

# MHC Puppeteers Popular With Children

Four students from Mars Hill College who received one of nine grants from the North Carolina Bicentennial Program, have been successful in arousing the interest of elementary school students in Madison County in the history of their county.

The grant awarded by the state agency allowed the students to purchase the materials they needed, including the stage, scenery, all lighting equipment, and 19 puppets and costumes. The students are: Rochelle Dunn, a native of Henderson; Lucy Patterson, a Jacksonville, Fla., native; Lois Vanderpool, an Ocean City, N. J., native, all sophomore elementary education majors; and Stephanie Johnson, a Lynchburg, Va., senior drama major.

The four students have been working closely with Deborah Compton, third century artist in residence at Mars Hill and a professional puppeteer. With the help of six Madison High School students, David Lee, Mark Moore, Linda Ammons, Burton Fox, Rebecca Suitt, and Dawn Clemmons. All scenery was painted by MHS student Karen Boone. The 10-member group wrote five original scripts, based on tales from the Appalachian region, and have produced the shows in each of the elementary schools as well as the child care centers in Madison County.

The scripts were taped by the students with music provided by Lou Therrell of the college staff, a well-known musician. Other local musicians participated in the project as well. The shows have been well received by the schools and the project will come to a close during a county-wide bicentennial festival May 9.

## Forks Of Ivy Get-Together

By MRS. THURMAN BRIGGS

An Ole' Fashion Get-together with a "Poor Man's Supper" and Appalachian folk music were activities of the Greater Forks of Ivy Community on April 29 at Shoe Town. Supper began at 6:30 with dishes like our parents and grandparents had in, what one calls, "the good ole' days". The ladies prepared dishes of fried chicken, stewed chicken, chicken and dumplings, corn bread, fried apple pie, ole' fashion molasses fruit cake, barbecued backbones and ribs, deviled eggs, corn on the cob, blackberry, strawberry and peach cobbler, leather britches (beans) and other delicious dishes along with lemonade and coffee.

A program of music and a reading followed the supper. "The Appalachian Folk" from Madison County and Mars Hill College, consisting of Lou Therrell on the banjo and harmonica, Bard Ray, on the fiddle; Arlene Kesterson on the bass fiddle and Vivian Hartsoe on guitar entertained us with songs our ancestors played on their banjos and fiddles. Songs such as "Boil Them Cabbage Down", "New River Train", "Amazing Grace", "Cripple Creek" and "Orange Blossom Special". Their music brought pleasant memories of yesterdays when families sat around the fire



MADISON HIGH BASEBALL TEAM has been successful thus far this season. Front row, left to right: Bobby Chandler, Roger Sprinkle, Kenny Ray, Scott Proffitt, Johnny Sawyer, Gary Hernandez; second row, Chris

## Legislation Will Hold Down Telephone Price

Consumer legislation which the telephone industry believes is needed to hold down the price of basic local telephone service for residential and small business customers has been introduced in the Senate by Sen. Vance Hartke (D-Ind.), Paul Wooten, district commercial manager with Western Carolina and Westco telephone companies, said this week.

Similar legislation was introduced in the House of Representatives by Teno Roncalio (D-Wy.).

Identified as S-3192, the Hartke bill would reaffirm the national goal of the Federal Communications Act of 1934, which calls for universal telephone service offered within the economic reach of all Americans.

The nation's 1600 independent telephone companies and the Bell System companies are united in their support of the legislation. The industry's labor unions also were consulted during the preparation of the bill, and Wooten expressed confidence that the unions would support the measure.

Proponents of the legislation believe recent decisions by the Federal Communications Commission encouraging what is termed "contrived competition" in the industry run counter to the intent of Congress and are not in the public interest.

"The federal regulator's actions in recent years in favor of so-called competition will only drive up residential and small business rates as much as 60 percent, unless Congress reaffirms the original objectives of the Communications Act," Wooten said. He pointed out that this fact was documented by an extensive study conducted for the independent telephone companies by Systems Applications, Inc., a prestigious California telecommunications research firm.

