

# Black MOUNTAIN NEWS

Serving the Swannanoa Valley

Second class postage paid  
at Black Mountain, NC 28711

Thursday, October 22, 1981, Volume 29, Number 43

Member of the NCPA

25¢

Merrily he rolls along...



## Akins is skating cross country, via Black Mountain

by Trina O'Donnell

At about 3:30 p.m. last Wednesday afternoon Randy Akins, 21, from Norfolk, Virginia, came rolling into the Black Mountain News office just 11 days into a journey that will take him approximately 3,000 miles from Virginia Beach, Virginia to Cape Arago, Oregon. Akins left Virginia Oct. 3 armed with a sleeping bag and the bare essentials for his coast to coast journey, which he hopes to conclude by December 18, arriving in Oregon, and, simultaneously, the "Guinness Book of World Records." If all goes as planned, Akins says he will be the youngest skater to travel that distance and that route during the fall and winter months.

Akins calculated his route will take him across three mountain ranges.

According to Akins, the previous distance skating record was set by Theodore J. Coombs in 1979 who travelled 5,193 miles from Los Angeles to New York City and on to Kansas, averaging 66 miles a day.

What makes Randy Akins' trip so different? He is carrying his own bags, and travelling solo during colder weather and shorter days of daylight. With the help of some truck drivers at a recent stop, Akins estimated his mileage at 30 miles per day.

Accepting a ride at any point on the journey would disqualify the miles he has already accumulated, according to the Guinness rules, so Akins whizzes on down the interstate, stopping occasionally to rest and spend the night in his sleeping bag.

He expressed his thanks to the North Carolina state police for allowing him to skate on I-40 and for letting him skate over Old Fort Mountain, which is normally restricted to cars and motorcycles, prohibiting pedestrians, cyclists, skateboarders—and skaters.

Coming over Old Fort Mtn. in three hours was rougher than he had anticipated. "How much longer does this mountain go on?" he says he asked of every construction worker he met along the way.

Once over the mountain he had another surprise awaiting him. "I wasn't expecting the shoulder to be as messy as it was," he said, referring to the asphalt which forced him to walk

rather than skate for a mile. Asphalt not only impedes progress, it also eats away the urethane wheels on the skates, according to Akins, which necessitates buying more wheels along the way.

Akins wasn't the only one to breathe a sigh of relief after he cleared the mountain. Three police officers were waiting for him at the bottom, "and boy were they glad to see me get off that mountain!" Akins said.

In addition to the cooperation and advice of the state police, who instructed him to skate facing the interstate traffic, Akins was pleased to receive an orange reflector vest, a gift from the State Department of Transportation, presented half-way up the mountain.

After his Black Mountain stop, Akins was moving on to Asheville and, eventually, Nashville, Memphis, Little Rock, Oklahoma City and points west. He anticipated trouble in securing permission to cross the bridge over the Mississippi. And he wasn't thrilled to hear about the tunnels between here and Tennessee since he must go up and over them rather than through with the traffic.

One would expect Randy Akins to hang up his skates for awhile after finishing his proposed record-breaking trip, but Akins says he plans to get married in the spring and his fiancée is in favor of a honeymoon on wheels.

Akins' whiz across the country is for more than the personal satisfaction of making the Guinness book. He is sponsored, in part, by The American Cancer Society with whom he checks in from time to time along the way. He intends to donate to the Cancer Society the prize money of \$4,000 which will be awarded him by the Calley Ave. Bike Shop of Norfolk upon the successful completion of his trip.

During his brief stop here, Randy Akins offered some explanation for what has motivated him to attempt to travel for thousands of miles on roller skates over mountains, across deserts, along interstates and through towns like Black Mountain. Akins has a personal interest in the cancer research the \$4,000 will finance: his step-father has bone cancer and his uncle died of a brain tumor.

## Meet-the-candidates night is October 26

by Bill Anthony

Black Mountain voters will have a personal opportunity to learn the views on major issues of candidates for the Town's Board of Aldermen and mayor in a meeting Oct. 26 sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

The "Meet the Candidates Night" begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Lakeside Club House under the auspices of the Swannanoa Valley Unit of the Asheville-Buncombe League of Women Voters.

A panel appointed by the League will ask each candidate a series of questions related to the Town's management. Questions from the floor will also be relayed by the panel to the two mayoral candidates and seven persons running for the board. Following the formal questioning period the public is invited to discuss informally with the candidates their political views.

Members of the panel are Lois Cook,

Inez Daugherty, Evelyn Affolter, Morgan Gardner and Bill Anthony, chairman. Program chairman is Scotty Cannon.

