

# THE NEWS - RECORD

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## New Boys' Home Fills A Need In Hot Springs

By JAMES J. SHEEHAN, S.J.

This modern age is an age which places no faith in mere words and idle talk; and the young people of today are true mirrors of this age, for they do not care to listen to what might be done to change things for the better—they want to see what is being done. As philosophies go, this one is particularly frustrating, for it seems that, these days, there is an abundance of words being spoken, and a definite shortage of things being done. In short, another wall is built between the young and the old; another bridge across the generation gap is burned.

In Hot Springs, however, it has been my privilege, for the past month, to be present at the site of the building of a bridge between the generations, and, hopefully, to start the series of actions—the kind that are supposed to speak so much louder than words.

The bridge-builder is a 34 year old Jesuit priest, Father Jeff Burton, and his "bridge" has taken the shape of a boys' home which he has recently opened in his residence here in Hot Springs. Father Burton is a teacher of Spanish and social studies at Spring Creek High School, and one of the guiding forces behind the Madison County Youth Council. Consequently, since the bulk of Father Burton's time is spent with and for young people, the odds would seem to be in favor of the priest's success in this undertaking. And, the results, as I have observed them, bear out the odds completely.

The residence itself is an old building which was purchased in 1964 by Father Andrew V. Graves, a much-loved figure in Western-North Carolina, who is presently recovering from an illness at the Jesuit Novitiate in Pennsylvania. The house, though in excellent condition, was not large



OLD BOOKS found in the attic at the Home of the Hot Springs Church of the Redeemer are being cataloged by Cecil Gunter. The books are placed in the recreation room and are used by the boys and visitors to the Hostel.



FR. JEFF BURTON

enough for Father Burton's plans, and so this past November he made plans to remodel, and to add a new wing onto the existing structure. Work began immediately, and just two weeks ago, the wing was completed and made available for occupancy. As a result there are now nine bedrooms, five baths, two large recreation rooms, a spacious kitchen-dining area, and a small chapel in the house. At present, however, there are only three boys, Paul Chandler of Myrtle Beach, S. C., Terry Thomas of Paint Rock, and Cecil Gunter of Hot Springs. Turn To Page 8—

### Cecil Blackwell Dog Warden For County

Cecil Blackwell of Walnut has been named dog warden for Madison County, it was announced this week. Blackwell was named to the post by the county commissioners at their regular meeting here March 1. He will begin his duties next Monday.

It was announced that anyone having unwanted dogs may contact the Madison County Health Department (649-3531) or Mr. Blackwell (649-6971).

An arrangement has been made between the commissioners and the Buncombe County Animal Shelter to transfer the animals.

### Religious Education

The French Broad Baptist Association announces classes will begin Monday at 7 p.m. at Oak Grove and Upper Laurel, and Tuesday at Forks of Ivy Baptist churches for the spring semester of the Seminary Extension Center. These classes will run for nine weeks on Monday night, March 15, and Tuesday night, March 16.

These classes are open to everyone of all denominations without cost. The Rev. M. H. Kendall will teach the New Testament at Oak Grove. Miss Sue Fitzgerald will teach New Testament at Upper Laurel. The Rev. W. L. Lynch will teach The Work of a Pastor at Forks of Ivy on Tuesday night.

These classes are operated in conjunction with the Seminary Extension Department of Nashville, Tenn. There are 109 such centers operating throughout the Southern Baptist Convention serving over 5,000 students.



NEW WING—The large porches on either side of the residence of Father Jeff Burton of the Hot Springs Church of the Redeemer have been closed in to make bedrooms for some of the boys who live in the Home. A Boys's Home and Student Hostel has been established by Father Burton.

### Mars Hill College Gets Grant

Congressman Roy A. Taylor and Sen. B. Everett Jordan announced Friday that Mars Hill College has been awarded a grant of \$17,130 for a student-directed project for an "environmental study of Appalachia."

The project will be directed toward a study of local conditions of the environment in Madison County. The student project director is Karen Cummings, political science professor.

Eleven students will participate.

The project will start about the end of May and will run for a period of 10 weeks.

Mars Hill College will be among 97 colleges and

### Singing

The regular 2nd Sunday night singing will be held at the Alexander Baptist Church this Sunday at 7 o'clock.

Expected to take part in the singing will be the Gilispie Trio, Joyful Tone Quartette, Joyfulaires Quartette and others.

universities throughout the nation which have been chosen to engage in student-initiated, student-planned aimed at exploring some of the pressing problems of the society.

The grant is among the first series given by the National established student-originated studies program.

Dr. Richard L. Hoffman, vice president of the college, said he and the entire college community are pleased with Mars Hill's selection.



ANOTHER LANDMARK IN MARSHALL is being torn down in preparation of building low-rent housing units. Picture above shows the remains of the "Old Tom Ramsey Place" located near the United Methodist Church on Main Street. In all, four separate sites in Marshall have been secured for the 50 units planned.



MUSIC SESSIONS—Terry Thomas plays one of the small organs in the recreation room. The area youths often gather at the Student Hostel for an evening of music. This recreation room doubles for the living room and has a TV, large fireplace and the dining room table used for special occasions.