

Black MOUNTAIN NEWS

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Gary Misenheimer will fly "Veroom Hilda" on Halloween above the Swinging Bridge at Grandfather Mountain.

County may fund rescue tool

The Buncombe County Board of Commissioners discussed providing the remaining funds for a power rescue tool for the East Buncombe Fire District at their Oct. 20 meeting. The discussion was tabled until more information is available to the commissioners on how much money is still needed. According to Chairman R. Curtis Ratcliff, Commissioner J.D. Jackson reported that private donations covering the complete cost of the purchase had already been pledged.

Recent donations from several area churches and individuals have brought the total firemen have collected to \$2125. Half of the remaining amount has been offered by the McDonald's restaurant chain.

The Buncombe County Board of Commissioners will meet again Nov. 3 and, according to Ratcliff, consider the request if current figures are available to the board. In a telephone conversation, Ratcliff said he was certain the board would vote to honor the request.

A previous request in a letter from then acting town clerk Suzanne Turner to the county for assistance in purchasing the rescue tool was denied. The reason, according to Fire Chief Gary Bartlett, was that county tax revenue had already been appropriated for the year and no funds were available.

The present request, dated Oct. 8, was written by Alderman Ruth Brandon

and addressed to Chairman Ratcliff. The power rescue tool, or "jaws of life," is a motor-driven tool used to cut and pry metal to, release accident

victims from wrecked vehicles. Several companies make the power rescue tools. The Buncombe County Rescue Squad, Fairview, Skyland,

Weaverville and West Buncombe Fire Departments all have Hurst tools. Black Mountain Fire Department wants to purchase a Lucas power tool.

Cost of the Hurst tool, according to M. Jerry VeHaun, Buncombe County director of emergency services, is \$7595 and the Lucas tool, \$8519.76. Black Mountain Fire Chief Gary Bartlett said the cost given him by Slagle Fire Equipment for the Lucas tool was \$8,100.

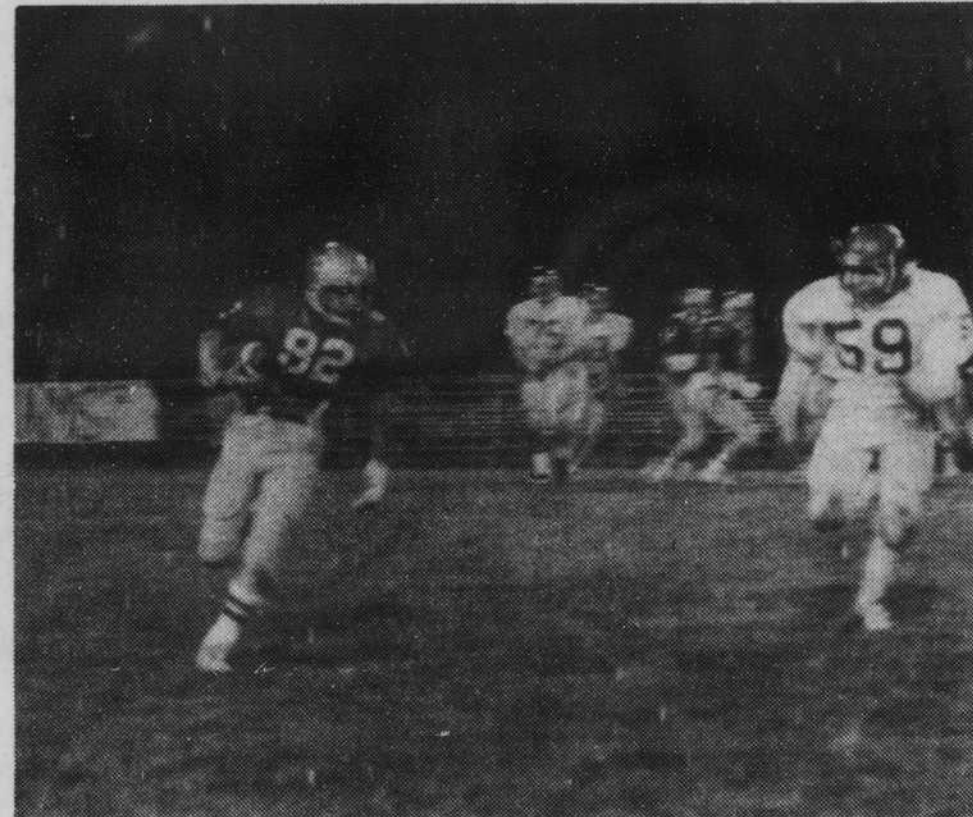
Bartlett said he prefers the Lucas tool because, "It has many more features." For example, he said, the two tools, cutter and spreader, work on separate power lines and therefore both can be in operation at the same time, unlike the Hurst tool.

