

# THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

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Parade And Fair

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## Project Approved To Fight Erosion

A \$153,000 project has been approved to combat the serious erosion of the grounds of Madison High School.

This project is the first to be funded in Region B (Madison, Buncombe, Henderson and Transylvania counties) as an RC&D project-Resource Conservation and Development. Three-quarters of the cost of the program will be paid for by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and one-quarter

will be paid by Madison County.

The agreement to re-work the high school site, which has been discussed for several years, was officially approved on Nov. 13 by John Nelson of the Soil Conservation Service's area office in Waynesville, Robert L. Edwards, Madison County Superintendent of Schools, and Emery Metcalf of the Madison Soil and Conservation District.

The county Board of Education is the contracting agent for the work, which will be inspected by Harold Tew, the project engineer based in Waynesville, and Bill Brown of the Soil Conservation Service in Marshall.

The need for major revision of the high school site has been obvious for years. It is dramatized by numerous erosion gullies on virtually every side of the school building, an 800-foot-long swampy depres-

sion between Highway 25/70 and the approach road to Walnut Creek Road, the undermining and tilting of the sidewalk above the stadium seats, extremely poor drainage of the football field, and, most spectacularly, a steep, ever-wider "Madison canyon" which is steadily and rapidly eating its way toward the northern sideline of the football field.

This widening canyon has



BILL BROWN of the Soil Conservation Service stands in "Madison Canyon," a large erosion gully just below the rim of the football field at Madison High School. His hand

rests on the drainpipe that caused it. Numerous truckloads of tires, fill and branches have been dumped there — to no avail.



FIRE FIGHTERS from Marshall and Newport as well as Hot Springs gathered to combat the blaze.

## Fire Guts Motel In Hot Springs

A sudden fire severely burned the Alpine Court motel in Hot Springs on Nov. 14.

As the News-Record went to press, insurance agents had not established the amount of the damage. Preliminary estimates by the fire department were that nearly half the motel was destroyed.

The fire began at approximately 5:30 p.m., according to Fire Chief Carol Anderson, and spread rapidly through the motel. The source of the fire was the laundry room and laundry and furnace room at the right-angle center of the L-shaped building. Anderson said it probably started in either the old oil furnace or the propane clothes dryer.

"It was one of the worst kinds of buildings to fight a fire in," said Anderson afterward. "The motel was built nearly 30 years ago and they left a clear area up beneath the slate roof where the smoke and flames could spread fast. Nowadays, with modern building codes, they would have the concrete walls of

each room extending right up to the roof so a fire couldn't spread like that."

Both the Marshall and the Newport, Tenn., fire departments came to the aid of the Hot Springs department, and even so the fire was not brought under control until about 7:30 p.m. "We want to thank both those departments," said Anderson. "They were a tremendous help."

The owners of the motel, Harold and Virginia Anderson, were in Asheville when the fire broke out, visiting relatives at the hospital. According to Carol Anderson, Harold's brother, the motel will probably be repaired and returned to use. It is presently the only motel in town. A second motel, Henderson's Court, was destroyed when the French Broad River flooded in 1977.

Fire Chief Anderson said that the majority of the damage was done by water and smoke. "That old oil just poured out black smoke," he said. "The whole town turned out to watch; some people thought the whole town was on fire."

"The fire service had just moved to a new building, almost across the street from the motel. So it didn't take us any time to get there. We tried to contain it in the center section, but that smoke just poured into all the rooms because of the way it was built. The rooms where my brother and sister-in-law live are at the end, but they are just a mess, with oily black smoke covering the walls."

Hot Springs has only one fire truck, nearly 20 years old, and Chief Anderson says there is an urgent need for a second truck. "This one did all right in this fire, but every time we use it we just have to keep our fingers crossed that nothing will break down. And by state laws when we have only one truck we can't take it outside the town limits to fight a fire, even to a house only a mile away. We can't leave the town unprotected. We can't help the people down in the shuntins/Paint Rock area, where there are a lot of houses. With a second truck we could do that."

## Joe Wallace Promoted To New Post In S. C.

Joe Wallace, district ranger for the U.S. Forest Service in Hot Springs, has been promoted to a new position in South Carolina.

Wallace, who has worked in the Pisgah National Forest since March of 1977, will assume the position of district ranger at the Andrew Pickens Ranger District in Gunter National Forest. He will be based at Walhalla, S.C., which is located about 100 miles south of Hot Springs along the east face of the Appalachian Mountains.

