

# THE NEWS RECORD

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On the Inside . . .

Heart Association  
Plans Spring Drive  
...See Page 4

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## Marshall - Walnut Center Dedicated



UNVEILING of the beautiful plaque in the Marshall-Walnut Medical Center was held Monday afternoon following dedication ceremony of the center held in the Little Theatre at Madison High School. The plaque lists names of major donors who contributed toward the construction of the center between Marshall and Walnut. Former North

Carolina Gov. Bob Scott, now federal co-chairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission, Washington, D.C., is shown (left) after he unveiled the plaque. Looking on are Tom Wallin, chairman of the Hot Springs Health Program (center) and Jerry Plemmons, chairman of the Fund Drive which made the facility possible.

By JIM STORY

Monday was a "Red Letter" day in this area when the Marshall-Walnut Medical Center was officially dedicated at double ceremonies — the first occasion was held in the Little Theatre at Madison High School at 2:30 p.m. and the second occasion was held at the Medical Center between Marshall and Walnut.

More than 100 persons attended the dedication program at the school where former Gov. Bob Scott, who is now federal co-chairman of Appalachian Regional Commission, Washington, D.C., was the featured speaker.

Following a unique and impressive invocation by the Rev. George Moore, pastor of the Marshall Presbyterian Church, Jerry Plemmons, who served faithfully as chairman of the fund drive for the medical center, presided.

He recognized the various volunteer leaders who were responsible for the successful fund-raising effort. He also recognized the many agencies and organizations which played such vital roles in helping the medical center become a reality. Plemmons summed up the efforts of many persons by saying the entire effort was the complete dedication and response of leaders and officials as well as the public in general. "Each individual who donated money and effort is responsible for this 'dream come true.'"

Tom Wallin, chairman of the Hot Springs Health Program, reviewed the history of the facility and spoke of the many persons who had helped in various ways. Although Wallin complimented many individuals, there was one individual he pointed out who had been the initial instigator and that person is Linda O. Mashburn.

"Linda Mashburn began the Hot Springs Health Program eight years ago in Hot Springs. Through her efforts and dreams, the program has now expanded to three units with 29 employees. This could not have happened had it not been for Linda's vision," Wallin commented.

For her untiring service to the program, she was given a standing ovation by the large and appreciative audience.

James Bernstein, director of office, Rural Health Services, Raleigh, complimented the fine work of Plemmons and Wallin as well as others in

the Marshall and Walnut areas and then introduced Bob Scott.

The former governor stated that he was always delighted to come to the mountains of Western North Carolina and recalled his last visit to Marshall when the high school was on the island.

He spoke of his many acquaintances in Madison County, pointing out Miss Sharon Carter of the county extension department who he said he'd known since she was a little girl in Wilkes County. "My family and Sharon's family were the closest of

friends," Scott remarked. He also recalled his father's visit to Marshall and Hot Springs while his father was governor. He also recognized Jeanne and Dick Hoffman of Mars Hill and other friends.

From his talk, one would believe he will make every effort possible from the federal level to aid in the establishment of the proposed Laurel Medical Center.

He complimented the fine cooperation shown by local citizens and said, "I am happy to have been able to share with you the pride you must feel in the completion of the Mar-

shall-Walnut Medical Center, it's fine staff, directors and personnel."

After an informal reception in the lobby of the school, where punch, soft drinks and a huge cake was cut and enjoyed by the former governor and other distinguished guests as well as many local citizens, then motored to the center between Marshall and Walnut where the unveiling of the plaque was held and a tour of the medical center enjoyed.

The text of Scott's talk follows:

Two things about my job Continued on Page 2A

## Laurel Medical Center Meeting Set For Saturday

Dennis Tweed, chairman, and Carol Gunter, secretary, of the Building Committee of the proposed Laurel Medical Center, announced this week that an important meeting concerning the center will be held this Saturday at 2 p.m. in the Laurel School lunchroom.

The residents of the several communities involved are urged to attend. "This

meeting could possibly determine the location of the new medical center," officials stated, and added, "Your opinion counts, we need your help."

Transportation will be provided by calling Laurel Clinic, 656-2611 or Tootsie Gunter at 656-2316.

The building committee consists of a representative

from each community. They are as follows: Big Laurel, Janie Franklin; Cutshalltown, Dennis Tweed, chairman; Guntertown, Carol Gunter, secretary; Laurel, Oleta Shelton; Little Laurel, Helen Shelton, treasurer; Sodom, Nepal Adams and Tootsie Gunter; Spillcorn, Raymond Cantrell; and Upper Shelton Laurel, Ada Jean Shelton.

## Mars Hill To Receive \$2 Million In Bequest

Mars Hill College will receive approximately \$2 million in a bequest from the estate of Mrs. Burette Myers of Statesville, who died Dec. 12, according to an announcement by Dr. Fred B. Bentley, president of the college. It will be the largest bequest in the 123-year history of the Baptist college.

A preliminary estimate values the total estate at 2.5 million. Included are Myers Oil Co., an Amoco dealership in Statesville; other business interests; as well as property and securities.

Under the terms of Mrs. Myers' will, the oil company is to be sold, and the college's

share of the entire estate is to be put in a trust, which will be administered by the Northwestern Bank of Statesville. Income from the trust, which is conservatively estimated at \$140,000 per year, will be paid to the college.

"This money," explains Dr. Bentley, "will go into the unrestricted endowment of the college."

