

# THE NEWS RECORD

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On the Inside . . .

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Hendersonville In First  
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## State Fears Little Sandy Dam Break



### Asks Court To Order Lake Drained

Atty. Gen. Rufus L. Edmisten has filed a common law nuisance action in Madison county on behalf of the State of North Carolina seeking to require the owners of a dam to drain the lake impounded by the dam

because of the likelihood that the dam will eventually fail.

The dam is owned by Bearwallow, Inc., a Florida corporation, and is located on Dogget Mountain near the community of Little Sandy Mush. Several houses, a church, a state highway bridge and state highway 63 are all located downstream of the dam.

The complaint filed in Marshall alleges that there is a slump in the face of the dam, that the banks of the earthen dam are too steep to be structurally sound, and that

the dam contains no spillway and water simply runs down the face of the embankment.

According to engineers of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Economic Resources, the dam does not appear to be in immediate danger of failing due principally to the fact that the lake is frozen at the present time. After repeated attempts to get the owners to voluntarily take action to remedy the situation, the attorney general decided to file suit seeking injunctive relief due to the potential for loss of life and severe property

damage which could result if the dam should fail.

Atty. Gen. Edmisten stated, "This dam is very similar to the one in Haywood County that failed last February, and resulted in the deaths of four people. It presents a clear and immediate danger to the public."

The complaint requests the court to order the defendant to immediately drain and repair the dam or to drain and breach the dam.

A hearing on the preliminary injunction is set for Jan. 29 in Marshall.

### Ramsey Prepares For Session

Rep. Liston B. Ramsey is in Raleigh preparing for his eighth session of the N. C. State Legislature which convened Wednesday.

Ramsey says the only appointment made so far by Speaker of the House Rep. Carl Stewart is to name Rep. Harris of Alamance County to chair the rules committee.

"I don't expect Rep. Stewart to make any other appointments until about a week after the session begins," Ramsey said in a telephone interview Wednesday from his Raleigh office.

"I do know that I will not be chairman of the finance committee again because that chairmanship rotates," Ramsey said.

Ramsey said Mrs. Barber, who has been his secretary since 1969, would be working with him this session also.

"I plan to oppose legislation from the larger cities which would affect secondary road funds. These funds are allocated to counties on a formula based on unpaved roads," Ramsey said.

"It was my formula which I prepared in 1973 that put it into operation and I will strongly oppose the change," Ramsey said.

"As you know, mountain counties have more rural areas and more unpaved roads."

Ramsey said he spent a lot of time opposing legislation when he felt it was bad legislation."

### For Wachovia

## '76 Earnings Up 6.5% For Year

Wachovia Corporation's income from continuing operations before securities transactions for 1976 totaled \$30.795 million, or 6.5 percent more than the \$28.926 million earned in 1975. On a per share basis, this was \$2.03 in 1976 as compared to \$1.96 in 1975 or an increase of 3.6 percent, according to John G. Medlin Jr., Wachovia's chief executive officer.

During 1976, there were 448,000, or 3.0 percent, more common and common equivalent shares outstanding on average than in the prior year. The larger number of average common equivalent shares outstanding this year results from an increase in the conversion ratio of Wachovia Corporation's convertible preferred stock required in connection with the divestiture on July 1, 1976, of American Credit Corporation.

For the fourth quarter of

1976, Wachovia Corporation earned \$6.920 million from continuing operations before securities transactions, or 1.8 percent more than the \$6.795 million earned in the final quarter of 1975. On a per share basis, fourth quarter earnings were \$.45 in 1976 compared to \$.46 in 1975, reflecting a \$.5 percent increase in average shares outstanding between the two periods.

Corporation income from continuing operations totaled

\$30.686 million or \$2.02 a share in 1976 compared to the prior year's \$27.527 million or \$1.86 a share. The 1976 figures include net nonrecurring gains totaling \$1.562 million, or \$.10 per share, from the sale of two subsidiary companies reduced by write-downs of equity securities. Income from continuing operations was \$6.799 million or \$.44 per share in the 1976 fourth quarter compared to \$6.563 million or \$.44 per share in the year earlier quarter.

★★★★★

### H. W. Buckner Named Mars Hill Manager

Herbert W. Buckner has been named manager of the

Mars Hill Downtown Office of Wachovia Bank & Trust Company, N. A. This announcement was made by Frank T. Moore, vice president and chief operating officer of the Madison County offices.



HERBERT W. BUCKNER

Buckner is a native of Marshall and is the son of Mrs. Nina H. Buckner and the late Walter T. Buckner. He is a graduate of Mars Hill College where he was a member of the Business Honor Club and the Society for the Advancement of Management. Buckner joined Wachovia in Asheville in 1975 as a management trainee and has been a member of the Mars Hill staff since March, 1976.

