangements. These include some made by area members of Ikebana International. The five classes for arrangements are: Oriental beauty, freedom, renaissance, the artist's choice and a walk in the woods. The youth division will, as in the past exhibits, present four iris flower arrangements.

Flower arrangements will be judged by Mrs. Gerald King and Mrs. W.C. Lautner of Hendersonville and Mrs. Henry Arch Nichols, Asheville, all of whom are members of the North Carolina Council of Garden Judges.

Invitation for the gardening public to participate is an exceptional feature of

the exhibit. Anyone having blossoms of named varieties of irises are urged to bring the flowers to the main or fountain entrance of the mall between 8 and 10 a.m. Friday. They will be received by Kathryn Johnson or Nina Hensley, Asheville, chairman and co-chairman of the exhibits.



Mrs. Carmen Garraux keeps careful records of her irises which have such names as "Stepping Out," "One Desire," "Esther the Queen," and "May Melody."

'Lord of the Flies' okayed

Owen High School's media advisory committee met Wednesday, May 6, and made a unanimous decision to support classroom use of the book, "Lord of the Flies," by William Golding.

A complaint had been filed against use of the book by Joyce Craig, the mother of a student in a ninth grade English class for gifted students.

The media advisory committee is made up of school department heads, the school librarian and a parent.

The meeting marked the first time a media advisory committee has acted on a complaint against a book since a "concerned parents" movement organized this winter and petitioned the school board to change book selection policy. When the school board denied the petition, the Rev. Wendell Runion, head of the group, said his group will file individual complaints against many books.

Children to give concert performances

Over 70 children will be on stage Sunday when the Warren Wilson College Community Arts Program presents its concert finale. Musicians, dancers, pianists and recorder artists ages three through 13 will grace the Kittredge Community Arts Center stage beginning at 3 p.m.

The Kindermusik students are those of Linda Robinson; dancers have been studying under Michelle Lee; the recorder students are those of John Werner; and the pianists have been learning from Lynn Brown.

The Community Arts Program is made possible, in part, by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts as a cooperative outreach program through Warren Wilson College. The concert is free to the public.

Owen graduation May 31

Graduation ceremonies for about 213 Owen High School seniors will be held Sunday, May 31 in Spilman Auditorium at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center. An awards assembly will be held prior to graduation on May 21 at Owen High School.

Town Council

Noise ordinance passed

Town Council passed several ordinances Monday evening including a noise ordinance, an update of privilege license fees and an ordinance legally establishing an auxiliary police reserve force for the Town of Black Mountain.

The noise ordinance will prohibit "indecent language and cursing, loud or boisterous talking, hallooing and/or other disorderly conduct within the city limits." The fine set is not to exceed \$25.

Privilege tax

Privilege license fees will be raised to add \$4,000 in revenue to the coffers of the Town of Black Mountain. Town Council also agreed to send a letter to state legislators expressing disapproval that some professions are exempted by the state from paying a local privilege tax. Doctors and lawyers are among the exempt.

Police auxiliary

Although Black Mountain has had a volunteer police auxiliary for several years, it was made legal Monday when

aldermen passed an ordinance establishing the group officially.

The only limitation placed on the auxiliary force by Town Council was that their bylaws must be reviewed and accepted by Town Council.

Bridge inspection

In other action, Council voted to give a contract for bridge inspection to Butler Associates. The inspection is required by the N.C. Department of Transportation and was to have been completed by Dec. 30, 1980.

To be inspected are bridges on Charlotte Street near radio station WBMS, on East Cotton Ave., on Laurel Circle Drive, and on the Hemphill property leading to the town water reservoir.

Pool repairs

It will cost the Town \$8,490 to get the city swimming pool in shape for summer opening. Town Council passed a resolution to give the contract to Fair Finish of Asheville Company.

Inside the pool, cracks in the concrete

will be repaired, missing and broken tile replaced, all tile regouted, and the surface painted and sealed.

Broken concrete around the pool, damaged by freezing and expansion and now causing safety hazards, will be repaired and sealed to limit further damage by water. The entrance to the bathhouse will be roughed up to present a non-skid surface.

Budget reading

Town Council passed the 1981-82 budget on its first reading. Another budget workshop will be held Saturday, May 16, at 7:30 a.m., when aldermen will continue to pare down the proposed 38 cent tax increase.

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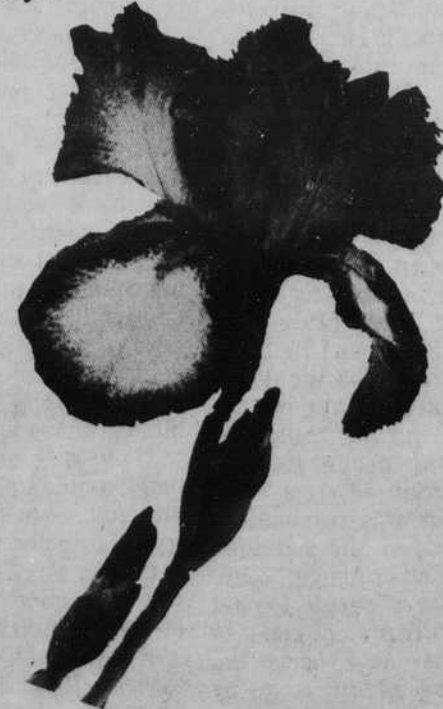
Weather review



May 5—high 83, low 47 degrees.
May 6—high 80, low 52 degrees; .02 inches precipitation.
May 7—high 54, low 44 degrees; .70 inches precipitation.
May 8—high 64, low 37 degrees; trace precipitation.
May 9—high 68, low 46 degrees.
May 10—high 61, low 55 degrees; .04 inches precipitation.

As of the week ending May 9, the area has received 10.83 inches of precipitation. According to the National Weather Service, the area would have received 16 inches by now in an average year.

Weather courtesy of
WFGW Radio,



When she started raising iris, Mrs. Garraux said, she never imagined she'd have over 250 varieties. "I'd just see some more I wanted," she laughed.

