

Dog ordinance to be enforced

by Cynthia Reimer

Within two days, two Black Mountain youngsters received painful bites from dogs that had not had rabies shots. Fortunately for the children, both dogs were located, quarantined and found to be healthy so neither child had to receive rabies injections.

One child was bit on the left cheek and neck by a dog that was tied. The boy's father shot the dog but did not kill it. The other child was bitten on the finger.

Because of these and other incidents, the police and dog warden are cracking down on pet ordinances. They took one

man to court recently for failing to restrain a female dog in heat and for having more than three pets per household. The dog owner pleaded guilty and was fined.

Dogs are required to wear city tags, which cost \$3-5, and rabies tags. "If I pick up the dog without them," said Black Mountain dog warden, Mark Norton, "I'm going to take him to town." He takes them to the Buncombe County Animal Shelter in Asheville, where it costs the owner \$18-20 to get the dog back.

Dogs have also been a problem at the primary school, biting at children on the

playground.

Some citizens have been taking dog control into their own hands, shooting strays and trespassers, Norton said. "It's bad that people shoot them," he said, "but owners ought to show more responsibility to the dog." Last week another dog was shot on Swannanoa Avenue. The animal had to be put to sleep.

Norton said there is also the problem of people abandoning animals on the roadside, forcing them to become strays and exposing them to the danger of traffic.

"I'll come and get any dog," Norton

said. He takes them to the Buncombe County Animal Shelter where they have a good chance of finding a new home. "Most are adopted," he said, "more than used to be."

Norton picked up one stray pup on Blue Ridge Road a month ago that he could not bear to take to Asheville. Instead he took her home and named her Sheba.

If you have a pet you can't keep, call Mark Norton at City Hall or the Police Department. Dog licenses and a copy of the ordinance governing pets are available at City Hall. Rabies shots are available at animal clinics for about \$8.



"How could anyone throw her out?" Mark Norton, Black Mountain dog warden, puzzled. Sheba was adopted by the Nortons when Mark found her on Highway 9 where she had been abandoned.

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Plans for Lake Tomahawk to include recreation, beautification, cultural events

Town recreation director, Alice Schweitzer, was directed by Town Council to set up a permanent Lake Tomahawk committee several weeks ago.

It was suggested that we try to improve recreation facilities and activities around the lake and involve as many of the community in this project as possible," she explained.

She met recently with representatives from service clubs and churches to determine what kind of programs would be popular with the community. Out of those meetings have grown the following ideas:

Recreation activities

The committee will ask organizations to bring their activities to the park at the lake. Churches will be invited to hold picnics there.

The Swannanoa Valley Optimists will co-sponsor a dance for teenagers this summer in the club house.

The Old Depot will give outdoor art lessons there. A canoe clinic sponsored by Buncombe County Parks and Recreation will be held on the lake.

Kid's "fun days" will be held with activities for primary and pre-school children to include story hours, and with races to be held for older children.

Cultural events

The first Sunday in the Park will be



John Weaver worked last week to clean up a bank behind the new flower beds at Lake Tomahawk.

held June 28. On a shady platform under the trees, music from country to popular will be played. Families will be asked to bring a picnic and enjoy the lake and the music.

Tentative plans have been made to

have a jazz band from Owen High School perform at the end of May and the Montford Park Players in July.

"We're not anticipating spending any money on cultural events," Mrs. Schweitzer said. "We'll pass the hat at

the end of the performance." Any area groups who would like to perform may call Mrs. Schweitzer, 669-8610.

Beautification and safety

Except for planting flowers, most plans for improving the area physically are long-range, Mrs. Schweitzer said. "We are looking at the possibility of playground equipment, benches, picnic tables and barbecue pits," she said.

Other suggestions have included improving the jogging path with a footbridge, possibly to be built by the Jaycees, and improvement of bird-watching sites. A cardiovascular trail with exercise stations is another possibility.