GUTTED REMAINS of the two-story residence of Mr. and Mrs. George Pack and small daughter, at intersection of Fisher's Lane and NC 213 in the snow following a fire early Sunday morning. The second story was burned completely up while the first story was gutted by flames. It was formerly the Thad Coates residence. Note tall chimney in

rear which was left standing. The small structure adjacent to the house was not damaged. Fifteen Marshall firemen and 10 Mars Hill firemen battled the fire. Some household items were saved. The Packs escaped without injury. (Photo By Jim Story)

### Fires Destroy 2 Homes

#### In Cutshalltown

The four-room frame home of Mrs. Mettie Cutshall of the White Rock community, was destroyed by fire on Monday night, Dec. 27. Mrs. Cutshall was not at home at the time the fire was discovered by neighbors.

All household furnishings and clothing were lost.

Those wishing to donate items may do so by contacting Sheriff E. Y. Ponder.

#### PATTERSON HOME

The log cabin where Freddie Patterson, 22, lived alone in the Cutshall town community, was destroyed by fire early Friday morning, Dec. 31, when Patterson accidentally threw some gasoline in a stove attempting to start a fire. He thought it was kerosene. The stove exploded setting the small structure on fire. Patterson escaped uninjured but flames burned all furnishings and clothings.

area. A final section displays the results of group need assessment sessions with service clients and other groups in the region.

Information for Part I was developed through personal interviews with over 100 agencies in the four counties, compilation of statistical data from a wide variety of sources, and group sessions with services clients, citizens and providers.

Part I was distributed in draft form to many agencies in the region to review, and information from the study has been used already for other studies, proposals, and by agencies and individuals seeking to better understand the human problems of the region.

Part II of the study, to be published in several months, will analyze each county's human needs, how these needs are being met by current services, and will provide recommendations on improving services.

### Regional Study Published

The Land-of-Sky Regional Council announced the publication of the first of two parts of the Region B Human Services Study. The study provides a basis for examining social and other human problems in Buncombe, Henderson, Madison and Transylvania counties for evaluating current efforts to provide human services in the region.

### Commissioners Change Meet For Public

In order that more people may attend the regular meeting of the Madison County Board of Commissioners, it was announced this week that effective this month, the board will meet on the first Friday night at 7:30, instead of in the mornings.

"This will enable persons who work during the day to attend the meetings at the courthouse at night if they wish," a spokesman said.

Part I of the Region B

ACP Sign Up Begins Monday

A sign-up period for the 1977 Agricultural Conservation Program will begin on Monday, Jan. 17, and will continue through Friday, Jan. 28. This sign-up period applies to all annual requests for cost-sharing under the 1977 ACP Program. Soil tests are recommended but will not be required for participation in the 1977 program.

Immediately after the sign-up period ends all requests for cost-sharing will be reviewed by the county committee for eligibility and notification will be mailed to each applicant that is eligible.

Those wishing to file a request are urged to do so between Jan. 17 and Jan. 28. Office hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## Mars Hill Changes To Computers... Painlessly

A unique arrangement between Mars Hill College and Computat, Inc., an Asheville-based computer service organization, has enabled the college to transfer all operations requiring data processing to a computer system, without the usual transitional pains such a change often brings.

Under the new arrangement, the college specifies its program and system needs through its own

computer center. Computat then develops the program and systems, and tests them using actual data from the college. Once all the bugs have been worked out and refinements made, the operating system is transferred to the computer at Mars Hill with Computat personnel providing the training for the staff at the college. According to Bill Wilde, Computat president and a Mars Hill resident, "Computat operates both as a service bureau and an educational agency.

As an example of how the arrangement works, the college's student registration system was programmed during the summer. During the fall, the new registration system was tested by actually doing the computer assisted portion of the registration procedure at Computat's facilities. The system was refined based on this initial experience and further tested on the pre-registration for spring semester. The completed program is now ready for transfer to the college's

facilities.

According to Dr. David DeVries, director of institutional research at the college, "the arrangement with Computat has not only saved the college several thousand dollars in personnel costs, but also allowed the college to avoid the major problems caused by a transfer to a computer system. Computat provides us with the highest level of expertise needed to operate the system until our own staff develops sufficient

familiarity and skills to effectively utilize our own computer."

Funded by a \$2 million HEW grant received last May, the college developed a Planning, Management, and Evaluation System to cover all of the college's operations and provide information for policy making decisions and evaluation of the college's programs. At the

heart of this new plan is a system common to the five interdependent areas that make up the whole of Mars Hill College: finances, students, staff, facilities, and curriculum. This system, called the Transactional Information System, will gather, store, organize, and recall information on all aspects of the operations in these five areas using the college's new IBM System 3 computer and programs developed, tested, and put into operation by Computat.