

# Black MOUNTAIN NEWS

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## 'Outstanding Educator' named



Hilda Caldwell

## Hilda Caldwell to represent Owen High

Hilda Caldwell, Owen High School English teacher, has been chosen by a committee of fellow teachers "outstanding Young Educator" for the year. Mrs. Caldwell will compete for the county honor in this annual contest sponsored by the Jaycees.

Mrs. Caldwell teaches gifted and talented ninth, 10th and 11th grade students, as well as two college preparatory classes of freshmen.

She is in her ninth year of teaching, having taught at Roberson High School and Valley Springs before coming to Owen four years ago.

"I enjoy my role as a teacher," she said. "I feel it's a most important profession." Mrs. Caldwell made her career decision at an early age. "I'd always wanted to be one (a teacher)," she said. "There was no other thing I ever thought about."

In her classroom, Mrs. Caldwell

strives to make it possible for every student to feel successful, she said. "I try to create a rapport with the students so they can express their ideas openly without fear, even if their ideas contradict mine," she explained.

At Owen, she is sponsor of the Beta Club and chairman of the English department.

A member of the committee who selected Mrs. Caldwell, Betty Davis, said Mrs. Caldwell was chosen to represent the school because she is, "an excellent teacher, very dedicated and very professional."

The Madison County native attended Mars Hill High School and graduated from Appalachian State University with a bachelor's degree in English. She and her husband Jerry have two children, Christopher and Stephanie. They live in Haw Creek.

## Chamber banquet

# Get involved, speaker says

"Winners leave their marks on their communities, not losers. Love winning, what's wrong with it?" was the message Monday night at the 22nd annual Black Mountain-Swannanoa Chamber of Commerce banquet at Montreat's Assembly Inn.

Guest speaker Stan Finch, a much-traveled Texize Corp. executive, spoke on "How To Be A Winner." Opening his remarks with a series of attention-gathering stories, Finch finished up with an almost evangelical appeal to enthusiasm and common sense in serving one's community.

To win, he said, use common sense and get involved. Total emotional commitment to the valley is essential if the Chamber is to move forward, Finch continued. Remove anything that clutters your life, that stands in your way, he urged the large audience. Stay young, he concluded, you have the energy to do anything you want to.

Incoming 1982 Chamber President Bill White Jr. outlined goals for the coming year as a new Chamber of Commerce building, moving ahead on a road to Mount Mitchell, and attracting "the right kinds" of new business, high paying and non-polluting firms. A new economic development committee will work on this, he said.

Short term goals White mentioned included closer ties with local public officials, more office coverage at the chamber, membership drives, tours of local industries, more participants in

the Sourwood Festival, stronger merchants' committees, and Christmas decorations next year for Swannanoa.

Chamber directors for 1982 were announced as Andy Andrews, Wendell Begley, Susan Garland, Joe Hyder, Margaret Slagle, Ronald Sneed, Joe Tyson, George Venturilla, Sam Woolwine, Herb Edwards and Cliff Meyer.

Chamber officers for the coming year are W.W. White Jr., president; Frank Rosen, president-elect for 1983; Mike Sobol, vice president; and Carl Bartlett, treasurer.

Outgoing president Margaret Slagle detailed accomplishments of the Chamber of Commerce in the past year. She outlined publicity the Chamber had acquired for the valley in media outside the area and named many signs of growth and development in east Buncombe County. She discussed services provided by the Chamber and its director.

Special recognition was given to former chairmen of the Sourwood Festival. They are founder and first chairman Dr. Bob Dickey (1978), Carl Bartlett (1979) and Andy Andrews (1980-81). Each received a Distinguished Service plaque. George Venturilla will serve as Sourwood Festival chairman in 1982.

Many present and former public officials were introduced at the beginning of the program, including aldermen, county commissioners, state and

U.S. legislators.

Outgoing Chamber directors recognized included Margaret Slagle, Dr. Tom Cannon, Bill Eubanks, Ted Mahaffey, Jack Clevenger, Harry Hyder, Herb

Coman and Roger Hibbard, who received Distinguished Service awards. Outgoing president Margaret Slagle was commended for her tireless efforts for the chamber.

## Gun fired inside police station

A gun, thought to be unloaded, was discharged in the Black Mountain police station last week. The bullet from the .38 caliber police special struck the wall where it shattered, scattering plaster fragments. Vinson Miller, town manager, was struck in the arm by either a bullet fragment or piece of plaster. The skin was broken slightly on his upper arm, Miller said.

Officer Gary Sorrells was demonstrating speed loading equipment, new to the department, to the town manager about 12:30 a.m. Tuesday. Apparently a bullet remained lodged in the gun when Sorrells emptied it, Police Chief Craig E. Slagle said. Sorrells, believing the gun to be empty, fired it inside the lobby of the station.

No disciplinary action will be taken against the officer by Chief Slagle, he said, because he was not present when the incident occurred. "If any action is taken, it will have to be by the town manager," Slagle said.