Mrs. Schweitzer will submit the names of 15 to 20 possible Lake Tomahawk committee members to Town Council for their approval at the June Town Council meeting.

Aldermen continue to pare budget

Town Council took another look at the 1981-82 budget in a workshop Saturday morning and attempted to pare down expenses in order to avoid a 38 percent tax increase this year. A 10 percent tax increase is being considered now.

Total revenue for the 1981-82 year is projected at about \$890,000. Included in that figure is the projected revenue from the as-yet unsigned contract with Buncombe County for an East Buncombe Fire District.

The major expense increases from last year's budget are in funds allotted for gasoline and utilities. Next year's budget also includes a seven percent cost of living raise for town employees. Although the budget will not be final until it is voted on at a Town Council meeting, some cuts being considered include elimination of one police dispatcher and not rehiring to fill one vacancy in the fire department.

The most serious cuts will probably come in the recreation program and the Lakeview senior citizen's program budgets when aldermen meet again for a budget workshop Tuesday at 7:30 a.m.

Weather review

May 12--high 62, low 44 degrees.
May 13--high 76, low 39 degrees.
May 14--high 75, low 43 degrees.
May 15--high 57, low 48 degrees;
.43 inches precipitation.
May 16--high 68, low 43 degrees.
May 17--high 65, low 50; .02 inches precipitation.
May 18--high 78, low 51 degrees;
.08 inches precipitation.

Weather courtesy of WFGW Radio

East Buncombe Fire District

Town Council votes to sign

At press time, the Black Mountain Town Council voted unanimously to sign a contract with Buncombe County for fire protection in an East Buncombe Fire District, providing \$43,000 revenue for the Town. Boundaries for the district were set by the commissioners last year.

Town Board action followed a meeting by the Buncombe County Commissioners Tuesday afternoon where commissioners passed a resolution to sign the contract if it was signed by Black Mountain.

County attorney Floyd Brock advised commissioners that there is no provision in the law for boundaries to be moved and an area taken from one fire district and given to another. A district may be consolidated or abolished, he said.

In a called meeting last Thursday morning, Black Mountain Town Council voted to request the Buncombe County Board to levy a seven cent tax in the East Buncombe Fire District, regardless of where the boundary lines were.

Fire damages home on West View Ave.

A major house fire caused extensive damage in the Richardson house on West View Avenue last Wednesday, May 13.

The blaze, of unknown origin, gutted a downstairs bedroom and bathroom and traveled through the walls to the second story of the house where a hallway and bathroom were burned. The entire house received smoke damage.

The fire is under investigation by the Black Mountain Police Department and

the State Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Jim Banks was at home when the fire occurred.

The fire department received the call at 4:06 p.m. and fought the blaze for two hours and 41 minutes. Twenty-two men, two engines and two auxiliary trucks were used.

An unofficial estimate of damage to the house and contents exceeds \$30,000.



Photo by Dennis Harris

Postal employees receive awards

Four Black Mountain Post Office employees received the new award the federal government is giving for service of 25 and 35 years Tuesday. Each received a silver tie tack and a letter of commendation from Black Mountain Postmaster Keith Nelson, which stated, "The good reputation the Black Mountain Post Office enjoys is built on the loyal service of persons such as you."

Everett Stephenson has accumulated 32 years of federal service. All his post office work has been done in Black Mountain.

