

A Mars Hill Holiday

Mars Hill warmed up for the holiday season last Saturday by staging its third Annual Christmas Parade, sponsored by the Merchants' Association. It was the biggest parade yet, featuring no fewer than 88 units, 12 of which were floats. Parade celebrities included Vicki Allen, Miss Asheville; Dianne Jamerson, Miss North Carolina/USA (whose grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Robinson, are natives of Madison County); the Rhododendron Queen; and Cong. Lamar Gudger.

In the float competition, first place was won by the Madison High VICA Club; second place by the Madison High Beta Club; and third place by the "Santa's Workshop" float of the Medicine Cabinet. Judges were Fred Bentley, Bill Powell, and Frederick Anderson; winners received prizes of \$40, \$25 and \$15.

At the same time, the PTA's Holiday Festival, featuring games, contests, craft sales, pie-throwing, and fortune-telling, cleared \$1100 for the PTA, which will be spent on school projects for the Mars Hill Elementary School.

"We think the day was a tremendous success," said Carolyn Ammons, parade director. "Bob Capps, president of the PTA was pleased with their carnival and Steve Willis, president of the Merchant's Association, did a great job as parade announcer up on the roof. We're already planning next year's parade. We're going to have more celebrities, and you really have to plan in advance to get them. And we want more queens and definitely more bands. Most of the local bands were booked up this year, and I'd like to thank the Madison band for going by twice for us. They really worked hard."



MARCHING, THROWING, SINGING AND PARADING — these were the activities last weekend throughout Mars Hill. At upper right, a student gets back at the principal as Frederick Anderson of Mars Hill School braces for a pie in the face. Below that, a stu-

dent parades his "Iranian Tank" in a spoof of the tense situation in Tehran. Below him are singers on the Mt. Olive float. At far right Linda "Rosella" Campbell displays her tarot cards in the fortune-telling tent: Believers beware!

Photos by John Campbell and Alan Anderson

Erosion

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been created over the last several years by rainfall runoff from the grandstand and playing field areas. The runoff from this entire area is gathered into a single drain-pipe, which discharges its load onto the eroding bank just north of the 40-yard line.

"We saw from the beginning that this would be a problem," said Bill Brown, a technician with the Soil Conservation Service. "That drain should have been extended down into the valley below the playing field, and then on into Walnut Creek. The same is true for the pipe that carries runoff from the parking lot area." That pipe now ends just east of the football field and has created its own gully, some three to five feet deep.

Another serious problem exists in the steep bank between the top of the grandstand area and the roadway that runs along the north side of the school building. The angle of the bank is so sharp that each rainfall sweeps more of it down to the grandstand, leaving as much as several inches of mud spread over the concrete. And as the bank erodes, the sidewalk above it tilts downward toward the field; a 10-foot section of sidewalk has collapsed and has been blocked off.

Altogether, according to the C&D Measure Plan prepared on the project, approximately 20 acres of critically eroding area on the Madison High School campus need treatment to control erosion, reduce sedimentation, and enhance the natural beauty to the school site and the quality of the community's en-

vironment. These eroding areas are estimated to lose 1,000 tons of soil per year... Severe gully erosion adjacent to the football and track field is a distinct safety hazard precluding the use of the field." The report also mentions sediment pollution of Walnut Creek.

Bids will be let as soon as possible for the actual work, which will probably take from four to six weeks to complete. Although the details of the job are not final, they will probably include:

- *The seeding of 20 acres of ground with such plants as crown vetch, fescue, and lespedeza;

- *The dumping and compaction of 4,000 or more cubic yards of fill into "Madison canyon" and the other gullies;

- *The laying of some 3,000 feet - more than half a mile - of corrugated metal drainpipe to transport the school's runoff to points near Walnut Creek where it can no longer erode the school grounds;

- *Construction of a grassed waterway 800 feet long and 25 feet wide between U.S. 25/70 and the connecting road with Walnut Creek Road;

- *Seven drop inlets for surface water;

- *A variety of other diversions, riprap, paving stones, and much netting to be deployed where needed.

National Adoption Week Proclaimed By Governor

Thanksgiving week has been proclaimed National Adoption Week by the North American Council on Adoptable Children Committee and Gov. James B. Hunt Jr.

