

THE NEWS RECORD

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Ethie Plemmons... 40 acres were her world

By DOT JACKSON
Charlotte Observer Staff Writer

Sunday they buried 80-year-old Ethie Plemmons of Spring Creek community in Madison County, who went out to her barn to feed her chickens, fell and died in the cold.

Her funeral was at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Hot Springs with burial in the churchyard.

"Miss Ethie," born on the same mountain farm where she died, had lived alone for 25 years in her isolated one-room cabin. She chopped wood for her stove and heater, read by a single oil lamp and dipped her water from a tiny spring close to her porch.

"I ain't much wanting electric lights," she once said. Electricity, she

said, was nothing but lightning on wires, so though the power company brought the lines and hooked them to her house, she wouldn't let the wires be brought inside.

She hoed her living from the mountainside. Her loft sagged with winter squash and potatoes and meat and produce. In the evenings, she called her grazing cows home, each by name. They knew no one but her and would fade back into the bordering woods until strangers got out of sight.

She had been married, briefly, many years ago. But the man wouldn't work to suit her, she said, "so I ran him off." Her dog slept close to the front door, ready to bark at rare passersby. Her

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'Miss Ethie' Heads Toward Her Cabin On The Mountain

Observer Photos By DOT JACKSON

Schools Can Cut 15 Days For Snow

Supt. Robert L. Edwards told the News-Record Monday that he assumed that the decision by a majority of the state school board members to let the snow-bound Western North Carolina schools cut 15 days off the 180-day school year would be verified at the state board meeting on Feb. 10. As of Monday of this week, Edwards said he had had no official word from Dr. Craig Phillips, state superintendent, but stated that he felt reasonably assured the cut in days would become effective.

The board members were polled by telephone Friday after 20 school superintendents from Western North Carolina

visited Raleigh Thursday and asked for relief from the state laws that require schools to stay open 180 days a year while not letting the school year exceed 10 months.

Avery County School Supt. Harry McGee, whose schools have been closed 20 days because of snow and ice, said "Everyone wants to give 180 days of school if possible. We all are committed to that. But the weather has been pretty severe so we'll just have to give a little."

But even with the relief from the state school board, many schools may be in trouble. In previous years, schools have been closed more often during

March than any other month, the superintendents told state officials Thursday.

That means some school districts could use up the regularly scheduled "snow days" as well as the 15 days that the state board has agreed to waive for some of the mountain school districts.

Mrs. Linda Irwin, the board's information coordinator, said state laws allow the board to waive up to 60 days of a 180-day school year. However, any reductions beyond the 15 days approved by the state board would mean cuts in pay for teachers.

Schools in Avery, Madison, Mitchell and Yancey counties have been closed for 20 or more days because of the snow and ice. Buncombe County schools have been closed 14 days, and the Asheville schools have been closed 13 days by snow.

The telephone poll of the state school board members Friday is not a binding legal action. All it means is that the board members polled have said they will vote for the proposal during the board meeting Feb. 10, said Mrs. Irwin.

Most school districts have scheduled more than 180 days for the school year. They then

set aside between 10 and 20 days for emergencies like snow. The proposed state board resolution would require districts to use up the "snow days" before seeking special relief from the state board.

Region B Receives Extra CETA Funds

The Regional Manpower Advisory Committee for Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania counties met Wednesday, Jan. 19, at the Land-of-Sky Regional Council office at 10 a.m. with Chairman James Ledford of Madison County presiding.

After a welcome to guests and members, minutes of the Sept. 13 meeting were approved.

The first item of business was the allocation of additional

CETA Title I funds. The committee voted to spend \$5,134 in vocational training funds for an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training class in Madison County. The class will be operated by Asheville-Buncombe Technical Institute.

Elizabeth Worsham, Manpower director, stated that \$134,461 in Title I training funds were also planned for the three counties. She explained a

proposed breakout for allocation of these funds, along with general descriptions of each Manpower program, and the methodology used for the proposed allocations. The committee voted to accept the proposed recommendations for the funds and also voted to divide equally an unallocated \$2,654 among the three adult work experience programs. The additional funds will be available in February, pending approval by the Office of Employment and Training in Raleigh.

Funds for operation of the youth and adult work experience programs and vocational scholarship programs are contracted to Land-of-Sky Regional Council and subcontracted to program operators in the three counties.

Funds for operation of orientation and motivation classes at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Institute and Blue Ridge Technical Institute are channeled through the Department of Community Colleges. A class-size training project in Madison County is operated by Asheville-Buncombe Technical Institute and the Employment Security Commission. Funds for On-the-Job Training in the three counties are contracted directly between the Office of Employment and Training and the Employment Security Commission.