Black Mountain's election is Nov. 3. Candidates for mayor are incumbent Tom Sobol and present Alderman Alfred Tyson. Candidates for the five-

member board are incumbents Michael Begley, Ruth Brandon, Margaret Slagle and Douglas Stafford, plus Carl Bartlett, Gay Currie Fox and Steve King.

## Gift made to fire department

YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly made a gift of \$500 to the Black Mountain Fire Department to be used in renovation of a water tanker for the East Buncombe Fire District.

The new tanker truck will serve as a "mobile fire hydrant," bringing water to areas not adequately equipped with fire hydrants. The Insurance Rating Bureau will decrease insurance premiums for many homeowners as a result. Although Blue Ridge Assembly is

tax-exempt because of its non-profit status, they have regularly made voluntary contributions to the Black Mountain Fire Department.

Executive Director Frank M. Washburn in making the gift stated that Blue

Ridge Assembly was very appreciative of the willingness of the Black Mountain Fire Department to serve in the event of emergencies and wanted to join the citizens of Black Mountain in underwriting the cost of this new equipment.



T.G. Rayburn accepted a check for \$500 from Frank M. Washburn (right), executive director of YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly. The check will help restore a water tanker for use by the Black Mountain Fire Department.

## Montreat League of Voters to sponsor town meeting

The Montreat League of Voters, an organization of citizens formed in 1977 to encourage citizen participation in electing officials for city government, will sponsor a forum or town meeting on Tuesday evening, Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m. at the C.E. Building on Lookout Road, just beyond Anderson Auditorium.

The Charter for the Town of Montreat provides for an election each four years for three to serve as Council Members and have responsibility for streets, security and all usual government services. An agreement is now in the process of being implemented that will provide for the Town of Montreat to assume total responsibility for the water system that has been owned since the beginning of Mountain Retreat Association. Citizens have voted for a bond issue and sanctioning of a government grant to make for more efficient service.

The three who have offered themselves as candidates for the next term as councilmen are John K. Abernethy, Ivan B. Stafford and E.A. Andrews Jr. As of today no others have qualified as candidates for the new term. The forum will offer the opportunity for each of the candidates to state their plans and aspirations for the work of their respective departments and offer the citizens a chance to direct specific questions on matters pertaining to Montreat management and operation.

For residence owners who have not secured the number assigned to their house and lot, the list will be available for examination at the meeting.

Founders of the League of Voters, Harry H. Bryan, Robert N. Marshall and Guy H. White Jr., have arranged for this gathering. Refreshments will be served.

## Leaf pick-up to begin

Citizens could save the town a "great deal of money" if they would bundle up their leaves in plastic bags for pick-up, according to Town Manager Vinson Miller. One of the town's two leaf trucks is in need of expensive repairs and the town cannot afford to repair it at this time.

Bagged leaves can be hauled on the town's two flatbed trucks, Miller said. Brush should be kept separate and all should be piled at the curb for pick-up which will begin this week.

## Yale professor to teach class

"Tragic Themes in Contemporary Literature," an eight-week course taught by Yale Professor Emeritus Richard B. Sewall begins at 11 a.m. Monday, Oct. 26 in the Shepard House at Warren Wilson College. The course is open to the public, free of charge.

Dr. Sewall, author of "The Vision of Tragedy," is a world renowned scholar of Emily Dickinson, having written two definitive texts on the poet. "Tragic Themes in Contemporary Literature" represents Dr. Sewall's third year at Warren Wilson as a visiting scholar and lecturer.

Dr. Sewall plans to open the course with a discussion of the problems of identity for modern man. He will trace these themes from their origin in Dostoevsky's "The Brothers Karamazov" through their development in several contemporary authors and playwrights.

Other tragic works to be studied include Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby," Hemingway's "Farewell to Arms," Arthur Koestler's "Darkness at Noon," Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman," Tennessee Williams's

"Streetcar Named Desire," and Eugene O'Neill's "Long Day's Journey Into Night."

Dr. Sewall's lectures will be presented each Monday at 11 a.m. in Shepard House. The public is invited. There is no charge for the course.

## Committee to study optional 12th grade

House Speaker Liston B. Ramsey today appointed Representative Gordon Greenwood of Buncombe County as co-chairman of a special committee to consider making the 12th grade optional in the public schools of North Carolina. The study will be made by the Legislative Research Commission, which was directed by the General Assembly to consider the feasibility of making the 12th grade optional.

