

THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

On the Inside . . .

'Temporary' foster care sometimes isn't
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MIKE HENDERSON, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Henderson of Marshall, is pictured with Dennis Hill, associate dean of admissions

and enrichment of Mars Hill College. Henderson was awarded a \$400 president's scholarship to attend Mars Hill.

Authorities Say Officer Couldn't Handle Public

Marshall Mayor Lawrence Ponder and the aldermen James Penland, Buford Marler and Jackie Davis were interviewed by this newspaper Monday morning regarding the recent discharging of Marshall Policeman Leroy Gosnell.

The four town officials stated that Gosnell was unanimously discharged "because of his inability to deal with the public and failure to follow instructions from his authorities."

The motion to fire Gosnell, 43, of Route 4, Marshall, was made by Alderman Davis and seconded by Alderman Penland.

Gosnell has implied that he was fired for his strict enforcement of town speeding laws, but the aldermen said Monday that Gosnell was fired for his treatment of citizens while on duty.

"It's not that he's done anything real serious, it was just a long string of things," one alderman said.

One alderman said complaints from the public made against Gosnell included unnecessary stopping of cars, searching cars without a warrant and rough treatment of citizens he stopped.

"It seems like just about every regular meeting we had that's all we could get done,"

Alderman Davis said, referring to discussion of complaints made by citizens attending town meetings.

The three aldermen agreed that Gosnell was a dedicated and conscientious police officer, but they added that his performance would waiver from time to time from satisfactory to unsatisfactory.

When complaints from the public about Gosnell kept coming up at board meetings they decided that he had to be relieved, the aldermen said.

Mayor Ponder was quoted as saying Gosnell had previously worked for and been fired from the Madison County Ambulance Service, but Ernest Snelson, who doubles as county ambulance and tax supervisor, stated that Gosnell never worked for the ambulance service.

Snelson said Gosnell applied for a position in the county ambulance service about two years ago but there were no vacancies at that time.

PONDER EXPLAINS

Mayor Ponder told this newspaper Monday that he did not tell a reporter of a daily newspaper that Gosnell had ever been fired from the Madison County Ambulance Department. "I did tell a reporter that Gosnell had sought employment with the

ambulance service," Ponder stated.

OPEN MEETINGS

The mayor and aldermen stated Monday that all town meetings are open to the public and that Gosnell should have known he was welcome at any meeting. One alderman stated that Gosnell was notified and invited to the town meeting on April 2, but he did not attend. "He (Gosnell) was in town that

Monday night but did not show up at the meeting," an alderman said.

The mayor and aldermen stated Monday that they were unaware that an Asheville television station would be in Marshall to "cover" the controversial matter and if they had known that television wanted to interview them they would have been glad to cooperate.

Alderman Marler said he

"just happened", to be at the City Hall when the television people visited Marshall and he was interviewed.

The town officials stated that Gosnell was hired with the agreement that if his work as policeman "was not satisfactory he could be relieved."

"We did the best thing we could for what we thought the best interests of Marshall," the officials stated.

French Broad EMC To Meet Here Saturday

French Broad Electric Membership Corp. will hold its annual meeting of the members this Saturday at the Madison High School. Registration will begin at 10 a.m. and continue until 1 p.m. with the business session getting under way at 1 p.m. There will be reports to the members, election of three directors and prize drawings. The grand prize will be \$200 credit on the member's electric account, plus many small prizes. The prize drawing is for members only and they must be present to win.

Members are urged to bring the registration card that will be mailed to them with the annual report. If you plan to vote proxies, you can speed up registration on the day of the meeting by pre-registering these proxies at either office in Marshall, Burnsville or Bakersville, 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. through April 20.

CRAFT SHOW TO FEATURE PEARL DIVE

An arts and crafts show will open at 10 a.m. in the school cafeteria. There will be many craft items for sale. These will include paintings, stained glass, plaques, tote bags, gourds, walking sticks and many more. A unique Pearl Dive will also be held sponsored by Gordon and Helen Claus.

MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT

There will be an hour of musical entertainment between 11:45 and 12:45. You will hear 30 minutes of good gospel music by the Singing Patriots of Asheville and some of the best in bluegrass by the Carolina Cut-Ups of Weaverville.

ENERGY MANAGEMENT MOBILE DISPLAY

On the school grounds there will be a mobile display on energy management covering insulation, ventilation, storm doors and windows, solar energy, lighting, heat pump and many others. This display will also open at 10 a.m.

Mrs. Ethel Wallin, Madison County home extension agent, will demonstrate the use of a blender. She will point out time and energy management as well as a cost comparison of preparing items with a blender versus buying packaged items. Marshall Eastern Star Chapter will have food for sale in the school cafeteria. Everyone is invited to attend.

Gosnell Makes Statement

Leroy Gosnell, former Marshall policeman who was recently discharged, said this week that he would like to clarify several statements which were allegedly made by town officials and published in newspapers.

"Some remarks about the jurisdiction of policemen outside the corporate limits would indicate that I had no business on the Marshall bypass or in the shopping center parking area," Gosnell said.

"I took an oath when I became a policeman, to-wit: I, Robert Leroy Gosnell, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the constitution and laws of the United States and the constitution and laws of North Carolina not inconsistent therewith, and that I will faithfully discharge the

duties of my office as policeman, so help me God. This the 10th day of October, 1978. The oath was administered by Loyd Fowler, magistrate," Gosnell stated.