"The Pickens District is larger and more complex than the district here," said Wallace, "but otherwise the terrain is very similar."

"In fact," he said, "a lot of the challenge of that job will center around the Chatooga River. It became very well known when the movie 'Deliverance' was filmed there; it acquired a good deal of mystique, and the number of people going down in it in rafts and kayaks has increased tremendously during the last few years. There are any number of outfitters bringing people along the river through the national forest, and I understand that the rangers in the district have the responsibility of training and approving all the guides. One guide drowned there a couple of weeks ago, so I can see that his program is going to take a lot of my attention."

Wallace and his wife Jean and their two sons, John and Scott, aged 11 and 8, will live at the ranger station in Walhalla. Wallace has been

with the Forest Service for 16 years, and during that time he has worked in six southern states, including South Carolina.

"My family and I are really torn by all this moving around," he said as he was loading a U-Haul truck outside his Hot Springs office. "One minute I just want to find a nice district like this one in Madison County and stay put for good, and the next minute I want to climb right to the top of this organization and do something about the way decisions are made."

Wallace said that the cooperation of the people of Madison County during his tenure has been exceptionally good. "It's just been tremendous," he said. "The users of the forest land have been very cooperative in every way. We've had hardly any fires in the last three years. We've had to close a few roads because of erosion, but when we explained our reasons, by golly the people have gone along with us and helped us out. The local officials have always backed our decisions, and that always makes the job so much easier. There are places where the doesn't happen — especially when a larger city is nearby and people aren't in touch with what's really happening in the forest. But this county has just been great."

Bob Haggard, the assistant ranger in Hot Springs, will serve as acting ranger pending the appointment of a replacement.

## 4-H Collegiate Club Begun

There is now a new club at Mars Hill College — the Mars Hill 4-H Collegiate Club. Dr. Ed Cheek, Mars Hill professor, Sharon Carter and Gary Ealey, 4-H agents, are advisors for the club. These three, along with Allen Stines, Mars Hill student, have been instrumental in forming the collegiate club.

At the first meeting the 4-H agents gave a slide presentation and talk on the Madison County 4-H program. The club discussed their past experiences in 4-H and ways that they could share their 4-H experiences and knowledge with the Madison County 4-H'ers.

Officers for the collegiate club elected Nov. 6 are: president, Marty Haney; vice president, James Brigman; secretary-treasurer, Edith Cheek; and reporter, Penny Frisby.

Other founding members are Connie Hill, Sandy Vernon, John Steele and Charles Duckett.

## Gov. Hunt Honors Marshall With 'Excellence' Award

Marshall was officially honored as a Governor's Community of Excellence by Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. in Raleigh Thursday during the Governor's Conference on Economic Development.

Gov. Hunt presented the award to James Story, former editor of the News Record and now editorial consultant and columnist for that paper.

"I am proud of the progress which communities like Marshall have made during the past year," Gov. Hunt said.

"It is an achievement which they can relish with great pride. The work which has been done in qualifying for this honor also represents a big step toward better job opportunities."

Story was requested to accept the award in the absence of Mayor Lawrence Ponder who was unable to attend.

To qualify for the award, Marshall had to meet the basic criteria required by new industry which among other things includes an organization for putting together and

presenting the town's story, adequate labor, industrial sites, financing and access to markets.

A total of 77 communities, all with populations of 15,000 or less, received Community of Excellence awards.

Two highway entrance signs noting the honor will be furnished. In addition, special consideration will be given these communities in the search for industrial plant sites.

Approximately 1,000 people attended the award ceremony.



GOV. JAMES HUNT presents to James Story, former editor of Community of Excellence Award the News-Record

## Jurors Listed For Superior Court Duty

The following people have been chosen to serve as jurors in Madison County for the Superior Court session beginning Nov. 26, 1979:

Tony Glenn King, Thurman Allen, William George Roberts, Jeter Cantrell, Pauline Randall Payne, Patricia Goforth Wilde, Lockie Edgar Slagle, Kenneth Bond Franklin, Van Proffitt, David King,

Lawrence B. Cutshall, Mrs. Trilby Sams, Oscar Wayne Franklin, James Bruce Massey, Roy Sams, Elsberry D. Wyatt, Evelyn Allen McLeod, Robin Sprinkle Buckner, Linda Gail Penland, Royal E. Akins,

