

New board puts freeze on signs; axes liaison system

by Bill Anthony

Black Mountain's new Board of Aldermen opened to a standing-room-only house Monday night and in two hours completed what a long-term observer considered a "very heavy agenda."

Only one dissenting vote was cast during the evening. Alderman Carl Bartlett considered a Planning Board recommendation for a moratorium on all new sign permits "penalizing to businessmen." The new Alderman commented, "our sign ordinance worked real fine until this came up about height."

He was referring to a memorandum signed by Planning Board Chairman Travis Childs. Childs informed the Aldermen the Town's planners, through "several workshops" in which local citizens "have been actively participating," became "aware of the several areas of the ordinance that are ambiguous or lack definition (e.g. height)." Wishing for time to compile a "fair, but definitive ordinance that will stand the test of time," Childs asked for the moratorium. The Board of Alderman,

four to one, approved the request, for 90 days, with possibility of an extension.

Authority restored to department heads

Leading off the Board's "new business" was an old problem. Monday night the Board unanimously approved a resolution intended to restore personnel and funding authority to the police, fire, water and street department heads. In earlier years some Town employees complained Aldermen, under a liaison arrangement, exercised too much direct control over the departments.

Department heads will now "have full authority" to fill vacancies and will recommend dismissals to the town manager. Department heads will also have disciplinary authority. Appeals for dismissals and discipline go to the Town Manager, and on to Board as necessary.

Department heads also will "have full authority to determine how funds allocated their departments shall be used." The Town Manager can disapprove an expenditure only if he determines it "endangers the department's overall budget for the fiscal year or is a misuse of funds," according to

the Board's resolution.

Power rescue tool

Mayor Tom Sobol reported the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners had offered the Town up to \$2,500 toward purchase of a power rescue tool. The offer was contingent on the Black Mountain firemen raising the balance of the tool's price. When McDonald's Corporation allocated \$3,200 toward purchase of a tool and the firemen came up with \$2,150, the county offered to pay the remaining balance of \$2,245 for a Hurst Tool and stipulated that bids be processed through the county's purchasing office. As the Black Mountain firemen preferred a Lucas Tool, the Mayor objected to the county's stipulations of what tool to buy and to the role of the county's purchasing office. The Mayor would have preferred to accept the county's \$2,245, with the Town making up the difference, for a Lucas Tool. Former Alderman Margaret Slagle from the audience questioned the relationship of new Alderman Steve King's employment by the distributors of the Lucas Tool. Mayor Sobol responded by reading a letter from the Assistant

General Counsel of the N.C. League of Municipalities. That authority saw no problem with the Town engaging in transactions with companies in which Aldermen have no "financial interests," but are "merely employees," and do not directly gain through such actions.

Aldermen Doug Stafford and Michael Begley saw no evidence of King's personal interest in the sale. The Mayor was authorized to seek "clarification" of the county's position.

Fire training area lease

The Board also agreed to lease to the Town's Volunteer Fireman's Association 20 acres west of Cragmont Road, behind the Pizza Hut, for training purposes. The lease is for 20 years. The resolution superseded a May 1980 resolution leasing the training area for five years under the "absolute control of the fire chief."

Lake Tomahawk dam

Mayor Sobol reported the N.C. Department of Resources and Commu-

Continued on page 2.

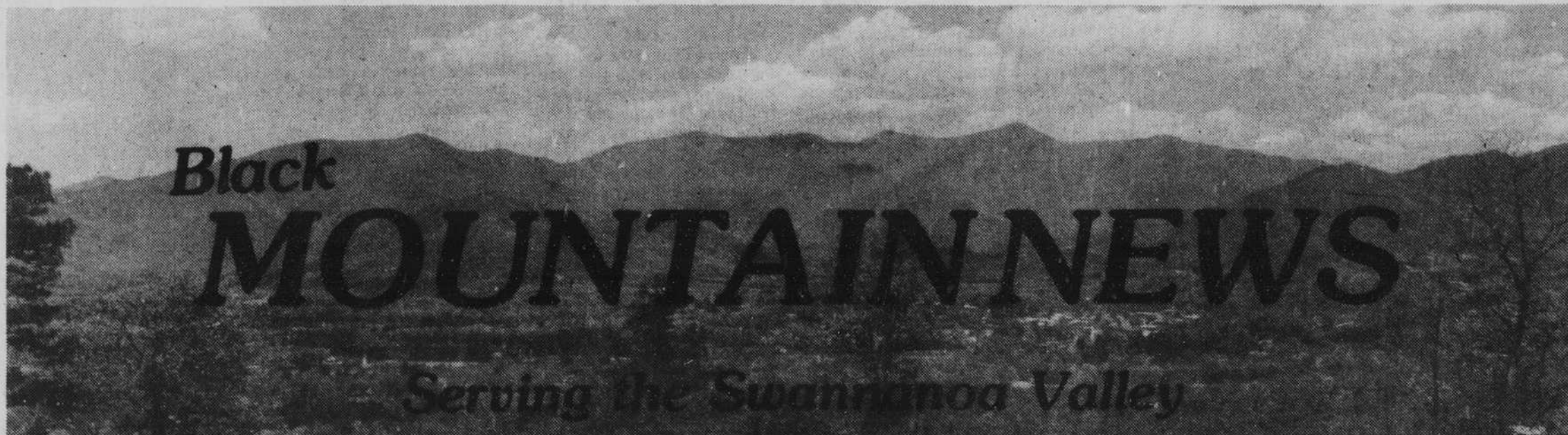
Asheville?