FCC authority, corporate acquisitions as is now done with respect to telephone companies.

"Enactment of this legislation would counter the actions of the FCC, actions which in recent years have been dismantling our nation's telephone system. If left unchecked, such federal bureaucratic experimentation would ruin the world's best and least expensive telephone system by the injection of artificial competition into a publicly regulated industry," Wooten said.

As a result of FCC decisions since 1968, two types of competitors have developed:—distributors and retailers which sell or lease telephones and special equipment to be connected to the telephone company network.

—specialized common carriers which provide intercity private-line services over selected high usage routes which, because of the high call volume, are more profitable than average for the telephone companies.

"This contrived competition is a major consumer issue because of the potential of future large rate increases that will have to occur as competitors lure away more and more of our more profitable services.

"The cost of local service is partially offset by the revenue contributions from long distance and other special services traditionally provided by telephone companies. When such revenue contributions diminish as a result of competition, it is the residential and small business customers who will bear the burden of the increased charges from basic local telephone service," Wooten concluded.



MRS. BETTY BALLARD'S third grade class of Mars Hill Elementary School enjoyed a trip to Vance Birthplace April 9. The students learned a lot about colonial life. They made their own apron-bonnets and colonial hats. Children who enjoyed the trip are, left to right: First row — Renee Payne, Heidi Worley, Janet Grose, Kathy Arrington. Second row — Linda Shelton, Pam

## Greater Ivy Says Honor Senior Citizens

May is Senior Citizens Month, and the Greater Ivy Community Citizens Association, Inc. has asked all churches in its area to do something special this month to honor its older residents.

Senior citizen recognition is but one of many projects being undertaken by the association and which its members discussed last Thursday at their regular monthly meeting, held at California Creek Baptist Church. Dr. Grover L. Angel presided. The association has undertaken an ambitious bicentennial year schedule and is urging all community residents to participate so plans now underway can be fulfilled.

Mrs. JoAnn Ramsey, beautification chairman, told the association that the community's citizens broke their record of last year in collecting trash. Last year's collection amounted to 19 loads, this year's to 30 loads.

All communities participated and worked hard to clean the roadsides, she said and urged citizens to schedule regular clean-up in order to keep the roadsides looking neat.

The Beautification Committee asks that each family, and especially businesses in the area, purchase and fly a flag during the entire bicentennial year.

Dean Ledford, Sign Committee chairman, is continuing work on community signs. He has recently completed a planter around the entrance sign to Greater Ivy Community.

Two (100 feet) flower beds have been planted in the community for family and community use. One is located at the community center and the other near the Jenny car wash on California Creek. If the beds are a success, families will be urged to obtain the flowers to plant around mailboxes and around their homes.

Authorization was given the Community House Committee to spend necessary funds in order to repair the leaky roof.

Both the senior and junior youth groups have been busy making plans for the summer. The senior group is in the process of planning a money-making project, and the junior group plans to feed the wagon train which will be camping at

Robinson, Ricky Anderson, Harrell Wood, Danny Boone, Jerry Ramsey, Joe Walker; back row, Coach Dan Murry, Larry Peek, Doug Reid, Terry Roberts, Joey Plemmons, Steve Wood, Coach Jack Brown.

the community house this year. Both groups are active in the summer recreation program as well as participating in the clean-up drives. Greater Ivy is fortunate to have such fine young people as leaders in the community.

Not only are the older children participating in the community activities, but the younger, also. Debbie Compton, artist in residence, N.C. Arts Council, is working with the younger children in a play entitled, "The Accidental Ghost." The play was written by Linda Duck Hyde, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Otis Duck, and will be presented on the afternoon of May 23 in the auditorium of the Greater Ivy Community Center.