The purpose of this special week is to call attention to the need for permanent homes for the 500,000 school-age children across the country who have been released for adoption. Approximately 500 of these children are in North Carolina.

The Madison County Department of Social Services

serves as the public adoption agency in this county. It also participates in the North Carolina Adoption Exchange program administered by the Division of Social Services of the N.C. Department of Human Resources. Under this program as well as through other agencies, children from other counties are available for adoption by residents of Madison County.

"County social services departments across the state have many children in foster homes who have been cleared for adoption. However, most of these children have 'special needs.' These are children who are school-age, black, or mixed race, have physical or emotional handicaps and children in family groups," said Judy Briggs, Adoption Worker for the Madison County Department of Social Services.

Some of these children have been in foster homes for a number of years and for various reasons cannot be returned to their natural families, according to Mrs. Briggs.

"The Division of Social Services of the North Carolina Department of Human Resources has established a special adoption fund to help 'special needs' children find permanent homes as quickly as possible. Assistance from this fund is based on the child's needs and may cover medical and therapeutic expenses after adoption," she stated.

Mrs. Briggs urges anyone who is interested in exploring the possibilities of adopting one of these children to contact her at the Madison County Department of Social Services at 649-2711 for more information.

Cold

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Avery said that the worst heat robbers from the body are wind and water; because water is such an efficient conductor of heat, wet clothes take away body heat 25 to 30 times as fast as dry clothes. And while wool clothes and synthetics retain about half their insulating quality when wet, cotton loses all of its insulating value. Among outdoorsmen, most cases of hypothermia develop in air temperatures between 30 and 50 degrees — especially when clothing is wet.

He also emphasized that the key to keeping warm, whether outdoors or inside, is knowing where the body loses heat fastest. Fully half of all heat lost escapes from the head and neck. There is also a high rate of loss from the sides of the chest and from the groin.

"Whenever someone asks me what to do for cold feet," said Avery, "I tell them to put on a warm hat. That may sound like the wrong end, but my grandmother wore a nightcap for a good reason: that's the most effective single piece of clothing for keeping warm."

Hypothermia is especially dangerous for people who have lost the ability to shiver — a natural warming mechanism — and for those whose body temperatures are abnormally low. Some 2.3 million older adults lack the ability to keep their body temperatures above 95 degrees, he said.

The farther body temperature drops, said Avery, the harder it becomes to warm up again. Also, the body becomes more sensitive to other stresses. "If your body drops to 95 degrees," he

said, "and I walk up and hit you in the chest, that's it; your heart will just stop. It becomes very, very unstable at that temperature."

The Opportunity Corp. is expecting federal funds to provide older citizens of Madison and Buncombe counties with emergency equipment, such as blankets and kerosene heaters for this winter. When the funds have been approved, announcement will be made.

Appliance Repair Course

There is still space available in the Small Appliance Repair class to be held on Tuesdays, beginning Nov. 20 and continuing through Dec. 18. The class will meet in the Skill Center on the A-B Tech campus from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Topics to be covered will be: wattage concerns, repairing lamps, toasters, toaster ovens, etc. A \$5 registration fee will be charged. Call 254-1921 ext. 137 to pre-register.

Regional Hearing On Education

Citizens and educators from Madison County are being invited to become involved in the budget making process for public education in a series of hearings.

The third such forum being held in each of the eight educational regions is scheduled for the 19 school districts of Region 8 on Nov. 27 at Pisgah High School, Canton, at 7 p.m.

"The State Board of Education wants to find out from all citizens what they think should be the top budget items as we prepare to make requests for programs and needs of the schools to the 1981 General Assembly," State Superintendent Craig Phillips said in announcing the hearings.



FIRE BROKE OUT Nov. 19 in the engine of a Frederickson tractor-trailer unloading oats at Sprinkle-Shelton Co. on the Marshall Bypass. No one was injured and the grocery warehouse was not

damaged. The fire was fought first with hand-held extinguishers until the Marshall Volunteer Fire Department arrived to douse it completely. The truck's engine appeared to be completely destroyed.

Photo by James Story



SHEILA RICE AND MARY EAGLE of Madison County were among the many talented local musicians to entertain last weekend at Walnut. The event was sponsored by the Madison Arts Council.

Photo by Bob Gassner