

## Five cent increase

# Tax rate set at 78 cents for '81 - 82

Town Council passed a resolution Monday night at a called meeting raising 1981-82 property taxes to 78 cents, up from 73 cents last year. The motion was made by Margaret Slagle and seconded by A.F. Tyson.

Town Council will meet Monday, June 29 at 7:30 a.m. to determine allocation of the funds for the 1981-82 budget as well as amendments to last year's budget.

Voting against the five cent increase were Mike Begley and Doug Stafford.

Both Begley and Stafford said they would have preferred to maintain the current 73 cent tax rate for one more year by selling a 10-acre piece of property which the town owns in anticipation of the increased revenues next year's property re-evaluation will bring the town.

About the property sale, Mr. Stafford

said, "When we purchased the property it was like putting money in the bank for a rainy day," he said. "This is the rainy day."

Mr. Begley said, "Taxpayers will be faced with an increase in taxes this year and an increase in evaluation next year. I thought this year we had a better alternative."

Mr. Tyson said selling town property was "irresponsible" unless it was sold

to provide another capital asset for the town. He said he believed the property would bring in much less than the projected \$65,000, and that a budget should not be based on something as uncertain as a possibility of selling it.

In other action, the Town signed a contract with In-the-Oaks, pledging \$1 and up to 50,000 gallons of water per month in return for rights to an

easement and drilling sites for two test wells.

If the test wells are not successful all rights revert to In-the-Oaks, according to the agreement.

Council also voted to name Suzanne Turner "acting town clerk" effective July 3, without the power to hire and fire town employees. They also agreed to begin an immediate search for a new town manager. Aldermen Stafford and

Begley voted against the proposal. Mr. Begley said he opposed hiring a new town manager until November because the possibility of a short-term job would "affect the quality of applicants." He said he was "fully in favor of Suzanne as acting town clerk."

Mr. Tyson accepted responsibilities of treasurer for the town in the absence of a town manager. Midge Blakeslee, town accountant, was given additional duties also.

## New facilities at Mission dedicated

Memorial Mission Hospital will dedicate its \$35-million construction project on Sunday, June 28, at 3 p.m. U.S. Representative William M. Hendon will speak at the dedication ceremony. Congressman Hendon was a member of the hospital board of trustees until he was elected to Congress last November. Following the ceremony there will be tours of the new facilities, photographic displays, a slide presentation, music and refreshments.

The facilities to be dedicated include four buildings and many renovated and expanded hospital departments. The new buildings are a 160-room West Wing, a two-story radiology building, a two-story service building and a 690-space parking deck. Departments that have been renovated and expanded include emergency, obstetrics-gynecology, physical therapy, out-patient clinics, nursing stations, pharmacy and many others.

The West Wing will become the new core of the hospital. It will provide the hospital with a spacious, open, modern lobby and reception area for the welcoming of patients and visitors. The interior decor makes use of color, space and texture to create a warm, pleasant atmosphere. The second floor will provide new quarters for administrative and nursing offices. The next four floors contain the 160 new private patient rooms with baths. The beds have communications systems built into the side rails, allowing patients to call the nurses and control radio and television volume as well as the lights. All of these floors are carpeted and each has two isolation rooms and a handicapped shower. Each area also has an electronic nurse-call system and a centralized vacuum system.

The radiology building features the most modern diagnostic radiological machinery available including ultrasound and a full-body CAT scanner. This building also houses the radiation therapy department, which treats approximately 75 patients per day from all areas of the western part of the state. This department offers the only comprehensive radiation therapy services in Western North Carolina. Its new machinery includes a linear accelerator, which is used to treat deep-seated lesions, and a treatment simulator, used to insure pin-point accuracy in the actual radiation process.

The new service building houses a variety of modernized and relocated hospital departments: the pharmacy, central sterile supply, the storeroom, housekeeping, maintenance and biomedical. It also houses the Johnson Control JC80 computer, which monitors energy efficiency throughout the hospital.

A "transi-tube" system has been installed in the hospital to link various hospital areas and improve communications and materials management. A new music system will soon play music throughout the hospital, and a barber shop will be provided to complement the already existing beauty salon. A core of six new elevators are another part of the new construction—two for patients and staff, two for visitors, and two for freight. There are plans to carpet the hospital throughout.

The construction project was designed by Six Associates, Inc., an Asheville architectural firm. It was constructed by McDevitt and Street, Inc. of Charlotte. The interior planning was done by Health Care Planning, Inc. of Northfield, Ill. Planning for the project began in 1969.



