

Black MOUNTAIN NEWS

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Hallstones the size of marbles, some up to an inch and a quarter in diameter, bounced off the pavement in front of the Old Depot Monday afternoon when two storms appeared to converge over Black Mountain. The thunder and lightning storm dumped several inches of rain and popcorn-like hail on the town in a matter of minutes. (Photo by Trina O'Donnell.)



Ground broken for first area condominiums

by Cynthia Reimer

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held April 21st for the Lynx Condominiums to be built on the north side of North Fork Road across from the golf course, the first built in the area.

Black Mountain Mayor Tom Sobol and Buncombe County Commissioner Chairman Curtis Ratcliff cut a ribbon at the Arnold Jones and Son Real Estate office before the groundbreaking at the site.

Other dignitaries present were Aldermen Gay Fox, Carl Bartlett, Mike Begley and architect Jan M. Wiegman. The first phase of the condominium project will contain 13 living units. Begun April 21 was the Sourwood, containing three two-story townhouses. Each will have three bedrooms, two baths and a private deck, with cedar exterior.

The 1,430 square foot units are designed primarily for low maintenance, according to Paul Jones, construction coordinator of Arnold Jones and Son, contracted for construction by the Lynx Corporation.

Options will include parquet hard-

wood floors in the foyers, solar water heat, carpet and cabinet selection.

Included in the \$65,500 price, plus monthly maintenance fees, will be a dishwasher, refrigerator and range, microwave oven and other appliances.

A private swimming pool and club house will be added in the second phase of construction.

A total of 70 living units are planned. Jones said the condominiums will "reduce the impact of land costs" for homeowners.

There will be no restrictions against children. "We didn't want to create a total retirement community," Jones said. "We're trying to create a neighborhood."

Dutch-born Asheville architect Jan Wiegman designed the condominiums, striving for a chic rather than rustic appearance.

Financing will be available through First Federal of Hendersonville, Asheville office.

The name Lynx was chosen, Jones said, "because of the heritage of the mountains and Black Mountain" and also in reference to the nearby golf course.



Participating in the groundbreaking at the Lynx condominiums were: (L to R) Mayor Tom Sobol; Arnold Jones, contractor; Jack Cole, vice president of the Asheville branch of First Federal; architect Jan Wiegman; and Curtis Ratcliff.

Kunkle holds open house

by Cynthia Reimer

About 200 attended the open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Kunkle Valve Plant on Old U.S. 70 Monday afternoon.

Black Mountain Mayor Tom Sobol cut the ribbon across the portico at the building's main entrance. Tours of the facility with refreshments at the end followed.

Kunkle now employs 21 for the manufacture of pressure safety valves. Nearly all employees are local, graduates of a three week training course

through Asheville-Buncombe Technical College. At capacity, the plant expects to employ 250 in five years.

The home office of Kunkle Valve is in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Don Alexander, plant manager in Black Mountain, said

the company decided to locate its second plant here in order to be nearer its customers, such as Ingersoll Rand and Allied Valve.

Parts of the valves are machined by an automatic turning center, accurate to

within one 10,000th of an inch. The computerized machine, which turns the steel at 4,000 revolutions per minute, finishes the process seven times faster than those at the Fort Wayne plant.

The valves are also assembled at the facility and each is tested and set to a prescribed pressure.

Don Robbins, plant superintendent, said 90 percent of the valves manufactured at Kunkle are installed and fortunately "never have to do anything." At the turn of the century, he said, 15,000 deaths a year resulted from a lack of safety valves in locomotives, steamboats, etc. In 1978 only one person was killed, a result of the quality of safety equipment.

The Black Mountain plant will produce 4-500 valves per day when fully manned.

No forklifts are used in the plant. Materials are transported on carts, a track propelling them automatically.

The \$1,100,000 building contains \$425,000 worth of equipment which cost \$95,000 to set up.



Don Robbins explains assembly of safety valves manufactured at Kunkle Valve.

Nuclear arms not key to peace, say Advocates

by Cynthia Reimer

Members of the Warren Wilson College Peace Fellowship and the Swannanoa Valley Advocates for a Nuclear Arms Freeze joined other peace groups for an Asheville press conference Monday.

