



Black MOUNTAIN NEWS

Serving the Swannanoa Valley

Second class postage paid
at Black Mountain, NC 28711

Thursday, February 4, 1982, Volume 30, Number 5

Member of the NCPA

25¢

Ridgecrest disaster results in new emergency plans

by Cynthia Reimer

The medical disaster at Ridgecrest last summer has led county officials to make some new plans for future emergencies, a Disaster Response Committee announced at St. Joseph's Hospital Friday. Last July 300 visitors at Ridgecrest were victims of food poisoning in the largest medical emergency ever in Buncombe County.

Committee member Dr. David Hagen, education officer at the Veteran's Hospital in Oteen, announced that in

the event of another Buncombe County disaster, an information center for families of victims will be set up at the Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) auditorium on Biltmore Avenue. A master list will contain names, addresses and conditions of victims. Each area hospital will have a representative there to pass information to families.

When area health officials met last fall to critique their responses to the Ridgecrest disaster, Dr. Hagen said, they realized they were fortunate that

most of the victims were from out of town. If they had been accompanied by their families, confusion at the hospitals would have greatly increased, he said.

An elaborate short-wave radio communication system with 60-100 licensed operators has been set up to further facilitate the flow of information, Dr. Hagen announced.

A command post will be set up at the sight of the accident, manned by volunteer ham radio operators. Permanent antennas will be installed at the

hospitals and an operator will man radios at each. Another major radio information post will be set up at the MAHEC facility with remote facilities reporting there.

The purpose of the new procedures will be to have a master list of victims available in one location, Dr. Hagen said. During the Ridgecrest disaster, he said, "People had to go down the list of (medical) facilities to find people." Some places victims of that disaster were treated, such as the American Enka plant infirmary, were places no

one would think to look, he said.

The committee is also setting up a uniform code to notify hospital and other emergency personnel that a disaster, such as a tornado, plane crash or any other major accident, has occurred. The code, to be announced in radio and television messages, will tell emergency workers the number of victims expected.

Under the code, victims will be taken first to Memorial Mission Hospital which is the major trauma center for the area, and then to St. Joseph's, the VA

Hospital, Pardee Hospital in Hendersonville, Fletcher Hospital and others, as facilities are needed.

The committee will meet again at Memorial Mission Hospital in two months with the media to further discuss the new plans. The county is required to have two disaster drills a year to test their emergency plans. One is usually held in the spring, according to county emergency services director, Jerry VeHaun.

Newspaper wins award

The Black Mountain News won statewide honors last week at the annual awards presentation dinner of the N.C. Press Association meeting in Chapel Hill. In the weekly newspaper division the local paper won third place in the advertising competition. There were 24 entries. Publisher Jim Aycock attended and accepted the award on behalf of the News.

Advertisements for Black Mountain Garden Shop, Black Mountain Savings & Loan Assn. and Patterson's were entered together as a single entry.

Another weekly newspaper owned by Community Newspapers, Inc., The Highlander in Highlands, N.C., won first place of 19 entries in editorial page competition.

The meeting was the 57th N.C. Newspaper Institute. UNC President William Friday and Governor Jim Hunt addressed the convention and Gov. Hunt presented awards to the winners. The N.C. Press Association was founded in 1873.

Among topics discussed were the national Newspapers in Education program, circulation ideas for today's economy, postage increases, employee and employer expectations and others.

A panel discussion was conducted by four senior journalism students and publishers of several newspapers of different sizes.

'I can't believe it!'



Patricia Bennett hit the jackpot with a \$1,000 check from Ingle's manager Ronnie Pressley, and District Manager Ronnie Lowe.

Black Mountain family wins \$1,000 check

"I can't believe it. I still can't believe it," was the reaction of Patricia Bennett of Blue Ridge Road even after she held the \$1,000 check in her hand. Mrs. Bennett won the \$1,000 in the Ingle's bingo game last week.

Mrs. Bennett said when she brought home the groceries, her son Todd took the bingo markers to add them to their playing card. "Mama," he told her, "I think we won. Come and look," Busy

with the baby, she asked him what they had won, if it was the \$1 category.

"No," replied son Todd, "I think we won \$1,000."

Unable to believe it, she drove straight back to the store to have it verified.

Mrs. Bennett is the second \$1,000 winner in the contest. The other winner was a shopper in Marion.

Lakeview director resigns

Lakeview Senior Citizens' Center will lose its director, Laine Calloway, on March 1. After a year and a half in the position, Calloway said she resigns with "simultaneous pride and dismay."

