



THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

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Second-Hand Mothers? Not These Centers

By: BOB GESSNER

In some eyes, day care centers are sometimes looked at as being "dressed up babysitting services." However, in the eyes of the three teachers at the Hot Springs Day Care Center and the local populace, the facility is much more than a bureaucratic attempt at second hand motherhood. The teachers and instructors at the Hot Springs Center are Talitha Price, Glennis Cutshall, Ruth Stamey and Vickie Wills. The center is operated under the auspices of the Madison

County Commissioners, the Madison County Day Care Advisory Board, and Region B Land of Sky Regional Council. At the center 20 children from ages 2-5 learn many skills that will help them in their future. Activities such as painting, drawing, and other art projects are of course intended to be enjoyable experiences for the children at the day care center. They are also intended to be much, much more. For example, the original art work not only encourages creativity but additionally develops eye-hand coordination. This artwork is often

seasonal in nature. With the coming of the Christmas holidays, the children spend much of their time depicting various Christmas scenes and events. During the Thanksgiving season activities were coordinated to make the learning experiences a total one. The Thanksgiving unit began with Mrs. Price placing figures on a nearby flannel board, representing the various people and foods present at the historic first Thanksgiving. The children then answered questions about the scenes and pictures. Later the students gathered

around work tables to color drawings of turkeys using the most unique and familiar model available — their own hands! Using this method, the children used their thumbs to draw the turkey's head, and their fingers to represent the bird's tailfeathers. Each child then colored his or her special version of a turkey. Various antics and events on the center's playground are also part of the learning process at the Hot Springs facility. For example, many of the children learn to swing at the center's playground as they coordinate their bodies' ac-

tions to provide their own means of movement. Such activities help the children develop a good muscle tone. Additionally, the children receive the double benefit of needed exercise and fresh air. Storytelling and movie watching are still other facets of the center children's learning experiences as the children respond readily to questions and answer sessions held after a story is read by the center's personnel. These activities develop listening, memory, and creative skills prior to a child's formal school experience. Taking advantage of all of

nature's wonders that are plentiful in this area, the center also conducts regular field trips for the children. Such experiences provide the opportunity for the children to ask questions and gain valuable knowledge about the world and their immediate surroundings. These field trips may also vary widely with one week's trip taking the children to a nearby farm and other trips taking them to a puppet show or park. Another important aspect of the education at the center is personal hygiene training. Children are encouraged to

brush their teeth after breakfast and lunch, to wash before all meals and to develop proper eating habits. All of this training comes in a relaxed friendly manner from the staff. The instructors at the center also serve important purpose. If any changes develop in the child's behavior or eating habits, the teachers are the first ones to see it and to notify the children's parents of these happenings. Parents too are involved in the center's operation as they attend parent meetings, participate in parent conferences, donate time and materials, and visit

with the children and staff at special Thanksgiving and Christmas parties. The community involvement and support for the day care center was shown during the recent flooding that struck Western North Carolina and the town of Hot Springs. The center was inundated with three feet of water, mud, and debris. Many toys and equipment were either lost or heavily damaged. Approximately fifty volunteers helped shovel mud, dispose of debris, and repair

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THE ARTIST at work is Jimmy Moore, who obviously has all his attention directed to the task at hand. The day care center's children

participate in many such efforts at the Hot Springs facility.

County Flood Grants Approved

The Federal Disaster Assistance Administration (FDAA) has approved grants totaling \$4,172,005 to 30 governmental entities in 11 western North Carolina counties to repair damages caused by the Nov. 4-6 flood. Madison County's reimbursement to the county government totaling \$13,940 to be used to replace six four-yard dumpsters washed away by the flood (\$2,460) and to replace recreation facilities at

