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Ho, ho, ho!

SANTA CLAUS visited Marshall last Friday to the delight of the children. His visits in downtown Marshall between now and Christmas Eve are sponsored by the Marshall Merchants Association.



SHERRY LYNN BLANKENSHIP, 6-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Govan Blankenship of Route 7, Marshall, shown standing beside Santa.



SANTA WITH Angela Norton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Norton of Route 6, Marshall; Kenny Shelton Jr. and Mary Ruth Shelton, children of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Shelton of Route 6, Marshall.



SANTA HOLDS Monica Kanarr on his shoulder. Monica is the 2-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Kanarr of the Walnut Creek community.

Mrs. Anderson Elected Commission Chairman

Mrs. Virginia Anderson of Hot Springs was elected chairman of the Madison County Board of Commissioners at the regular meeting of the commissioners at the courthouse last Friday. She replaces James T. Ledford

who has served as chairman for the past four years.

The three-member county board is elected to four-year terms, but state law requires that an organizational meeting be held each December for the election of a chairman and vice

chairman. The board is composed of Ledford, Mrs. Anderson and Ervin Adams.

Ledford opened the meeting in the courtroom by thanking those present for attending and showing interest in the commissioners' activities. He then called for nominations for chairman. Ervin Adams nominated Mrs. Anderson. His motion was seconded by Mrs. Anderson.

Mrs. Anderson praised Ledford for his work as chairman, particularly in securing funds for the county. "And I hope that we will continue to look out for the interests of Madison County and can work together," she said.

She suggested that Ledford, who was elected vice chairman of the county board, continue to represent Madison on the Region B council of governments which also includes Buncombe, Henderson and Transylvania counties. Ledford declined, saying that he feels the county chairman should serve in that capacity because the operation of the county government is closely related to the work of the region.

Ledford was nominated last month to take over as chairman of the Land-of-Sky Regional Council, a planning and development group made up of elected officials from the four-county Region B area.

Mayor William A. Baxter of

Laurel Park, chairman of the regional council's nominating committee, said the committee will hold another meeting this week to make new recommendations to the Council on its executive committee members for 1977.

On a motion by Ledford at the meeting here Friday, the board voted to establish Mrs. Anderson as a full-time chairman with a salary of \$500 a month and \$200 a month for expenses, the same remuneration he has received

for the past 3½ years.

Mrs. Anderson stated this week that she is occupying the same office in the courthouse previously used and that she planned to be in the office from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily when possible.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS as they appeared last Friday in the courtroom here at the annual organizational meeting. Left to right, Mrs. Virginia Anderson, who was

elected chairman; Ervin Adams, member; and James T. Ledford, who was succeeded by Mrs. Anderson as chairman. (Jim Story Photo)

Marshall Joins Hot Springs Health Group

Approximately 60 persons, most of them from the Marshall area, met Monday night in the reception room of the French Broad EMC Building here and voted unanimously to accept an invitation from the Hot Springs Health Program to become affiliated with the program. At the present, three clinics are now serving the citizens in the Hot Springs, Laurel and Walnut areas.

The meeting Monday night was sponsored by the Marshall Lions Club following a previous meeting when it was decided to have a public meeting so the program could

be explained and more citizens could be involved.

Roy Reeves, president of the Lions Club, presided and announced that the main purpose of the meeting was to either accept or reject the invitation to the Marshall area to join the Health Program.

Tom Wallin, chairman of the Hot Springs board of directors, explained the history, the mechanics, and the benefits of the program in the Hot Springs, Laurel and Walnut areas. He stated that a new setup for the program must be made in the near future and that Marshall would benefit by its participation. A new site for the proposed Walnut-Marshall clinic will be chosen, as well as new rules as to representation on the board of directors, and other changes.

Following a unanimous vote to join the program, a steering committee composed of members from several areas around Marshall was named.

Other officials, directors and leaders of the present program also answered many questions and explained the guidelines to the interested persons present.