"The Board is sorry to see her leave," stated Mayor Tom Sobol. "Laine has been instrumental in many of the successes at the Center."

Participation has tripled since Calloway began in 1980 and the Lakeview facility has become a model center for communities and officials considering similar programs.

Calloway said her reasons for leaving are partly financial. The current town budget passed last summer provides only 30 hours a week for the position.

In her letter of resignation Calloway said she urged the Town Board to restore the position to a full-time one. "I believe the new board holds the ability to be a support and a positive influence on the center," she said.

Calloway considers one of her most important accomplishments at the center the recent reconciliation of past conflicts between the nutrition pro-

gram, a program of the Buncombe County Council on Aging, which meets daily upstairs, and the Lakeview Center.

"They're not competing agencies (now)," Calloway said. "It's one total program meeting the needs of senior citizens."

Calloway said the center "still has a stigma of being a welfare program. That's a great disservice to the community, because it's not. It was a disappointment not to be able to change that."

Calloway plans to return to school to complete her doctorate degree and her ordination in the Episcopal Church.



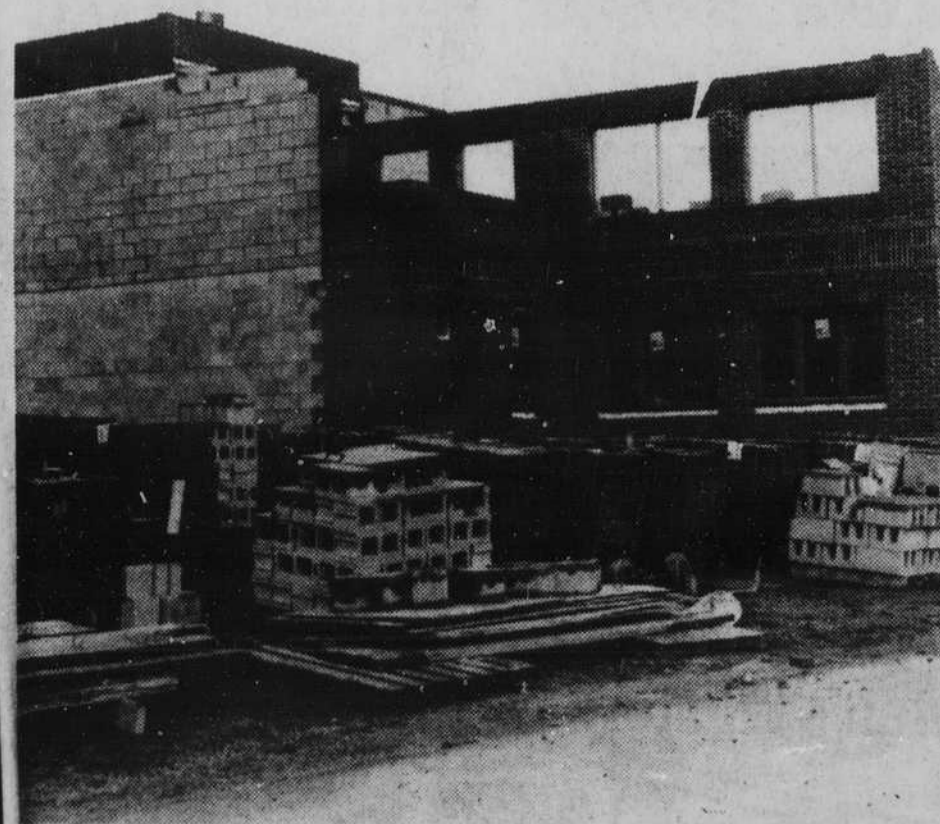
Weather review

Jan. 27--high 37, low 6 degrees.
Jan. 28--high 46, low 15 degrees.
Jan. 29--high 52, low 19 degrees.
Jan. 30--high 54, low 25 degrees.
Jan. 31--high 59, low 48 degrees; .83 inches precipitation.
Feb. 1--high 58, low 26 degrees.
Feb. 2--high 39, low 32 degrees; .22 inches precipitation.

Total precipitation for Jan.--4.75 inches.

Weather courtesy of WFGW radio station, Black Mountain.

Inside... MOUNTAIN LIVING MAGAZINE explores winter in the mountains through the lens of the photographer



Construction continues on the Lodge at Highland Farms. Scheduled to be completed in the spring, the Lodge will house those elderly persons who are not capable of living in the apartments but who do not need the full nursing care of the Health Care Center.