The committee decided to adopt a bi-monthly meeting schedule and have program operators make periodic reports at these meetings.

The final item of business was the election of 1977 RMAC officers. Officers were elected as follows: chairman, Chick Martin, Transylvania County; vice chairman, Robert Scruggs, Henderson County; secretary, Virginia Anderson, Madison County; parliamentarian, Kathy Stokely, Transylvania County.

The Regional Manpower Advisory Committee is a citizen advisory group ap-

pointed by the lead regional organization to advise the council on local manpower and training needs and to make recommendations to the council on programs to best serve the regional needs. Committee membership is composed of local officials, manpower clients, representatives of business,

industry, and labor, and professionals in education, employment and community service organizations.

Robert Shepherd, executive director, commended James Ledford, outgoing chairman for his support and contributions to the RMAC during his term as chairman.

Voltage Reduction Lifted By EMC

French Broad EMC was notified today (Jan. 25) by Carolina Power & Light Company that the five percent voltage reduction plan that had been in effect has been lifted. The extreme cold weather that has been experienced during the last few weeks resulted in record peak demands for power and forced this temporary voltage cut-back.

Even though the cutback in voltage has been lifted, French Broad EMC continues to request all members to please conserve as much energy as possible. Postpone any cooking, washing, etc., that is not absolutely necessary, turn

off heat in unused areas of your home, set your thermostats no higher than 65 degrees, and practice conservation with all your home appliances. Your

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MIRAGE? Don't let the sign fool you. This isn't sand you're looking at but it is snow in foreground and ice in the French Broad River at Rollins, a suburb of Marshall. The picture was taken last Friday

afternoon. It's been many, many years since the river has been frozen over between the Marshall dam and the Ivy railroad trestle. (Photo by Jim Story)

ACP Sign-Up Extended

The ASCS Office has been accepting request for cost-sharing under the 1977 ACP for the past week and a half. Since weather conditions have been such that many residents on

rural roads have been unable to travel, the county committee has extended the sign-up period until Feb. 4.

The committee encourages all interested farmers to sign a request for ACP cost-sharing to establish a vegetative cover, improve vegetative cover, lime farmland, install underground drainage or participate in any of the other approved practices in the county program.

Remember, the 1977 ACP sign-up has been extended to Feb. 4.

Industry On Parade Show Starts

The spotlight will be on Western North Carolina's industries this weekend as "Industry on Parade," the 1977 industrial fair, opens Thursday night in the Asheville Civic Center.

Last year, 32,000 persons turned out to have a look and this year, there will be even more exhibitors. The special feature will be the Apollo 15 Space Museum, which includes a piece of the moon.

Weather permitting, hundreds of Madison County citizens are expected to attend the show.

Young Accepts Baptist Church Pastorate Here

The Rev. R. Vincent Young of Aulander, has accepted the pastorate of Marshall Baptist Church and will preach his first sermon on Feb. 6.

Mr. and Mrs. Young and their son, Shawn, 9, and their daughter, Shannon, 17 months, expect to move into the parsonage on Walnut Creek Road on Feb. 1.

Born in Alexandria, Va., Nov. 9, 1941, his family moved to Mars Hill where his father entered Mars Hill College to study for the ministry. Following graduation from high school in Thornton, Colo., Vincent returned to Mars Hill where he received his B.A. degree from Mars Hill College in 1968. He received his M.D. degree from Southeastern Baptist Seminary in Wake Forest in 1972.

While a student at Mars Hill College, he served as pastor of Forks of Ivy Baptist Church from 1964-68 and was ordained by that church in 1964. From the Forks of Ivy church he went to Creedmore where he was pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church for five years, then became pastor of the Aulander Baptist Church in 1973.

Mrs. Young is the former Kathleen "Kathy" Lindsay of Oklawaha City. She attended Mars Hill College where she majored in voice and drama and was a member of the



REV. R. VINCENT YOUNG

college touring choir. She is presently church music and choir director in the Aulander church and teaches voice and piano privately.

In addition to holding numerous denominational offices in the various Baptist associations where he has lived, he has also been active in various civic affairs. He is presently a member of Aulander Fire Department, Rescue and Ambulance attendant and a member of the Aulander Jaycees. His hobbies include fishing, hunting, sports, CB radio and woodworking.

Ed Niles Marshall Alderman

Ed Niles, Marshall pharmacist and owner of Roberts Pharmacy, was sworn in as a member of the Marshall board of aldermen on Wednesday morning of last week.

He succeeds Roy Wild, who recently resigned.

Niles will serve as water commissioner, a post held by Wild for many years.

Other members of the board are James Fensland and Donald Ramsey.