This billboard wishing "Asheville" greetings of the season is curiously located about halfway between Black Mountain and Swannanoa on I-40. (Photo by Dennis Harris)



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Thursday, December 17, 1981, Volume 29, Number 51

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King crowned



Mark Hopkins tried out his crown Sunday in a dress rehearsal for a live Christmas pageant with assistance from his mother, Priscilla. The pageant will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the parking lot of the First Baptist Church Dec. 16-18 and 21-23. Many area churches are involved in this project.

Hendon seeks end to CETA incentive program in N.C.

After conferring with North Carolina officials, Western North Carolina Congressman Bill Hendon has called on Labor Secretary Raymond J. Donovan to exempt the State of North Carolina from a requirement that it pay students to attend school.

Hendon said in a letter to Secretary Donovan that, "It is unbelievably bad public policy to pay students to attend school, and I am concerned that such payments may actually be an incentive for more students to drop out of their regular school program."

The \$30-a-week payments, to student dropouts eligible only if they are from families who already receive public assistance, are required under the federal Comprehensive Employment

and Training Act (CETA). North Carolina has not previously made the payments, but when the state recently asked for an official exemption, the U.S. Department of Labor refused and ordered the payments, which would cost North Carolina \$100,000 this year.

"To force the state to make such payments...is inconsistent with the Administration's desire to return decision making and control of programs to the state and local level," Hendon told Donovan. "I strongly urge you to review the regulations for the incentive allowance program for all the states and to immediately reverse the decision made by your Atlanta Regional Office as it relates to the State of North Carolina."

Test well

Second try yields 120 gallons a minute

by Cynthia Reimer

Water poured out of the second well drilled at In-the-Oaks last week at a rate of 120 gallons a minute, engineer Bob Watts reported. That was good news, Watts said, after the first well drilled at the site yielded a disappointing seven gallons per minute.

Both wells were drilled to a depth of 500 feet by Greene Brothers Well

Drilling of Canton.

The third and final test well in the water project, passed in a Dec. 16, 1980 \$500,000 bond referendum is yet to be drilled.

The next step will be to have a 24 hour pump test performed to measure the exact amount of water produced by the well, Watts said. A 100-gallon

minimum is required of the well.

Plans should be available for approval before Christmas for the other four contracts in the project, Watts said. Four contracts will then be let for a water storage tank, grading around the tank, well house and pump installation and water distribution lines.

It will be spring, Watts said, before

the well is tied into the system.

The town's contract with In-the-Oaks provides for any unused well to become the property of In-the-Oaks. Watts said the first well, which produced only seven gallons per minute, would probably be turned over to the Episcopal Diocese.

Holiday schedule

The Black Mountain News will observe the following schedule for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

The news and advertising deadline next week will be 2 p.m. Monday. The paper will be printed on Tuesday evening. The News office will close at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23 and reopen at 9 a.m. Monday, Dec. 28.

Deadlines for the week after Christmas will be as usual, news at 5 p.m. Monday and advertising at noon Tuesday. The paper will be published on a regular schedule. The News office will be closed from 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 30 until 9 a.m. Monday, Jan. 4.

Beacon to close for Christmas

Manufacturing and service departments will close for Christmas vacation at the Beacon Manufacturing Company

Dec. 23-30. Part of the manufacturing and service departments will resume operations on Dec. 30 at 7 a.m. All

manufacturing and service departments will be in operation on Jan. 4 at 7 a.m.

Cannon Mills Company and its subsidiaries, Maiden Knitting Mills, Inc., Wiscasset Mills Company, Beacon Manufacturing Company and Social Circle Cotton Mill Company, will give \$5,712,057 in Christmas vacation holiday pay to its employees this year. Cannon Mills, a leading manufactur-

er and merchandiser of household textiles and other consumer products, operates manufacturing plants at Albemarle, China Grove, Concord, Graham, Kannapolis, Maiden, Rockwell, Salisbury, and Swannanoa in North Carolina, at Central, Westminster and York in South Carolina, and at Social Circle, Georgia.



Weather review

- Dec. 8—high 57, low 35 degrees.
- Dec. 9—high 30, low 26 degrees; snow flurries.
- Dec. 10—high 26, low 20 degrees; flurries.
- Dec. 11—high 37, low 18 degrees.
- Dec. 12—high 50, low 12 degrees.
- Dec. 13—high 48, low 14 degrees.
- Dec. 14—high 38, low 31 degrees; .51 inches precipitation.

Owen over West Henderson 56-42

Owen High School confronted West Henderson last Friday night and came away with another Little Mac victory, 56-42. Brad Daugherty led the scoring with 33 points and 16 rebounds. Owen led the game until the fourth quarter when the Falcons pulled the score up to a tie. Daugherty's 10 points in the quarter, assisted by the defensive performance of Keith Parker, gave Owen the victory which places Owen 3-0, 4-0 in the conference.

Planning Board to meet

The Black Mountain Planning and Zoning Board will hold its regular monthly meeting on Dec. 21 at the Town Hall at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Special holiday issue next week

