

Madison, Yancey Counties To Have Youth Achievement Home

A \$53,243 grant has been awarded Madison and Yancey Counties to establish a youth achievement home by the Department of Human Resource's Division of Law and Order, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. The grant's principal receiver is Yancey County; however, both counties will share in the establishment and use of the facility. Mars Hill College has been designated as the implementing agency.

Dr. Harold Holcombe, a history professor at the college was also announced as director of the project.

Holcombe, a native of Marion County, Alabama, was educated at Coffee High School in Florence, Alabama, Florence State University, also in Florence, where he carried a double major of English and History, and received a Ph.D. from the University of Alabama in 1968. He has worked with NASA in Huntsville, Alabama, taught at the University of Alabama, and East Tennessee State University in Johnson City. He is a veteran of the U.S. Navy and before coming to Mars Hill was director of the Asheville High Option School.

The grant will be used to set up and operate a co-educational group home which will provide intensive training and treatment of the "pre-delinquent" and first offender youths. The project began over an year ago when a juvenile court judge voiced the need for an organization to divert youths with behavior problems from entry into criminal activity through structured behavior therapy. The need for such an organization was further emphasized by Mars Hill College Faculty members who were involved in a program to train students for careers in community-based corrections program. As an example of how limited resources are in the area, there are only two probation officers, who are located in Newland, to cover an area of roughly 800 square miles.

Because Madison and Yancey Counties lie on the fringe of regional services, plus the factors of wide geographical areas, lack of primary roads, and a largely inadequate communication system, human services agencies are limited in their ability to assist the counties with their youth problems. Additional factors include training institutions which are geographically distant from the community, few foster parents homes, and a probation system that is generally inadequate.

The new home will provide for treatment and training of the youths who have problems in social adaptation. All of the young people the center will help live in the new group home. Plans are for a maximum of nine students in the home at any given time with a minimum number of 12 people completing the

program per year. This would mean an average of seven months for each person to complete the program. The program the home will operate by was developed by the University of Kansas and has been implemented by a project—the "Bringing It All Back Home Project"—in Morganton. In addition to the director, teaching - parents will supervise the home. This is a married couple who have received special training at the Morganton project and will implement the program at the Madison - Yancey project.

When a youth enters the home it will be because of his or her own voluntary application, a non - compulsory referral by an agency (including the police and sheriff departments), or a compulsory referral by an agency serving the two counties. These youths will usually have problems related to delinquent behavior, for example, truancy, lack of discipline, misdemeanors, but not ordinarily felonies. Admission to the program will not be complete until it has been found that treatment in a residential setting outside the home is in the youth's best interest.

The first phase of the program will be a point system which is designed to motivate the students to learn more appropriate behavior. He can accrue points to trade for special privileges. Almost all behaviors which will earn or lose points are formalized and explicit to the point of being posted on a bulletin board. There can be little argument over points lost. There is little need to interrupt normal relationships or to express anger or negative emotions. The student knows in advance his penalty.

As soon as possible the point system is phased out and a

merit system takes its place. This system uses no points given or taken away but emphasizes that the youth is on his own. The merit system is the last step each youth must progress through before returning to his own home.

Each evening the teaching - parents and the youths hold a family conference to discuss the day's events. The will establish new or modify existing rules, decide on consequences for any rule violations, and evaluate the elected "leaders" performance. Self government is specifically taught and the youths are encouraged to participate in discussion about

any aspect of the program. The program's leaders, including James T. Ledford, chairman of the Madison County Commissioners and Oscar W. Deyton, chairman of the Yancey County Commissioners, are enthusiastic about the project's success. They cite the community responsibility of the 15 member board of directors whose members are drawn from the total community and the community based program will utilize local schools and agencies as well as allowing the teaching - parents to work with the natural parents of each child. The members of the com-

munity will also be able to see the changes in the youth's behavior.

Other factors of the program include it's being based on a family model; the use of professionally trained teaching parents who are expected to give more than sincere love and understanding; the systematic treatment of behavior, that is the program is not based on a hit or miss procedure but places emphasis on specific, tested individual behavior treatment in a group setting; and by a three level interval evaluation of the treatment which is built into the program.

Bob Terrell Speaks At Book Club Meeting

Bob Terrell of Asheville, Associate Editor and columnist of the Asheville Citizen - Times, spoke to members of the Marshall Book Club and their guests Monday evening, July 21st at the home of Mr and Mrs Leonard Baker. The Club's annual picnic for members and their guests was held on the lawn at the Baker home.