Citing further advantages, Bartlett said the spreader on the Lucas tool is lighter than Hurst but exerts an equal amount of force, and will stay spread after the motor is turned off.

Bartlett said he also preferred the four-cycle Lucas engine over the two-cycle Hurst because, "it's a more basic engine. Less can go wrong with it."

In a letter from Emergency Services Director VeHaun to Curtis Ratcliff, VeHaun stated, "It is my opinion that Hurst is the better tool, plus the fact that if Black Mountain purchases a Hurst tool, all (rescue equipment) would then be standardized."

Owen homecoming



Keith Parker, a senior, carries the ball for Owen in the Homecoming game last Friday. The win over North Buncombe assures Owen of no less than a second place finish in the Little Mac Conference.

Witch to fly on Halloween

Reports of sightings of witches flying on brooms at Halloween usually raise some eyebrows, but people are really going to see a flying witch at Grandfather Mountain on Halloween Day when Gary Misenheimer flies his six-foot radio-controlled witch.

Gary Misenheimer, 23, is a resident of Newton, N.C., who has been building model aeroplanes for seven years and flying hang gliders for four and a half years. On weekends he is an exhibition hang glider pilot at Grandfather Mountain.

Misenheimer saw a picture in a magazine of a radio-controlled witch, and with nothing else to go on but the

picture he constructed his own version, which he has flown with great success each October for three years. He flies the witch only in October, and only where there is plenty of space to keep her from colliding with someone during her sometimes clumsy landings. The witch flies seven minutes with each fueling.

Gary's witch is not named Broom Hilda, she is Veroom Hilda, due to the noise Hilda's liquid fuel motor makes as it passes overhead. Her flowing black cape is a four-foot replica of the original Rogallo hang glider wing. Her flying speed is 25 miles per hour and top speed 35 miles per hour.

Swindler operating with \$20 bills

Beware, says Police Chief Slagle, of the flimflam man because he is busy in Black Mountain. In the last few days, one made off with two \$20 bills from one local business and one \$20 bill at another.

According to Chief Slagle, the flimflam man pays for a small item with a \$20 bill. After receiving change for the \$20, the man discovers he has a \$1 bill and gives it to the clerk to use instead, receiving his original \$20 bill back. For

one dollar, the flimflam man has collected \$39.

Count change carefully, Chief Slagle said, and don't allow fast talkers to rattle your composure when making change.

Weather review

Oct. 19--high 51, low 36 degrees; .02 inches precipitation.
Oct. 20--high 65, low 20 degrees;
Oct. 21--high 70, low 23 degrees.
Oct. 22--high 69, low 34 degrees.
Oct. 23--high 60, low 48 degrees; .50 inches precipitation.
Oct. 24--high 43, low 26 degrees.
Oct. 25--high 48, low 37 degrees; .13 inches precipitation.
Oct. 26--high 54, low 44 degrees; 1.35 inches precipitation.

Weather information courtesy of WFGW Radio, Black Mountain.