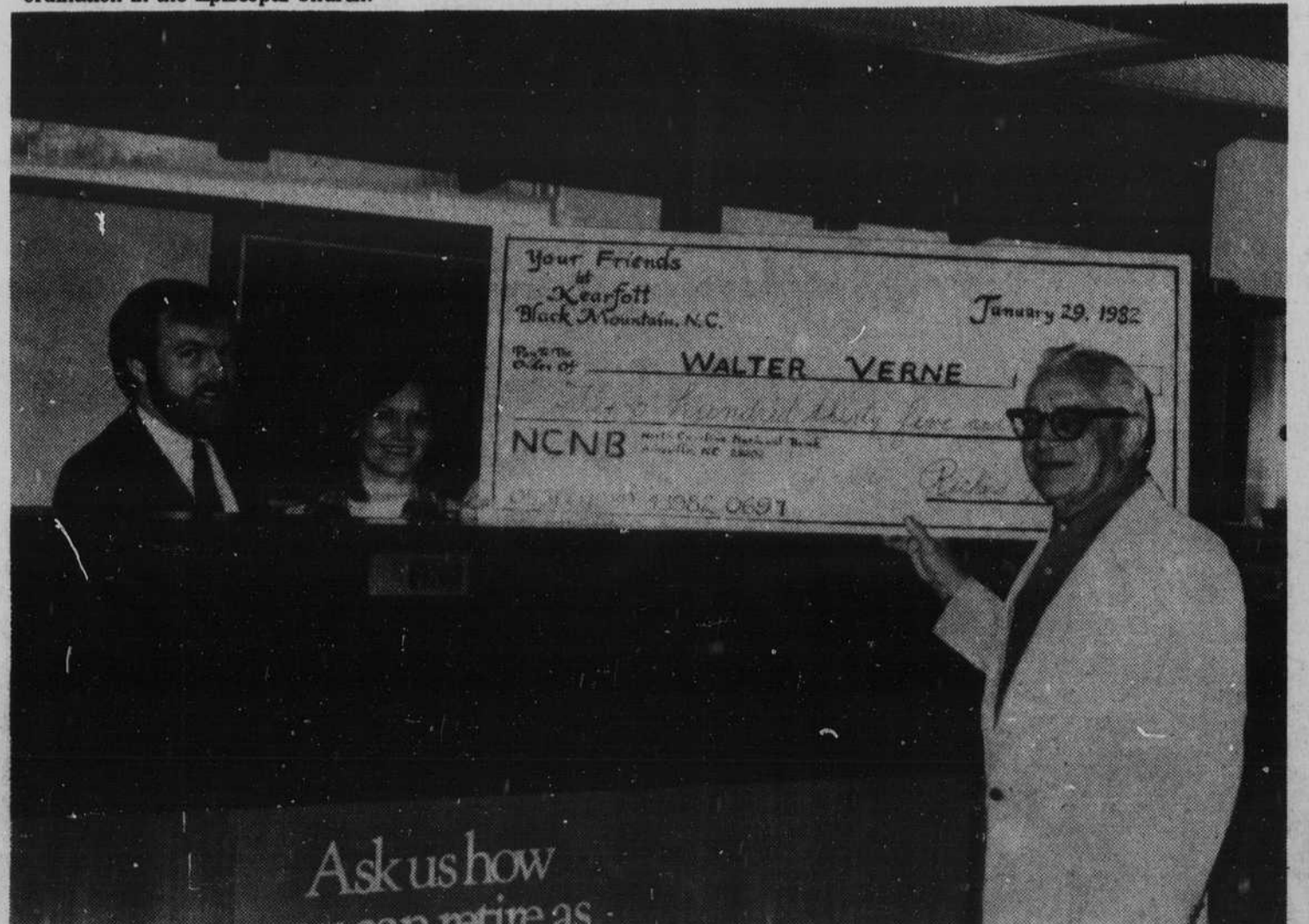
Planning Board

Slides to highlight sign issue

A slide presentation on signs and their role in the community will be given at the Feb. 9 Planning Board meeting to begin at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.

The slide presentation was produced by senior planner for the N.C. Commission of Natural Resources and Community Development, David Quinn. Subjects covered include types of signs which enhance a community, rather than detract from it. Wendell Begley and George Venturella will show the slides and include some of their own of this area.

The public is invited to attend the meeting. Besides the slide presentation, the Planning Board will continue its work on the Black Mountain sign ordinance.



Walter Verne (right) of Lakey Gap Road was presented a two by four foot check at a retirement party by his friends. Verne was honored for 34 years at Singer-Kearfott. Cashing the check at NCNB were Jean Wilson, teller, and Ronnie Armstrong, branch manager.