

# Black MOUNTAIN NEWS

Serving the Swannanoa Valley

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## First annual Black Mountain-Mt. Mitchell Ski Challenge is successful event

by Claudia Watts and Priscilla Hopkins

The first annual Black Mountain-Mt. Mitchell Ski Challenge sponsored by the Economic Development Committee of the Black Mountain-Swannanoa Chamber of Commerce took place on Saturday, Feb. 19.

Cross country skiers from Atlanta, Charlotte, Greenville (S.C.), Columbia (S.C.), Long Beach (N.C.), Asheville and yes, Black Mountain, assembled at the Town Pump on Cherry Street at 8 a.m. for coffee and donuts.

Jerry Atkins, who is with the Blue Ridge Parkway Staff, led a caravan of 35 vehicles up highway 80 to the Parkway. The group traveled on to the Lodge at Mt. Mitchell where the enthusiastic skiers were met by Lewis Ledford, Superintendent of the N.C. state park. Ledford gave a short speech of welcome in which he said that the skiers would find the race a well-organized one.

Will Leverette then reviewed the course for the participants. The first two

miles of the 5.8 mile course led down a road bed. The next 1.5 miles were marked by blue blazes (and had also obviously been walked.) The last portion of the course came down the road leading back to the Lodge.

The course included a stiff mile and a half uphill and included four streams to be crossed as skiers saw fit. All but one of these had had snow piled in them to act as a bridge.

Rescue personnel were stationed along the course to insure the safety of the skiers. John Howard, Sr. of Black Mountain had skied the course before the cross country challenge began to check it out.

The skiers found snow to the roof of the Lodge, but bright, sunshiny weather for their challenge. A base of 13 feet of snow reached depths of 40 feet in places where snow had drifted.

The temperature was a comfortable 45 degrees F. Some skiers had to remove a layer or two of clothing at some stage of the course because they

became too warm.

Debbie Robinson commented on the high visibility of the day. "Everything is clear and really beautiful." As for the temperature, she remarked that she had been to Mt. Mitchell in the summer when it hadn't been as warm!

The field of 56 skiers, which included 16 women, began the challenge course at 11:30 a.m., beginning at 20 second intervals.

Eric Young, who came in third, said that he'd only been skiing for four weeks. He enjoyed seeing the course from a different perspective. He was familiar with the area because he had hunted parts of it.

Gil Hargett not only was taking part in the event, but was also taking pictures and notes. He plans to write an article about it for Cross Country Ski magazine.

Bill Bailey underscored the challenge aspect of the winter event when he said that the challenge of the course was a great one.

Although this event was a challenge and not a race, Troy Clark completed the course with the best time of just over one hour and eight minutes.

The idea of the challenge was not to beat the other cross country skiers, but rather for each individual to compete against the course and to complete the course as rapidly as he/she was able.

Clark, who is the owner of the High Country Ski Shop in Pineola, said jokingly that it was a good course because the downhill portions gave him time to rest. He used waxed skis and found the course "very enjoyable."

He welcomes a personal challenge and thought that the one and a half mile uphill portion of the course tested the skiers. He plans to return next year.

He commented favorably on how well he thought the event had been organized. And he ought to know. He has organized several himself.

An interesting thing to know is that he is from Long Beach, N.C., and

practices on the sand. So anyone can enter this kind of event, regardless of where they live.

The Economic Development Committee created this cross country ski challenge in an effort to sustain business in Black Mountain on a year around basis. Next year's plan is to make this a week-end event.

Wendell Begley, who is chairman of that committee, also chaired the subcommittee that began planning this event in Sept. of last year.

He said that many people have worked very hard to make it the unqualified success that it was.

Special credit is due to his wife, Vickie, who not only put up with the long hours he put in, but also pitched in and worked hard herself.

Matt Hodges of Mountaineering South kept the records straight. Others who helped are Will Everette and Bob Antozzi, Director of the Black Mountain Parks and Recreation Department.

Susan Garland, President of the Black Mountain-Swannanoa Chamber of Commerce and Andy Andrews, its Executive Secretary also worked.

Bob and Claudia Watts spent time helping with arrangements and day-before preparations at Mt. Mitchell.

Also, a word of thanks is due to the Black Mountain Police, a Buncombe County rescue unit, eight men from the Black Mountain fire department mountain rescue squad and two men from Skyland.

There was excellent co-operation from the staffs of the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Mt. Mitchell State Park.

Additional help was given by volunteers from the Owen High School cheerleading squad.

Tricia Shealy of Columbia, S.C., summed it all up when she said, "It was so well organized. I'm ready for another one next week."



Susan Durham (at left) presented certificates of nomination to [L-R] Annie McMahon, Ben Pace and Helen Hall at the Quality Forward awards luncheon last Friday.