Special recognition was given to three young ladies from the Greater Ivy Community who were recent winners in the Susan Britt Citizenship Awards. They are Nan Ramsey (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Ramsey) eighth grade, Pam Anderson (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Anderson) ninth grade, and Donna Rogers (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Rogers) tenth grade.

Recognition was also given to recent year winners: Joyce Metcalf (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carrol Metcalf) and David Rogers (son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Rogers).

The recreation program is being established and teams have begun practicing at the ball field. A schedule of games will be issued at a later date.

A schedule of activities is listed below:

- May 23 — Presentation of play "The Accidental Ghost" at community house.
- May 24 — 7:30 p.m., regular monthly meeting, community house.
- June 29 — Feeding wagon train campers at community house by both youth groups.

July 1 — Craft Fair Madison High (Greater Ivy preparing meal).

July 4 — Burial of time capsule, Mars Hill Country Boutique.

July 6 — Greater Ivy Costume Party for Adults (Bob Ledford, chairman)

July 7 — Greater Ivy Senior Citizens Day (Alda Jean Young and Bea Clark, chairmen)

July 8 — Youth Day (Rick Anderson and Delores Buckner, chairmen)

Morris McGough, WCC Development Association, presented slides showing community improvement throughout western N. C. and discussed reasons why people in a community will participate and why they will not participate in community activities. He urged the adoption of the slogan, "There is nothing a community cannot do if it wants to."

## Same Truck Burns Twice

It's not unusual for a truck to catch on fire, but it is an oddity that the same truck catch on fire at different places on the same night.

That is what happened here last Friday night.

Firemen were called to Riverview Gulf Service station about 6:30 p.m. where they extinguished a fire in a truck driven by Clyde Rathbone of Marshall.

Then about 9 p.m., firemen were called for a fire on the Redmon Road in Marshall. When they arrived they discovered the same truck was again on fire. The blaze was quickly extinguished. The second fire occurred near the home of Rathbone.

Minister Accepts Pastorate

The Rev. Frank S. Ledford, of Jacksonville, has accepted the pastorate of Bradburn Chapel First Church of God. The Rev. and Mrs. Ledford are living in this community from Thursday evenings until Sunday each week.

The Rev. Mr. Ledford was born in a Baptist home in 1910. He went to a Presbyterian school and studied for the ministry. He was in the service for six years. He was married in 1935 and he and Mrs. Ledford have three children. He also preached in the Presbyterian church for a number of years. In 1938 he came in contact with the Church of God, a faith he has held since.

He cordially invites anyone to attend services at Bradburn Chapel.

## February General Fund Collections Up 12%

According to the N. C. Dept. of Revenue Secretary, J. Howard Coble, the February, 1976 net general fund collections amounted to \$175.0 million as compared with \$155.0 million collected in February, 1975 — an increase of \$20.0 million, or 12.90 percent.

For the first eight months of the current fiscal year, the net general fund collections were \$1,034 billion compared with \$989.8 million for the first eight months of the 1974-75 fiscal year, an increase of \$44.2 million, or 4.47 percent, Coble recently announced.

February net highway fund collections amounted to \$58.6 million compared with \$36.8 million collected in February, 1975, an increase of \$21.8 million, or 5.91 percent. Gasoline tax receipts amounted to \$19.2 million compared with \$19.0 million collected in February, 1975, an increase of \$0.2 million, or 1.22 percent.

Net highway funds collections for the first eight months of the current fiscal year were \$264.5 million as compared with \$255.6 million collected during the first eight months of the 1974-75 fiscal year, an increase of \$8.9 million, or 3.48 percent.



HIGH SCHOOL and college students of Madison County who have been working on county history projects are Linda Ammons (bottom) first row, left to right, Rochelle Dunn, Lucy Patterson, Lois Vanderpool; second row, Mark Moore, Burton Fox, David Lee; back row, Stephanie Johnson. Not pictured, Dawn Clemmons and Rebecca Suitt.

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