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**Letters To The Editor**

I would like to publicly thank Representatives Ernest Messer and Liston Ramsey for voting for House Bill 28 to completely abolish age discrimination in automobile insurance.

It was a landmark victory, thanks to your Representatives and the other members of the House who worked and voted for its passage. It is a high tribute to the people of your district who elected Representatives Messer and Ramsey.

This is legislation the people of our state need and want, and I am proud that your Representatives voted for the people and for fairness in automobile insurance.

For much too long, our young people and their parents have felt the sharp edge of age discrimination and I know they are as proud of this vote as I am.

This is good legislation. We will make it work so that everyone will be justly proud of it. No safe driver will receive a rate increase.

House Bill 28 is now pending in the Senate. The citizens of your district may want to encourage your Senators I. C. Crawford and Lamar Gudger, to support this needed reform and to thank Representatives Messer and Ramsey.

Very truly yours,  
 -s- John Ingram  
 Commissioner of Insurance

**Spring Specials**  
 ON LUMBER & BUILDING SUPPLIES

Good Selection Of  
**Georgia Pacific Plywood**  
**PANELING**

1/2" and 3/8" thick  
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Normally, we don't make much noise about our savings plans. But our new 7 1/4% Savings Certificate is worth shouting about. It takes only \$1,000 minimum to open. Funds must remain on deposit for a minimum of 4 yrs. \* Interest compounded or paid quarterly.

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**FIRST UNION NATIONAL**  
 Marshall Weaverville

**Remembering Madison County**

By **EDNA GENTRY ALEXANDER**  
 301 West 10th St.  
 Charlotte, N.C. 28202

To me, Madison County has always meant "home" because my roots that I grew from are there, and although I've lived away for many years, it has never been far out of my mind. Who could ever forget those wonderful people who live there, good neighbors, good friends, who know every body and every thing that goes on, not because they are nosy people, or even meddlesome, but because they are interested in the welfare of others and in their community? That's the kind of people they are. Empathy is a way of life for them and things like the Golden Rule and the Ten Commandments will never go out of style. These people would never understand how life could ever be so impersonal as it is sometimes in the city, with it's fast moving pace, where one can live for years next door to people and never get to know them. To them this would be unthinkable.

I've always been proud to say I'm from Madison County, and I'm looking forward to going back one day to live. Was it Thomas Wolfe who said, "You can't go home again?" Well, he was right; one can't go back to home as it once was, because it isn't there anymore, but one can go back, and that's what I intend to do. And I know Madison County hasn't changed too much from the way I remember it and loved it.

When I visited there for a few days last Summer, I felt like I was back where I belonged. Marshall is still the same. The courthouse is still the same, with it's fountain in front and benches along the sidewalk. People still come from everywhere into town on Saturdays and everybody knows everybody else, or if they don't, they soon do, because being friendly just comes naturally to people there. And they never forget you.

Madison County is especially beautiful this time of year. "God's Country" some have called it, meaning that it's so far away from things. To me, "God's Country" suits it fine, but for a different reason. For where else could all this beauty, this serenity have come, but from God? I think Mars Hill just has to be one of the most beautiful small towns in the world. And a drive through the countryside, over those curving roads is a therapy in it's self. With the beauty, the peacefulness of it all just sinking into your whole being, and bringing with it such a wonderful sense of calm and relaxation. You just can't help yourself. Before you know it, it

has already happened. Remembering Madison County always brings to mind so many people, far too many to mention here, but one of the first I think about is Dr. Sams, our family doctor. A wonderful person who ministered to the sick faithfully, sometimes riding for long, exhausting miles on a mule or a horse over roads that a car could not possibly get through. Besides not many people had cars in those days. But Dr. Sams was always cheerful, with a brand of humor all his own. I don't think I will ever forget the time, when I was just a little girl, that he explained how he came by the startling white streak that stood out so boldly against the blackness of his hair.

"Got kicked by a mule," he said, with his special laugh that I don't think anyone else will ever be able to imitate. There was just no body like Dr. Sams. And somehow even those of us who weren't sick felt better after he was there, for he was never in such a hurry that he couldn't find time to visit a little while.

The last time I saw him was about twenty years ago, when I was visiting my late husband's family on Big Pine and I went with my mother-in-law for her check-up.

It amazed me that he seemed so delighted to see me, and more so that he even remembered me at all. But he wanted to know all about me and my family and their where abouts.

"I've been keeping up with you and I wanted to tell you I'm proud of you," he said. I knew he meant it, and it pleased me very much. That's the kind of person he was, interested in people.

I was saddened to read of his death a few years back. He was a special kind of person that touched the lives of so many people and made them better in more ways than one. I don't think Madison County will ever see the likes of him again.

And I am proud that I was allowed to know him.