Worry about nuclear arms led to a nationwide Ground Zero Week last week with activities to educate the public of the effects of a nuclear war.

A petition was circulated nationwide, calling for a mutual freeze between the United States and the Soviet Union on testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons.

Reading a statement for the Warren Wilson College student Peace Fellowship was Mary Walton. She voiced the opinion of the college community, including President Reuben A. Holden, saying, "It is becoming increasingly clear to those of us in the peace group at Warren Wilson College that there is no security in nuclear armaments."

She said students have collected 525 signatures on a nuclear freeze petition, representing 95 percent of the student body.

Dr. Hugo Thompson spoke at the press conference for the Swannanoa Valley Advocates for a Nuclear Arms Freeze. About 100 members meet the third Monday of each month at the Black Mountain Library at 7:30 p.m.

"We have a large number of retired people in the Swannanoa Valley," Dr. Thompson told reporters, "and many of them are involved in the Advocates group. We have lived through two big wars and a half one and we have vivid memories..."

"Nuclear war would be worse and more widespread in damaging effects, involving many times the number of innocent victims, and leading to both no win and no recovery," he continued.

Dr. Thompson blamed the nation's leaders for "playing games of power with lethal weapons."

"We think too many of our leaders are dangerously misled and are misleading us," he said.

The Swannanoa Valley Advocates collected over 500 signatures on the nuclear freeze petition.

Chamber to meet

The Black Mountain-Swannanoa Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors will meet Tuesday, May 4 at 8:30 a.m. at the Black Mountain Savings and Loan.

The Swannanoa Valley Chiropractic Clinic, owned by Dr. Murray Green-span, recently joined the Chamber.

Kilts to abound at kirkin' Sunday

Kilts will be the dress of the day Sunday at the Kirkin' O' the Tartan to be held at Anderson Auditorium in Montreat May 2 at 11 a.m. The customary blessing of the plaids is sponsored by the Montreat Scottish Society.

The kirkin' will include bagpipe music provided by Joe Bailey Jr. of Hendersonville, pipe major of the Chimney Rock Highlander Pipe Band, tartans, banners and, above all, the national dress of the Scots, kilts.

According to Gene McTigue, member of the Montreat Scottish Society, in early times the Highlander gathered a blanket about his waist with a leather belt and folded the sides over in the front to keep warm in the mountainous outdoors. The top half could hang down the back, be pinned at the shoulder or, in bad weather, be pulled over the head.

At night, the Highlander simply rolled up in it.

As times changed and more work was done indoors, the top half was cut off, folded and carried over the shoulder, ready to be used when needed. This new style, the kilt, was popular because it was less cumbersome.

Since the kilt had no pockets, a leather purse, or sporran, was hung around the waist. Thick knitted hose and heavy deerhide boots were worn to protect the legs and feet. An eating knife was stuck in the top of the hose.

The kilt is one of the few European national costumes to survive as a practical everyday garment.

The Scottish Society will welcome questions at the kirkin' celebration Sunday.

News wins state press awards

by Trina O'Donnell

The Black Mountain News won statewide recognition last week at the N.C. Press Women's 29th annual Spring Institute in Chapel Hill.

Editor Cynthia Reimer won two second place awards in the non-daily division of the 1981 contest. Her article "Ridgecrest site of county's largest disaster" (July 30, 1981) placed second among entries in the news category.

"Dad to a thousand," (June 18, 1981), a feature about Donald McKenzie at the Presbyterian Children's Home, placed second among feature entries.

Over 900 entries were judged in the contest.

A panel of three outstanding journalists, William Green, Dewayne Walls and R.C. Smith, conducted a forum of the theme "Journalism '82-- the State of the Art." They considered trends, changing styles of writing, story subjects, current shortcomings, the importance of reader response and other topics.

William Green served as ombudsman for the Washington Post. He conducted

Owen students in semifinals

Three Owen High School students are among the semifinalists selected to be interviewed to attend the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics next year. After initial testing, the school's admission committee selected 454 semifinalists from 824 sophomores representing 91 counties in North Carolina.

Selected from Owen were Robin L. Goodson, Pandora Lytle and Bryan S. Newell.

Each student will tour the campus, talk with the faculty and be interviewed by the staff. An admissions committee will meet again late in May to select 240 students to be enrolled in September.