

THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

On the Inside . . .

Christmas Season Opens
At Biltmore House

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Panel Says Beer Store Is In Buncombe County

After five and a half months of surveying and deliberating, a three-member commission has ruled that the package store in Forks of Ivy on the Madison-Buncombe County line is legally in Buncombe County.

The commission, consisting of one representative of Buncombe, one of Madison and one of Rutherford County, turned in a split decision to Buncombe County Superior Court on Nov. 26. The dissenting vote was cast by Robert L. Edwards, the Madison County representative.

"According to the original terms created this commission," said Edwards, the county's superintendent of schools, "each of us had the right to hire another surveyor if we were not satisfied with the

results of the original surveyor. I went to North Carolina State University and employed a professor by the name of J.W. Horn; you can't get a more qualified person than that. He surveyed this property and did not come to the same conclusion as the original surveyor.

"Therefore," he went on, "since the professionals could not get together on this, then I would say there is doubt in the matter. And if I understand the court system correctly, you just don't do something like this if there is doubt."

The commission was appointed last June by Superior Court Judge William T. Grist of Charlotte. It includes, in addition to Edwards, Asheville attorney Gary S. Cash and Charles D. Owens, a land developer from Forest City

who was chairman of the commission.

A hearing to consider any objections to the decision was conducted at 9 a.m. Nov. 27 at the Buncombe County Courthouse, but it was not clear what legal standing such objections might have. The hearing was called by Judge Robert E. Gaines of Gastonia, who had previously granted a third, 30-day extension in the preparation of the report.

The decision of the commission was made during a meeting Nov. 19. For that meeting the Madison County member prepared a statement which included the following points:

- * Madison County has collected taxes on the disputed property since 1851.
- * Persons presently living

on the property are receiving social welfare benefits from Madison County.

* Children who have lived on the property have attended schools in Madison County.

* More than 30 people have signed affidavits alleging that the property has historically been regarded as belonging in Madison County.

"It appears," said Edwards, "that the commission is going solely by the survey in making this decision, disregarding a good deal of other evidence. To me that's just like getting two doctors together and one says you have a toothache and the other says you have appendicitis. You just have to take your pick."

The package store in question, known as Peabody's Dis-

count Center, is owned by Robert T. Soffield Jr. and Edward J.R. Kirkpatrick. They were issued a permit by the state Alcoholic Beverage Control Board to sell beer at the store a year ago. The controversy has raged since then.

People in the community have objected to the package store because it is directly across the street from the Forks of Ivy Baptist Church, in a community comprised largely of elderly, non-drinking residents. According to the Rev. Ralph Hogan of that church, many residents resent the proximity of the store to the church and worry about driving past it during busy sales periods. Some 600 residents have signed petitions asking that the store be closed.



VIEW FROM THE CHURCH lawn of Peabody's Discount Center in Forks of Ivy shows how close the two buildings are. The county line was found to cut through the package store building, with the area selling beer resting on the Buncombe side. Bridge in background carries Highway 19-23.

The Care And Cleaning Of Wood-Burning Stoves

By one estimate, there were over 40,000 chimney fires during 1976 — a figure that is sure to be higher today. And many of these are severe enough to burn down a house. In fact, Marshall Fire Chief Jackie Davis estimates that chimney blazes that flare out of control are the leading cause of house fires in Madison County.

Not that so many people are installing wood-burning stoves as a principal source of home heating, the danger of chimney fires is likely to increase, especially among people new to wood heating. Yancey County Fire Marshal Tom Storie advises these people that the best way to avoid chimney fires is to install their stoves properly to begin with, and then keep the system clean.

"We're not urging people not to use wood as an alternative or supplemental heat source," Storie said. "But we want homeowners to realize that their stoves must be properly installed if they are to be safely used. The fire chief in Asheville told me his men had fought over 60 fires last year caused by faulty installation of wood stoves."

Few people realize the danger of the intense, radiated heat from woodburning units. This heat "cooks" combustibles like walls, interior wooden structures, bookshelves, ceilings, and floors. This cooking gradually raises the temperature of the combustible material until it starts to char and then bursts into flame.

To reduce this danger, a stove should be installed ample distances from such surfaces. According to national fire safety codes, it should be at least 36 inches from back and side walls. If there isn't enough room, erect a protective heat panel or shield. This can be made of non-combustible, 3/4-inch asbestos millboard, or 28-gauge sheet metal, or both. The shield should be 1 1/4-inches from the wall, and it should be raised above the floor to allow air flow. Small pieces of pipe or tough porcelain can be used as spacers between the shield and walls.