CERTIFICATES from the Western North Carolina Lung Association were presented groups for activities in the 1974 Christmas Seal publicity. Left to right, Miss Margaret Proffitt represented the Antioch 4-H Club; Michael Davis represented Marshall Helping Hands 4-H Club; Mrs. Claude Gibson, a leader of the Mars Hill Girl Scout Junior Troop No. 68, received the certificate on behalf of the Scout Troop; and Mrs. Jim Story, a member of the Board of Directors of the Association, who made the presentation.



MRS. MARION WALLIN, above, a member of the Social Services Staff, is shown as she presided at the Volunteer Recognition Program Friday night.

**N.C. Garden Clubs Met Last Week**

"Golden Past - A Brighter Future" was the theme of the 80th Annual anniversary meeting of The Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc. in Winston-Salem last week. The Garden Club Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County hosted the 844 members who attended. Garden Clubs of District I were recipients of several awards. Mrs. Keith D. Butson, 2nd Vice President, Asheville, presided at the awards banquet "Silver Gleams Among the Gold." Friends of the Earth Garden Club, Asheville, members for only two years, received the Cheatham Award for best one-year club history; Hoe & Hope Garden Club, Fletcher, \$90 cash award for their environmental improvement project; and Garden Club of Hendersonville, a citation as a 1000 percent club for placing PATE books in all schools of their county. Certificates given to clubs for 100 percent support by cash donations to the four state sponsored gardens, Daniel Boone Native Garden, Elizabethan Garden, Brunswick Town Nature Trail, and Tryon Palace, were Gay Blades, Tryon; Hoe & Hope, Fletcher; and Land O'Sky Garden Club, Hendersonville.

Flower Show Achievement Purple Rosette without commercial wide, National Council awards, were made to the Asheville Garden Club for its show "Autumn Splendor;" and Land O'Sky Garden Club, Hendersonville for "Wind From the South Seas." \$6,500 in scholarships, proceeds from sale of engagement calendars, were given to 14 students of North Carolina, one of which was received by District I. Students in horticulture, forestry, landscape design and related fields receive these scholarships.

Two junior clubs were ratified at the meeting: Toddling Tulips, Brevard, sponsored by Transylvania Garden Club, and Apple Blossoms, sponsored by the Garden Club of Hendersonville; and one senior club, Woodland Hills Garden Club, Weaverville, was also ratified.

Mrs. Phil Wicker, Greensboro, was elected state president, and Mrs. David H. Varner, Brevard, Recording Secretary. Those from District I appointed to committees were Mrs. Henry Arch Nichols, Birds, and Mrs. Keith D. Butson, Finance, both of Asheville; and Mrs. Ray O. Schill, Fletcher, World Gardening. Mrs. James C. Barrett, Flat Rock, was installed as Director, District I, and Mrs. Lynnwood Rhodes, Tryon, as Co-Director. Members of clubs from Cullowhee, Canton, Flat Rock, Hendersonville, Fletcher, Waynesville, and Asheville were in attendance. The garden clubs of Raleigh will host the 51st meeting in 1976.

**Services Continue At Mental Health Center**

In observance of Mental Health Month at the Madison County Office of the Blue Ridge Mental Health Center, regular services continue to be provided as usual: Parents, having difficulty managing their children's behavior, come in for consultation; couples, concerned with the state of their marriage, ask for advice on how to improve their communications; an alcoholic, worried about what drinking is doing to his life, seeks help in overcoming the habit; people, struggling with problems they cannot solve, fearing they may perhaps be on the verge of a "nervous breakdown", come in seeking help and understanding.

Although its staff deals many times with severe emotional problems, the main focus of the Center's activity is prevention of illness and preservation of mental health. But what is mental health? How do you know when you are OK?

This was the subject of a presentation offered to the freshman class at Madison High by Claudio Rabello, psychologist for the Center in Madison County. Assisted by Tonda Forbes, Sandra Marler, and Philip Pierce, student interns from Mars Hill College, he discussed the issues involved in determining one's emotional state. The showing of "How Are You?" a fifteen minute cartoon designed to promote a better understanding of mental health concepts, provided the platform for the discussion. "Mental health", the film states, "is the vigor and

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persistence which allows a person to overcome disappointments, worries and fears which are a natural part of life, before these become too difficult to handle and control." Quoting a publication of the National Association for Mental Health, Rabello emphasized: "Mentally healthy people feel comfortable about themselves, they feel right about other people and they are able to meet the demands of life."

Promoting these conditions is what the Center is all about.

**Treadway-Goforth Vows Exchanged**

Marriage vows were exchanged by Mary Frances Treadway and Jerry Goforth on April 23, 1975. Justice of the Peace, Mr. Jackie Ball, performed the double-ring ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Treadway Jr. of River Rouge, Mich., and granddaughter of Elmer Treadway of Marshall.

