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at Black Mountain, NC 28711

Thursday, September 24, 1981, Volume 29, Number 39

Member of the NCPA

25¢



Squash tips scales at 106 pounds

"It'll make a lot of squash pies," said Dillard Foster in what may be the understatement of the harvest season. Foster raised a 106-pound Hungarian Mammoth squash in his garden in Swannanoa.

Foster purchased the seed from a mail-order nursery, which claimed in their catalogue that the squash could reach 150 pounds. Foster's 106-pound squash was the only one to mature. "The other rotted," he explained.

It took two, Foster and his son-in-law, to wrestle the squash into a truck to transport it for weighing.

Foster retired in 1963 and gardening is his hobby. He and his wife freeze and can much of their own food, and Foster makes jams that sparkle like jewels in rows on the shelves in his basement.

The Fosters live on Rowland Road in Sherwood Forest.



Here's the long and short of it—a 106 pound Hungarian Mammoth squash, grown by Dillard Foster, and miniature gourds, weighing in at a few ounces, produced by R. A. Morgan, Black Mountain.

Two more seek re-election to Town Council



Tom Sobol

Incumbent Mayor Tom Sobol announced that he will run for Black Mountain mayor in the November 3 general election.

Announcing his candidacy, Sobol said, "I intend to keep the mayor's office open to every citizen, just as it has been for the past four years. I want the people of Black Mountain to continue to feel that they have someone as mayor who will take a stand for them and will present their problems to the Council."

Sobol, 38, served eight years as a city councilman prior to his election as mayor in 1977.

"I am interested in what is best for our community," Sobol said. "I want to work with all groups in the community to achieve that goal in a reasonable manner and with as much agreement as possible."

Group searches for sign alternatives

McDonald's and a citizens' group are searching for alternatives to a 100-foot proposed "Golden Arches" sign off N.C. 9, to be visible from I-40.

Following presentation of a petition signed by over 300 "residents of the Black Mountain area," representatives from both groups met. McDonald's spokesman determined at the meeting that they would be receptive to the alternative use of billboards if sites for them could be found between Ridgecrest and Black Mountain.

The group opposes the 100-foot sign

because it would be visible from many places previously unspoiled by signs, including the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Sara Marcia Rafter, who presented the group's position at Town Council last week, stated, "We are trying to appeal to McDonald's sense of values, and at the same time we have to understand their financial aspects."

The financial bottom line is that, "McDonald's must maintain a certain level of sales to survive," said Doug Stafford. "The population in Swan-

nanoo-Black Mountain-Montreat can't meet that."

The benefits of McDonald's economic survival, Stafford said, include 60-70 new jobs for the Valley, tax revenue of \$1-2,000 for the town, and \$5-6,000 a week in salaries are likely to be spent here.

Stafford is employed by the advertising agency which represents McDonald's in this area.

The citizens' group is searching for a landowner willing to rent McDonald's a space on I-40 west for a sign. "We have

people out asking property owners," Bob Warren, a member of the group said. He believes they have about a week left to find an alternative to the 100-foot sign.

A change in the Town of Black Mountain's sign ordinance concerning legal heights of signs is also advocated in the petition. The present ordinance does not limit sign height.

"We never intended this to become a political battle," Rafter said. "It's just an effort to preserve the beauty of an attractive small town."

Metro, community government discussed by county planner

by Cynthia Reimer

County government on its largest and its smallest scales were issues brought to Black Mountain by Charles Tessier, director of planning for the Buncombe County Planning Department, last Friday at an open meeting of the League of Women Voters. Informal community councils are becoming increasingly popular in the county in serving as advocates for unincorporated communities, Tessier said, while the Asheville-Buncombe Charter Commission draws up plans for county-wide consolidated government.

Praising community councils in the Limestone, Fairview and Beaverdam Valley communities, Tessier said the councils give these communities "a voice, a say in what's going on" in county government. Also, "it gave us an opportunity to see that all communities here are not the same," Tessier continued. "Their needs are different. The objective is to make government work for them."

Establishment of community council begins with a petition containing signatures of a minimum of 20 percent of the registered voters in the township, Tessier said. Working within a town meeting format, the 15-member community council can address issues important to that community, bringing them to the attention of the county commissioners. In the Skyland-Arden area, Tessier said, the issues include planned and controlled growth and barking dogs.

