

# Black MOUNTAIN NEWS

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## \$51,000 check retires Medical Center debt

by Cynthia Reimer



Legislators (L to R) Bob Swain, Gordon Greenwood, James McClure Clarke, Marie Colton, Martin Nesbitt, and Jim Crawford turn a \$51,000 check over to Dr. Jack Kettleston, chairman of the Medical Center, and Ernest DeWick, development chairman.

A check for \$51,000 retired the mortgage and other debts and put the Swannanoa Valley Medical Center "in the black" for the first time last Saturday morning. The happy moment was brought about by N.C. legislators, especially Gordon Greenwood who has worked several years to raise state funds for the Medical Center.

Speakers at the breakfast meeting included Robert Swain, Greenwood, Marie Colton, James McClure Clarke, Martin Nesbitt and Jim Crawford.

Speaking for the community were Ivan Stafford of Montreat, Ken McAnear of Ridgecrest, Frank Washburn of Blue Ridge Assembly, Dr. Gaines Cook of Christmount and Ernest DeWick of North Fork.

Others present included Medical Center officers and board members, Dr. Jack Kettleston, Dr. Ortha Sherrill, Nell Wilson, Herb Coman, Gertrude Carrier, the Rev. Robert D. Earnest, Elizabeth Harper and Don Hollister.

Surplus funds from the \$51,000 state money will be used to initiate a program of health care for the indigent of the area, according to Ernest DeWick, development chairman of the Medical Center. "Now we'll be able to start on the first idea we had which we were not able to carry through on, service for the young and aged who can't afford to pay," DeWick said. "It won't be a separate clinic. They will be worked in with the regular patients to preserve their dignity."

Another \$40-50,000 will be needed to run this program.

The state grant will allow the Medical Center to be self-supporting. Future fund drives will be used to purchase additional modern equipment and to support the health program for the indigent.

The Medical Center of Old U.S. 70 was evaluated in June at \$1.2 million. It serves a population of 25,000 in winter and 125,000 in the summer from Ridge-

crest to Swannanoa, 75-100 per day. Facilities include medical, dental and eye examination.

"During the last three years we've concentrated on fully equipping the medical offices, waiting rooms and treatment rooms," DeWick said. "We've attracted several new doctors and completed a minor surgery room in the last couple months."

The staff includes Sharon Hamil M.D., Carol Kaufman M.D., S. Tyrus Maynard M.D., Robert J. Uhren M.D., John L. Hillsman D.D.S., P.A., Jack B. Kettleston O.D., P.A. and Janne K.

Smith O.D. Offices are available for two more doctors, with three examining rooms already equipped.

When fully staffed, the center will function on a 24-hour a day schedule, according to DeWick. At present only emergency services are available on weekends and evenings, DeWick said.

The Medical Center will hold an open house with local, county and state officials Aug. 15 from 3-5 p.m. The Buncombe County Sheriff's Department will display ambulance equipment. Refreshments will be served. The public is invited.

## Medical Center result of community efforts

by Cynthia Reimer

Roy Taylor gave the dedication speech on Sunday, September 22, 1974 for the Swannanoa Valley Medical Center on Old U.S. 70. That day marked the culmination of the efforts of hundreds of individuals, area clubs, police and fire departments and churches to open a medical facility to serve the people of the Swannanoa Valley.

Mr. Ernest DeWick, past president of the Medical Center Board, presently development chairman, related the history of the Board's efforts.

When the North Fork Community Club chose DeWick president, their major fund-raising proceeds went toward assisting local 4-H Clubs. After a successful craft and cake sale, the Community Club voted to appropriate \$500 to a group interested in providing an ambulance for the North Fork community. A used four-wheel drive vehicle was purchased, renovated and run by volunteers.

That \$500 was the first of donations to total \$600,000 over the years that followed. Except for two grants of \$25,000 and \$15,000 from the Chat-

Foundation of Florida, the money has been raised in the Valley.

