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Mrs. Chris Lance helps this pretend doctor tie his suit. Mrs. Beth Linkston also accompanied the Montreat Morning School on their field trip to the Health Adventure last Friday. Story on page two.

Along Broad River

Angry taxpayers protest hikes

by Southwood Smith

"Along Broad River" is a new addition to the coverage of the Black Mountain News. Broad River resident Southwood Smith will be reporting news from the area. Anyone with items of community interest is encouraged to contact Southwood Smith at 669-6104.

The Broad River Community Center was packed recently with alarmed taxpayers, many with 1982 property tax evaluations higher than the 310 percent average hike claimed by the Buncombe County Tax Department.

Ron Wensby, Ron Tosto, Pete Craig and R.L. McGrayer were elected to represent the group, to be called the Broad River United Taxpayers, in a fight to bring the tax increases in line with public services.

The group also will look for answers to questions concerning the make-up of the tax board, bids for the revaluation contract and recent regulation changes that no longer require appraisers to visit

the property.

Residents not satisfied with their tax bills were urged to make an appointment with Associated Surveys, Inc. at 258-3625. Further appeals will be taken before the Board of Equalization and Review.

The appointed representatives, along with those from other Buncombe County groups, met at Reynolds and elected Ron Owensby and Ron Tosto to co-chair one of the four committees to meet with state and county tax department heads and commissioners Monday, May 10 in Asheville.

Variety Supper

If you like good home cooking at low prices, come to the Broad River Community Center, 10 miles south of Black Mountain on Highway 9, Saturday, May 15 from 5-7 p.m. The Ladies' Auxiliary will present its locally famous variety supper to benefit the Broad River Volunteer Fire and Rescue Departments.

News office to close Friday afternoon

Beginning this Friday, May 14, the office of the Black Mountain News will close on Fridays at 1 p.m. The office is located on Sutton Ave. across from the Old Depot. Deadlines will remain the same, with news due by 5 p.m. Mondays and advertising by noon Tuesday. News cannot be accepted after the 5 p.m. deadline unless arrangements have been made ahead of time with the editor.



Black Mountain Middle School cast lines up for the final scene of "Host to a Ghost," to be presented Friday at the school. Standing in for the ghost (center) is Derek Hamby, about to be struck by Myra Brockmeier.

Town to take on trash collection

by Bill Anthony

The Town of Black Mountain is going to collect its own garbage and trash, according to a decision made by the Board of Aldermen Monday night.

Improved "quality of life" was the

frequently expressed theme of the Board's monthly meeting. In rapid order the aldermen made the garbage collection decision, and appointed two commissions with clearly defined and wide-ranging authority concerning the town's appearance and its recreation

programs.

Town Manager Al Richardson reported the lowest bid received for sanitation services was for \$90,600, from the present collector. Richardson estimated the town, itself, could subcontract the labor for \$33,000. With another

\$33,000 the town would enter into a lease-purchase contract on a new truck and finance other costs, such as vehicle maintenance, gas, repair of an older, back-up truck, insurance, etc. From the aldermen's discussion, it appears the town will subcontract the labor from Ann Hamilton.

Present was John Hamilton, who sold his collection business to Asheville-based Hyder Waste Containers, Inc., now collecting in Black Mountain. Hamilton declared, "I'm not here to undermine him (Hyder). But I want my wife and myself to have an 'equal opportunity' to obtain the subcontract.

Richardson said the agreement, to go into effect July 1, would continue the once-weekly pickup in residential areas and two or more commercial district pickups weekly. Alderman Steve King commented town officials were getting some 10 complaints daily on garbage collection service. Mayor Tom Sobol said the new arrangement would save the town \$24,000 annually and, "We'll have better service."

Forestry Commission

An ordinance acknowledging that trees "are both an economic and aesthetic asset" to the town and calling for their protection and increased planting, established the Urban Forestry Commission. It will be responsible "for promoting trees and tree care throughout the municipality and for developing a city tree plan."

The ordinance was inspired by correspondence from the state's Department of Natural Resources and Community Development. Its Division of Forest Resources offers without charge a "planned and supervised program for long-range management of street, park and other public trees."

Named to the commission to take advantage of the state's technical assistance were Harold Patton, Tom Nesbitt, Carol Tyson, Susan Garland representing the Economic Development Committee, and Bill Anthony, chairman.

Recreation Commission

The Recreation Commission "shall have complete supervision of the facilities and activities provided and conducted on or in connection with the parks, playgrounds, athletic fields and recreation centers," excepting the golf course.

Nine members were named to this commission: Dennis Roland, Kelce Lytle, George Ventrella, Carol Williams, Becky Stafford, Ed Torrence, Ronnie Armstrong, Ilois Affolter and Tom Culbreth. They will name their chairman.