Tessier called the councils, established in 1979 by resolution of the county commissioners, "a program that's working well."

In November, 1982 Buncombe County residents will vote to accept or reject a consolidated county-wide government. A charter commission composed of representatives from Buncombe County towns, Asheville City Council and the County Board of Commissioners begins meetings soon to draw up the terms of an agreement. They are expected to complete their work by April.

"The form of the charter has not yet

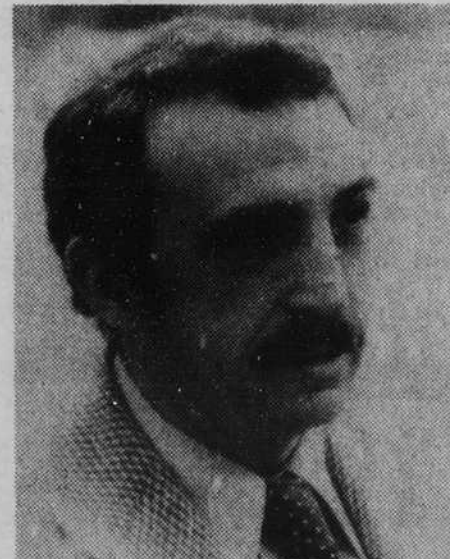
been drawn up. That's an important point," Tessier stressed. "There are lots of alternatives for structure at this

point." The most critical part of drafting the charter, Tessier said, is determining representation.



Bill Anthony [right] and county director of planning, Charles Tessier, exchange views.

Preview of politics in 1980s subject for lecture by Milton Viorst



Milton Viorst

"The 1980s: More Fire in the Street?," a lecture and discussion previewing the politics of the 80's, will be presented by Milton Viorst of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30 in the Bannerman Lecture Hall at Warren Wilson College. Viorst, noted journalist, historian and author, is the second Woodrow Wilson Fellow to visit the college.

Author of "Fire in the Streets: American in the 1960's," Viorst was the Washington correspondent for the New York Post in the early 60's and a syndicated columnist for the Washington Star syndicate from 1971-75. In his numerous books and articles, Viorst has explored the range of United States policy, from domestic infighting to international diplomacy.

If a metropolitan ("metro") government is established, residents will pay a metro tax plus a service district tax for those services actually received in that community.

Tessier described changes that led up to the consideration of a metro government. For years, he said, Asheville was the dominant force in the county. The city had the population, and therefore the money. Recently the growth in industry and population is outside the city.

"The shift is in economic strength," Tessier said. "While city taxes (collected) are going down, the county is becoming stronger financially."

Incorporated areas would not have to give up their autonomy in a consolidated county-wide government, except by vote to do so, Tessier said.

Three other city-county metro governments have recently failed in referendums in North Carolina, while those in other states, including Lexington, Ky., and Knoxville, Tenn., have been successful.

About 25 attended the meeting held at Highland Farms and participated in a question-and-answer period.

Viorst represents the Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellows Program, which was established to encourage the flow of ideas between academic and non-academic worlds. The Visiting Fellows, representatives of business, journalism, diplomacy and other professions, hold week-long residencies at universities and colleges throughout the United States, participating in classes, seminars, panels and informal discussion with students, faculty and administrators.

Fellows participating in the program in 1981-82 include the vice-presidents of two major oil companies, cabinet level officers from the Departments of State and Defense, former ambassadors to the United Nations, journalists from the London Times, and several others. Viorst's visit to Warren Wilson represents the college's second year of affiliation with the Woodrow Wilson Foundation.



Sept. 16—high 78, low 59 degrees; .32 inches precipitation.
Sept. 17—high 67, low 52 degrees.
Sept. 18—high 63, low 47 degrees.
Sept. 19—high 62, low 44 degrees.
Sept. 20—high 74, low 38 degrees.
Sept. 21—high 74, low 39 degrees.
Sept. 22—high 79, low 40 degrees.

Weather courtesy of WFGW Radio, Black Mountain.

No TV listings this week

After an unscheduled round-about route from New Jersey to Black Mountain (with stops in Columbus, Ohio, and Raleigh, N.C.) the TV listings mailing tube arrived Tuesday morning, four days late.

Inside it were . . . no TV listings. We expect all concerned to do better next week!

We're sorry!