Greenwood, a resident of Black Mountain, is chairman of the Appropriations Expansion Budget Committee on Education.

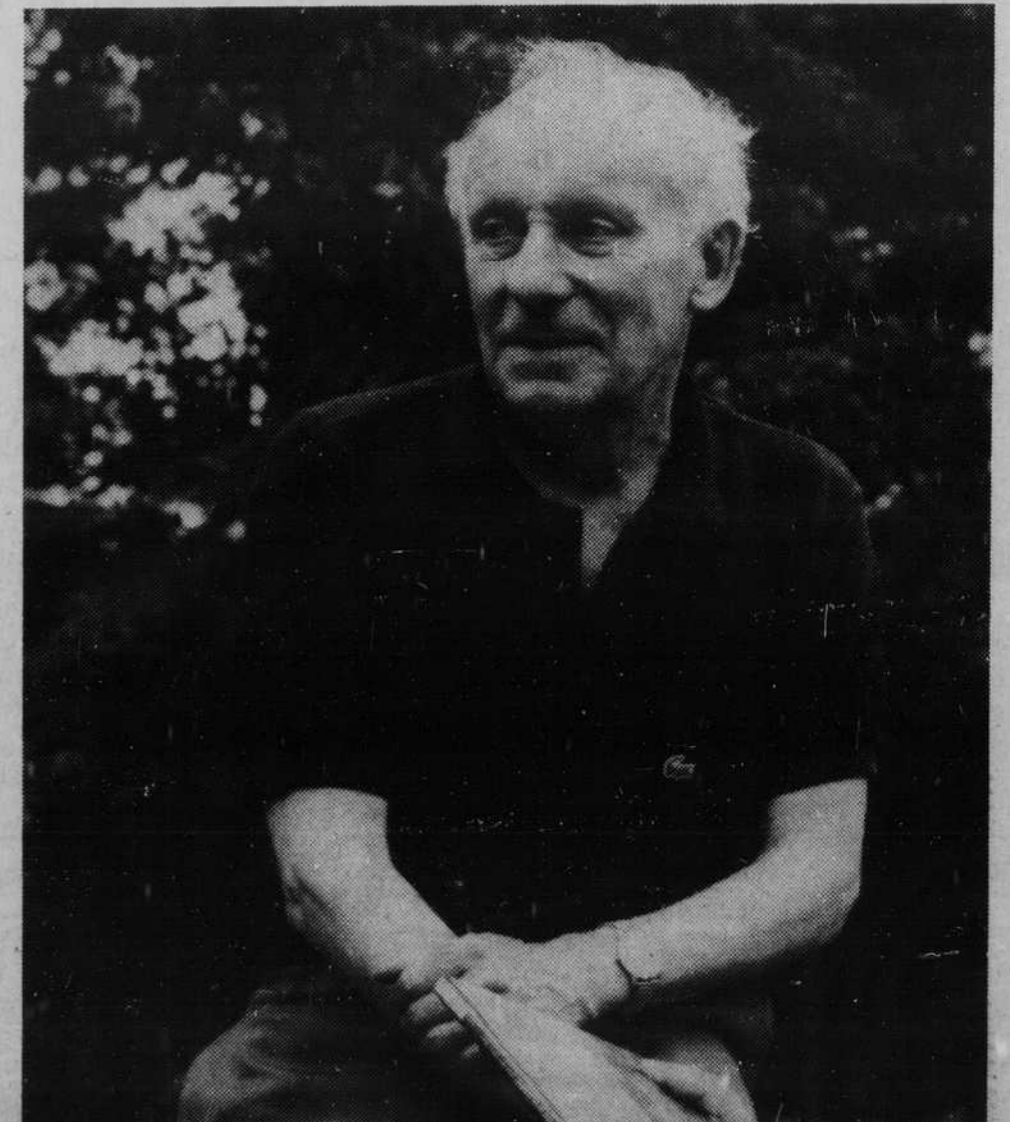
## Carver hosts drug program for parents

The Crime Prevention Division of the Buncombe County Sheriff's Department will present a hard-hitting drug program at the Carver Optional School at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 26.

The program will consist of a movie, "Dead is Dead," a display of drugs and drug-taking paraphernalia actually taken from Buncombe County school-grounds and a question-and-answer session.

The Carver Parent-Teacher Association will sponsor the program which will begin immediately following the regular meeting. Parents and others concerned about the rising drug problem in Black Mountain and throughout the county are invited to attend.

Parents will be polled after viewing the film for their opinion of whether or not the film should be shown in the classroom.



Richard B. Sewall