The new West Wing of Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville contains an expansive lobby and reception area, administrative offices and four floors of 160 private rooms.

## Nutrition Center director dismissed

Services of Black Mountain Nutrition Center director, Nancy Talmage, were "terminated" last Friday, June 19, according to Joan Dunton, nutrition services coordinator at the Council on Aging.

Members of the Lakeview Center Advisory Council and other senior citizens came to Monday's Town Board meeting to protest the dismissal of Mrs. Talmage. They were informed by Mayor Tom Sobol that the town had nothing to do with the action, as staff at the Nutrition Center are employed and

governed by the Council on Aging.

Mrs. Dunton said the action had, "absolutely nothing to do with the (Black Mountain) Town Council." She gave as reason for Mrs. Talmage's dismissal, "internal personnel matters."

The Nutrition Center remains open for meals, Mrs. Dunton said, and the Council on Aging is advertising to fill the vacancy. Anyone interested in the position should call the Council, 258-8027.

# BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

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## Sunday in the Park at Lake Tomahawk

Sunday in the Park moves to Black Mountain June 28. The music festival will be held on the shore of Lake Tomahawk, on Rhododendron Avenue, from 4 to 6:30 p.m.

The Mt. Mitchell Ramblers will play old-time square dance and mountain music. The leader is Walter Davis, well-known for his special style of presenting old songs. He was recently featured in "Bluegrass Unlimited," a music magazine.

"Pippin," a Broadway musical, will be staged by the Asheville Youth Theatre. Pippin will be portrayed by Kim English, an Asheville native.

The story revolves around Charlemagne's oldest son, Pippin, as he attempts to make his mark on the world. Vowing not to waste his life in commonplace, ordinary pursuits, Pippin encounters a world full of surprises and disappointments that lead to a climax of unparalleled brilliance.

This will be the first performance of the musical this summer. July 1 through 12 Pippin opens at Carol Bell Theatre of UNC-Asheville for 10 performances.

Next on the Sunday in the Park program, contemporary folk and country songs will be sung and played by "Traveller," composed of Ray Sisk and Fred Baillie.

Sisk is a songwriter and guitarist who

has created many of the songs performed by the group. His song, "Bounty Hunter" was recently recorded by Happy Traum.

Baillie, on lead guitar and harmony vocals, plays folk, rock and roll, country and country rock. He now resides in Canton.

Both musicians have performed throughout the Southeast and North Carolina at concerts and coffeehouses. Their style resembles Bob Dylan and Gordon Lightfoot, whose songs they intersperse with their own original compositions.

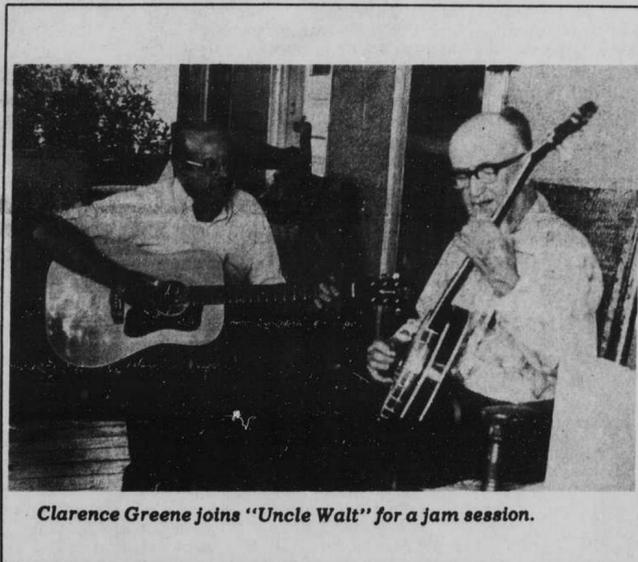
With cooperation of the Old Depot Association and the Town of Black Mountain, a stage is being erected in the shade on the east bank of Lake Tomahawk. Black Mountain Recreation Director Alice Schweitzer is helping coordinate the program.

This will be the first time a festival has been held at the lake. The residents are planning several activities to coincide with the musical performances. Schweitzer hopes to have this as a beginning of many family-oriented activities to encourage residents and visitors to use the lake and the park that surrounds it, she said.

Sunday in the Park is a moving series of eight music festivals that is sponsored by Quality Forward, Asheville Parks and Recreation Department and the Community Arts Council of WNC. They are free and open to the public.