Swine Flu Second Shots Available

If you are 18-24 years of age and had the swine flu shot, you were informed that you might need a second shot. Information received from communicable disease control states that you should have your second shot four weeks after the first one.

"We now have vaccine for healthy children 3 to 17 years of age. These children will need two shots, four weeks apart. We have a limited supply and it will be given on a first come, first serve basis," Ed Morton, director, stated.

The Madison County Health Department will be giving these shots every Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1-4 p.m. except Dec. 24.

Robert Swain Is Election Attorney

In last week's article concerning the Hot Springs ABC Store referendum, it was stated that Bobby Ponder, chairman of the three-member election commission, requested this newspaper contact Robert S. Swain of Asheville, whom he identified as attorney for the ABC Board. Instead of attorney for the ABC Board, it should have been attorney for the Hot Springs Municipal Board of Elections. The News-Record is glad to make this correction.

School Children Get Shoes

The Foster Memorial Seventh Day Adventist Church of Asheville with cooperation of Penland & Sons Department Store here, donated 21 pairs of new shoes to elementary school children of the Marshall and Laurel schools here Monday.

"This is an annual program here and we get much enjoyment out of doing this at the Christmas season," the Rev. Roy Coughron, pastor, stated. The minister also stated that Penland & Sons reduced the prices on the shoes and gave the children new socks.

The children from the two county schools are selected by their teachers, Coughron said.

Big Laurel, Greater Ivy Winners In WNCDA

Several Madison County communities and individuals were awarded trophies and checks for their outstanding accomplishments during the past year at the 27th annual awards luncheon of the Western North Carolina Development Association Saturday afternoon. The gala event, attended by more than 600 persons from 15 WNC counties and the Cherokee Indian Reservation, was held in the Asheville Civic Center. Ninety-seven communities which actively participated in the development program were represented. More than 60 persons from Madison County were present.

Communities in the competition were placed in three divisions, according to size. Communities with fewer than 75 families were in Division A. Those with 75-100 families were in Division B and communities with more than 150

families were in Division C. The Big Laurel Community Development Organization was the top winner from Madison County, being awarded \$300 as second place winner in community im-

provement. Greater Ivy, perennial winners from Madison County, received a \$200 check for third place honors in Division C plus

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Hot Springs ABC Vote Is Postponed

Lawyers for both sides in the controversy of the future of the Hot Springs ABC store agreed that the referendum, scheduled for Tuesday of this week, should not be held. Legal questions in the liquor laws were cited as the reason for the postponement.

The law under which the store was voted in for Hot Springs in 1963 includes provisions for voting it out, but they have apparently become obsolete or in conflict with the

state's general laws on the control of liquor sales.

The Hot Springs Board of Aldermen voted Nov. 1 to put the continued existence of the liquor store to a vote of the people on Dec. 7, then turned the matter over to the town's board of elections.

The elections board turned the matter over to their attorneys, who have been working with lawyers for the petitioners to sort the snarl out of the statutes and decide how to get the machinery for a referendum into motion.

"It's not that there will not be an election, but it's that the one on the seventh cannot be held," Joel B. Stevenson of the Asheville law firm of Swain, Leake and Stevenson said Friday.

Stevenson and William Barnes of Weaverville, attorney for the petitioners, both said they feel it was impossible to hold the referendum Tuesday as scheduled.

Stevenson said there are some "rather serious deficiencies as to the form and filing" of the petitions for the referendum.

"It's my opinion that they are not sufficient to allow the elections board to legally call an election," Stevenson said. Leaders of the move to force an election on removal of the liquor store from Hot Springs say they are not pushing the issue on an anti-liquor basis, but because they feel the county's only ABC store is not operated in a business-like fashion.

"I'm going to double-check myself by requesting an

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BIG LAUREL community was awarded \$300 for winning second place in the community improvement category. Pictured

above with certificate and check are, left to right, Flo Wallin, Edith Rice, Juanita Adcock and Pat Wallin.