Another potential danger in the installation of stoves is radiant heat on unprotected wood floors. If the stove legs are more than 18 inches in length, the stove should be placed on a piece of 24-gauge metal to reflect the heat. If the legs are 6- to 18-inches long, an approved stove board should be used, or 3/4-inch asbestos millboard should be set under a 24-gauge layer of sheet metal. If the legs are less than 6 inches, the stove should be placed on a layer of 4-inch insulating blocks or bricks, covered by a 24-gauge sheet of metal. Holes in the blocks or

bricks are desirable to allow air flow.

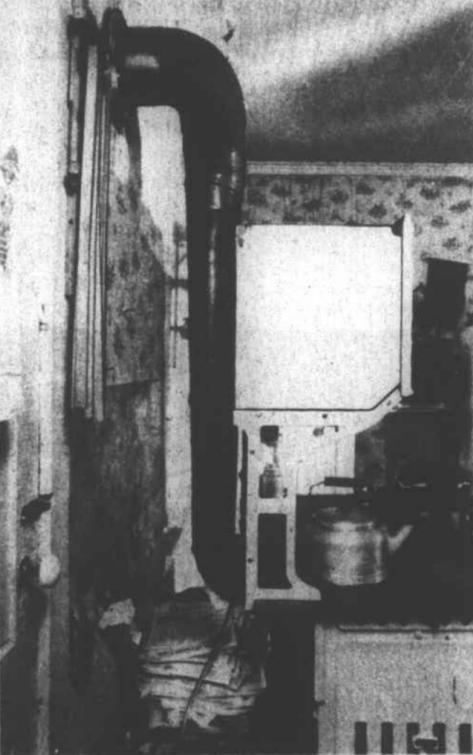
FLUE PIPE DANGER

Stoves are not the only part of a wood heating system that can cause fire; so can the flue pipe, which radiates a tremendous amount of heat. A safe rule to follow is to place a flue pipe at least three times the diameter of the pipe from any combustible surface. A 6-inch pipe should be 18 inches or more from a combustible wall or ceiling; with any size pipe, 18 inches should be the

minimum distance. If this distance cannot be maintained, a protective shield as described for the stove should be installed, with the pipe at least 9 inches from the shield.

Most fires in wood heating systems occur where flue pipes pass through combustible walls or ceilings. The easiest way to prevent such a fire is not to go through a wall or ceiling, venting smoke through a chimney. If this is impossible, the safest wall in-

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THIS DANGEROUS INSTALLATION could lead to fire in several ways. The elbows would accumulate creosote, which could catch on fire. The resulting chimney fire would quickly ignite the newspapers and unshielded, flaking wallpaper a few inches away.

Scholarship Given To MHC In Memory Of Wilhides

A \$500 scholarship in the Department of Biology at Mars Hill College has been established in memory of Robert and Wallace Wilhides of Andrews by Tom Moore Davis, president of Kadotom, Inc., a Hagerstown, Md., real estate development firm.

Davis was a Mars Hill classmate of the Wilhides brothers, who were from Andrews and were killed during World War II while serving as Marine aviators. The brothers' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wilhides still live in Andrews, and their sister, Catherine, is an alumna of Mars Hill also, Class of 1946.

Mars Hill Sets Early Registration For CEP

Mars Hill College's Continuing Education Program (CEP) will hold a pre-registration for its spring schedule at 14 sites in Western North Carolina (WNC) during the first week in December. This will be the first time a pre-registration has been held for the program and according to Dr. John M. Hough, dean of Continuing Education, it is planned to reduce the confusion and time it has been taking to register.

"We have nearly 600 students enrolled in the program this year," noted Dr. Hough, "and at registration this fall we found that new or prospective students were not able to spend the time necessary with the advisors and other representatives. The pre-registration should help students already in the program and streamline the procedure during the actual registration."

On Dec. 1, the Academic Development Survey will be given to new students in Belk Auditorium from 9 to 10 a.m.; from 10 a.m. to noon, the Student Advisory Committee will meet in Marshbanks Hall. Beginning at 1 p.m., student advisors will be available and pre-registration will be conducted for the Mars Hill, Marshall, Burnsville and Hot Springs classes.

On Dec. 3, pre-registration will be held in Asheville, at Asheville High School's Voca-

tional Building from 6 to 8 p.m.; in Hendersonville at the Balfour School from 6 to 7 p.m. Pre-registration will be held Dec. 4 in Waynesville at the Haywood County Schools Board Room from 6 to 8 p.m. and in Sylva-Webster at Southwestern Technical Institute from 6 to 7 p.m.