Blannahasset Island Park (\$11,480); and \$10,723 to Hot Springs for removal of debris from stream channels and adjacent lands (\$2,755), repair of town roads and streets (\$3,526), repair of public buildings and equipment (\$1,380) and restoration of public utilities (\$3,065). Federal Coordinating Officer Joe D. Winkle said the funds, which are provided through the Federal Disaster Relief Act of 1974, are outright

grants which will be used to repair or replace damaged public-use facilities such as streets, utilities, schools and recreational facilities. Approval of the disbursements is the first of as much as \$10.8 million FDAA officials assigned to the 16-county disaster area expect to expend on repair of public facilities. More than 45 local governments and nine other governmental entities have

submitted some 1,350 individual repair projects which may be eligible for reimbursement. The major portion of the grants approved will be channeled through the North Carolina Department of Transportation to reimburse the state for money spent to repair state and county roads in Yancey County, according to FDAA director Paul Hall.

Retiring Wardens Honored At Hot Springs

French Broad district ranger Joe Wallace presented certificates of appreciation to retiring National Forest fire wardens Fred Barnett, Waymon Waldroup and Grady Gahagan on Dec. 16 at the annual district Christmas party held in Hot Springs. Grady Gahagan of Laurel began his fire fighting in November, 1918 as a North Carolina State Forest service

warden and later changed to the U. S. Forest Service under Ranger Lorenzo Jared in the early 1920s. He retired with 58 years of experience, longest of the three retirees. Fred Barnett of Shut-in ended a 30-year career as cooperative fire warden but passed his responsibilities to his grandson, Samuel Barnett, who became the youngest warden on the French Broad.

This continues a family tradition to the third generation since Neal A. Barnett, Fred's son, has worked for the forest service since 1959 and is currently supervisory forestry technician on the French Broad Ranger District. Neal is Samuel's father. Waymon Waldroup of Spring Creek served for 23 years and though he is retiring

as a warden he will continue to work for the forest service on the Older American program. "Though he won't be climbing mountains and fighting fires like he once did, we hope to have Mr. Waymon working in fire prevention activities in the future," said Wallace. The Cooperative Forest Fire

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Spring Creek, Laurel, Hot Springs

Officials Asked To Visit Schools

At the called meeting of the Madison County Board of Education on Dec. 14, all the members were present along with Burt King, architect, and Larry Leake, attorney. The board instructed the superintendent to set a date with Burt King, architect, his constructional engineer and principals to visit Laurel, Hot Springs and Spring Creek elementary schools and report to the board the constructional condition of the above school buildings. The board voted that chairman of the county commissioners Virginia Anderson;

Bill Roberts, board member; Burt King, architect; Bill Brigman, principal at Marshall Elementary School; David Wyatt, principal at Madison High School; Sidney Harrison, principal at Walnut Elementary School; and superintendent visit the available sites in the Marshall-Walnut school district and give a report to the board of education at the February meeting. The next regular meeting of the Madison County Board of Education will be Jan. 3, 1978 at 7 p.m. in the courtroom. The public is invited.

Homemakers Send \$1125 For Victims

"Such kindnesses restore our faith in people," Mrs. Ethel T. Wallin, Home Economics extension agent of Madison County, commented Monday morning after receiving a letter with a check for \$1,125 from extension homemakers from all over the state. The letter stated that the contribution was for flood victims in Madison County. The letter follows: Dear Mrs. Wallin: Enclosed is a check for \$1,125 as a contribution for the flood victims in Madison County from extension homemakers from all over the state. We hope this money will help to restore a little of the Christmas joy for these people. It is not only meant for extension homemakers in your county but for those who need it most. Sincerely, MRS. B. W. PSHYK State Treasurer North Carolina Extension Homemakers Association, Inc. Durham, 27705.



POSTER WINNERS — Shown above are the four winners from Marshall Elementary School in the "Mail Early For Christmas Contest" sponsored by the Marshall Post Office. From left to right, postmaster Roger Wood, Julie Allison, (first place winner), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Allison of Route 6, Marshall, (8th grade); 2nd place, Betty Jean Roberts, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Roberts, Route 5, Marshall (fourth grade); Chris Hensley, third place, son of Mrs. Jan Griffin, Worley Cove (fourth grade); and fourth place, Alberta Blackwell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Blackwell, Redmon Road, Marshall (fourth grade).