Other Business

In other business, Mayor Sobol noted the state this year expects to disburse \$46 million in community development programs, with \$750,000 the maximum possible to any one community. Black Mountain plans to apply for a grant.

Considerable discussion developed on the failure of some residents to pay their water bills when moving, and what to do about it. Last year the town lost "in excess of" \$1,800 in unpaid water bills.

Some favored placing a lien on a house if the departing owner is in arrears, and requiring landlords to meet unpaid bills by previous tenants. Some felt this was unfair to the landlords.

The final decision was to increase the present deposit from \$10 to \$20 and also to require that any outstanding water bill be paid before the water is again turned on.

License fees for doing business in the town will remain at last year's schedule when they were raised, other than for a flat \$20 for contractors rather than a fee based on number of employees, as previously charged. There will be a five percent late penalty. Gus Manis is the town's new zoning administrator.

Planning Board Chairman Travis Childs reported that board hopes to provide aldermen with recommendations for a new zoning ordinance in June, "after a long and hard struggle."

Savings and loans campaign to 'Save American dream'

by Cynthia Reimer

North Carolina savings and loan associations have organized a letter-writing campaign which they hope will help the stagnant housing industry in North Carolina to get back on its feet.

Advertisements headed "Save the American Dream" carry letters to Congressman Bill Hendon, Speaker of the House Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker and President Ronald Reagan. The letters, to be signed and sent to the officials by newspaper readers, ask the leaders to do something "to assure the perpetuation of home ownership."

The letter-writing campaign began April 21 and will conclude on June 14, Flag Day.

According to local savings and loan Executive Vice President Wendell Begley, the campaign was begun by the North Carolina State Savings and Loan League at a Raleigh meeting for managers. They are asking the officials, Begley said, "not how they can help the savings and loan industry but how they can get the budget in control and help industry. It's to get their attention. There doesn't seem to be anybody in Washington paying attention to this."

Homes have become increasingly less affordable in this area. Begley said he has not make a home loan to anyone under 40 this year.

In Buncombe County, sales of single family dwellings in the first four months of 1982 dropped 25 percent compared to

the same time in 1981, according to the Buncombe County Legal Reporter.

Permits for new single family dwellings through April dropped 43 percent in Buncombe County.

Begley cited national statistics for prices of single family residences as \$35,000 in 1974 and \$70,000 in 1981. Median income in 1974 was \$13,000, increasing only to \$20,000 in 1981.

Begley said the group has no specific solution in mind. "The whole idea behind this is to get their attention,

which we haven't been able to do, so we can sit down and come up with some specifics," he said.

The huge budget deficit is the ultimate cause of high interest rates, which have crippled the building industry, Begley said.

Banks compete with the government for investment money as the government must keep increasing interest rates on treasury bonds to keep up with the budget deficit.



Owen students attend press conference

Owen students Lisa Crowe, Ashly Smith, Kevin Slagle, David Shelor and Scott Emery were among those to attend a press conference with Governor James Hunt held last week at the Hall Fletcher Middle School in Asheville.

Several Buncombe County Schools were represented by students who had submitted questions beforehand.

A demonstration press conference was conducted by Rick Gunter.

The meeting was arranged through the Great Smokies Council International

Reading Association (G.S.C.I.R.A.).

Ashly Smith's and Kevin Slagle's questions were selected on the basis of their phrasing and content to be asked of Gov. Hunt.

Smith asked the governor, "How will recent budget cuts in education affect the college rates for in-state residents?"

Slagle's question was, "Since some of the recent cuts have been directed toward the student loan program, what are your plans for helping the student who wants to go to college but who needs financial aid?"

Governor Hunt was presented with the Literacy Award for the G.S.C.I.R.A. by Dorothy Crissman, president.

A reception followed.

Open house at radio station

Blue Ridge Broadcasting Corporation will hold their 20th anniversary celebration at an open house, Saturday and Sunday, May 15-16, from 9 a.m. each day.

Radio Stations WFGW and WMTI-FM studios are located on Highway 70 west of Black Mountain, N.C. The public is invited to attend.

Blue Ridge Broadcasting was incorporated in 1962 under the direction of Dr. Billy Graham. Both stations are the result of Dr. Graham's desire to have a continuing Christian witness in his own part of the country.

WFGW is a 50,000 watt station broadcasting at 1010 on the AM dial. WMTI-FM transmitters are on Clingman's Peak at Mt. Mitchell giving the station tremendous coverage at 106.9 on the FM dial.

Weather review

May 4--high 78, low 37 degrees.
May 5--high 78, low 42 degrees.
May 6--high 80, low 44 degrees.
May 7--high 75, low 46 degrees.
May 8--high 74, low 51 degrees; .34 inches rain.
May 9--high 72, low 40 degrees.
May 10--high 79, low 37 degrees.



MAY 9-15