The purpose is to provide family entertainment in neighborhoods of Asheville and Buncombe County while giving local artists a chance to perform.

In case of rain, the program will move inside to the Lake Tomahawk Center.



Clarence Greene joins "Uncle Walt" for a jam session.

## Uncle Walt, old-time banjo picker

by Bill Studenc Jr.

The sweet-sounding twang of the banjo is often heard resounding from the shaded porch of Black Mountain resident "Uncle Walt" Davis, leader of the famous Mt. Mitchell Ramblers.

Originally from Madison County, what has kept Walter Davis playing his banjo for 66 of his 75 years is a love of music.

"I've been playing since I was nine years old," the retired cabinetmaker said. "I didn't take no lessons, I just picked it up myself. I loved music and if you love music, you can learn it."

After learning the banjo, young Uncle Walt began playing on street corners, accepting change from any passerby who cared to stop and listen to his music. He said he actually made more money than his father, who made about 50 cents a day and thought he was doing something.

"It was either learn to play the banjo or starve, one, and I've been doing both ever since," he joked.

The Davis family later moved to Old Fort, where Walter learned the finer points of playing from such outstanding local musicians as Gwen Foster, Clarence Green and Roy Neal.

From these humble beginnings as a street-corner musician, Davis began playing in mountain conventions across Western North Carolina, with a large degree of success and many first-place finishes, as evidenced by the yellowed newspaper clipping collection he so proudly exhibits.

While with a group known as the Blue Ridge Entertainers, Davis moved to Black Mountain.

"My wife was the cause of that," he explained. "She came over to visit her uncle, a neighbor of mine. I started to follow her back to Black Mountain and got messed up and got married."

After a 17-year stretch with the Blue Ridge Entertainers, he formed his own band in Spruce Pine around 1949—the Mt. Mitchell Ramblers. Uncle Walt played the banjo, while Ray Greene played the fiddle and J.C. McCool played the guitar, although all men are equally at home with any instrument.

Greene, a retired maintenance mechanic who has been playing a guitar "ever since I was big enough to carry one," explained that he and Davis first started playing together at square dances and at fiddlers' conventions.

"J.C.'s ma ran a cafe in Black Mountain and we played there and we met him that way," he said.

The Ramblers performed at weekly barn dances at Spruce Pine, along with "Uncle Walt Davis' Famous Black Mountain Square Dance Team." The shows were broadcast weekly over television and radio stations.

"Several local stations picked it up," Davis said. "We were quite a hit back then."

In addition, the Ramblers have recorded 11 albums of North Carolina mountain music at a New York studio and have performed on the Mr. Bill Show, a television show for children.

The Mt. Mitchell Ramblers keep their playing skills sharp today by playing each Monday at Ray Greene's house at what they call the Monday Night Hoedowners.

"We've been keeping in practice by

playing at local gatherings," Davis said. "Like at Monday Night Hoedowners. It's free and it's a chance for old-time musicians to get together with young ones who want to learn it."

"Anybody who wants to come and listen, or play, it's all right as long as they behave themselves," Green added.

The Ramblers have recently been playing for free for schools and hosp-

itals in the area.

"We play because we like to play," Uncle Walt said. "It's a good pastime and I'd like awfully to keep mountain music going and I like to help young children who like music."

Uncle Walt and the rest of the Mt. Mitchell Ramblers will perform at the Sunday in the Park festival at Lake Tomahawk on June 28.



## Weather review

June 16—high 89, low 57 degrees.  
June 17—high 87, low 60 degrees.  
June 18—high 81, low 59 degrees.  
June 19—high 84, low 65 degrees.  
June 20—high 83, low 60 degrees; .71 inches precipitation.  
June 21—high 88, low 62 degrees; trace precipitation.  
June 22—high 90, low 58 degrees.

Weather information courtesy of WFGW Radio, Black Mountain.

## Sourwood parade entries due

"I Love a Parade" will be the theme of this year's Sourwood Festival parade, beginning at 4 p.m. August 5. Individuals and organizations, clubs and businesses are all invited to enter the parade of a colorguard team, fire and police vehicles, horse and buggy teams, floats and clowns.

Entries will be judged on originality, theme portrayal, noise and animation, parade committee chairman, Kathy Wacaster said.

To register for the parade, contact the Black Mountain Chamber of Commerce for an entry blank. Line-up numbers, time of line-up and parade route will be announced at a later date.

Entry blanks must be returned to the Chamber of Commerce no later than July 6.