Mrs. Myers, an alumna of Mars Hill, suffered an apparent heart attack on Dec. 12 and was dead on arrival at Iredell Memorial Hospital. She was 79.

Her bequest to the college grew out of a long and close friendship between Mrs.

Myers and her late husband and Dr. Hoyt Blackwell, president emeritus of Mars Hill. Dr. Blackwell and Myers were friends and classmates at the college during the school years of 1919-1922.

Myers founded the oil company soon after completing his studies at Mars Hill. He married Elizabeth Austin, also of Statesville and also a former student at the college. They labored together and became successful business and community leaders in Statesville.

In 1945, Myers was appointed to the board of trustees at the college. By that time Dr. Blackwell had become president. He talked with Mr. and Mrs. Myers and reached a verbal understanding with them that the college would benefit from their accumulation of wealth and property. The Myers had no children.

In November of 1949, Myers was fatally injured in an automobile accident. Mrs. Myers was appointed to fill his unexpired term of the board of trustees.

She became president of the oil company and continued actively in the management of the business. She was later appointed to full terms as a trustee before officially retiring from the board in 1974. A large men's residence hall built in 1966 was named in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Myers and was dedicated during the college's centennial celebration.

Soon after her husband's death Mrs. Myers formalized the understanding which she and her husband had reached with Dr. Blackwell. She had a will drawn in which the

college was named as her major beneficiary. In April 1977 she re-wrote the will, reaffirming her commitment to Mars Hill.



ROGER WOOD

## Marshall Postmaster Transferred

Roger Wood, who has been postmaster at the Marshall post office since October, 1974, has been transferred to the Clayton, post office as postmaster. He began his duties there on Friday of last week.

Clayton, which is in Johnston County, is 15 miles from Raleigh.

Wood has been an enthusiastic sports fan and was a member of the Marshall Lions Club.

His son, Roger Jr., is an outstanding basketball player.

Continued on Page 2



DEDICATION ceremonies of the Marshall-Walnut Medical Center held here Monday began in the Little Theatre at Madison High School where former Gov. Bob Scott, now federal co-chairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission, Washington, D.C., was the principal speaker. Shown above at the opening ceremony

are left to right, James Bernstein, director of office, Rural Health Services, Raleigh; Tom Wallin, Chairman Board of Directors, Hot Springs Health Program; Bob Scott; and Jerry Plemmons, chairman of the fund drive. More than 100 persons attended the session at Madison High School.

## EMCs To Get \$10 Million Refund

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has ordered Carolina Power and Light Co. to pay back more than \$10 million to 18 Electric Membership Corporations in North Carolina for overcharges made during parts of 1976 and 1977.

In addition, CP&L reached a separate agreement with the cooperatives and the state's municipal electric systems to

lower its present rates to wholesale customers. The rate reduction must get commission approval, which is expected. According to the agreement, the reduction will be sought probably early next month.

The refund will be the largest ever made by CP&L.

The commission, meeting in Washington, D.C., tossed aside appeals from both sides

in reaching the decision. CP&L wanted the amount, originally set in a ruling announced last August to be lowered, but the cooperatives contended the refund should be even larger.

The commission ruled that a 34.7 percent rate increase collected over a 20-month period from May 1, 1976 to Dec. 29, 1977, was too high. A portion was allowed, but

CP&L must pay back about one-third of what was collected during that period.

Among the EMCs getting money is French Broad EMC of Marshall.

James M. Hubbard, executive vice president and general manager of the North Carolina Electric Membership Corp., which represents the local cooperatives, expressed disappointment that the organization's appeal for a bigger refund was refused but called the ruling "a very significant decision."

The refunds may be received as early as Feb. 15, officials said.

Hubbard said he is particularly pleased with a portion of the commission's ruling that struck down a bitterly disputed "catch clause" in the contracts with CP&L, which forced the cooperatives to pay for electricity they did not use.

In addition, CP&L must pay back more than \$12 million of the municipal systems in the area.

## French Broad EMC Contract For Headquarters

The board of directors of French Broad Electric Membership Corp. in Marshall awarded a contract this week to Hickory Construction Co. in the amount of \$1,437,563 for the construction of new coop headquarters facilities, subject to REA approval.

Hickory Construction Co. of Hickory was the low bidder of six bidders but their bid was in

excess of the cost estimate and budget for this facility. However, after careful consideration, the coop directors and management state the new facilities are necessary for the successful operation of the cooperative in the future, and any portions deferred now would cost substantially more to construct at a later date. The directors will request

REA approval to expend general funds and any money received from the sale of the present headquarters building and warehouse to make up the difference.

Construction is expected to get under way by March, local officials said.

The new facility will be located between Marshall and Mars Hill.

## Howell Takes Oath For Eight-Year Term

Superior Court Judge Ronald W. Howell of Marshall was officially sworn into his



eight-year term on the bench Thursday. Howell had won a close race in the Democratic primary last May for renomination to his court seat.

Superior Court Judge Lacy Thornburg of Haywood County presided in giving Howell his new oath of office in ceremonies held in Buncombe County Superior Court.

Howell was first elected as the resident judge of the 24th Judicial District, which covers Yancey, Mitchell, Madison, Watauga and Avery counties, in 1976, filling the post vacated by Republican Bruce Briggs of Mars Hill.

In last May's Democratic primary, Howell defeated Charles Lamm, a Boone attorney, and had no Republican opposition in the general election.