Unexpectedly large crowd hears candidates

Candidates for the Nov. 3 elections for Black Mountain mayor and Board of Aldermen attended a meet-the-candidates night at Lakeview Center Monday night. The 7:30 p.m. meeting was planned by the Swannanoa Valley Unit of the League of Women Voters of Asheville and Buncombe County.

A crowd of about 170 quickly filled chairs set up for the occasion and many had to stand for the evening because of the unexpected turnout.

Candidates for alderman include incumbents Mike Begley, Ruth Brandon, Margaret Slagle and Doug Stafford, as well as Carl Bartlett, Gay Currie Fox and Steve King.

Mayoral candidates in the upcoming election are incumbent Tom Sobol, and A.F. Tyson.

A panel headed by Bill Anthony prepared questions for the candidates. Scotty Cannon was moderator. Panel members were Lois Cook, Evelyn Affolter, Elizabeth Harper and Morgan Gardner.

Each candidate was given two minutes at the opening of the meeting to discuss issues he or she believes will be important to the town in the next two years. The panel then addressed questions to the candidates, some prepared in advance and some proposed by the audience.

The candidates addressed a number of issues including the town water system, the HUD program, the liaison

system of town government, the overspent 1980-81 town budget, tax raise and service cut, open and closed

meetings and many others. The entire program will be broadcast on WBMS, Black Mountain radio

station at 10 a.m. Saturday for voters unable to attend Monday night's meeting.



Candidates gave voters their stands on Black Mountain issues Monday night.

Police and fire report

Man arrested in assault incident

Black Mountain Police Department

A man was charged Sunday with assault with a deadly weapon after an incident at the Meadowbrook apartments. Bennie Alexander Ashe was arrested and held in lieu of \$500 bond.

A police officer answered a call at the apartments for a fight in progress. When he arrived, he found a crowd gathered and an injured man in a private vehicle. The man had received cuts on his throat from a knife, the officer said. He was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

The officer arrested Ashe as he was leaving the scene.

Vandals broke windows in the front of A Touch of Glass on Cherry Street

Monday night and did damage inside the shop, police reported. Damage was estimated at \$800-1,000.

Also on Monday night, two men left the Pizza Hut on U.S. 70 without paying for the meal they ate. One eluded officers, but the other was arrested and taken to Buncombe County Jail where he was charged with receiving accommodations without pay.

Black Mountain Fire Department

With the dry weather conditions which lasted until the weekend rains, Black Mountain firemen were kept busy fighting woods fires. On Oct. 19, a small area on High Top Colony Road burned, the result of someone dumping hot ashes from a fire. Two engines extinguished the fire.

On Oct. 20, firemen extinguished a woods fire off Lakey Gap Road and sent nine men to assist Fairview at a large woods fire. On the same day, moderate damage occurred in a car fire on Camp Branch Road. The origin of the fire was not determined. Two engines responded on the 20th to a fire in an electrical service box in a cottage off Kitsuma Road.

Another woods fire on Oct. 21 burned one acre behind the Family Dollar Store on U.S. 70. Also on the 21st, a belt on a washing machine caught fire in a home on Connally Street.

One and a half acres burned in another woods fire on Oct. 22 on Old Lakey Gap Road. Firemen said the fire may have been set intentionally.

Black Mountain rescue workers answered a medical assistance call on Blue Ridge Road on Oct. 20 and rescued a baby locked in a car with the engine running on Disosway Street on Oct. 21.

Swannanoa Volunteer Fire Department

Swannanoa firemen extinguished a small brush fire on Patton Cove Road on Oct. 21. Also on the 21st, firemen were called to a smoke-filled house on Richmond Ave.

Two calls on Oct. 23 came from Asheville Dyeing and Finishing, where two driers caught on fire.

Leaves in a heater caused a fire in a truck on Oct. 24 on U.S. 70. Light damage was done to the interior of the truck.

Spooky plays at Owen High

Charles D. Owen High School will present two one-act plays on Thursday, Oct. 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the school. The plays are "The Fall of the House of Usher" and "The Black Cat." Admission will be charged.