Nine Medical Center Fairs (the first in 1968), letter drives and a thrift shop were major fund-raisers for the Medical Center.

The thrift shop came about, Mr. DeWick said, when a "terrific storm" struck during one of the fairs. "Everyone took off, leaving the donated goods," Mr. DeWick said, so committee members loaded the items into a truck provided by Brooks Reid. They rented a house which stood where the new ABC store is on N.C. 9 and opened the Medical Center Thrift Shop.

Shortly after the North Fork ambulance was purchased, the Black Mountain group heard about a Swannanoa group working toward a medical facility. They got together at a Kiwanis Club meeting, organized a New Ideas Committee and decided to work toward a joint facility.

Other area groups providing assistance and funds throughout the years were the Rotary Club, Lions Club,

Continued on page 2

## Board of Aldermen

### Cragmont area target for grant

by Bill Anthony

The Town of Black Mountain is going "to give its best shot" toward obtaining a \$750,000 community development grant from the state, with emphasis on substandard housing in the Cragmont area, according to a decision made Monday night by the Board of Aldermen.

The decision included efforts to get funds for housing in the Ridgeway Avenue neighborhood, plus improvements for the downtown district, to the Senior Citizen's Center on Lake Tomahawk, and for the lake's dam.

A second public hearing on specific utilization of the hoped-for grant was scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 14.

The Board voted unanimously to accept a proposal by Kathy Wacaster, Black Mountain's Community Development Administrator, pending another review. The proposal called for spending up to \$379,000 on "community revitalization" in the area roughly including the north portions of Goldmont and of West College, and Campbell, Craggy, Locust, Brook and Kennedy streets. Another \$185,000 would be earmarked for Ridgeway.

Downtown sidewalks would be a \$25,000 expense and \$20,000 would go into a "commercial pool" to help businessmen rehabilitate store fronts. For the Senior Citizens Center, \$50,000 would be spent on ramps, elevators and other facilities mostly for the handicapped. And \$25,000 would go toward safety improvements to the Lake Tomahawk dam.

A part of the grant, \$74,000, would be pay administration costs of the program, expected to take up to two years to complete. The budget process for the balance of the sought grant is still underway. Deadline for its submission is July 30. Results will be announced two months later.

The possibility of Black Mountain obtaining the federal funds being dispersed by the state is uncertain. It was noted that of North Carolina's 400 cities only 60 are expected to receive awards. The Town's presentation for the residential area improvements is based on the occupants' substandard income, which for a family of four is placed at less than \$13,000 annually.

Sign ordinance

In other business Monday night the Aldermen learned the Planning Board only two hours earlier had further modified its business signs article in a zoning ordinance draft. The Planning Board, trying to meet previous objec-

tions from some aldermen, voted in favor of increasing identification signs from 50 square feet to 85, with a "reader board" of 25 square feet, and up to 25 feet high.

The Aldermen, who took no action on the Planners' new proposal, were advised by Zoning Administrator Gus Manis that a representative of Western Steer Family Steak House did not wish to be restricted to a 25-foot tall sign. The restaurant, now under construction near McDonald's, is well below the I-40 road level. McDonald's erected a 100-foot sign. Further information was expected from the restaurant's representative.

Recreation vehicle park

The Planning Board also earlier had received a proposal from Jack Brown to develop a recreation vehicle park on 10 acres in the South Blue Ridge-Brier Brook Road area. The plan calls for 98 units, with Brown expecting about 50 percent of the vehicles moving in and

out daily. The Planners pointed out there may be difficulties with traffic flow and obtaining sufficient directional signs. The Planning Board referred Brown to the Board of Adjustments.

Street paving

Also the Aldermen received a written request from Arnold Jones that the Town pave the Lynx Condominiums' streets, a construction on North Fork Road. The streets would be dedicated to the Town. The Aldermen will be reviewing various requests for pavement at a later meeting.

The Aldermen agreed to lease one of seven acres of the Town-owned Rocky Branch property to various Scouting organizations. A cabin could be built on one acre and the other six used for Scouting activities.