He further explained that he was instructed to patrol this area, especially at night. Gosnell pointed out that signs on the shopping center parking area read, "No trespassing, 11 p.m. to 6 a.m., No Littering or Loitering Anytime. Police Enforced."

In the published accounts of Gosnell's dismissal, an alderman was quoted as saying, "He'd hit a few with a blackjack and pulled his gun a few times while making arrests."

Gosnell said last Friday, "I have used a 'slapjack,' not a blackjack, only one time which was given me by officials and the person I struck

with the 'slapjack' was charged with DUI and resisting arrest. I felt I was discharging my duty as my oath of office requires," Gosnell said.

It was also reported that Mayor Ponder stated that Gosnell had previously worked for and had been fired from the Madison County Ambulance Service, but Ernest Snelson, who doubles as county ambulance and tax supervisor, stated that "Leroy Gosnell has never worked for the Madison County Ambulance Service, however he did apply for a job with the ambulance service about two years ago and there was no vacancy at that time."

"I just want to let the citizens of this county know these facts," Gosnell said Friday.



JOHN P. RAMSEY, a native of Marshall and a member of the Etowah Lions Club, is shown above as he was the guest speaker at the 10th charter night observance of the Mars Hill Lions Club Monday night in the school

cafeteria. Others pictured at the speaker's table are, left to right: Jack Radford, president of the Mars Hill club; Dr. Harley Jolley; Mrs. Jolley; the Rev. Ralph Hogan; and Mrs. Hogan. (Photo by Jim Story)

Mars Hill Lions Charter Night Held

More than 50 Mars Hill Lions, Lionesses and guests attended the 10th Charter Night observance of the Mars Hill Lions Club Monday night in the beautifully decorated school cafeteria.

Jack Radford, Lion Club President, presided.

The large crowd was treated to a program of vocal music by the New Beginning Singers of Mars Hill College under the direction of Jerry Anderson. The group rendered a variety of songs and hymns and received applause

following each number. The group was introduced by Dr. Harley Jolley, of Mars Hill College.

RAMSEY SPEAKER

The guest speaker for the program was John P. Ramsey, a native and former Lion, of Marshall. Ramsey, a member of the Etowah Lions Club, and 1961 graduate of Marshall High School, praised the Mars Hill Club on its 10 years of service to people and emphasized the importance of encouragement and dedication of purpose in the years ahead. He spoke of Lionism and its great accomplishments. His topic, "Pebbles To Be Picked Up" was well delivered. He paid tribute to the late Marjorie McCune, who totally blind, was an inspiration to thousands. He mentioned the

fact that the Marshall Lions Club sponsored the Mars Hill Club and commended both clubs on their accomplishments. He was introduced by Lion Hughie Ray, of the Mars Hill Club.

Other special guests present were Lion Johnny Clark, of the Haw Creek Club, who is a candidate for Governor of 31-A; and "Bo" Thomas, of the Hendersonville Lions Club. Other visitors included Lion Tom Wallin and wife; and Jim Story, both members of the Marshall Club.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Prior to adjournment, Charter members of the Mars Hill Club were recognized and presented Service Citations for their ten years in the club and their dedication to the club.



CLIFFORD "CLIFF" BATES Post Commander

Mars Hill VFW Picks Officers; Bates Reelected

Members of the Mars Hill VFW Post 5483 re-elected post Commander Clifford "Cliff" Bates to serve another year at a meeting of the organization at the April 10 meeting held in the Mars Hill School cafeteria.

Bates started the Mars Hill post only one year ago and membership has been increased 250 percent to 108 members. This is the largest increase in the state of North Carolina.

Other officers elected at the meeting included: Senior vice commander, E.H. "Bud" Ebsell; Junior vice commander, Everett

Underwood; quarter master, James B. Phillips; adjutant, C.N. Willis; chaplain, the Rev. Ralph Hogan; post advocate, Harold Wallin; surgeon, Hubert Briggs.

Board of trustees: Leonard Briggs (three years); Jonas Chandler (two years); C.N. Willis (one year).

James T. Ledford, outgoing quarter master, was commended on his job giving post Commander Bates extra effort in establishing the Mars Hill Post.

Installation of the officers will be held May 6 in the Mars Hill School cafeteria. It was announced.



JOHN C. BROOKS, state labor commissioner, is shown above, (left), with five on-the-job trainees at Arbee Manufacturing Co. on Skyway Drive here last Wednesday. At extreme right is William "Bill" Stump, owner and president of Arbee. Brooks, with

other Department of Labor officials, toured the Marshall plant where they reviewed the STIP program. Trainees, left to right, are Ricky Harrell, Larry Davis, Boyce Mayhew, Regina Merrill and Tony Keller. (Photo by Jim Story)

Labor Commissioner Brooks Views STIP At Arbee Plant

State Labor Commissioner John C. Brooks and other Department of Labor officials visited the Arbee Manufacturing plant here last Wednesday where they reviewed the Skill Training Improvement Program (STIP).

The program, which provides basic skill training for economically disadvantaged individuals in 18 apprenticeship trade areas, has five participants at Arbee who have been learning the

skill of tool and die making. Arbee, which supplies copper, steel, brass and aluminum tubing to various manufacturers, look on the five young people last Nov. 20 in a program that involves classroom and on-the-job training.

Students attend classes every Tuesday and Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. through May 24. OJT takes place daily 7:30 to 3:30 p.m. through Aug. 15. Four of the

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