Terrell told the group that 15,000 copies of his book "Fun Is Where You Find It", published in the Fall of 1974, had been sold and that the book is now on the verge of going into paperback.

His new book, entitled "Holy Land, A Journey Into Time", is now being printed by the Hexagon Publishing Company of Asheville and the first 20,000 copies will be ready by the middle of August. This book is a collection of Terrell's experiences, interviews and

observations on the Holy Land and the Middle East, with sufficient emphasis on the Arabic nations to give it balance. It is a paperback book containing 24 pages of color pictures of the Holy Land and will sell for \$3.

Terrell told the group that he is now studying the Arabic language.

Those attending were Mr and Mrs. Wade Huey, Charles Huey, Dr. and Mrs. J.J. McElroy, Mr and Mrs. James Story, Mr and Mrs. Walter Ramsey, Mr and Mrs. Clyde M. Roberts, Mr and Mrs. John Corbett, Mr and Mrs. O. A. Gregory, Mrs. W. T. McKinney, Mrs. J.H. Tweed, Mrs. R.R. Ramsey, Mrs. Leo Berman, Mr and Mrs. William Vandervort, Mr and Mrs. Terrell, Bobby Terrell, Miss Karen Roberts, and Mr and Mrs. Baker.



LEADERS IN THE PROPOSED Youth Achievement Home are pictured above. LEFT TO RIGHT, Ken Sanchagrin, Mars Hill College; David Dorsett, Regional Analyst, Division of Law and Order, LEAA; Robert L. Veeneman, representing O.W. Deyton, Chairman, Yancey County Commissioners; Dr. Harold Holcombe, director of the new project; James T. Ledford, Chairman of Madison County Commissioners; Ruby Smith, acting director of Department of Social Services of Yancey County; and Myra Newton, Director of the French Broad Criminal Justice Planning.

Mars Hill College's Upward Bound Program in 7th Year

"We had one student from Buncombe County that had been in constant trouble with the law - had been in jail in fact - before he came to our program, and another student had constant difficulties with the Madison County truant officer. We took them both into our program and this year the Buncombe County student has been official almost no trouble; and in the other case, the truant officer reports that he has had far less problems. But how do you put that in a report that deals abstractly with academic preparedness?" The speaker is Lloyd Moore, tall, blond-haired director of Mars Hill College's Upward Bound program; the youths he is speaking of are two of the 60 students from Madison, Buncombe, and Yancey Counties enrolled in the college's program.

Until just recently, Mars Hill had one of only five

programs in the state, and the only one in Western North Carolina. This summer the state has 17, and Western Carolina University added a program two years ago to help serve the western sector. Basically a program to prepare under-achievers or students who have limited academic opportunity for college level work, Upward Bound began in 1965 under the jurisdiction of the Office of Economic Opportunity. In 1972 it was regionalized under the Education Office of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Mars Hill's program started in 1968 as part of the college's community service. The new program was then serving most of the high schools in Western North Carolina even though the enrollment was limited to 50 students.

Funded for \$30,000 this year, Moore reports that funds are scheduled in three year cycles and this approximately the same amount Mars Hill has received for the past two years. He also expressed some concern about the current economic situation. "We have had some difficulty in recruiting students," he noted, "as pressure is put on them to work during the summer." Moore also explained concern about a report from the General Accounting Office of the Comptroller General's office which did not put the nationwide program in a favorable light. "The GAO chose 15 programs to examine as a cross section of the project - none of them in southern states. Wheat they found was that some of these programs were not doing an affective job, especially in the area of follow-up records of their students. That's a difficult job even here. In a metropolitan area where there is a lot of moving and the like, it's almost impossible to do," he added.

Although the Education Office of HEW commissioned a task force study of the overall program, Upward Bound projects will have to compete for funds next year. "Instead of a general cutback, some of the ineffective programs will be discontinued," Moore stated. However, that is unlikely to happen at Mars Hill, as he added that the college project has been one of the more successful and effective programs in the region. This is due, Moore noted, "to the dedication of our staff and a proposal that was well-written and thought out."

He noted that more students than the proposal listed had been served, and the academic requirements of the proposal have been met with additional activities beyond the original proposal statement.