Manassie Gunter, Lemuel H. Kent, David Windsor, Kay S. Wilde Gosnell, Dora P. Ricker, Christa Pearl Landers, Bobby Alvin Griffin, L.B. Ramsey, Bruce Glenn Davis, Fred Bailey,

Dewey Griffin Sr., Barbara Sommers Bearden, Clement Buckner, Frederick Anthony Metcalf, Mack Rathbone, Belva M. Laws, Gary Alan Nance, Joyce Elaine Thomas, Ethel B. Hensley, D.G. Church,

Viola M. Ramsey, Eunice Rice, Robert Shook, Clarence Hensley, Donell Murray, Betty McPheters Phillips, Bonnie Williams, Billie Joe (Mrs.) Beasley, Charles Douglas Norton, Roger W. Robinson,

Myra E. Blakely, Lela M. Thomas, Zell B. Hawkins, Louise Suttles Lawson, William Chandler, Patricia McAninch Swaney, Herschel Franklin, Jeffrey Allen Lowe, Roy Weldon Rice, Ronald Massey

Herman Davis, Ruth Ann Surratt, Tom Leslie, Sandra Kaye Ammons, Rombo Tweed, P.W. Keller, Harlie Rice, Ronnie Lee Shelton, Francis W. Riddle, Edna Tribble Martin,

Herbert Thomas Wild, Robert Raymond Wilde, Emma Dewey Ramsey, Lela Mae Searcy, Romana Freeman Fox

## Winter Cold: The Slow Menace Of Hypothermia

About 175 public service employees were told some shocking news at a meeting in Mars Hill last week. Approximately 25,000 Americans die each year of the cold.

At a workshop in Belk Auditorium, an audience from several western counties learned that excessive cold — technically called hypothermia — is the sixth leading cause of death among older people, and that many of them simply die in their homes because they cannot afford sufficient heat to keep warm.

The meeting was organized by the N.C. Senior Citizens

Federation of Henderson to educate community representatives about hypothermia. Some of the groups represented were the Opportunity Corp. of Madison-Buncombe counties, the Blue Ridge Opportunity Corp., Mason for Progress, Mountain Projects and Four Square. There were 56 public service employees from Madison County, representing the public schools, day care centers, the weatherization program, the firewood program, Unaka Center and so on.

"We in the mountains are

aware of the extremely cold winter days," said Lonnie Burton, executive director of the Asheville office of the Opportunity Corp. "With the high rate of inflation and the ever rising cost of fuel, I'm sure a number of us have been concerned about how we are going to make it in the months to come."

Mabel McKnight of the Senior Citizens' Federation, said, "Hypothermia is something we were going to need to know more about. We got yesterday from Henderson County and the cold is altogether different up here."

A woman from Marshall, upon hearing this, whispered to a friend: "She'll learn a lot about cold all right if she hangs around a little longer."

The principal speaker at the morning session was W. Moulton Avery, an authority on desert and arctic survival and executive director of the Carolina Wilderness Institute, who defined hypothermia simply as "low body temperature." Under conditions of prolonged cold, he said, body temperature can drop from its normal 98.6 Fahrenheit to only 90 degrees or even less; once this hap-

pens, a person will probably die unless an external heat source, like a hot water bottle or electric blanket, is applied.

In a forceful introduction, Avery said that part of the danger of hypothermia is that so little is known or said about it. The elderly poor are most in danger; a person may sit in an underheated house for days, with his or her body temperature steadily dropping. One of the first qualities to suffer with hypothermia is judgment; an afflicted person for example, may make the poor decision not to call for help until it is too late.

"The situation is not, I am sorry to report, going to get any better," said Avery. "I don't think the federal government is going to be able to bail us out this winter. I've been appalled at the lack of concern about this problem in Washington. I feel that the only way to deal with it is through your own communities."

"This is one of six training sessions I'll be giving in North Carolina, to about 500 people. I hope you all will go back to your communities and tell others what you have learned. This will be the single biggest

training effort in hypothermia anywhere in the country.

"Hypothermia is killing thousands and thousands of adults in this nation. They die in their own homes, and the cause of death is listed as any number of things — but not hypothermia. We as Americans are ignorant about this. So what you are going to hear today should be considered critical information. There aren't many times in our lives when we have a chance to take part in a really crucial mission, and I think this is one of them."

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