## Great Decisions continues

The Great Decisions lecture and discussion for Tuesday March 1 will be a consideration of one of our greatest current concerns: Nuclear Proliferation. The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Education Room of the Black Mountain Library. Further and more concentrated discussion will be led the next morning, Wednesday, March 2, by Dr. Donald Hart in the Reading Room of the library.

We are most fortunate and honored to have as our lecturer one of our neighbors, Dr. Alfred O. Canon of Montreat. His Great Decisions topic will be Nuclear Proliferation: Who is next to get the bomb?

becoming alert to the profound danger of nuclear warfare. There is much evidence that other nations are as aware or more so.

The issue to be discussed, however, is centered upon the related problem of nuclear capability being attained by a number of other nations. In the USA and in the USSR there is some effort being made toward some sort of control and limitation, slow though it seems to be. But how do we exert or encourage control of manufacture and use of nuclear devices by other nations?

That is the subject which will be addressed by Dr. Canon. All concerned citizens are invited to hear about and to discuss this most important topic.



Canon

Dr. Canon has a long and successful experience as an educator and academic administrator including President, Chancellor, Vice-President and Deanships in four colleges.

Except for his military service part of which was in Japan, his activities have been largely in the Alabama, Tennessee and North Carolina. Since 1980, he has been the Director of University Relations and Lecturer in Political Science at UNC-Asheville. He is also the Coordinator for Great Decisions in the Greater Asheville area.

Recent events and official pronouncements suggest that we, as a nation, are

Great Decision groups meet elsewhere in the Valley, too.

Two meet at Highland Farms Retirement Community. One group meets on Monday afternoons at 3:30 p.m. in the Music Room. The other meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in the Upper Core No.3. Dr. Paul Lambert can be contacted for further information.

Ms. Kathy Campbell, Director of Religious Activities for Warren Wilson College, leads the group that meets on campus on Sunday mornings from 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. in DeVries Gym. She can be contacted there for details.

## Public Meetings

The Board of Directors of the Swannanoa Volunteer Fire Department will meet on Thursday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the fire station.

The Planning Board will meet on Monday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall. The public is invited to attend.

## Inside

Ski Challenge participants and times on page 2

Many people apparently think the Black Mountain News is free at coin box racks located in Ingles Supermarket - the Post Office, and other locations. The Black Mountain News is not free; it sell for 25 cents.

A count of copies left in the racks and of money collected from the coin boxes shows that many persons are taking the Black Mountain News without paying for it, or are paying less than the 25 cent price.

One quarter may not seem like much but when multiplied many times it becomes enough to be of concern to the Black Mountain News. Please try to remember that your newspaper is for sale and is not free. Thank you.

Janet Clevenger  
Circulation Manager

## Three in Valley win Awards

by Priscilla Hopkins

Quality Forward of Asheville held its second annual awards luncheon on Friday, Feb. 18 in the Owen Conference Center on the UNC-A campus.

At that time, twenty-seven individuals and organizations were honored with certificates of nomination for their efforts to improve and beautify the environment.

The Swannanoa Valley had three nominees. Mrs. Annie McMahon was recognized for her leadership in the Buckeye Community. She was praised especially for her efforts in spearheading the efforts of the residents of that area in completing a community center building.

Mrs. Helen Hall, also of the Buckeye Cove Community, was nominated principally for her work in the beautification of that neighborhood. It was her idea to have a "yard of the month" competition from April through October of last year. She plans to open this year's competition April 1.

Mr. Ben Pace, representing Country Food Stores, won a nomination under the corporation beautification category. The store that won the nomination is the one located at the junction of Montreat Road and Northfork Road in Black Mountain.

The certificates were given by Bernard Manley, Quality Forward treasurer. He was assisted by Susan Durham of the Quality Forward Staff.

Quality Forward is already accepting nominations for 1983 awards. Judging will be done in Sept.

There are four categories for competition. They are: I Quality Forward Award for an organization and for an individual, II Beautification Award for corporation, organization and individual, III Clean Community Award for corporation, organization and individual and IV Cultural Award for Organization and individual.

Further information may be obtained by contacting Quality Forward at 254-1776. Ms. Jean Webb is the Director.

## Black Mountain News to move

The Black Mountain News is scheduled to move its offices to the press building located on Montreat Road sometime in early March.

New offices, a reception area, a composing room and warehouse facilities are included in the remodeling. R. Frank Burke, a Black Mountain builder, is the contractor.

John Cooke, superintendent of the six man, two woman work crew, says that the exterior will be finished with gray vertical siding. Trim work will be painted white.

Additional work includes the erection of a wall between the new work areas and the presses.



Renovations are underway at the new home of the Black Mountain News.