Sourwood Festival

Mayor Tom Sobol proclaimed August 1 as "Sourwood Festival Week" and encouraged attendance at the events.

## Montreat men view Lebanon war, say media reports inaccurate

"When we established our base here in Montreat just six months ago we had no idea we would be launched into international affairs so quickly," stated Jim Jackson, upon his return from Lebanon and Israel this week.

Jackson, who is executive director of the United States Christian Embassy, Israel, and his administrative assistant, the Rev. Ted Mahaffey, met with top military, political and religious leaders in both countries. The two Montreat men were leading a fact-finding tour of Christian television network people from across the United States and Canada.

"There are two things which astounded me," said Mahaffey, who also pastors Lakey Gap Presbyterian Church. "One was the way our American news media have orchestrated the attitudes of the American people, portraying Israel as a merciless aggressor. The fact is," he said, "the Lebanese people on the streets are ecstatic about their new-found freedom, and express deep gratefulness for their liberators—the Israelis."

"Second," Mahaffey added, "is the outstanding young Lebanese forces leader, Basil Gemayel. When we talked with him we were very impressed with his sincerity, and his commitment toward a free Lebanon—a democracy

under Lebanese control."

According to Jackson, one of the positive effects the Christian contingent had on Gemayel was to convince him he needed to publicly affirm what his people were already declaring, that Israel was a liberator rather than fighting a battle they had created themselves.

Gemayel, according to conversations with his own intelligence officers, was fearful of the political implications of such an alignment. "It may well bring the rest of the Arab world in on the Lebanon (militarily)," Jackson said.

Continued on page 2

## Merchants to meet

A merchants' meeting will be held Thursday, July 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Black Mountain Library. A representative from SCORE (Senior Corps of Retired Executives) will discuss a plan for free counseling for small businesses in Black Mountain.

John Smalling of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) will present an update on the Townlift Project.



ABCCM-E volunteers include: (first row, L-R) Gladys Jones, Alva Snypes, Gertrud Rath, (second row) Irene Hutchins, Polly Cooley, Alma Williams, (back row) Shirley Turner, Helen Shook, Gladys Snypes, Carol Hoyt, Peggy Latta, Margaret Whiteside and Jean Abbott.

## ABCCM-E to receive Governor's Award for volunteer services

Volunteers at ABCCM-E were notified last week that they will receive a Governor's Award for Volunteer Service at a ceremony to be held in Asheville in the fall. They were selected the church-religious group volunteer group for Buncombe County.

Also, Meals-on-Wheels driver coordinator Gertrud Rath will receive the Senior Citizens Volunteer Award.

Lois Nix, ABCCM-E director, was notified of the awards in a letter from Cindy Mueller of the Volunteer Service Bureau. The Governor, she wrote, "adds a personal note of appreciation

for your valuable contributions to improving the quality of life for the citizens of Buncombe County."

ABCCM-E assists up to 100 families a month. They provide nutritionally balanced food packages, clothing and household items and financial assistance.

Volunteers at ABCCM-E receiving the award are: Peggy Latta, Shirley Turner, Gladys Jones, Gladys Snypes, Alva Snypes, Irene Hutchins, Jean Abbott, Alma Williams, Helen Shook, Gloria Blankenship.

Nana Hensley, Janet Clevenger, Eth-

el Hudson, Muffie Smith, Walter Kleina, Carlton Smith, Clyde Bennett, Dottie Larsen, Barbara Hardie, Margaret Whiteside.

Gertrud Rath, Elizabeth Lynn, Con-way Tatham, Elizabeth Shephard, Ellen Taylor, Helen Soos, Polly Cooley, Carol Hoyt, Janet Evans, John Brothers.

Johnnie Patton, Lois Gibbs, Dorothy Allen, Susie Buckner, Clyde Hall, Carolyn Eley, Glenn Stallard, Charles Clay, Polly Douglas, Grace Miller, Rozella Noblett, Eva Porter, Nell Porter and Selwyn D'Amico.