Academic studies include mandatory areas of reading, math, and language skills. Optional areas include drama, folk dancing, art, chorus, science, and even sewing. The Upward Bound student faces a tough daily schedule with classes held from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., with time out for lunch and personal activities. The classes are small, allowing for individual attention by the program's tutor-counselors. A new course introduced this year is study skills and involves taking notes, organization of study habits and how to listen in class.

The students also participate in an extensive intramural and lifetime sports program. In the evenings softball, volleyball, bad-

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Hospital Notes

Mrs. Howard (Janice) Caldwell, who works at Roberts Pharmacy, is a patient in Memorial Mission Hospital where she is undergoing treatment.

Mrs. Emmett Plemons of Marshall is a patient in St. Joseph's Hospital.

Mrs. E. N. Ward of Marshall is a patient in Memorial Mission Hospital where she underwent surgery on Monday.

Bull Creek 4-H Club Met Monday

The Bull Creek 4-H Club met Monday night at the Bull Creek Baptist Church. Eddie Fox, president, presided.

The feature of the program was singing and guitar picking by Earl Sprinkle.



The first coins called staters were made during the 600's B.C. in Lydea, a country in what is now Turkey, according to World Book Encyclopedia.

NEWS OF STAMPS

Q I've been saving trading stamps for about 10 years now and I've always been curious about one thing. Do poorer families save stamps more than the well-to-do?



A No. Studies show that stamp savers are found about equally in all economic groups. A 1974 study clearly indicates the popularity of stamps among all types of people.

Perhaps the most striking result of this survey is that the public continues to have positive attitudes toward stamps even though they're harder to come by these days. Sixty-seven per cent of all people, the survey found, said they like stamps. Since some 37 million households save stamps, and this is 54 per cent of all households, the situation now is that more people like stamps than save them. S&H Green Stamps were the most popular, saved by 25 million households.

Hey, Look!

The Knights of K.K.K.

are coming back to

LAUREL VALLEY COMMUNITY

(Turn Off Highway 23 at Wolf Laurel)

The Date:
August 9 and 10, 1975

minion, swimming, and basketball are offered. Social and cultural outings are also available with dances, movies, skating, and bowling heading the list. Cultural trips also include the Cradle of Forestry, the Biltmore House, Parkway Playhouse, the new Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre, Linville Falls, "Horn in the West," "Unto these Hills," and a three day-two night stay in Atlanta which will include visits to Six Flags Over Georgia, Grant Park and Zoo, Fernbank Science Center, a Braves baseball game, and Emory University.

Getting back to academics, Moore stated that reading is the area most students are deficient in. "We try to raise everyone's reading level by one grade equivalent. In the case of students with reading levels below ninth grade, we try to raise their level by two grade equivalents." Students recruited are primarily rising juniors and seniors, although if the drop-out rate in the "Feeder" high schools is great enough, rising sophomores can be recruited.

A second aspect of the project is the Bridge program. Oriented to students in the Upward Bound program who have graduated from high school and will enter college in the fall, the Bridge program allows them to take a maximum of two college level courses for credit. This introduces them to college level courses and allows them to get a head start on their collegiate careers. The college has been funded \$35,000 for this aspect of the program.

A different division of the Upward Bound project is Special Services. Serving students already in college, Special Services provides a wide range of help including financial aid, tutoring, vocational, educational, and personal counseling and help in remedial work. Headed by Mrs. Charles Phillips, the Special Services is oriented to what is termed the "high risk" student, those most likely to drop out of college. It has been operation for two years and boasts a retention percentage that compares to the overall college retention percentage, which at Mars Hill is high.

Upward Bound's high success at Mars Hill can also be attributed to the follow-up methods the staff uses. A counselor visits participating high schools once every two weeks to talk with the students and the high school counseling staff, and the students return to the college campus five times during the school year. "We try to schedule return visits to campus when there is something going on like a football game or a concert or dance or a basketball game," Moore noted. The Upward Bound students also retain their passes to all these events and that includes using college facilities such as the swimming pool and library.

How successful has the program been? Of the original 1968 group, one is the Harvard Law School, another in medical school at Bowman Gray, most have college degrees and many are in graduate school. On the evidence of these and other follow-up reports the project is succeeding immensely. "We have managed to keep the drop out rate low in the students we have served," stated Moore, "and most of our students return to work in their home community. That is an important asset to us and the region."