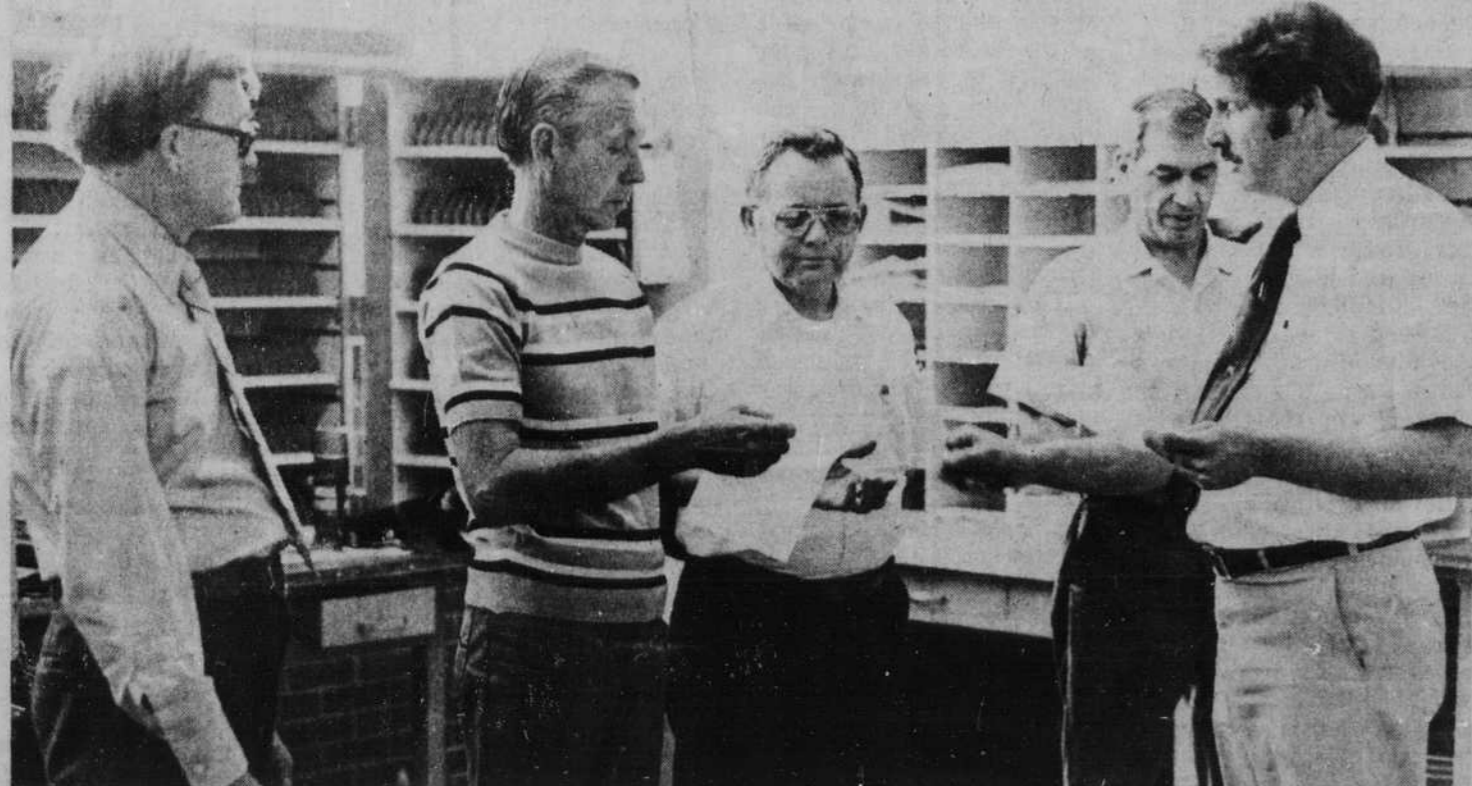
His brother, Bill O. Stephenson, has worked most of his 28 years at the Black Mountain Post Office also.

Glenn Snider has 27 years of federal service, 20 years in the military and the

last seven at the Black Mountain Post Office.

J.W. Blankenship has served 25 years in the military and at the Black Mountain Post Office.

The four men have worked for the federal government for a total of 112 years, Postmaster Nelson said.



Postmaster Keith Nelson of the Black Mountain Post Office gave awards to post office employees for service. Receiving a silver tie tack were (left to right) Everett Stephenson, Bill O. Stephenson, J.W. Blankenship and Glenn Snider.