However, "there will be a policy officers will not practice in the station,"

Slagle said. "It wasn't written policy before."

"I didn't recommend any (disciplinary action)," Miller said, "because it was an accident—which shouldn't have happened."

Speed loading equipment allows several bullets to be loaded in a gun at the same time instead of one by one, saving an officer who may be facing an automatic weapon the few seconds that might save his life. Black Mountain police have been examining several types of the loaders before a purchase is made for the department.

Chief Slagle said another result of the accident in the police station will be a stepped-up weapons training program for the department. While all Black Mountain police officers are qualified on a range, Slagle believes they need more practice. "It's a little too easy to qualify," he explained.

## Medical Center clean-up day Saturday

A call for volunteers to help clean up the grounds around the Swannanoa Valley Medical Center went out this week from Dr. Jack Kettleon, chairman of the Center's board of directors. Volunteers are asked to come to the Medical Center at 10 a.m. this Saturday, Dec. 12, and to bring rakes, pruning shears, etc.

Hot coffee and lunch will be provided for volunteers.

The Medical Center grounds are badly in need of weeding and leaf raking, Dr. Kettleon said, and many shrubs and small trees need pruning. The Center has been unable to provide adequate professional help for regular maintenance, and therefore decided to appeal again for community assistance.

The Swannanoa Valley Medical Center is the product of the community. Organizations and individuals in the Valley contributed to its creation in 1964. Typical of continuing financial support is \$1,700 received from the local Kiwanis Club during the past year.



Stan Finch

## Nativity play will feature real animals

Church Women United will sponsor an outdoor Christmas Nativity pageant on Dec. 16, 17, 18 and 21, 22, 23. The 30-minute performance will begin each evening at 6:30 p.m. in the parking lot of the First Baptist Church on Montreat Road, Black Mountain.

Children from area churches will portray the characters in the Christmas story. Live animals will be used. The audience is to assemble in the Ingle's parking lot adjacent to that of the church.

Choirs from six local churches will provide the music for each performance. They are: Mountain View Baptist Church, Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, Ridgecrest Baptist Church, First Baptist Church of Black Mountain, the choir from the Juvenile Evaluation Center and Mills Chapel Baptist Church. The public is welcome.

## White House Conference on Aging

# Delegate reflects on accomplishments

by Cynthia Reimer

When 2,200 delegates from across the United States met in Washington for the White House Conference on Aging, Highland Farms resident Paul Limbert was one of them. Limbert was appointed by Governor Hunt, one of 22 delegates from North Carolina to the Nov. 30-Dec. 3 conference.

Although the most controversial issue at the conference was Social Security benefits, Limbert reflected on other important trends in the 600 recommendations of the 14 committees made up of "older Americans," issues that may have more far-reaching effects on all Americans, young and old.

"This conference went on record in favor of maintaining the present level of support for that portion of the older generation who are needy," Limbert said. "It also gave attention to the role of the private sector in doing all they can, through pensions, education programs, volunteer activity," in keeping with the movement in Congress to curtail government spending.

A recurring emphasis throughout the conference, Limbert said, was on combating stereotypes of older people, on getting away from the idea of simply providing services for and to the elderly.

One recommendation of the commit-

tee reads, "Older Americans are too often considered a problem. We are of the strong conviction that older Americans can be part of the solution to the challenges facing this country in the decade ahead."

Through the conference it became apparent, Limbert said, that "the older generation is a political force to be

**'Older Americans can be part of the solution to the challenges facing this country'**

reckoned with. They want to be regarded as a resource, not only in their own interests but in international, economic and other areas."

At the conference, Limbert served on the Educational and Training Opportunities Committee, a natural outcome, he said, of his career in the field of education. Limbert was a college professor, president of Springfield College in Massachusetts, secretary-general of the World Alliance of YMCAs in Switzerland for 10 years and executive director of Blue Ridge Assembly before he retired at Highland Farms.

The recommendations of the conference, which convenes in Washington every 10 years, will be considered by

governmental bodies on the federal, state and local levels for years to come.

"To be part of it was very thrilling in many ways. It was a memorable experience to me," Limbert said. "The significance will appear as time goes on, in what happens locally, what happens nationally."

"There may be a renewed awareness of older people," he concluded, "and what important role they play in American Society."



## Weather review

Dec. 1—high 42, low 29 degrees; .46 inches precipitation.

Dec. 2—high 55, low 34 degrees; .02 inches precipitation.

Dec. 3—high 50, low 31 degrees.

Dec. 4—high 42, low 26 degrees; .06 inches snow flurries, rain, sleet.

Dec. 5—high 40, low 30 degrees; .02 inches snow flurries.

Dec. 6—high 50, low 17 degrees.

Dec. 7—high 58, low 18 degrees.

Total rainfall in November—1.37 inches.



Scouts from Troop 50 raised the flag at the dedication festivities for the new McDonald's, followed by the Owen Band playing "The Star Spangled Banner." Hundreds braved the wind and cold temperatures to have a look at Ronald McDonald. (Related photo on page 18.)