Registration will be held at these sites from Jan. 7-15 at announced times. According to Dr. Hough, those who have pre-registered will be able to confirm their schedules and pay their fees at this time, leaving ample time for prospective students to talk with advisors or new students to enroll. The spring session will begin Jan. 21 and last through May 9.

Mars Hill's CEP began six years ago with a handful of students. Since that time the program has grown to nearly 600 students in 14 sites from Lenoir to Murphy. Over 100 students have received their bachelor's degrees in that time. Another 75 are scheduled to graduate this coming May.

The current handbook listing class schedules at all the sites, "Sequel," is available from the CEP office and may be obtained by contacting Dr. Hough or Raymond C. Rapp, program coordinator in care of the Continuing Education Program, Mars Hill College, Mars Hill 28754, telephone 689-1166.

Trailways Running Buses To Marshall And Mars Hill

Special shopper's bus service to Madison County was inaugurated Wednesday, Nov. 21 by Blue Ridge Trailways bus line. The service will connect points in Madison and north Buncombe counties with downtown Asheville and Asheville Mall. Announcement of the special Wednesday service was made by Kingsland Hobein, vice-president of the Asheville-based company.

According to Hobein, the initial push for the shopper's bus came from Trailways' agent in Marshall, Mary Ramsey, operator of Mary's Restaurant. Since then, many residents in Madison County have requested the service also.

"Community servants seriously," said Hobein, "and this added service reflects our commitment to Western North Carolina to help combat the problems brought on by inflation, the energy crisis, and now the problems which will come from a decreased supply of oil from Iran. Of special interest to us are the elderly who need public transportation for doctor's appointments, shopping, and other needs."

As a start, the shopper's bus will operate on Wednesdays. "However, if there is support from the communities, we will operate it more often. We will have to evaluate it in light of both use and need as it is a waste of energy to run a bus on one use," said Hobein. "Our plans are to use a special suburban-type bus with a wide



WORKERS AT ONE of the program's centers, just outside Walnut, are, left to right: Lou Zeller, Michael Norins, Mary Worley and Sandra Hensley.

H.S. Health Program Enters Ninth Year

The Hot Springs Health Program, which maintains health centers at Hot Springs, Laurel, and Walnut/Marshall, is moving into its ninth year as one of the state's pioneering health care operations.

And being a pioneer it is still having some trouble defining its mission to customers and to the community.

One of its problems is that because it receives some federal funding many people

think of the three centers as clinics dispensing free medical service. In fact, they are all part of a private, community-owned, non-profit corporation.

"I think the county has the image of us as three clinics where we take only poor people who have no money," said Michael Norins, director of the program. "We aren't really clinics, even though the Laurel center is still called a clinic. That implies regular hours for certain services, like 10-12 for eye examinations. We are a medical office, like a doctor's office, where clients come when they are ill and pay for medical service."

"But where we are different from a normal doctor's office is that we are non-profit; we charge as little as we can without losing money. Our fees here are less than any office fees for the area. The average office visit in Asheville is \$15; here it is \$10. Physical exams there range from \$75 to \$200; here a complete physical is \$15. There may be some lab work in addition to that, depending on the need. But that is the basic fee."

"Let me try and explain our philosophy as simply as I can. Our mission is to provide comprehensive health care to the residents of Marshall, Laurel, Walnut, Hot Springs and Spring Creek. Our aim is to provide the highest quality care at the best, most economical price.

keep their records from the very first time they come here. Even if the doctor who first treats a patient moves away, we keep the records so that we can offer a continuity of service. This continuity is very important for the patient. And even though we had some trouble keeping doctors in the early years, we have more than a dozen local people who have worked here for more than a few years. — people like Mary Worley, Sandra Hensley, Pat West, Frances Strom, Betty Franklin, Lorraine Shelton, David Wells, Paul Lovin, Mary Suttles, Mary Holt, Ann Willett, Judy Roberts and Sandy List."

The Hot Springs Health Program began in 1970 when Linda Ocker Mashburn came to work in Hot Springs as a physician's assistant. Just before he arrived, however, he died, and she was there, ready to work, but with no physician.

So she started a nurses' clinic, holding regular office hours. Patients who could be helped without a physician were helped; those who needed a physician were rescheduled with a doctor from Asheville.

The program really got its start in 1971 with a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission. This was a five-year demonstration project grant, to run through April 1977, and it allowed the opening of a full-time office, the hiring of a physician, Dr. Robin Stiles, and the establishment of a continuity of care.