The bridegroom is the son of Hubert F. Goforth of Hopewell, and grandson of Mary Etta Goforth of Marshall.

The brother of the bridegroom, Billy Goforth, served as best man.

Following their marriage ceremony, the couple then left for their new home in Lincoln Park, Mich.

The former Mary Frances Treadway attended River Rouge High School in



MARY FRANCES GOFORTH

Michigan. Jerry Goforth is a graduate of Marshall High School, class of 1969. He is presently employed as a supervisor for Penn. Central Railroad in Michigan.

**Sleepy Valley To Host EH Awards Night**

The awards night is the next big event in the county for the Extension Homemakers Clubs coming up on Saturday May 17. A dinner meeting is planned and will be hosted by the Sleepy Valley E.H. Club in the Sleepy Valley Corporation Center. 4 1/2 miles west of Hot Springs, on U.S. 25-70 at 6:30 p.m. A special program centered around the Bicentennial is being planned with Dr. Evelyn Underwood as speaker and Mr. Byard Ray and his group of musicians to feature special entertainment. Of course, everyone is looking forward to the yearly awards

that will be given out by Mrs. Ethel Wallen County Extension Home Agent. The Sleepy Valley Club is

looking forward to seeing all the county club members and their families for a time of enjoyment and fellowship.

**Story Teller To Be Added**

Madison County Public Library will add a library assistant to its staff July 1 to serve pre-school children as a storyteller in existing Day Care centers, Headstart programs and church child care programs.

introduction to the library, to books and the joy of learning. It will be supported as a federal program under approval by the Division of the State Library under the Library Services Construction Act.

Mrs. Lucile Roberts, librarian, said the new service will provide children with an

**Mrs. Gregory To Speak At Sleepy Valley**

Mrs. Ruth Gregory will be guest speaker on Tuesday, May 20th at 8 p.m. at the Sleepy Valley Community Center.

Mrs. Gregory will be speaking about the timely subject of Beautification of Our Lands. As chairman of the Beautification Committee for the Madison County Bicentennial Commission and as a member of the nation's Keep America Beautiful Campaign, Mrs. Gregory will have much information to enlighten the audience with.

A county-wide Clean Up and Beautification Project is in process. This meeting will inform more people about this effort and how they can be a part of it. The meeting is being sponsored by the West Madison Association of

Communities in its continuing effort of making West Madison a better place to live.

**Ray Gets Degree**

Joseph Keith Ray, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe L. Ray of Route 4, Marshall, has received his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of North Carolina at Asheville. The commencement exercises were held Friday, May 9. Mrs. George McGovern was the speaker.



**DELUXE 21" PUSHABLE**

Lightweight two-speed Lawn-Boy D-408 engine (3500 and 3300 RPM) and Magnalite deck make this pushable mower easy to control and maneuver.

6-position 1" to 3" fingertip height adjustment. 3-position handle. 85 cubic-inch muffler. Grass catcher included. Unit weight 33 lbs. Model 7200C.

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**Births**

To Mr. and Mrs. Roger D. Moore, of Marshall, daughter, May 8, 1975, in Memorial Mission Hospital.

To Mr. and Mrs. William I. Halsey, of Marshall, a daughter, May 7, 1975, in Memorial Mission Hospital.

**Health News**  
 By Dr. R. Powell

**It Makes Sense To Give Blood**

Plain and simple, the Red Cross needs blood. Yet, while the critical needs mount, it seems people are simply too busy to slow-down long enough to give.

Giving blood makes sense. Not only do you help to save another's life, but you can provide you and your family with a 12-month privilege to receive free blood if and as needed. Additionally, after giving up to two gallons over a period of time, the Red Cross will extend to you and your family a Lifetime Card entitling each to full blood transfusion rights at absolutely no cost.

Blood was meant to circulate. Won't you help? Call our local Red Cross Unit today and open a special kind of bank account - one whose dividends can't be lost!

Bring Your Prescriptions To Us After You See Your Doctor. Our Service Is Unbeatable!

**Personal Mention**

Mrs. Tom Basnight returned to her home in Clearwater, Fla. on Saturday after spending two weeks with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Allman.

Rev. and Mrs. Spencer LeGrand and their two children had as guests Saturday and Sunday Mr. and Mrs. Roy Keithley and three children of Marion, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Taylor and three daughters spent the week-end in Hildebran as guests of Mrs. Taylor's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Abernethy.

Mrs. W. B. Ramsey spent the week-end in Spartanburg, S. C. with her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Ramsey.

Sgt. John Grindstaff, of Route 1, Mars Hill, who has been in the Philippines, has been transferred to Louisiana. He is spending several days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Grindstaff, and other relatives and friends.

**SPEND SUMMER IN AN EASY KIND OF SUIT**

Be a standout... in one of our new kind of leisure-living suits. Of cool... crisp polyester blends for a no-fuss Summer.



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